

“The Snow Queen”

book, music & lyrics by CHERYL E. KEMENY
(based on a story by Hans Christian Anderson)

Vocal Score for Actors

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THE “SNOW QUEEN” CAST OF CHARACTERS

(in order of appearance,)

Hans Christian Andersen (narrator, non-singing)
 The Sorcerer (evil villain, singing-baritone or alto)
 The Goblins (singing/speaking)
 Mirror Soloists
 Kai (young boy, tenor or alto)
 Gerda (young girl, soprano/belt, demanding singing part)
 Grandmother (mezzo-soprano, 40-ish)
 The Roses (young sopranos)
 The Snow Queen (strong soprano/ “dramatic” acting ability)

Snowflake Dancers

Erik, Hans, Per & Skaters (speaking)
 Farmer’s Wife (speaking)
 The River
 Garden Woman (belt/speaking role, quirky personality)
 Iris, Narcissus, Hyacinths, For-Get-Me-Not (solos)
 Flower Chorus
 The Crow (comic speaking role)
 The Princess (comic role, belt to B)
 Ladies-In-Waiting (comic back-up singing, lines)
 Page, Harry (comic speaking)
 Suitor 1, Suitor 2, Suitor 3 (comic speaking)
 Guards
 Prince (speaking-may also sing solo in Act I finale if he can sing)
 Crow’s Fiancée (speaking, comic)
 The Horse
 Robberhag, Jake & Dino (comic male roles, singing)
 Robbers
 Robbergirl (strong belt, “tough-girl” type)
 Ba (character role, reindeer, baritone or alto)
 Doves (young sopranos, lines also)
 Lapland Woman (speaking comic role)
 Finland Woman (dramatic speaking and big belt solo)

(ALL CAST MEMBERS ARE IN THE ENSEMBLE)

“The Snow Queen”

Overture

Prologue

Hans Christian Andersen: (*in One*).

Good evening ladies and gentleman, boys and girls and welcome! Tonight we are going to share a story about friendship and the invincible power of a pure heart. Now, don't be afraid, but you are about to meet an evil sorcerer who is trying to steal the innocence of the world. You will also meet his arch enemy – the beautiful Snow Queen. Our protagonists, Kai and Gerda, will soon begin the adventure of a lifetime and through their story, **we** may even learn the secret to Eternity.

But, first, the dark magician! This sorcerer is **so** wicked that he has created a magic mirror which makes good (*snaps his fingers*) – disappear! Even worse, it can take the tiniest imperfection and make it seem enormous! Now, the goblins (*HOBGOBLINS begin to ENTER and surround HANS CHRISTIAN as he continues to speak*) who attend his school are obsessed with this mirror, for they say it shows what mankind is **really** like. These nasty creatures serve the Sorcerer. In a short time, this mirror will explode before your very eyes, into a million tiny pieces. Yet, **each** little piece will retain **all** its evil power. (*telling a secret to the audience*). And then? Then, you will see what happens when pieces of this mirror become lodged in the heart and mind of our young hero, Kai. Can Kai be saved? When we get to the end of our story, you will know, one way or another! (*Music begins. GOBLINS are swarming about the stage. The SORCERER is CS on a platform behind the Mirrors. HANS CHRISTIAN EXITS, as if frightened by the GOBLINS.*)

SONG: “Negativity”

Sorcerer:

Welcome class! I have a surprise.

One that will open your eyes.

My latest invention reflects my contention

That life breeds dissension and ultimate demise.

(The GOBLINS look at him stupidly. They don't understand)

(spoken) In other words....

(sung) People are bad! So bad! And, now I can prove it;

With one little move it becomes totally clear!

Look here! *(removing covering from large mirror CENTER STAGE)*

At my latest creation. It exceeds expectations!

It makes good.....disappear!

Come closer! **Gaze** into the mirror!

Come, let its power take over your heart!
 Come closer! **Look** into the mirror!
 Let Negativity now play its part!
(GOBLINS dance)

Sorcerer: Come closer! **Gaze** into the mirror!
 Come, let its power take over your heart!
 Come closer! **Look** into the mirror!
 Let Negativity now play its part!

(spoken over music)

Goblin 1: Master! You are truly a genius!

Sorcerer: Have I ever given you cause to believe otherwise?

Goblin 2: With this mirror, evil will conquer the world!

Sorcerer: Yes, my little toads, this mirror is the **ultimate** tool! When you gaze into its glass, it shrinks any goodness to the tiniest speck of sand, **but**...the slightest imperfection grows...and grows...and **grows**...into an enormous monument to all that is twisted and evil in this world!

All Goblins: Bravo! Bravo!

Sorcerer: And now...my slimy apprentices, I charge you to take this mirror out into the world and wreak havoc upon its citizens!

Goblins: Hooray! *(Hobgoblins head toward the mirror)*

Sorcerer: *(shouting loudly)* **Wait!** *(music stops; all freeze)* One more thing, you slithering slugs...**be careful!** The mirror grows as it gains power, so make sure you don't **drop it!**

Goblins: *(music starts)* Evil rules! Evil rules!

(DANCE) (MIRROR PEOPLE begin to ENTER during singing)

Goblins: *(singing)* Come closer! **Gaze** into the mirror!
 Come, let its power take over your heart!
 Come closer! **Look** into the mirror!
 Let Negativity now play its part!

Mirror People: Look in the mirror, what do I see?
 Could it be hatred staring at me?
 There is the anger I never show;

I hold it inside 'cause I don't want you to know...
 That, there in the mirror is my other side;
 The evil part that I try to hide.
 Jealousy! Prejudice! Laziness, too!
 The fear in my heart standing out in plain view.

ALL: Come closer! **Gaze** into the mirror!
 Come, let its power take over your heart!
 Come closer! **Look** into the mirror!
 Let Negativity now play its part!

SOLO 1: Look in the mirror, what do I see?
 Could it be terror staring at me?
 There is the meanness I don't dare show;
 I hold it inside 'cause I don't want you to know...
 That, there in the mirror is my other side;
 The evil part that I try to hide.
 Lying and cowardice! Stubbornness, too!
 The fear in my heart standing out in plain view.

ALL: Come closer! **Gaze** into the mirror!
 Come, let its power take over your heart!
 Come closer! **Look** into the mirror!
 Let Negativity now play its part!

(Sing 4 times)

Wrong is right! Day is night!
 Everything is twisted that's within our sight!

SOLOISTS: *(Begin singing "Oh's" after 2nd pattern. Sing 2 "Oh's")*

ALL: Come closer! **Gaze** into the mirror!
 Come, let its power take over your heart!
 Come closer! **Look** into the mirror!
 Let Negativity now play its part!
 Negativity will conquer! Negativity will rule! *(3 times)*
(faster part) Negativity will conquer! Negativity will rule!
(GOBLINS shout) It's getting bigger!
 Negativity will conquer! Negativity will rule!
(GOBLINS shout) I can't hold it!
 Negativity will conquer! Negativity will rule!
(GOBLINS shout) It's too powerful!
 Negativity will conquer! Negativity will rule!
(GOBLINS shout) It's going to break!
(presto) Negativity will conquer! Negativity will rule!
 Negativity will conquer! Negativity will rule!

(Wild dance & screaming, as mirror breaks apart. FREEZE at end of song, BLACKOUT, CENTERSTAGE. LIGHTS UP on house, STAGELEFT.)

ACT 1

SCENE 1: “Changing Seasons”

(On the roof of KAI’s Grandmother’s house. There are 2 “ROSE BUSHES” and a makeshift “puppet theater”. KAI [a young boy, approaching adolescence] & his best friend, GERDA [a little younger than KAI] are putting together a puppet show. GRANDMOTHER is visible downstairs, working or knitting. KAI’s GRANDMOTHER takes care of GERDA as well as KAI.)

Kai: *(holding an “Evil Sorcerer” puppet and playing the part)* “You cannot escape from my evil power!”

Gerda: *(holding “Rose” puppet)* “Stay away from me! *(melodramatic aside to audience)* Will no one save me?”

Kai: “It is useless to resist! You must become my servant or die!”

Gerda: *(popping up from behind wooden screen)* Die? I don’t like this play, Kai and I quit.

Kai: *(popping up, exasperated)* Quit? You can’t quit. We haven’t finished.

Gerda: I’m tired of my puppets being killed by **yours** all the time. It’s not nice!

Kai: Well, why don’t you show a little courage and have your puppets fight back for a change.

Gerda: Fight back? My puppet’s a rose. Roses can’t fight.

Kai: *(moving to one of the ROSEBUSHES)* Maybe they can’t fight, but they’re Beautiful! *(ROSES smile when KAI is not looking.)* They could use their beauty to charm the Evil Sorcerer and escape that way.

Gerda: They really **are** beautiful, aren’t they?

Kai: *(grabbing her hands impulsively)* Almost as beautiful as you! Gerda, I want you to know that you’re my best friend in the whole world and I will love you forever! *(throws his arms around her)*

Gerda: *(staring at KAI speechlessly, blushing awkwardly.)* And...and you’re my best friend, too. I’m so happy to be living here with you and your Grandmother. I, I don’t know what would have happened to me if she...

Kai: (*putting his finger to her lips*) No sad talk! (*THEY lock eyes for a meaningful moment*)

Gerda: (*changing subject*) (*Getting up & moving to ROSES*) Roses are my favorite flowers in the whole world. I know! I could have the roses sing to the Sorcerer and melt his evil heart.

Kai: That's a great idea, but ...what song would they sing?

Gerda: Do you remember the song your grandmother taught us? The one about roses?

Kai: Um...(*scrunching his face and thinking*) How does it go?

SONG: "Youth Is Sweet" (*Gerda, Kai, Roses, Grandmother*)

GERDA: Youth Is Sweet, but, cannot stay;
Like a rose, it fades away.
When again the rose we see.
We will know eternity.

GERDA & KAI: (*in harmony*) When at last the roses fall,
And we hear old winter's call;
All my life will sweeter be;
Knowing you were here with me. (*KAI & GERDA go back to puppets*)

ROSEBUSHES: Life is fragile as a flower;
Blooming, fading in an hour;
Youth Is Sweet, but, cannot stay;
Like a rose, it fades away.

GRANDMOTHER: (*hearing them sing, she begins reminiscing*)
Like a rose, my life unfolded through the years.
Changing seasons brought me joy and brought me tears.
A petal falls, and it reminds me time is swift.
It flies away like withered leaves that on the wind do drift.
Though fallen from its stem, its fragrance it retains;
And so, the memory of youth within my mind remains.

G. Mother, Kai & Gerda: Roses, flowers of the Summer;
With the scent of perfume floating in the air.
When the winds of Winter blow,
Bringing with them ice and snow;
Roses sleep until the sun returns
And warms the earth, and once again its Spring.
That's when life begins anew,
Lovely rosebuds touched with dew.

GERDA: Ah.....
KAI: Ah.....
GRANDMOTHER: Ah.....
ROSES: Ah.....

G. Mother, Kai, Gerda & Roses: Youth Is Sweet, but, cannot stay;
 Like a rose, it fades away.
 When again the rose we see.
 We will know eternity.

(song over)

(LIGHTS change and Wind sound effect is heard. SNOWFALL begins. ROSES shrink down into their pots or behind a bench. GERDA puts on a shawl and KAI puts on coat. The season has changed to Winter.)

Grandmother: *(calling)* Kai! Gerda! Come down from the roof! It's too cold for you to be playing up there.

Gerda: Coming! *(snowflakes start to fall from behind [on roof], but not in the house.)*

Kai: It's starting to snow!

Grandmother: Hurry, now! You'll catch your death!

(KAI & GERDA hurry down the ladder/steps, bringing the puppets with them. It is now Winter.)

Grandmother: Sit right down, you two, and have a nice cup of tea. *(serving them tea)*
 This will warm you up very nicely. *(looking out the window.)* My, my, the first big storm of the winter! Come, look out the window! Do you see how the white bees are swarming?
(GERDA & KAI join GRANDMOTHER at the window)

Gerda: They **do** look like bees, don't they Kai?

Kai: Do they have a queen bee, Grandmother?

Grandmother: Absolutely. **She** always flies in the center of the swarm and **never** Comes down to earth. They call her the Snow Queen. She's very beautiful but cold and calculating. The Snow Queen can turn your heart to ice with a kiss and should you fall under her spell ...

Kai: *(eager, but frightened)* What happens then, Grandmother?

Grandmother: **Then**, you can no longer feel any emotion at all. (*The SNOW QUEEN is in her tower. A light comes up on her as GRANDMOTHER tells about her*) Often, at midnight, she sails through the town, looking in people's windows for possible victims – young boys are her favorites. (*KAI & GERDA react.*) When she is on the hunt, the ice freezes on the glass into wonderful shapes that look like flowers and castles. That's how you know she has paid you a visit.

Kai: Yes! I've seen them!

Gerda: Me, too! But...what if the Snow Queen comes for Kai?

Kai: Just let her try! I'll put her on the stove, and melt her! I'll never leave you and Grandmother, Gerda!

Grandmother: (*smoothing KAI's hair*) (*smiling*) Don't worry children. We have a nice warm fire. The Snow Queen won't want to come in here. Now, it's past your bedtime! You need a good night's sleep to do well at school.

Kai: (*Hugging his GRANDMOTHER*) Good night. (*hugging GERDA*) Sleep well, Gerda. (*KAI moves DOWNSTAGE CENTER, taking his bedroll, to sleep in his "room"*)

Gerda: Sweet Dreams!

(*GERDA EXITS to sleep, GRANDMOTHER EXITS also STAGE LEFT*)

Grandmother: (*calling after Kai*) Don't forget to say your prayers!

Kai: (*rolling out a comforter to sleep on*) I won't!

(*As KAI is pantomiming prayer, music begins. LIGHTS change. KAI lies down and goes to sleep. The song is his dream.*)

SONG: "Come With Me...."

SNOW QUEEN: (*sung offstage*) Come With Me! Come away with me!

Come With Me!

Come away with me....

(*ENTER Snowflake DANCERS to instrumental Interlude and Dance.*)
(*SNOW QUEEN sings behind scrim.*)

SNOW QUEEN: Come with me! Come away with me!
Come with Me! Come away with me!
To a land where pain can no longer exist...
The place I will show you the moment

That you have been kissed... by me.
 Come closer; gaze into my eyes, now.
 Come, let their power take over your heart.
 Come closer; look into my eyes, now.
 Come let cold reasoning now play its part!

(add SNOW CHORUS) Come, let the power of logic surround you;
 Under its spell, how the world will astound you;
 Far from the passions of life, it will ground you;
 Come! Spend forever with me, now I've found you!
 Come to my castle where time never changes;
 Deep in its walls, Death for Life exchanges.
 Come, live forever!
 All ties you must sever.
 Oh, come....be mine.....!
 Ah.....

Fly with me now and I'll make you so clever.
 Come far away with me, now and forever!
SNOW QUEEN: Come! Let me kiss you! You'll see.....

All is beautiful, you can find with me.
ALL: There, in that land of ice and snow,
 Where only the fearless and brave dare go,
 You'll find Eternity.....

SNOW QUEEN: Come closer; gaze into my eyes, now.
 Come, let their power take over your heart.
ALL: Come closer; look into my eyes, now.
 Come, let cold reasoning now play its part!

(song over)

Kai: *(waking up from a nightmare)* No! No! Go away! Grandmother! Grandmother!

*(SNOW QUEEN LIGHT disappears in a rush, as if she were never there.
 Magic winter sound effects.)*

Grandmother: *(awakened by KAI's shouts)* Kai! What is it? What's the matter?

(GRANDMOTHER rushes to KAI, who is sitting up shaking.)

Kai: I dreamt the Snow Queen had come for me. She wanted me to leave you and Gerda, and go live with her in her castle!

Grandmother: *(hugging KAI)* There, there....everything's all right. The Snow Queen can't reach you here.

Kai: But she **was** here and she told me she could make me clever!

Grandmother: Clever? But, you **are** clever, Kai. You're the smartest boy I know.

Kai: Not smart enough, Grandmother! Grandmother? I sorry, but I don't want to stay in this village forever. I want to be famous. I want to do something so great that someday the whole world will know who I am!

Grandmother: *(looking worried)* Well then, I hope you will be famous for a kind heart.

(LIGHTS change to morning light. KAI and GRANDMOTHER put away his bed. "ROSES" "grow" back on the roof in slow motion to the cover music. GERDA ENTERS with a bouquet of flowers. GRANDMOTHER moves to table and arranges flowers in a small vase as LIGHTS come up to full. KAI is now seated at the table, working on his "Sorcerer" puppet. GERDA is on a bench working on her new puppet.)

Grandmother: You two would be much cooler if you did your work on the roof.

Kai: *(teasing)* Gerda refuses to show me her puppet.

Gerda: *(to Kai, flirting)* It's a surprise.

Kai: How can I finish writing my new play if I don't even know who's in it?

Gerda: I'm almost finished. *(puts on a finishing touch, then holds up her "Snow Queen" puppet)* There!

Kai: *(gasping, nervously)* How could you know she looks that way?

Gerda: This is just how I imagined her to look.

Grandmother: It's a beautiful puppet, Gerda.

Kai: *(irrationally)* I don't like it! It frightens me! *(GRANDMOTHER and GERDA stop and look at him in mute surprise. There is moment of silence, then KAI recovers.)* I...I mean, she reminds me of winter, when everything is frozen and dead. *(abruptly changing)* Let's go on the roof and try out my new play. *(GERDA & KAI climb up the ladder to the roof carrying their puppets.)*

Grandmother: *(calling after them)* Both of you be careful up there! It's a long way down to the street and I wouldn't want to lose either one of you! *(GM EXITS, STAGELEFT)*

Kai: We'll be careful! *(to Gerda)* Now! In my new play, the Sorcerer has kidnapped the roses and is searching for new victims. *(using Sorcerer voice)* "I must roam the world until I find an innocent child to add to my collection!"

(The SORCERER & GOLBINS ENTER, STAGE RIGHT & stand on CENTERSTAGE platform as they spy on GERDA & KAI.)

Gerda: But then, he meets the Snow Queen! *(holding up Snow Queen puppet)* “Stand back, evil Sorcerer! The next victim is mine!”

Kai: *(as Sorcerer)* “I am more powerful than you! I need only cast my magic dust and I conquer all I see!”

Gerda: *(as Snow Queen)* But **my** kiss can freeze the heart of any man! Including you! *(She lunges the Snow Queen puppet at the Sorcerer puppet. Magic music is heard as GOBLINS cast “mirror-dust” towards KAI.)*

Kai: *(shouting in pain and jumping up- no longer as the “Sorcerer”)* Ow! Something’s in my eye! *(covering his eye with his hand)* It hurts! I can’t see!

(GOBLINS laugh wickedly from Tower)

Gerda: Kai! What happened!?

Kai: *(grabbing his chest)* Oh! Now my chest hurts!

Gerda: Kai! What can I do to help you?!

(GOBLINS cackle)

Hobgoblin 1: Master! Another victim!

Hobgoblin 2: The mirror has struck it’s mark!

Sorcerer: He shall soon succumb to it’s power! Watch how it’s evil magic changes him. Soon he will be mine!

Snow Queen: *(blue light comes up on Snow Queen Tower)* He shall be mine, Sorcerer!

Sorcerer: You! I will rule the world and you cannot stop me now!

Snow Queen: You may have bewitched his heart for the moment, but I will take him with me when the time is right.

Hobgoblin 3: What about the girl, Master?

Snow Queen: *(scoffing)* You cannot touch the girl! Her heart is pure. Your evil will never grow in her. *(LIGHTS fade to black on SNOW QUEEN)*

Sorcerer: *(to the SNOW QUEEN angrily)* Negativity will conquer all! Evil will rule!

(LIGHTS fade on SORCERER)

Goblins: Evil rules! Evil rules! Evil rules! *(gradually fades)*

(LIGHTS UP on KAI & GERDA)

Gerda: I'm going to get Grandmother!

Kai: No! Wait! I'm feeling better now.

Gerda: *(who is crying, tears streaming down her face)* Are you sure?

Kai: *(standing up, there is a visible change in his personality. He now speaks to GERDA in an annoyed, irritable manner.)* Of course I'm sure! And stop crying! It makes your face look so ugly!

Gerda: *(taken back)* Wh...what?

Kai: *(holding up his puppet and turning to the ROSEBUSHES)* "And then the evil Sorcerer proves his power to the Snow Queen by killing the stupid roses!" *(He starts pulling off the flowers and throwing them to the ground)*

Gerda: *(trying to stop him; in shock)* Kai! What are you doing?!

Kai: I'm pruning these pitiful roses!

Gerda: Stop it! Stop it this instant!

Kai: Stop? Why should I? Suddenly, it's as if the fog around me has lifted! I'll never get anywhere if I keep on playing these baby games. I'm through with toys!
(KAI throws down his puppet.)

Gerda: Kai, what are you saying?!

SONG: "Suddenly"

KAI: Suddenly everything's clear, now!
Suddenly; would you like to hear how?
It came upon me like a flash,
That logic and love are meant to clash.
Reason can be undone by emotion;
Sensible people don't cause a commotion.
Never let your passion rule,
Or people will certainly call you a fool!
Suddenly...I seek perfection.
Suddenly...I don't need direction.

Anyone can plainly see,
 Logic and reason are the key!
 Now, that I've become a man,
 I'll get what I want and take what I can!
 No more fairy-tales for me!
 Only the facts will set me free!
 Childish games are wasted time!
 Out of my way! Can't you see that I'm
 Not in the mood for your silly prattle?
 Life is a never ending battle!
 It isn't a song you learn in school,
 Or my Grandmother preaching the Golden Rule!
 Everything must be explainable!
 The logical answer is always attainable!
 You will achieve true enlightenment,
 If you avoid sappy sentiment!
 Never let your heart invade
 When decisions should be coolly made!
 Suddenly it's all so clear!
 It seems like the answer was always here.
 Now, that my childhood days have died,
 Cold, hard logic and reason will be my only guide
HOBGOBLINS: Cold, hard logic and reason! Cold, hard logic and reason!

(song over)

Gerda: *(dumbfounded and crying)* Kai? Kai! What did I do?

Kai: Nothing. You're just boring. *(he climbs down the ladder)*

Grandmother: *(with plate of cookies in her hand, seeing KAI)* Oh, Kai! I was just going to bring you children a plate of cakes.

Kai: *(rolling his eyes)* Those are **cookies**, Grandmother, not **cakes**.

Grandmother: *(surprised, mildly mocking)* Oh. Excuse me. Cookies, then.

Kai: *(grabbing a cookie)* I'm not interested in playing with Gerda, now. She'll have to get her own cookies.

Grandmother: Did you have an argument?

Kai: No. She's just stupid. Besides, I don't have time for babies.

(GERDA, halfway down the ladder and hears this. GRANDMOTHER & GERDA lock eyes)

Grandmother: You didn't think she was a baby an hour ago.

Kai: That was then. (*KAI glances at GERDA who is looking at him and crying. He gestures towards her.*) See what I mean? (*KAI EXITS, STAGE LEFT.*)

Gerda: Oh, Grandmother, why is he being so mean?

Grandmother: Maybe he's not feeling well, dear. Sit down and have a cup of tea with me. (*LIGHTS fade*)

(GERDA & GRANDMOTHER sip tea and read as Winter music begins with wind sound effects.)

(WINTER LIGHTS come up SNOW begins to fall.)

Gerda: (*looking towards the "window," STAGERIGHT*) It's snowing, Grandmother. (*calling*) Kai! It's snowing!

Kai: (*ENTERING, STAGELEFT, carrying skates over his shoulder, wearing a jacket & boots.*) Don't you think I can see that?

Grandmother: Are you going to wear your new boots outside in the snow?

Kai: Would you rather I went out barefoot?

Gerda: (*reprimanding*) Kai! That's no way to speak to your grandmother!

Kai: She's my grandmother, not **yours**, Miss Busybody! Why don't you mind your own business?

Grandmother: Kai! Apologize to Gerda this instant!

Kai: Apologize? Why, she's nothing but a baby! I'm going out to the square to skate with the boys. (*KAI EXITS "house" LEFT, crosses to STAGE RIGHT hanging his skates around his neck. This happens while GERDA sings her song.*)

Grandmother: (*almost speechless, she looks at GERDA*) I'm sorry, dear. (*beat*) Would you like a cookie?

Gerda: (*choked up*) No...thank you. I'll just sit here and read, if that's all right?

Grandmother: Certainly, dear. (*GRANDMOTHER EXITS, STAGE LEFT*)

(GERDA looks through her book)

SONG: "I'll Change"

GERDA: Guess that I'll just have to face
 I no longer have a place
 In his heart;
 He thinks that I'm a child.
 I want to see him smiling once again at me;
 Have things the way they used to be
 At the start,
 Before he turned so wild.
 Why does everything change?
 Why can't ev'rything remain the same?
 I would be content if things could stay the way they were.
 Oh....but, summers come and disappear.
 All at once the winter's here,
 And the rose becomes a memory.
 So, it seems a friendship dies;
 Fades away before my eyes.
 Nothing is the way it used to be.
 Please, come back to me and you'll see,
 I will be the best friend anyone can be.
 If change is what I need to do
 To prove to you my heart is true,
 I'll change. I'll change for you.
 I'll change. I'll change for you.
 I'll change.

*(song over)**(LIGHTS fade on GERDA as SCENE 1 ends)***SCENE 2: "I'll Go with You"**

(INSTRUMENTAL "COME WITH ME" is played while skaters begin skating and CHORUS ENTERS forming different groups. HANS, PER & ERIK are skating. The LIGHTING is dark. It's darks most of the time in winter in Denmark.)

Song "WINTER ON THE RIVER"

ALL: Winter On the river! People skating and laughing by firelight!
 Winter makes you shiver,
 Sailing down a dark ribbon, winding through the night.
 Drinking hot choc'late together
 Helps you forget about the weather.
 Girls gliding light as a feather
 Makes you wonder if whether or not they might
 Spend some time on the river
 Arm in arm, hand in hand as the time goes by.

Singing, we deliver at the top of our voices, we let it fly!
 These are the nights we will never forget
 Though our legs start to shake and our feet get all wet.
 When we can't see the light, let our spirits be bright!
 Though the moon isn't even a sliver,
 We enjoy, we enjoy, we enjoy...
 Winter On The River!

(at end of song, people continue pantomiming as KAI ENTERS, from behind the house.)

KAI: *(seeing some friends)* Erik! Hans!

HANS: Kai! Over here!

PER: *(teasing)* I almost didn't recognize you without your puppets. *(GIRLS giggle)*

KAI: I'm not interested in puppets anymore.

PER: *(patronizingly, while putting his arms around a couple of girls)* But, the girls and I were looking forward to seeing one of your shows. *(GIRLS giggle)* You don't want to disappoint the girls, do you? *(GIRLS giggle)*

KAI: *(annoyed)* I **told** you, I don't do shows anymore! *(PER & GIRLS laugh & walk or skate away, joining the crowd.)*

HANS: *(consoling him)* Don't listen to him, Kai.

KAI: *(upset, venting)* You play with puppets when you're a kid and you've got to hear about it for the rest of your life! I hate that guy!

ERIK: Hey, calm down. He was only teasing.

HANS: *(jocular)* Now, me? I liked those puppets. *(holding up a mittened hand, imitating KAI doing the SORCERER puppet)* "You cannot escape my evil power!"

ERIK: *(putting on SNOW QUEEN voice and doing a mitten puppet, also)* "Stand back, Sorcerer! The next victim is mine!"

KAI: *(getting frustrated)* Stop it!

HANS: *(fooling around)* "I am more powerful than you! I need only cast my magic dust and I conquer all I see!"

KAI: Cut it out! I hate you!

ERIK: (stopping abruptly) What's wrong with you?

KAI: (shouting) Leave me alone!

HANS: Fine... (muttering under his breath as they skate away) can't take a joke..(CHORUS EXITS over intro to KAI'S song, until only KAI remains ONSTAGE. SNOW QUEEN is behind scrim. LIGHTS come up on SNOW QUEEN when she sings.)

SONG "I'LL GO WITH YOU!"

KAI: It's never over, it never ends.
 Having to prove yourself to your friends.
 I think I'd rather be alone with my thoughts, with my plans,
 Figure out who I am, I don't know...
 How to explain what I feel, what I think.
 Am I so different? Is there no link
 Between me and you? Do we all go through
 What I'm feeling now? Or am I the only one?

SNOW QUEEN: Come with me! Come away with me!

KAI: If I am... I know what must be done...

SNOW QUEEN: Come away with me!

KAI: We all enter this world alone.
 I can see now, we are on our own.
 So, I'll keep to myself 'cause I know no one else can help me now.
 If the world won't accept me, if my friends all reject me,
 What else can I do? I'll Go with You!

SNOW QUEEN: Come with me...to a place where your heart can't hurt...

KAI: To a place where my heart can't hurt me.

SNOW QUEEN: Come with me!

KAI: I'll Go With You, where nothing can touch my soul,
 Where I can perfect my role,

SNOW QUEEN: Far from the passions of life...

KAI: I'll Go With You! I'll Go With You! I'll Go With You!

SNOW QUEEN: Come away with me! Come with me! Come away with me!

KAI: I'll Go With You!

Song over (Northern LIGHTS effect)

SCENE 3: "Spring"

(Bright LIGHTS come up on STAGE LEFT house. It is Spring. GRANDMOTHER is seated at the table talking to the FARMER, who has hat in hand. GERDA is seated at the top of ladder to the roof, eavesdropping.)

Farmer: I'm sorry, Mrs. Johanssen. We can't find a trace of him. We thought the body might have floated to shore with the spring thaw...but...there's nothing. He just...disappeared.

Grandmother: Thank you for your help, Mr. Ericson. I know you've done all you could. (*GRANDMOTHER is dabbing her eyes with a handkerchief.*)

Farmer: It's such a tragedy. My heart goes out to you and little Gerda. (*He glances up the ladder, but GERDA is crying and has moved to the stool near ROSEBUSHES.*) If there's anything you need, don't hesitate to ask.

Grandmother: Thank you. I'll walk you to the gate. (*EXITS STAGE LEFT with the FARMER.*)

SONG: "Why Are You Crying?"

(*Sung to GERDA, who is sitting on the stool, crying.*)

ROSEBUSHES: Why are you crying, dear little Gerda?
 Can't you see the sun is shining brightly?
 All around you it's spring;
 Can't you hear the sparrows sing,
 "He's alive! He's alive! Yet, he grows colder nightly."
 You must go and find him!
 That is what they're singing.
 Only you can save him with the love you're bringing.
 Why are you crying, dear little Gerda?
 Can't you see the sun is shining brightly?

(*song over*) (*ROSES return to a freeze*)

Gerda: (*amazed & not sure she can believe her ears*) He's alive? I knew it! But ... where can he be? And why doesn't he come home? He wouldn't just leave Grandmother and me without a word. (*beat*) Someone must have kidnapped him! But, who? And, why? (*beat*) The whole town thinks he's dead, but if he's alive somewhere, then, he needs my help! I must go out into the world and find him! (*determined, GERDA crosses to the ladder/stairs, climbs down it then suddenly turns .*) What if I find him and he gets mad at me? His last words to me were not very nice. He said I was nothing but a baby. A baby! I care for him so much and he hates me. (*pause, then GERDA sees her new red shoes on the table.*) Ah ha! My new red shoes! (*putting them on*) If he could see me in these, he'd know I'm not a baby anymore! Then, he'll like me again, because I had the courage to find him all by myself...

SONG: “Courage”

GERDA: Courage! Where will I find the courage?
 By myself, I am powerless.
 How can I walk out into the world,
 Not knowing where to go or where to find
 The courage?
 How will I find the strength to succeed,
 When hope’s all I’ve got...and nothing’s guaranteed?
 I wasn’t raised to be brave.
 I was brought up to be quiet and polite,
 Now, in order to save friend,
 I must go out into a world of strangers.
 Searching where untold dangers await me, I know
 And, although I am weak...I must go forward.
 Where will I find the courage?
 Where will I find the strength?
 How will I ever make it out there in a world I don’t know?
 Where nobody cares if I live or I die!
 All I know is that I’ve got to try...
 And, if I can’t find the courage...
 Well, then...I’ll just get by.

(song over)

GERDA: *(suddenly remembering something)* Grandmother! She’ll be so worried about me. *(beat)* But, there’s no turning back, now. *(Gerda quickly scribbles a note to grandmother, and leaves it on the table.)* Where do I begin? *(beat)* The river! I’ll ask the river first.

SCENE 4: “The River”

(The “River” dances languidly onstage over instrumental version of “RIVER OF LIFE”. GERDA moves through them as she speaks.)

Gerda: *(loudly)* River! Is it true that you have taken my friend from me? Please! Answer me! I must find him! *(beat)* If you help me find him, I’ll give you...*(she sees she has nothing)* I’ll give you my new red shoes! *(She removes her shoes while the River continues moving faster in a large pattern. As GERDA stands up they begin to sing the introduction to the song)*

SONG “RIVER OF LIFE”
(RIVER, GERDA & OFFSTAGE VOICES)

RIVER: Come closer! Come and join us!

GERDA: *(GERDA hovers around the circle offering her shoes & looking confused.)* I'm afraid to come closer! I might fall in!

RIVER: *(in harmony)* Come closer! Come and join us!

GERDA: Please! Take them! *(offering shoes)* They're all I have! *(GERDA gets too close & the RIVER grabs her & begins to pass her along, taking her shoes from her hands as they continue to sing)*

RIVER: Come closer! Come and join us!
Come closer! Come and join us!
Into the unknown we'll sail you away.
Scared and alone, you enter life today.
Ever-flowing, ever-growing,
This river lives up to its name.
Ever changing, rearranging,
Life never stays the same.

Group 1

Enter the River of Life

Like the wind it will
Blow you away from the Past.
As you go with its flow
You'll see nothing can last
But love.....

All

Into the unknown
We've taken you away.

See how you've grown
You're changing everyday.

Ever-flowing, ever-growing
This river lives up to it's name.
Ever changing, rearranging
Life never stays the same.

(Sing chorus; Gerda sings with group 1)

Group 1

Enter the River of Life

Like the wind it will

Group 2

Enter the River of Life

It will blow you away.

You'll see nothing can last

But love.....

Gerda

Into the unknown

You've taken me....
See how I've grown!

I'm changing.
Ever-flowing.....
This river lives up to it's name.
Ever changing!
Life never stays the same.

Group 2

Enter the River of Life

Blow you away from the Past.	It will blow you away.
As you go with its flow	
You'll see nothing can last	You'll see nothing can last
But love.....But love.....But love.....	(song over)

(The RIVER EXITS holding their last note taking the Red Shoes with them. There is a strange red garden- house with colored, stained glass windows. Beautiful "FLOWERS" ENTER as scene is changed. The ROSES also ENTER and stand LEFT of bench, STAGE LEFT. GERDA continues singing to cover change.)

GERDA: *(singing interlude)*
 I could go on forever,
 Caught in this dream forever.
 Constantly moving but not knowing my destination.
 Is this the right direction?
 Should I make a correction?
 Step out of this flow and test what I know
 With both of my feet on the ground?
 Time for my next adventure!
 There's no turning back now!
 I'll trust my heart
 To show me how! *(GERDA EXITS)*

FLOWERS: *(ENTER, singing)*
 Ooooo—oo! La, la,la,la,la,la!
 Ooooo—oo! La, la,la,la,la,la!
 Ooooo—oo! La, la,la,la,la,la!
 Ooooo—oo! La, la,la,la,la,la!

SCENE 5: "The Garden Where Time Stands Still"

Garden Woman: *(ENTER the glamorous GARDEN WOMAN, carrying a watering can and watering her "flowers" as she moves among them) Good morning, my lovelies! (FLOWERS stare blankly into space. G.W. fans her hand in front of one of them. There is no response.) Lively as ever, I see. (to audience) You think this is an easy job? I, and I alone, have created this beautiful garden of illusion. For that's what it is. Oh yes. I **could** surround myself with hollow-eyed skeletons and sit in a dark cave, but death is dreary enough, don't you think? Oh. Now I've depressed you. Still, if one is condemned to a place for Eternity, one might as well make the best of it. (GARDEN WOMAN sits on bench, STAGE LEFT, and begins eating from a bowl of "magic" cherries, talking as she eats.)*

Mmm-hmm! If it weren't for these magic cherries, I would go out of mind! *(confidentially)* I mean, these girls are lovely enough, but they're not much on conversation.

For-Get-Me Not 1: *(declaiming, loudly)* Near yonder narrow road...

For-Get-Me-Not 2: (*declaiming*) A castle her abode...(FOR-GET-ME-NOTS continue declaiming lines from their solo, loudly and morosely)

Iris: (*joining them, speaking at the same time*) Listen to the sound of the drum...!

Flowers: (*All FLOWERS join in, speaking lines from their solos, at the same time*)

Garden Woman: (*trying to quiet the FLOWERS*)
All right, girls. (*THEY continue*) That's enough. I've heard it all before.
(*shouting*) Quiet! (*FLOWERS are silent*)

Gerda: (*OFFSTAGE*) Hello! (*ENTERING, UPSTAGE*) Hello! Is anybody here?

Garden Woman: (*to audience*) Did you hear something? (*SHE looks down at the cherries she has been eating, and stops suddenly*) I think I'd better cut down on these cherries. (*SHE stands up and puts the bowl on the bench. G.W. picks up the watering can and starts to water FLOWERS.*) I'm beginning to hear things!

Gerda: (*coming up behind G.W.*) Excuse me, ma'm?

Garden Woman: (*jumping*) Oh! (*to audience*) A **live** person! The Heavens have answered my prayer! (*to GERDA*) What are you doing here?

Gerda: I'm afraid I'm lost.

Garden Woman: Well, now you're found! What is your name, child?

Gerda: My name is Gerda. And what may I call you?

Garden Woman: Some have called me Mother Holle, Queen of the Underworld, but that's so formal! You may call me (*looking around*) Garden Woman. My dear, Gerda, you look exhausted! Come and sit down. (*THEY move to bench*) Now, it is true that everyone ends up here eventually, but I seldom see anyone in your condition. (*aside*) So healthy!

Gerda: What did you say?

Garden Woman: Oh, nothing. How is it you have come here to my garden, so all alone?

Gerda: I'm searching the world for my friend, Kai. He disappeared last winter and everyone thinks he dead. But, I know he's alive, somewhere! **I must** find him. (*almost rising*)

Garden Woman: (*offering her "magic" cherries*) Don't rush off, so! Here, dear. Have

some cherries. These will help you forget, um, I mean...relax!

Gerda: I can't rest. I must find Kai! I'm afraid something awful may have happened to him.

Garden Woman: Well, I can assure you he's not dead, or I would have seen him.

Gerda: (*drugged*) How could you have seen him if he was dead?

Garden Woman: Let's just say I know about these things? Now, why don't you rest here awhile and we'll talk about this Kai later?

Gerda: (*lying down on the pretty blue silk pillows*) Oh, thank you. I am very tired. If I could just rest for a little while, I'd be ready to start my journey again.
(*GERDA goes to sleep*)

SONG: "The Garden Where Time Stands Still"

GARDEN WOMAN: I've always wanted a girl like this!
A lovely flower to add to my collection.
A darling child, no one will ever miss,
I'll keep her here, outside the world's detection.
Ever a child she'll remain;
Far from all the world's pain.
I'll keep her happy in my garden;
And I am sure the world will pardon me.
And, in my old age she'll keep me company;
But, first, I must erase her memory.
Roses! I must eliminate these roses!
And when the earth around them closes,
(*She points her cane at the ROSES*)
She'll forget about her little friend;
(*the ROSES sink into the ground*)
Then, I can happily pretend
That she's the child I never had...
Come on...I'm really not that bad.
She'll never notice he's not here,
Among my beautiful flowers.
All thoughts of him will disappear.
She'll while away the hours.
In this place where nothing changes,
And nothing ever will;
In this Garden Where Time Stands Still!
Time stands still! Time stands still!

(During the song, the GARDEN WOMAN has raised her cane & made the 2 ROSEBUSHES from the earlier scenes disappear into the ground.)

Garden Woman: *(Awakening GERDA)* Wake up, my dear. Time to meet my beautiful flowers. Each one has their own story. Perhaps they've seen your friend?

Gerda: *(getting up & curiously examining the flowers)* I've never seen such a wonderful garden. I could stay here forever! *(running from flower to flower)* For-get-me-nots! And look! *(running up to a HYACINTH & taking a deep breath)* I love the smell of hyacinth! Flowers are my favorite things in the whole world! *(looking around puzzled)* But...it seems like something's missing.

Garden Woman: *(quickly)* What could possibly be missing, my dear? Have some more cherries! *(bustling to her table to get more cherries)* These will help you to forget...er...I mean...dream. *(reaching the bowl out to GERDA)* Help yourself, dear!

Gerda: *(reaching for a cherry, she suddenly looks up at the GARDEN WOMAN's hat & notices roses on it)* Roses! That's what's missing! *(GERDA runs out into the garden)*

Garden Woman: *(snaps her finger as if to say "oh darn!")* Wait!

Gerda: *(looking around frantically)* Where are the roses? *(When she cannot find the ROSES, GERDA sits down on the bench and cries.)* I miss them so much.

Garden Woman: *(running after her)* Wait, my dear! Please don't cry! Be careful! Your tears aren't good for my flowers. No, no! Don't cry over there. *(G.W. gives up when the ROSES spring up. ROSEBUSHES spring up because of Gerda's tears)*

Gerda: *(seeing the ROSES, she rushes to embrace them through her tears)* Roses! Oh...you look just like my beautiful roses at home! *(beat)* But...why am I still here? I'm supposed to be looking for Kai. *(to the ROSES)* Do you know where he is? Is he dead?

Rose 1: No! No! He is not dead.

Rose 2: We have been in the ground, where all the dead lie....

Rose 1: But, Kai is not there.

Gerda: *(running up to the IRIS)* Do you, by any chance, know where Kai is?

(IRIS stares at GERDA blankly, with a vacuous smile on her face & begins to sing)

SONG: "I Can Only Sing My Own Song" (*Flowers & Gerda*)

IRIS: Listen to the sound of the drum!
 There are only two notes, two notes only;
 Tum! Tum! Tum! Tum! Listen to the sound of the drum!
 There he stands with his burning eyes!
 The fire in my heart was a sweet surprise.
 Cry for me! Sigh your sighs!
 Listen to the sound of the drum!

Gerda: (*spoken*) But...do you know what happened to Kai?

IRIS: (*sung*) I can only sing my own song, the story that is me.
 Only sing my own song, it haunts my memory!
 My story is the only story that I know.
 The only one I care about, the story of my dream!
 And I will never wear it out, the story of me.

Gerda: (*spoken*) I don't understand you at all!

NARCISSUS: (*sung*) I can see myself! I can see myself!
 How sweet is my perfume!
 Ev'ry single person glances up when I enter the room!
 No one could ever be like me!
 Graceful and lovely as can be!
 I can only sing my own song, the story that is me!
 Only sing my own song, it haunts my memory!
 My story is the only story that I know.
 The only one I care about, the story of my dream!
 And I will never wear it out, the story of me.

Gerda: (*spoken*) Why are you telling me this? I need to know where Kai is! (*to Hyacinths*) Have you seen him?

HYACINTHS: Cling, clang! Cling, clang! Cling, clang! Cling, clang!
 There were three sisters, delicate and fair;
 And, when they danced, they floated on the air.
 They danced in the moonlight down by the lake.
 But, now they are sleeping and they cannot wake!
 The ev'ning bell makes its mournful sound....
 The smell of flowers rises all around.
 Toll for the maidens! Their perfume is strong!
 Three lovely sisters...this is our song.

FOR-GET-ME-NOTS: Near yonder narrow road, a castle her abode...
 Awaits a maiden solemnly within her sheltered balcony.
 No rose as fresh as she, nor, moves as gracefully,
 Her silken gown, it rustles soft as she cries plaintively,
 "Come back to me! Come back to me!
 For I will surely die here on my own!"

GERDA: Is it Kai that you mean?

FOR-GET-ME-NOT: I speak only of my dream....

GERDA: What kind of stories are these?

FLOWERS: I can only sing my own song, the story that is me!
 Only sing my own song, it haunts my memory!
 My story is the only story that I know.
 The only one I care about, the story of my dream!
 And I will never wear it out, the story of me.

(split chorus of FLOWERS)

I can only sing my own (Sing my song) song,
 The story that is me! (Sing my song!)
 Only sing my own song, (My song)
 It haunts my memory! (It haunts my memory!)
 My story is the only story that I know...
 (The only one I care about.)
 The only one I care about,
 The story of my dream!
 And I will never wear it out, the story of me. (The only one I care about.)
 Of me! (The only one I care about.)
 Of me! (The only one I care about.)

(song over)

Gerda: *(to GARDEN WOMAN)* What's wrong with them? Can't they hear me?

Garden Woman: They sense your presence, but they can only hear their own thoughts. But don't worry about them! I can help you, Gerda.

Gerda: *(shaking head in dismay)* No. No. You fed me those cherries. You tried to make me forget about Kai! I must leave this place! *(GERDA runs from the FLOWERS & the GARDEN WOMAN, as the FLOWERS remove the "garden" set)*

Garden Woman: Gerda! Wait! Please stay! You'll get lost out there! *(GARDEN*

WOMAN follows GERDA OFFSTAGE. CROW rolls on his tree, STAGERIGHT, and sits down beside it.)

(LIGHTS change to evoke feeling of Fall. Bare tree branch gobos cover the stage.)

OFFSTAGE VOICES: “RIVER OF LIFE” reprise

Enter the River Of Life, (Enter the River Of Life)
Like the wind it will blow you away from the past.
(It will blow you away)
As you go with its flow you’ll see nothing can last
But love...but love...but love....

Gerda: *(ENTERS running, UPSTAGE, out of breath)* How could I have wasted so much time?! It’s Autumn already, and I still have no idea where Kai is. And my feet hurt so badly! I wish I still had my red shoes.*(GERDA limps to the tree where the CROW is seated & sits down underneath it, exhausted.)* Maybe if I rest under this tree for a little while, I’ll be stronger?

SCENE 6: “The Perfect Princess”

Crow: *(in a N.Y. character voice, but must be understandable)* Helloooo there, little one! So, where are **you** going so all alone in this wide world?

Gerda: *(startled, looks up tree)* I’m searching for my friend, Kai. Perhaps you seen him? He’s a bit taller than me with brown hair and he was wearing new black boots the last time I saw him.

Crow: *(nodding his head, gravely)* Black boots, you say? Perhaps I have...yes, maybe I have seen him?

Gerda: *(hugging his legs with joy)* No!?! Do you really think you have?

Crow: *(alarmed)* Ow! Gently! Gently! I think it might be this Kai. But, if it is, I’m sure he has forgotten you by now for the Princess.

Gerda: Princess? He lives with a Princess?

Crow: *(gossipy)* Oh, yes! You see, in this land, there lives a beautiful Princess who is so incredibly intelligent that she has read every single book in the world! *(aside)* Of course, she can’t remember any of them, but **still**, she is **very** intelligent. Anyway, a short time ago, she was sitting on her throne...which, let me tell you is not such a wonderful seat as some people may think. So, she’s seated on the throne...and

suddenly she begins to sing a song, which commences with these words: “Why Shouldn’t I Marry?”

SONG: “Why Shouldn’t I Marry” (*Princess & Ladies*)

PRINCESS: When a girl who’s young and beautiful attains a certain age;
 There comes a time she must decide to enter a new stage.
 With couples all around me and marriage all the rage;
 The moment has arrived when I must finally engage!
 The trouble is that now I find I’m forced to make a choice...
 Among the many men who in my favor would rejoice.
 How can I select a mate, and give this longing voice.
 When I am far superior to any “Jill” or “Joyce”?
 Why (Why-y) shouldn’t I marry?
 (Why shouldn’t she marry? Ooooo)
 ‘Cause I can’t find a guy who isn’t ordinary!
 To ally (to ally) with such a guy (with such a guy)
 Would be really scary. (Oh, so scary!)
 And, that is why I (that is why) I must say, “I, (oh my, my, my!)
 I do... (she does not want to marry!) not want to marry!
 Still (still!) here’s my quandary; (here’s her quandary!)
 As Princess it is absolutely necessary. (Oooooooo)
 Not to find (not to find) a match sublime (a match sublime)
 Would be revolutionary! (would be revolutionary!)
 And that’s why I’m (that’s why she’s)
 Taking the time...(taking the time)

All girls: To find a guy who’s not a slime, one good enough to marry!

Princess: (*spoken*) Therefore (*unrolls scroll to floor*)
 Herein, I enumerate a list of every worthy trait
 That I require in a mate for me! (You tell ‘em!)
 He must never irritate or attempt to dominate
 Or dare to intimidate me! (Uh-uhn!)
 He must never hesitate to vocally appreciate (Oooo)
 And constantly validate me!
 He must be handsome and charming and witty and bright;
 To keep me company all day, then dance away the night.
 He must relate with sensitivity and speak with versatility,
 Demonstrate ability, ergo, be simply great!
 (Oooo) If I am to honor him, he must satisfy each whim,
 Or the chance is very slim the marriage is his fate.
 (Ooo) I can’t settle for a man who’s dim,
 (Oooo) Or any normal “John or Jim”
 (Oooo) I must have a man who’s full of vim for him to be my mate.

Why (Why-y) shouldn’t I marry? (Why shouldn’t she marry?)
 ‘Cause (Oooo) I can’t find a guy who isn’t ordinary!

To ally(to ally) with such a guy (with such a guy)
 Would be really scary. (Oh so scary!)
 And, that is why I (that is why) I must say, “I, (Oh my, my, my)
 I do...(she does not want to marry) not want to marry!
 Still (still) here’s my quandary, (here’s her quandary)
 As Princess (Oooooo) it is absolutely necessary.
 Not to find (not to find) a match sublime (a match sublime)
 Would be revolutionary! (would be revolutionary)
 And that’s why I’m (that’s why she’s)
 Taking the time (taking the time)
 To find a guy who’s legendary,
Ladies: A love that won’t be momentary,
Princess: A husband extraordinary,
All girls: A man that’s simply great!
Ladies: A fellow who is visionary,
Princess: Who’ll be my perfect corollary;
All girls: Why shouldn’t I (she)marry the perfect mate?

(song over)

Princess: Why not, indeed!?! Ladies! I have decided to marry.

Lady 2: *(squeals of delight from Ladies)* Oh, Princess! We are so glad to hear it!

Lady 1: We were just discussing it the other day.

Lady 3: Oh yes! We were just saying “Isn’t it time the Princess got married?”
(screaming for her husband) Harry! Harry! *(goofy HARRY ENTERS, SL)*

Harry: Yes, dear.

Lady 3: Isn’t that what we were just saying?!

Harry: Yes, dear.

Lady 3: But... how will you **ever** find a man good enough for **you** around here? I mean **we**...we had no choice...*(gesturing to her husband, as Lady 1 nods her head in disgusted agreement)* But **you!** *(HARRY EXITS)*

Lady 1: Such a beauty!

Lady 2: So intelligent!

Lady 3: *(rhetorically)* What to do?

(the 3 LADIES pace back & forth 3 times, stopping and shaking their heads “no” each time until the 3rd stop.)

Lady 1: *(coming up with an idea)* A contest!

Lady 2: A contest!? Oh! What a splendid idea!

(The court people freeze en tableau, and then proceed to act out the story as told by the Crow to Gerda, inserting dialogue where written.)

Crow: *(to Gerda)* There you have it! On my life as a crow, I swear to you it's all true! My fiancée lives at the court and she told me all about it.

Gerda: So then, what happened?

Crow: Newspapers were published immediately with a border of hearts and the Princess's initials. Very tasteful! They basically said that every handsome young man should visit the castle to speak with the Princess.

Page: *(holding up newspaper)* Hear ye! Hear ye! If you're young and handsome, the Princess would like to meet you! *(point directly out to the audience on the word "you")*

Crow: Whoever was the most confident and spoke the best would be chosen as a husband for the princess. Yes, dahling, you can believe me! It's all as true as I'm sitting here! *(GUARDS ENTER STAGERIGHT)* The men came in crowds! But, no one succeeded. *(ENTER SUITORS, EXIT PAGE. The CROW'S FIANCEE ENTERS and sits near PRINCESS, watching.)*

Guard 1: Next!

Guard 2: Next!

Guard 3: Next!

Suitor 1: *(to the SUITORS)* Practice your bowing, boys! You're looking at the new Prince! *(to GUARD)* Out of my way, my good man! *(HE strides with confidence, but as HE gets closer to the PRINCESS, HE slows down & starts to look scared. HE continually clears his throat.)*

Princess: How do you do?

Suitor 1: *(clearing his throat & stuttering)* H...h...hh...ow...ahem...d,d,d,do...
...ahem...ahem...y...y...y...y...you do?

Princess: Are you all right?

Suitor 1: Ahem...ahem...al...ahem...all...ahem...right?

Princess: Next! (*EXIT SUITOR 1, STAGE LEFT*)

Guard 3: Next!

Guard 2: Next!

Guard 1: Next!

Suitor 2: (*to Suitor 3*) Never met a dame I couldn't tame! (*cracks his knuckles*)
These amateurs are pitiful. (*SUITOR 3 is nodding his head at everything.*)
Now...keep your eyes open and watch an expert operate! (*swaggers
towards the PRINCESS, raising & lowering his eyebrows, acting cocky,
until HE gets in front of her. Then HE begins to fall apart.*)

Princess: Good afternoon.

Suitor 2: Good...(begins to cough)...af...(cough)...ter...(cough)...noon...(cough,
cough)

Princess: (*backing away*) Are you ill, sir?

Suitor 2: (*still coughing*) Ill? (*cough, cough*) (*Shaking his head & gesturing
helplessly*)

Princess: Get rid of him! (*EXIT SUITOR 2, STAGE LEFT*)

Guard 3: Next!

Guard 2: Next!

Guard 1: Next!

(SUITOR 3 is left in line. HE looks around and sees HE is alone. HE begins to walk slowly towards the PRINCESS, hat in hand, looking at ground. When HE gets two-thirds the way there, HE looks up at her, freezes in fright & runs OFFSTAGE LEFT, the way he came, screaming his head off. All the court members shake their heads in disgust. The LADIES comfort a distraught PRINCESS.)

Crow: Ah yes, they were all "big talkers" when they were outside on the street, but as soon as they entered the Palace, (*snaps fingers*) "pffft!" All they could do was repeat what the princess had said to them...and...she had no particular desire to hear her **own** words again.

Gerda: But, what about Kai?

Crow: Wait a minute! I was just coming to him. It was on the third day. Along comes this handsome fellow. No horse, no carriage. Very poor, mind you, but, confident. My sweetheart told me that when this fellow saw the guards in their fancy uniforms, he was not in the least bit embarrassed.

Prince: *(to a Guard)* It must be very tiresome to stand out here. I prefer to go in.

Crow: And he walked right in, without any fear...even though his boots creaked!

Gerda: Then it must be Kai! He had on his new boots when he left and I heard them creak myself!

Guard 3: *(calling out loudly)* Another suitor is come for the Princess!

Princess: *(petulantly)* Send him away! I can't bear to meet another one of these dolts!

Prince: *(walking up to the Princess)* Princess, please! I have not come to woo you. I come simply to hear your wisdom.

Princess: *(in shock, she looks at the Prince & smiles, smitten)* What's that you say?

Prince: I have heard that your beauty is matched only by your intelligence. And now, I can see for myself that what I have heard is true.

Princess: Ladies! Bring my bridal veil! *(A pantomimed wedding takes place. The GUARDS change the scenery during the following dialogue)*

Gerda: *(wistfully)* So, Kai married the Princess?

Crow: If I had not been a crow, I would have married her myself! Of course, I'm already engaged. But, the Princess was as pleased with him as he was with her.

Gerda: *(ruefully)* Yes it must be Kai. He was so smart, he could even do fractions in his head! Still, I need to know for certain. Mr. Crow...will you take me to the palace?

Crow: Take you to the palace!?

Gerda: Please?! You're the only one who can help me?

Crow: Well, it's easy for you to **ask**, but getting permission to enter the palace is no simple matter!

- Gerda:** I'm sure that if you tell Kai it's me...
- Crow:** *(cutting her off)* Oh, I'm **sure** he'd be thrilled, but what about ...the Princess...his new wife? *(thinking)* No! It's too risky! I can't do it.
- Gerda:** What if you were to sneak me in? I just need to see that he's alive and I'll leave. No one has to find out.
- Crow:** You're asking me to put my fiancée's position at court in jeopardy. Why should I do that for a girl I don't even know?
- Gerda:** Because I can see you are a good and kind soul.
- Crow:** *(going through convulsions)* Oh....agh....eyughaa...all right! But, we have to go in the back way. Follow me. *(THEY EXIT)* *(As THEY EXIT behind the tree. The HOBGOBLINS & SORCERER ENTER in front of the tree.)*
- Hobgoblin 1:** Master! The girl is weakening. Should we make our move now?
- Sorcerer:** Not yet. We must wait for the perfect moment.
- Hobgoblin 2:** But, we might not get another chance!
- Hobgoblin 3:** The Snow Queen may try to stop us!
- Sorcerer:** *(grabbing THEM by the front of their clothes & threatening)* How dare you breathe her name in front of me!?! She has no power over me!
- Hobgoblin 1:** But, she took the boy and has hidden him from us!
- Sorcerer:** She can hide the boy all she likes. The mirror is lodged in his heart and in his eye. He is mine as surely as if I'd eaten him alive. And now, I shall take the girl, too.
- Hobgoblin 2:** But, the Snow ..., uh, I mean, it is said, her heart is pure.
- Sorcerer:** She is alone and unprotected. Soon her disappointment will lead to fear and when it does she will not fight me. Now, follow her, but stay hidden.

(Under the dialogue, scene is adjusted to become sleeping chambers of the Prince & Princess. The People of the Court EXIT, except for the CROW'S FIANCEE, who sits in the throne to sleep, after the others have left. The bed has been brought in by the GUARDS, the LADIES help prepare the bed. The PRINCE takes his boots off & the PRINCESS takes her shoes off, & THEY sleep on the bed. The LIGHTS change. It is night time.)

(GERDA & the CROW ENTER UPSTAGE LEFT, sneaking in. The CROW sees his FIANCEE asleep in the chair and sneaks behind her and taps her on the shoulder. SHE jumps "cawing" loudly.)

Fiancée: Caw! Ahgh! You scared the life out of me!

Crow: *(nervously)* Forgive me, tweetums.

Fiancée: If the Princess had caught me sleeping on her throne, it would have been my head!

Crow: *(consolingly)* Calm down, my little dove. *(putting his arm around her)* Daddy-bird is here. Now give us a kiss.

Fiancée: *(giving in, ready to kiss him, then sees GERDA and jumps back)* Who is this?! *(pointing)*

Crow: This? Oh, this little girl is an old friend of the new Prince. She has traveled very far to find him.

Fiancée: A friend of the Prince? You don't say! But, you're as skinny as a rail, child! And why are you coming here in the middle of the night?

Gerda: My friend, Kai, disappeared last winter, and I have been searching for him for months. Your fiancée told me the story of the Prince and I am sure it is Kai.

Fiancée: Ooooooh....well....the Princess and Prince are married now. I don't think the Princess will be happy to meet a rival.

Gerda: That's why we came at night. I don't want to interfere. I just want Kai to be happy. If I could see him to know for sure, then I can return home with a clear conscience. Won't you please help me?

Fiancée: Oh, what's the harm? Follow me, but, be quiet. *(She picks up an old-fashioned lantern.)* We'll go up the back way, so no one will find us. *(GERDA follows Fiancée: CROW follows GERDA)*

(Music covers their progress. They climb the stairs of the set, follow it around behind the scrim & come down on the other side, & walk to CenterStage where the Prince & Princess are sleeping. THEY are in turn followed by THE GOBLINS who sing softly along with the OFFSTAGE CHORUS.)

CHORUS: *(singing eerily & reaching out for them, but not actually touching them as they pass by.)*

Come closer! Gaze into the mirror!

Come, let its power take over your heart!
 Come closer! Look into the mirror!
 Let Negativity now play its part! (*2 times*)

Gerda: (*spoken over singing*) It seems like someone's following us!

Fiancée: Don't worry! They are only dreams, come to take the thoughts of the Prince and Princess as they sleep.

Crow: (*nervously*) All the better! Then, we won't have to worry about them waking up!

Fiancée: (*to GERDA*) Now, I hope if you rise to fame and honor, you will show a grateful heart to us?

Crow: I am certain she will. (*The 3 of THEM reach the beds. THEY are on the stairs overlooking the bed.*)

Fiancée: Sssssssshhhhhh!

(*GERDA leans over the PRINCE, to whom the Fiancée has been pointing, and slowly lifts the covers to take a peek. This awakens the PRINCE.*)

Prince: (*startled*) Oh! Who are you!

Gerda: Oh! (*said at the same time as Prince*) Oh, no! You're not Kai! I'm sorry!

Princess: (*wakes up & screams "bloody murder"*) An intruder! Guards! Guards! (*to Gerda*) How did you get in here?

Fiancée: (*shaking*) I...I...I'm afraid it's my fault, your highness.

Princess: (*still yelling*) How dare you?!

Fiancée: My sweetheart took pity on the poor child after hearing her story. She is on a quest.

Princess: This is unbelievable! There is no excuse! (*to GUARDS, who have come running in*) Get rid of her!

Prince: (*soothingly*) Princess. There was no harm done. Perhaps we should listen to her story?

Princess: I'll decide what we should do! Why should I care about her story?

- Prince:** Well...I couldn't help but notice that she exhibits the same kind of determination that I see in you.
- Princess:** She's **nothing** like me!
- Prince:** Not as pretty, to be sure! But...she seems so innocent.
- Princess:** (*flattered, calming down*) Oh...all right. (*to GERDA*) So, what's your story?
- Gerda:** (*hesitantly through her tears*) I...I...I heard from the Crow about you, and thought the Prince might be my long lost friend, Kai. He disappeared last winter, and I have traveled out into the world to find him.
- Princess:** (*bored*) Very touching.
- Prince:** (*taking PRINCESS aside*) What a noble child. I see so much of you in her. Bravery. Sincerity. Love.
- Princess:** (*softening*) Well...now that you put it that way, she does remind me of myself when I was younger. Of course, she's not as beautiful as I am, and her clothes are atrocious, but ...(*to GERDA*) My **dear** girl, your story has moved us. I have decided to aid you in your quest.
- Gerda:** Oh, thank you, Princess!
- Princess:** (*to the Crows*) As for you two...your efforts were very noble...just see to it, it doesn't happen again. And...to show you how gracious I can be, I shall even reward you.
- Crows:** Oh, thank you, your highness! We are not worthy!
- Princess:** I know. Let's see now? How about...freedom?! (*Crows shake their heads "No!"*) Then would you prefer to be raised to the position of "Court Crows", with all the kitchen leftovers you can eat?
- Fiancée:** Oh, your highness, may we **beg** for the court position...
- Crow:** To be taken care of in our old days would be more than we could wish for!
- Princess:** So be it! Ladies! Bring me my muff! And find some boots and a warm coat for ...er...uh...what's her name.
- Gerda:** Gerda.
- Princess:** Yes...Gerda. Guards! Fetch her a coach and a horse!

(GUARDS EXIT STAGE RIGHT for coach)

Prince: Gerda, why don't you visit with us for a while?

Gerda: You are most kind, but, I really must continue on my journey. *(The various courtiers return with clothes, etc. GERDA sits down and puts on boots. They put a velvet cape on her. The LADIES hand the PRINCESS her muff.)*

Princess: Yes, yes, you certainly must! We wouldn't want to keep you from your quest. *(to GERDA, handing her the muff.)* Here, you are, my dear. This will keep you warm.

Prince: We wish you luck and hope that you find your friend, soon.

(They help GERDA into the golden coach, which has arrived. CHORUS ENTERS, all surround the coach, CENTERSTAGE.)

Gerda: Thank you, both. I shall never forget you and your kindness to me. How can I ever repay you?

Princess: To see another person happy is all the payment we need. *(The PRINCE puts his arm around the PRINCESS, and they smile at each other.)*

Prince: Farewell, Gerda! May your innocence always preserve you!

SONG: (reprise) "Courage"

PRINCE: Courage! (Courage!) Where will she find the courage?
(Courage!) By herself, she is powerless.

ALL: How can she walk out into the world,
Not knowing where to go or where to find the courage?
How will she find the strength to succeed,
When hope's all she's got...and nothing's guaranteed?

WOMEN:
Nothing's guaranteed,
Nothing's guaranteed....!

MEN:
Nothing's guaran – nothing's guaranteed!
Nothing's guaranteed!

BLACKOUT

INTERMISSION

ACT 2

ENTR'ACTE

SCENE 1 "The Robber Girl"

(After a short instrumental Entr'acte, dim lights come up on a forest scene Onstage. The ROBBERS & The ROBBER HAG are hiding in various areas, waiting for a passerby to rob. The ROBBER GIRL is reading the cards for JAKE.)

Robber Hag: *(ENTERING UPSTAGE LEFT, to DINO, who is asleep, giving him a kick)*
Wake up!

Dino: Ow!

Hag: What kind of robber are you?! An army could ride by and you wouldn't notice!

Dino: *(slowly getting up & dusting himself off)* An army?! We haven't seen a single horseman in the past two weeks!

Jake: *(with a low voice & gypsy accent)* Do not despair, brother. Our luck will soon change.

Dino: *(disparagingly)* How can you know that?

Jake: I have read it in zee cards. *(Coach bells are heard in the distance)* Ssssh! The cards never lie.

Hag: *(in a stage whisper)* Positions, everybody!

(All ROBBERS ready themselves for an ambush as GERDA's GOLDEN COACH ENTERS.)

Hag: *(stage whisper)* Gold!

Jake: *(stage whisper)* Gold!

Dino: *(stage whisper)* Gold!

Hag: *(giving the "attack" signal)* Attack!!

(The ROBBERS attack the coach pulling GERDA out of it. Some ROBBERS hold onto the HORSE.)

- Hag:** *(grabbing GERDA by the arm)* She is so plump and pretty. Why, she's as good as a little lamb. *(putting a big knife to her throat)*
- Gerda:** *(struggling)* No! Let go of me!
- Hag:** What a nice dinner she'll make. *(The ROBBER GIRL jumps onto the back of the HAG, pulling her hair and fighting.)*
- Robber Girl:** She's mine! I want her fur muff and her pretty coat!
- Hag:** Get off me!
- Jake:** *(laughing & pointing)* Look at the bear and her young cub! *(THE ROBBERS encourage the struggle, laughing & shouting ad libs)*
- Robber Girl:** *(still punching & screaming)* She stays with me!
- Hag:** *(giving up)* All right! You can have her! Now, get off me!
- Robber Girl:** *(jumping down, then grabbing GERDA by the arm)* Good! *(to Gerda)* You're coming with me! Don't worry. We won't kill you...as long as you don't make us angry. *(beat...then curious in spite of herself)* I suppose you are a princess?
- Gerda:** *(shaking & scared)* No.
- Robber Girl:** *(suspiciously)* Then where did you get that coach? And your fancy clothes?
- Gerda:** A princess **gave** me the coach to help me find my friend, Kai.
- Robber Girl:** I don't like liars. *(looking at GERDA as if she's lying)* The others won't need to kill you, because if you lie to me *(threatening GERDA with her knife)* I'll do it myself. *(ROBBER GIRL grabs muff from GERDA & puts it on her own hand. Then she drags GERDA to where BA & the DOVES are tied up.)* You shall sleep here, with my animals and me. *(proudly)* They all belong to me! These are my doves. *(gesturing towards DOVES)* They'd fly away in a minute if they weren't locked up. And this is my old sweetheart, Ba. *(pointing her knife at the REINDEER)* We must tie him up tightly too, or he would also run away. I love to tickle his neck ev'ry night with my sharp knife. *(doing so, BA reacts with fear)* See how scared he gets?!
- Jake:** *(calling to Robber Girl)* Come over here, little one! Come and sing for us!
- Robber Girl:** *(abruptly to GERDA)* They're calling for me. *(pushing GERDA down onto*

the ground) Stay here and **don't** try to escape! (*ROBBER GIRL moves to join ROBBERS for song*)

Dino: Let the music begin!

All Robbers: Sing! Sing!

SONG: "Music Set Us Free" (*Robber Girl & Robbers*)

ROBBER GIRL: Music...music can take me away,
My spirit soars above among the stars that shine so brightly.
And, when I here a tambourine play,
It's saying, "Sing now, and dance,
And to the rhythm hold tightly!
Now, begin to move and sway
To the melody of the violin that plays nightly!"
"Dance! Dance! Dance, little gypsy!"
They all shout and I obey.
"Dance! Dance! Dance, little gypsy!"
Sing and dance your cares away!
Fly! Fly! Fly on the wings of song until the break of day!
Cry! Cry! Cry till your heart breaks!
For that is the gypsy way.
A den of thieves in the wood is no place for a child.
Yet, I've grown accustomed to life in the wild.

JAKE: You rob and you steal just like one of the men.
And should you be killed? Well...it happens now and then.

MEN: "Dance! Dance! Dance, little gypsy!"
R. GIRL: They all shout and I obey.
MEN: "Dance! Dance! Dance, little gypsy!"
R GIRL: Sing and Dance your cares away!
MEN: Fly! Fly! Fly on the wings of song until the break of day!
Cry! Cry! Cry till your heart breaks!
For that is the gypsy way.

R GIRL: Jingle! Jingle! Ring-a-ling-a-ding-a-ding!
That's a gypsy melody!
Jingle! Jingle! Ring-a-ling-a-ding-a-ding!
Music always sets us free!

MEN: (*faster now*) Tsh! Tush! (*etcetera*)
R GIRL: Flyyyyyyyyy.....
Jingle, Jingle, Jingle, Jingle,
Jingle, Jingle, Jingle, Jingle,
Jingle, Jingle, Jingle, Jingle,
Gypsy melody!

MEN: Hey!
 Jingle, Jingle, Jingle, Jingle,
 Jingle, Jingle, Jingle, Jingle.
MEN: Hi.....yap!
ALL: Music sets us free!
MEN: Music sets us free! Hey!

(song over)

Robber Hag: Dancing is thirsty work! *(to DINO)* Bring me the jug! *(noticing the ROBBER GIRL standing nearby, as if waiting to be complimented.)* You! Go to bed! Now! *(ROBBERS gradually drift OFFSTAGE)*

(The ROBBER GIRL is hurt by the rebuff at first, the angry. SHE storms over to where GERDA is seated, pulls knife out on her and plops down.)

Gerda: Will you have that knife with you while you're asleep?

Robber Girl: *(sullenly)* I always sleep with my knife. No one knows what may happen. *(beat)* Now...tell me again about this Kai. Why are you searching for him?

Gerda: Last winter, my friend went out to skate and never returned.

Robber Girl: Ha! Maybe he got tired of you and ran away?

Gerda: *(taken back)* Maybe. Even so, I must find out the truth.

Robber Girl: Why should you concern yourself?

Gerda: Because he's my friend. Don't you have any friends?

Robber Girl: No. *(beat)* I don't need any friends. I have my animals. Besides, having a friend seems to be more trouble than it's worth. Look where it got you. Now, go to sleep. We rise early.

(GERDA & ROBBER GIRL go to sleep. Lights change & BA & DOVES sing)

SONG: "In The Shining Valley of My Home"

BA & DOVES: Ooooooooo. Oo, oo, oo, oo, oo.
 Oo, oo, oo, oo, oo, o, oo, oo, oo, oo.
 Oo, oo, oo, oo, oo. Oo, oo, oo, oo, oo.

BA: In The Shining Valley Of My Home,
 Over sparkling ice an snow I'd roam.

BA: Pain and suff'ring I had never known!
 In The Shining Valley Of My Home.
 Free.....dom! Freedom was mine.
 In that land of ice and snow where Northern Lights do shine.

BA & DOVES: Oo, oo, oo. Oo, oo, oo, oo, oo.
 Oo.....Oo, oo oo, oo, oo, oo.
 Oo, oo, oo, oo, oo, oo.

BA
 In The Shining Valley
 Of My Home,
 Over sparkling
 Ice and snow I'd roam.
 Pain and suff'ring
 I had never known.
 In The Shining Valley
 Of My Home
 Freedom!
 Freedom was mine.
 In that land of ice and snow
 Where the Northern lights do shine.

(song over)

DOVES
 In the shining valley
 Valley of my home.
 Over ice and snow, I'd fly...

 Pain and suff'ring I had never known.

 In The Shining Valley Of My Home.
 Freedom!
 Freedom!

 Where the Northern lights do shine.

(GERDA wakes up & listens during the song)

Gerda: *(stage whisper, to DOVES)* What are you saying up there?

Dove 1: We have seen your friend.

Gerda: Kai? You've seen Kai?!

Dove 2: Yes. He sat in the Snow Queen's carriage when it drove by our nest in the forest.

Dove 1: She blew her cold breath upon us....

Dove 2: And all the young ones died.

Dove 1: Except for the two of us.

Gerda: Where was the Snow Queen going?

Dove 2: She was most likely traveling to Lapland, where there is always snow and ice.

Dove 1: *(whispering to GERDA)* Ask the reindeer.

Ba: *(nodding his head, knowingly)* Yes. There is always snow and ice there. It is a glorious place. You can leap and run freely on the sparkling plains. The Snow Queen has her summer tent there, but her castle is at the North Pole.

Gerda: *(sighing sadly)* How will I ever reach him there?.

Robber Girl: *(waking up, suddenly)* Lie still, or I shall run my knife into your body!

Gerda: But, the doves said they saw Kai! He was with the Snow Queen in Lapland. And Ba knows the way there!

Robber Girl: *(getting up)* That is all talk. All talk! *(to BA)* How would you know where Lapland is?

Ba: *(indignantly)* Who should know better than I? I was born and brought up there and used to run about the snow covered plains.

Robber Girl: Quiet! I have to think. *(SHE concentrates for a moment)* *(Conspiratorially)* Look. All the men have left. Only mother is here. All day long, she drinks from a big bottle and sleeps. Yes...maybe there is a way to help you. *(turning away abruptly & running to her mother, the ROBBER GAG, & giving her a hug.)* Good morning, my own little nanny-goat!

Robber Hag: *(pushing her away, groggily)* Don't bother me! I'm sleeping.

Robber Girl: *(cajoling)* Oh, but, Nana. You would sleep so much better if you had a drink from your big jug. *(picking up the jug)*

Hag: *(wheedling)* Oh, yes. Be a good girl and bring your mother her jug. I'm too tired to move.

Robber Girl: *(pulls the jug from behind her back)* Here you are, Nana.

Hag: *(takes a swig, then eyes her suspiciously)* Is this a trick, you little devil?

Robber Girl: A trick? What for?

Hag: It better not be! *(taking a long drink, she gradually falls into a stupor as ROBBER GIRL sings)* Now, sing me to sleep.

SONG: **“In The Shining Valley of My Home”**

ROBBER GIRL: In the shining valley of my home.

Over sparkling Ice and snow I'd roam.
 Pain and suff'ring I had never known.
 In the shining valley of my home.
 Freedom. Freedom was mine.
 In that land of ice and snow
 Where the Northern lights do shine.

(DOVES, BA & GERDA join her on the "Oooo's" as ROBBER GIRL steals some ham, bread, & her mother's big mittens. The HAG has fallen asleep. ROBBER GIRL returns to BA.)

Robber Girl: *(to BA)* I would love to keep you here and tickle your neck with my knife a few more times. It makes you look so funny. But, never mind. I'll untie you and set you free on one condition. You must take this girl to Lapland with you. Take her to the Snow Queen's castle, where her friend is.

Ba: I will do as you say.

Robber Girl: *(to GERDA)* Now, you must go after your friend. If he is truly with the Snow Queen, you have a long way to go. Here is some ham and some bread for your journey *(holding a satchel)* but, I must keep your muff. It's so pretty that I can't bear to part with it. But, don't worry! You won't freeze. I've taken my mother's mittens for you. Here! *(hands her a pair of huge gloves & helps her put them on.)* There! Now you look just like my mother!

Gerda: *(bewildered)* Why are you being so kind to me?

Robber Girl: *(embarrassed)* Why shouldn't I be? Besides, I have no love for the Snow Queen. When you find Kai, you must promise to come back and visit me. I want to see this friend of yours who has caused you so much trouble.

Gerda: *(joyfully)* I'll be sure to come back this way, for now, **we** are friends.

Robber Girl: *(turning away, embarrassed, gruffly)* How are we friends?

Gerda: You have gone to great trouble to help me. That makes us friends.

Robber Girl: But...we may never see each other again?

Gerda: That doesn't matter. Your memory will always be with me. Friendship is not measured by distance.

SONG: "I'll Be Your Friend" (*duet, Gerda & Robber Girl*)

GERDA: I'll Be Your Friend,
Though the distance between us may be great.
No matter how far away, if you should call me,
I won't hesitate.

ROBBER GIRL: I'll Be Your Friend,
And should misfortune be your fate,
Send the word and I'll be there.
You won't have to wait.

GERDA: I'll Be Your Friend

RG: I'll Be Your Friend

BOTH: Though time and space may separate us.

RG: Your friend...

GERDA: I'll Be Your Friend!

RG: Whatever destiny may await us!

BOTH: Here and now I take this vow,

I will prove that I know how

RG: To be your friend...

GERDA: To be your friend...

BOTH: I'll Be Your Friend!

RG: Years from now,
Should somebody else mention your name,
I'll say we knew each other very well,
Yes, I'll still feel the same.

GERDA: Years from now,
When other mem'ries fade away,
Yours will be as clear as the first time,
That I heard you say...

GERDA: I'll Be Your Friend

RG: I'll Be Your Friend

BOTH: Though time and space may separate us.

RG: Your friend...

GERDA: I'll Be Your Friend!

RG: Whatever destiny may await us!

BOTH: Here and now I take this vow,

I will prove that I know how

RG: To be your friend...

GERDA: To be your friend...

BOTH: I'll Be Your Friend!

RG: I'll Be Your Friend!

GERDA: I'll Be Your Friend!

RG: I'll Be Your Friend!

(song over)

Robber Girl: You must hurry, now. Mother will awake soon. (*ROBBER GIRL hooks up BA to a sled with wheels or THEY create a “sleigh” with a scarf that circles GERDA which BA holds on to, to simulate a sled*) Ba! Swear to me you’ll take good care of my... my friend.

Ba: I’ll protect her with my life.

Gerda: Farewell, Robber Girl! I’ll never forget you!

(The LIGHTS quickly dim. SNOW begins falling. The Robber’s lair is replaced by the LAPLAND WOMAN’s “house” on STAGE RIGHT. BA & GERDA travel “in Place” under a STROBE LIGHT, CENTER STAGE in slow motion. Travel music is the Snow Queen theme.)

SCENE 2: “The Lapland Woman”

Ba: There are my old Northern Lights! How beautiful they are! I see a hut in the distance!

Gerda: I’m so cold! Can we stop there?

Ba: Yes. We need to rest. (*BA moves to the “ENTRANCE” of the hut & shouts*) Hello in there!

Lapland Woman: (*looking up from her cauldron, amazed*) Hello? Hello?! Who can that be? (*goes to door*) Visitors? Come in! Come in out of the cold! Oh, my! A little girl! Who are you? (*THEY ENTER the hut. GERDA is shivering too hard to speak*)

Ba: She is too cold to speak. We have traveled many miles across the frozen plain.

Lapland Woman: Oh, you poor things! Sit down by the fire, little one. (*GERDA sits by the fire*) (*to BA*) Why have you come here to Lapland?

Ba: I was captured by a band of robbers and held prisoner for a long time. I gained my freedom by promising to help this little girl on her quest.

Lapland W: Quest? What kind of quest?

Ba: She is searching for her friend, Kai, who is held captive by the Snow Queen.

Lapland W: The Snow Queen, you say? Oh dear. Then you still have a very long way to go. It’s another hundred miles to Finland. There you must seek out my sister, the Finland Woman. She is much wiser than I and can tell you the

way to the Snow Queen's palace. But, first you must eat. Have a fish, my dear. *(She hands GERDA a dried fish. GERDA examines it & nibbles at it to be polite.)* Delicious, isn't it? *(She hands a fish to BA who gobbles it down.)* Now, I have no paper here, but I will write a message to my sister on a dried fish. *(SHE picks up a dried fish and scratches words on it with a knife. She hands it to a greedy BA.)* Uh! Uh! Don't eat this before my sister reads it! I wish you could stay and chat with me! But, your way is long and you must continue on your journey if you are to succeed in your quest.

(The LAPLAND WOMAN helps the still-shivering GERDA up & sends her & BA on their way. The FINLAND WOMAN takes position. STAGE LEFT. The "Snow Queen" theme begins again as BA & GERDA travel under the STROBE LIGHT. When the light stops, BA speaks.)

SCENE 3: "The Finland Woman"

Ba: Look! That must be the hut of the Finland woman!

Gerda: How can you tell? It just looks like more snow!

Ba: Don't you see the smoke rising from her chimney?

Gerda: Yes! Now I see it! *(GERDA shouts out)* Hello!? Is anybody home?

Finland Woman: *(a mysterious wise-woman, getting up from her cauldron)*
I've been waiting for you.

Gerda: *(BA & GERDA exchange a confuse look. To FINLAND WOMAN)* Your sister, the Lapland Woman, has sent us. We have a message for you.

Finland W: Then come in and warm yourselves. *(BA hands her the fish. SHE reads it, laughs, then abruptly throws it into the pot. To GERDA)* Take off your gloves and boots, little one.

Gerda: Thank you. It is very warm in here.

Finland W: Lie down and rest yourself. You've journeyed very far.

Gerda: I am very tired. *(SHE lies down & promptly falls asleep)*

Finland W: *(to BA)* So! Tell me why you have come.

Ba: I'm helping this little girl on her quest.

Finland W: I see. And, what is this quest?

Ba: Gerda – that’s her name - is searching for her friend, Kai. We think he is being held by the Snow Queen. I didn’t want to say anything to Gerda, but I have heard of you. You have magic powers.

Finland W: Do I?

Ba: *(falling to his knees, begging)* Oh please! Can’t you give this little maiden something that will make her as powerful as twelve men?

Finland W: *(laughing)* And what good would that do?

Ba: Then she could overcome the Snow Queen! *(The FINLAND WOMAN shakes her head & picks up an animal skin, which SHE begins to read.)* Please! She’s suffered so much and come so far.

Finland W: It is true. Kai **is** with the Snow Queen. But...he finds everything there to his liking and has no wish to leave.

Ba: *(shocked)* Why?

Finland W: Because he has a piece of the broken mirror in his heart and his eye...placed there by an evil sorcerer. The Snow Queen has frozen them in place. If they are not removed, Kai will remain under her power.

Ba: But...can’t you give Gerda something that will conquer this power?

Finland W: I can give her no greater power than she already has. Have you not seen that all who meet her are drawn to help her? That is because she is truly innocent and pure of heart.

SONG: “The Power of One Pure Heart”

FINLAND WOMAN: The Power of One Pure Heart
 Can move a mountain.
 The magic of innocence can shatter despair.
 The courage of one true friend can flow like a fountain
 To nourish the souls of men.
 It can bring them to life again.
 The Power of One Pure Heart
 Can stand against many.
 The light from a shining soul can show them the way.
 The magic of innocence gives hope where there isn’t any.
 When it seems like the end has come
 She’ll succeed with the Power of One Pure Heart.
 Love can melt a heart of stone,

Can guide us all through the unknown.
 The vision that she's been shown
 Tells her that she must stand alone
 With The Power Of One Pure Heart
 She can conquer an army.
 The tears of the innocent, will wash away fear.
 The courage of one true friend says,
 "Nothing can harm me!"
 They say fools rush in with no dread
 Where angels fear to tread.
 But, when it's all been done and said,
 She must fight on, though hope is dead.
 And, with The Power of One Pure Heart
 She can conquer the word!
 She can conquer the word!
 With the Power of One Pure Heart!

(song over)

Finland Woman: You must go now. If Gerda cannot gain access to the palace of the Snow Queen and remove the mirror fragments from Kai herself, then we can do nothing to help her. The garden of the Snow Queen begins two miles from here. Take Gerda there and return to me as quickly as you can. *(waking GERDA)* Come, Gerda. You must go now. *(GERDA gets up, half asleep, leaving her gloves & boots.)* Farewell!

("Snow Queen Theme" music begins again as they travel under the STROBE LIGHT. They reach the Garden of the "Snow Queen".)

Gerda: Oh, no! I've forgotten my boots and gloves!

Ba: You cannot turn back now, Gerda. The Finland Woman told me you must go on alone. Farewell and good luck. *(HE hugs her "good-bye" & exits)*

(GERDA moves DOWNSTAGE, FAR RIGHT, huddled on her knees during the next scene. The lights come up on KAI on CENTERSTAGE & SNOW QUEEN in her UPSTAGE "tower".)

SCENE 4: "Kai & The Snow Queen"

Kai: *(HE is blue with cold & has dark circles under his eyes. HE moves like a robot, trying to put together a puzzle.)* I don't understand why I can't figure it out it?

Snow Queen: The way to Eternity is a difficult path, Kai. When you discover it, you will be the master of your destiny and the world.

Kai: *(frustrated)* I know that if I just keep trying, I'll figure it out. It should be easy.

Snow Queen: If you let reason be your guide, my dear, perhaps you may succeed. But, there is only one way to Eternity.

Kai: *(determined)* Don't tell me!

Snow Queen: Very well. I must leave you for a while.

Kai: I'll have the answer by the time you return!

Snow Queen: The secret to Eternity requires great understanding, Kai. Some men never find the answer.

Kai: But I will! *(KAI EXITS with "puzzle", STAGE RIGHT.)*

Snow Queen: We shall see.

(LIGHTS DOWN on SNOW QUEEN who prepares for a STAGE RIGHT ENTRANCE. UNDERSCORING begins as SORCERER & GOBLINS ENTER, STAGE LEFT.)

Goblin 1: Master? Is it time now?

Sorcerer: Now is the moment! Once we conquer the girl, the boy is doomed forever!

Goblin 2: But, master, why is she so important?

Sorcerer: Because she possesses the one power strong enough to stand in my way.

Goblin 3: What if the Snow Queen comes to help her?

Sorcerer: *(raising his arm to the GOBLINS and shouting)* I told you not to mention her name!

Snow Queen: *(appearing STAGE RIGHT, laughing)* Too late, Sorcerer! Our little experiment is almost at an end and you shall not interfere! I must know if Reason or Love will prevail.

Sorcerer: My dear, be reasonable. Look at her. *(indicating GERDA)* She is trembling and alone. Fear has won. Step aside and let me claim my prize.

Snow Queen: No.

Sorcerer: Then I will take her!

(SORCERER throws magic dust at the SNOW QUEEN and the FIGHT DANCE BEGINS. THE SNOWFLAKE WARRIORS magically appear to fight the GOBLINS. GERDA reacts to the music as if SHE is going through an inner struggle. At the end of the piece, the SNOW QUEEN & her WARRIORS are victorious. THE SORCERER & GOBLINS struggle OFFSTAGE or are expelled by the end of the DANCE.)

SCENE 5: “Gerda & Kai”

(At the end of the music KAI ENTERS STAGELEFT, still working on the puzzle. GERDA sees KAI & rushes to HIM)

Gerda: Kai? Kai! At last I’ve found you!

(KAI ignoring her, doesn’t hear her.)

Gerda: Kai? It’s me, Gerda. Don’t you remember me? Please! Please answer me! What’s happened to you? You look so cold. *(GERDA looks around at their surroundings)* How can you live here? *(SHE begins to cry when HE still does not answer)* Kai. I’ve come so far, and you won’t even speak to me. Can’t you hear me? *(GERDA begins to walk away from him, looking around)* Our song! Do you remember our song? *(GERDA kneels on the floor next to KAI & sings a cappella)* “Youth is sweet but cannot stay. Like a rose it fades away. When again the rose we see, we will know Eternity.” *(On the word Eternity, KAI looks up & stares at her.)*

Kai: Eternity?

Gerda: Oh, Kai! You **can** hear me! *(SHE hugs him, placing her head on his chest as SHE cries.)*

Kai: *(registering on his face that her tears are melting & washing away the mirror pieces in his heart, slowly waking out of his stupor.)* Gerda? Gerda? Where have you been? *(looking around & getting up)* What is this place? It’s so cold and empty. *(HE hugs GERDA & begins to cry. His tears wash away the mirror in his eye.)* I’m so cold.

Gerda: Hurry! We must leave before the Snow Queen returns and finds us here.

Kai: *(not listening to her)* Eternity! I’m beginning to understand. Gerda, the Snow Queen will not harm us now. She was trying to teach me, but, I wasn’t ready to learn.

Gerda: What are you saying?

Kai: She told me there is only one way to Eternity and I finally know what she meant. (*surprised*) It's love! The path to Eternity is love.

Gerda: But, why did she kidnap you, then?

Kai: Because she knew you would come. Gerda, you have shown me what love is, and now my eyes are open.

SONG: "Finale"

KAI: Youth Is Sweet, but, cannot stay;
Like a rose, it fades away.
When again the rose we see.
We will know eternity.

GERDA & KAI: When at last the roses fall,
And we hear old winter's call,
All my life will sweeter be,
Knowing you were here with me.

ROSES & DOVES: Life is fragile as a flower;
Blooming, fading in an hour;
Youth Is Sweet, but, cannot stay;
Like a rose, it fades away.

GERDA: Like a rose, my life unfolds when I'm with you.
Suddenly, I understand what I've been through.

KAI: I was frozen in a world where I couldn't feel!
But, now, at last, I see the truth.
My heart knows love is real

CAST: (*ENTERING*) Roses, flower of the Summer;
With the scent of perfume floating in the air.
When the winds of Winter blow,
Bringing with them ice and snow;
Roses sleep until the sun returns
And warms the earth, and once again its Spring.
That's when life begins anew,
Lovely rosebuds touched with dew.
Ah.....
Ah.....
Ah.....
Ah.....
Youth Is Sweet, but, cannot stay;
Like a rose, it fades away.
When again the rose we see.
We will know eternity.

SNOW QUEEN: Kai! I see you've learned your lesson well.
For now you know, the only way to find Eternity
Is through true love.

The Power of One Pure Heart
Can move a mountain.
The magic of innocence can shatter despair.
The courage of one true friend can flow like a fountain
To nourish the souls of men.
It can bring them to life again.

CAST: The Power of One Pure Heart
Can stand against many.
The light from a shining soul can show them the way.
The magic of innocence gives hope where there isn't any.
When it seems like the end has come
We'll succeed with the Power of One Pure Heart

CAST

Love can melt a heart of stone
Can guide us through all the unknown.
The vision that we've been shown
Tells us that we must stand alone
With the Power of One Pure Heart
We can conquer an army.
The tears of the innocent, will wash away fear.
The courage of one true friend says,
"Nothing can harm me!"
They say fools rush in with no dread
Where angels fear to tread.
But, when it's all been done and said,
We must fight on, though hope is dead.
And, with The Power of One Pure Heart
We can conquer the world!
We can conquer the world!
With the Power of One
Pure.....Heart!

SNOW QUEEN

Love can melt
a heart of stone!

We stand alone!
One Pure Heart!

Will wash away fear!
One true friend...
Can save you!
Ah, ah, ah.....
Ah, ah, ah.....
Ah, ah, ah.....

You can conquer the world!
You can conquer the world!
With the Power of One
Pure.....Heart!

The End

BOWS