

# The Magic Mirror

A Fairy Play for Children E.C. Brereton

This is a short play written especially for children to perform, and is the story of Snow-White and the Seven Dwarfs.

The Queen of Paflagonia has always been the fairest lady in the land, but now her magic mirror tells her that her step-daughter, the Princess Snow-White is fairer than she. The Queen immediately sends for her Huntsman to lure SNOW-WHITE into the forest and kill her. He is reluctant to do this, and when SNOW-WHITE pleads for her life he tells her she must run away before the Queen sends somebody else to kill her. In this scene SNOW-WHITE has arrived at the House of the Seven Dwarfs set deep in the forest. She knocks at the door and getting no reply, opens it and steps inside. There she sees a table laid for seven very small people.

## SNOW-WHITE

I've knocked and knocked and nobody will answer the door! I wonder if this really is an empty house? *(She sees the table)* No, it can't be; here's a table laid for one, two, three, four, five, six, seven people. What a tiny table! and what tiny plates and dishes! *(She holds one up)* It's like a dolls' dinner-set! This must be a children's house! Oh dear! I wish they'd come home! I'm so hungry! Is there anything to eat on the table? *(She looks round)* Yes, bread and butter and milk. Then I must have some now, and when the people of the house come home I'm sure they'll forgive me when I tell them I've been two days and nights wandering in the forest with nothing to eat but nuts and blackberries! *(She pours some water into a glass and holds it up)* I don't call this glass very clean! It's all sticky fingermarks outside! *(She drinks and makes a face)* And the water tastes of stale tea-leaves and lime-juice mixed. And just look at the plates. They're grimed. *(She eats and puts the plate down)* And the dust on the table! I can write my name on it with my finger! Oh dear! *(She yawns)* I'm dreadfully tired! I think I'll just sit down and wait till the people of the house come home - and then - I'll explain - to them *(more and more drowsily till she falls asleep in the chair).*