

Little Red Riding Hood
and
Little Snowdrop.



Märchenpanorama, englisch.

Preface.

The Fairy Tale Panorama should be managed by two Persons, one to manipulate the Panorama, the other to recite the Text apertaining to the pictures.

Turn the pictures slowly while the Text is being recited.

To highten the effect, the performance should take place, in the evening, the room being kept in darkness and a light placed behind the pictures.

When shown by daylight, the Panorama should be placed with its back to the window.

The Fairy Tale Panorama is published in 2 editions, with and without Music.



Little Red Riding Hood.

Curtain.

Once upon a time there lived on the outskirts of a large forest, a woodman and his wife, who had one only child, a beautiful little girl.

Her great beauty and tenderness made her beloved of everybody. Her aged grandmother who lived in a cottage in the midst of the forest, made her a red cloak and hood, which suited her admirably and all those who knew her, called her Little Red Riding Hood.

Scene 1.

One day Red Riding Hood's mother said to her, „Poor Grandmamma is feeble and ill in bed, fill your little basket with some nourishing food and take it to her, Little Red Riding Hood was delighted and filling her basket with cake, fresh butter, some new laid eggs and a bottle of wine, she was ready to set off on her journey. On the top of all, her mother placed some ginger cakes and a few sandwiches in case she felt hungry on the way. Her mother then kissed her tenderly and admonished her, not to tarry on the way but keep to the straight path and get back before it turned dark.

Scene 2.

So little Red Riding Hood trotted gaily along, thinking of no evil but only of her grandmother and how pleased she would be to see her. The bees were buzzing about, the birds were chirping and now and then a frightened rabbit crossed her path. She had not gone very far, before she saw what she took to be a large dog, similar to her fathers dog Rover, but in reality it was the wolf.

"Good morning, little Red Riding Hood," he said.

"Good morning to you" said she.

"Where are you going, my dear little girl."

"I am going to see my grandmamma" said the child.
"She lives in the cottage beneath the elm trees in the forest and she is ill in bed."

"Oh, you dear child" said the artful wolf, "and I suppose you are taking all the good things in your basket to her, how glad she will be to see you."

"That she will" said Red Riding Hood, "for she must feel very lonely."

"Look at the beautiful flowers" said the wolf, "will you not pluck some of the nicest and take them to your Grandmother?"

Scene 3.

Little Red Riding Hood gathered a lovely bunch of Violets and Foxgloves, wich grew in abundance and was so taken up with this pleasing task, that she forgot her mothers admonishing words. This was just what the wolf anticipated. His artful plan was to get to the cottage before Red Riding Hood, swallow her helpless Grandmother

and when the little girl arrived, to make a meal af her. So he trotted off as fast as he could go to the cottage in the wood.

Having gathered her bunch of flowers, little Red Riding Hood felt hungry, she sat down and eat some of her cakes and sandwiches and feeling drowsy after her hearty meal, fell fast asleep.

Scene 4.

Arrived at the cottage, the wicked wolf knocked at the door. "Who is there," said a feeble voice inside, and the wolf, feigning Red Riding Hood's voice answered. "It is me, little Red Riding Hood."

"Come in, my child, pull the string and the latch will come up", said the old woman. The wolf did so and entered. She was dreadfully frightened when she saw the wolf instead of her grandchild. But the savage beast lost ne time, jumped on her bed and eat her all up. Then he got into bed, put on Grandmothers cap and spectacles and awaited Little Red Riding Hood's coming.

Scene 5.

The sun was setting when Red Riding Hood woke up and seeing how late is was she hurried along as fast as her legs would carry her and presently arrived at the cottage. She knocked at the door, and the wolf, trying to speak like her grandmother, said, "Who is there."

"It is Little Red Riding Hood", she answered. "Come in" said the wolf, "pull the string and the latch will open. She did, and entering the room, put down the basket and said. "Dear Granny, I have brought you a basketful of goodies" and looking up she was struck with the strange appearance of her Grandmother.

"Grandmother, what great eyes you have got" said Red Riding Hood softly.

"All the better to see with" said the wolf.

"And what great ears you have got, Grandmother".

"All the better to hear your sweet voice" answered the wolf.

"And what a large nose" the girl said wonderingly.

"All the better to smell your lovely flowers".

"And, oh, Grandmother what a large mouth and great teeth you have" and she looked frightened.

"All the better for eating you with", snarled the wolf, and then Red Riding Hood realized to her horror that it was not her Grandmother that was speaking to her.

Curtain.

The Wolf quickly jumped out of bed and swallowed Little Red Riding Hood at one gulp. Then he got into bed again, and having had more than his fill, went to sleep and snored loudly. Just then, Hugh, the woodman, passed the cottage window and looking in, thought that something strange must have happened. He entered and found the wolf in bed snoring. Quick as thought, he got his knife out and ripped open the wolf's belly when lo and behold, Little Red Riding Hood jumped out and after her, her old Grandmother. Great was his surprise, but he was glad they were none the worse for their unexpected imprisonment. Hugh then filled the wolf's belly with heavy stones and the Grandmother sewed it up. The wolf, feeling thirsty, dragged himself to the well and, bending down to drink, the stones slipped forward and he fell headlong into the water and was drowned.

Scene 6.

So ended the wicked wolf and now, Grandmother, Little Red Riding Hood and Hugh sat down and enjoyed all the good things, Red Riding Hood had brought in her basket. But soon the child thought of her mother and how anxious she would be about her. So she kissed her Grandmother and thanked Hugh for all his kindness. Then she ran as fast as she could towards home, where her mother was anxiously looking out for her and received her with open arms. No more, she vowed, would she tarry on the way, when sent on an errand and would always follow her mothers advice.



Little Snowdrop.

Curtain.

Many years ago there lived a queen who was childless. One day, as she was sitting at the window sewing and looking upon the snow outside, she pricked her finger. Three red drops of blood fell from it and as she fixed her eyes upon them she said to herself: "I wish, I had a little daughter as white as the snow, as red as blood and as black as ebony wood. Soon after the queen gave birth to a little girl, whose skin was as white as snow, cheeks as red as blood and hair as black as ebony. She was called "Snowdrop." The good queen died soon after and the king married another wife who was very beautiful, but cold and proud. No one, she thought, could surpass her in beauty.

Scene 1.

The queen possessed a magic mirror and when she looked at herself and said

Mirror, Mirror, on the wall

Who is the fairest of Ladies all

the mirror would answer

You are the fairest of Ladies all.

As little Snowdrop grew up, she became more and more beautiful and the queen grew jealous of her beauty.

One day, standing before the magic mirror, she asked the usual question and the mirror answered

„Fair and lovely thou art, oh Queen,
But Snowdrop is lovelier far, I ween.“

When she heard this, she turned pale with rage and she made up her mind, to get rid of Snowdrop.

Scene 2.

She ordered one of her huntsmen to take Snowdrop out into the forest and kill her and bring back her liver, to make sure, her command had been obeyed.

The huntsman led Snowdrop away, but when he was about to kill her, she began to cry bitterly and pleaded so hard to spare her life, that his heart melted. She promised him to run away to the woods and never to return. It was a weight off his mind, when he saw her run swiftly away and no doubt thought she would fall a prey to the wild beasts of the forest. To satisfy the queen, he killed a deer, took out its liver, which on his return to the palace, he showed the queen.

Curtain.

Little Snowdrop was now alone in the great forest and fearful, lest the wild animals should devour her. But, though many crossed her path, they left her unharmed. At last, tired and footsore, she came to a very small cottage. She went in to rest herself and looked round. There she saw a small table spread with a snow-white cloth, on it were seven little plates, seven knives and forks, seven little loaves and seven little glasses filled with wine. By the wall stood seven little beds with white coverlets. Every thing in the

place was clean and tidy. As Snowdrop felt hungry and thirsty, she picked a small piece off each loaf and drank a little wine out of each glass. Then she wanted to lie down and rest, she tried all the little beds, but only one, the seventh, was just large enough and there she laid herself down and went to sleep.

Scene 3.

It was late and quite dark, when the owners of the cottage, seven little dwarfs, came home. They lighted their little candles and were ready for their supper, for they had been hard at work all day long digging for gold in the mountains. They soon found to their surprise that someone had been there, as the things were not in the same order in which they had left them in the morning. The first said "Who has been sitting on my stool?" The second "Who has eaten off my plate?" The third: "Who has been picking my loaf?" The fourth "Who has moved my spoon?" The fifth "Who has been using my fork?" The sixth "Who has been cutting with my knife?" and the seventh "Who has been drinking my wine?" Then the first looked round the room and found his bed had been disturbed. He exclaimed loudly "Who has been sleeping in my bed?" Then the others also found their beds had been slept on and the seventh discovered Snowdrop sleeping peacefully in his bed and called his brethren to see her. "Oh, what a beautiful little girl!" they exclaimed with one voice and took great care not to wake her.

When Snowdrop awoke on the following morning, she was frightened to see the seven little men standing by her bedside but they spoke so kindly to her that she soon lost all fear and told them her story and how she had come to

their house. They all pitied her and told her to have no fear, she could stay with them and keep their little house in order. To this she gladly assented.

Before starting for their work in the mountains, they warned her not to let anybody come into the house, while they were away. "The Queen will soon find out where you are and try to do you harm" they said.

Curtain.

The Queen firmly believing that Snowdrop was dead, went to her mirror and said

"Mirror, mirror, on the wall

Who is the fairest of Ladies all?"

and to her horror the mirror once more replied

"Thou art the fairest here, oh Queen

But Snowdrop over the hills, I ween

Where the dwarfs are

Is fairer far."

She then knew that Snowdrop was still alive, for the mirror always told the truth. The Queen was furious and bent on mischief. So she dressed herself up as an old woman, filled a basket full of pretty ribbons and laces and started for the cottage of the dwarfs. When she got there, she knocked at the door and offered her tempting wares to Snowdrop. The old woman's honest looks made her forget the warning of the dwarfs and she let her in. "How badly your stays are laced" said the old woman. "Let me lace them up with one of my nice new laces." Snowdrop allowed the old woman to do this, but she laced her so tight, that Snowdrop fainted and fell down as if dead.

Thinking she had now killed her, the wicked Queen went back to her palace.

When the dwarfs came home in the evening, they were horrified to find Snowdrop stretched out on the floor. They lifted her up and finding she was laced too tight, they cut the lace and after a time she began to breathe again. The dwarfs suspected that the old woman must have been the Queen in disguise and again warned Snowdrop to be careful while they were away. When the Queen got home she went straight to the Mirror and asked the usual question. Again the mirror answered

"Thou art the fairest here, oh Queen
But Snowdrop over the hills, I ween
Where the dwarfs are
Is fairer far."

Hearing this, she was more furious than ever, she again dressed up as an old woman, but in a different dress and painted her face. She took with her a basket full of nice things, amongst them a beautiful comb which was poisoned. When she reached the cottage she knocked at the door, Snowdrop looked out of the window and said "I must not let anyone in." The old woman held up the poisoned comb and Snowdrop was so pleased with the sight of it, that she foolishly opened the door and allowed the old woman to put it in her hair.

As soon as it touched her head she fell down as if dead and the Queen, satisfied that she had now accomplished her wicked intention, went away.

Fortunately the dwarfs returned earlier than usual that evening, they at once saw Snowdrop lying on the floor and found the poisoned comb in her hair. When they took it out, she recovered and told them, what had happened. Once more they repeated their warnings before they left in the morning.

Scene 4.

Only a short time after, the Queen again stood in front of the Magic Mirror, again she asked the same question and again received the same reply. The Queen was in a towering rage and vowed she would this time make certain that Snowdrop should die.

Curtain.

She went to a secret chamber and placed a powerful poison inside a beautiful apple. Then she painted her face and dressed as a peasants wife and went to the little cottage in the woods.

Scene 5.

When she arrived there, she knocked and Snowdrop put her head out of the window.

"The dwarfs have strictly forbidden me to let any one in", she said.

"Never mind", said the woman, "take this pretty rosy apple at any rate, I will make you a present of it. "No", said Snowdrop, "I dare not take it." "What are you afraid of", said the woman, "do you think it is poisoned? Come, you eat one half and I will eat the other" and she offered her the poisoned half. The apple looked so tempting that Snowdrop resisted no longer.

Curtain.

No sooner had she taken a bite, when she dropped down dead. "This time no one will waken you" said the Queen. She hurried home and to the mirror and to her great delight, when she asked the question

"Mirror, mirror, on the wall

Who is the fairest of Ladies all?"

the mirror answered

"Thou art the fairest of Ladies all."

When the dwarfs got home, they found Snowdrop dead on the floor. They tried all they could to bring her to life again but without avail. So they layed her upon a bier and watched by the side of her for three days. Then they thought they would bury her but her cheeks were still so rosy and she looked as beautiful as if she was alive. So they said "We will never bury her in the cold ground."

Scene 6.

They made a coffin of pure Crystal glass, wrote her name on it in golden letters and then carried it to the top of the hill. One of the dwarfs always sat by it and watched.

Their lamentations mingled with those of the birds in the trees and the animals of the forest. One day a Prince was hunting in the forest and saw Snowdrop in her glass coffin. He was so struck with her beauty, that he offered the dwarfs any money to let him take her away, but they would not part with her for all the gold in the world. He, however, pleaded so hard that at last they took pity on him and allowed him to take the coffin away.

Curtain.

The Prince then ordered his men to carry the coffin to his palace but the roads were rough and they frequently stumbled over roots and stones.

Scene 7.

All at once, while going down a hill, they stumbled and shook the coffin so terribly, that the piece of poisoned apple dropped out of Snowdrops throat. She came to life, opened her eyes and sat up in the coffin.

"Where am I", she said and the Prince answered "you are with me" and told her what had happened. "I have loved you from the moment I first beheld your beautiful face" said the Prince, "come with me to my fathers palace and be my bride."

Snowdrop gladly consented and the Prince took her in his arms and kissed her.

Scene 8.

The wedding was celebrated with great pomp and never did Snowdrop look more beautiful then in her bridal dress. Amongst others that were invited to the wedding was the Queen, her stepmother, and as she was dressing herself in magnificent clothes she stepped before the mirror and said

"Mirror, mirror, on the wall

Who is the fairest of Ladies all?"

and the mirror answered

"Here, lady, thou art the brightest star

But the young new Queen is lovelier far."

She did not know until then that Snowdrop was the Prince's bride. To punish her for her great wickedness, she was compelled to dance at the wedding in slippers, that were made red hot and she had to dance until she fell down dead.

The good little dwarfs were of course also invited and left their cottage to witness Snowdrops happiness.

Snowdrop and the Prince lived and reigned happily for many years.



