

## The Story

"Snow White" is a classic fairy tale known worldwide, with its origins in German folklore. The story begins with a beautiful queen who pricks her finger while sewing, causing three drops of blood to fall on the snow. This sight inspires her wish for a child with "skin as white as snow, lips as red as blood, and hair as black as ebony." Unfortunately, the queen dies after giving birth to a daughter who possesses these very qualities, and she's named Snow White.

After the queen's death, the king remarries a proud and arrogant woman who owns a magical mirror. This mirror reassures her daily that she is the fairest of all. However, one day, the mirror declares Snow White to be the fairest, arousing the stepmother's envy. In her wrath, she orders a huntsman to take Snow White into the forest to kill her. Instead, touched by Snow White's innocence, the huntsman spares her life and advises her to hide deep within the woods.

In the forest, Snow White stumbles upon a small cottage inhabited by seven dwarfs. The dwarfs agree to let her stay if she will cook, clean, and do housework for them. Meanwhile, upon discovering that Snow White is still alive, the jealous queen attempts to kill her three times—first with a tight corset, then with a poisoned comb, and finally with a poisoned apple. The dwarfs save Snow White twice, but they are unable to revive her after the third attempt. A prince who passes by falls in love with the seemingly dead Snow White, and when he kisses her, she awakens, the piece of poisoned apple dislodged from her throat. The prince and Snow White marry, and the wicked stepmother meets a grim end at their wedding, finally putting an end to her evil deeds.

## The Origins of the Fairy Tale

The fairy tale of "Snow White" is believed to have originated in Germany and is widely recognized as one of the most famous works produced by the Brothers Grimm. Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm, renowned for their collection of traditional folklore, included "Snow White" in their anthology "Grimm's Fairy Tales" first published in 1812. Their version was an amalgamation of various folk tales that were passed down orally through generations.

However, variations of the "Snow White" narrative can be traced back as far as the Middle Ages. Some researchers claim potential roots in Norse mythology and ancient Roman legends. The story underwent numerous modifications and adaptations before it acquired its current form, with the poisoned apple and seven dwarfs becoming integral parts of the tale only in the 19th century. Over time, "Snow White" has been subject to countless reinterpretations in literature, cinema, and popular culture, becoming a timeless symbol of innocence, beauty, and the triumph of good over evil.

## The History of the Ballet

The ballet adaptation of "Snow White," like the fairy tale itself, has a rich and intriguing history. The first ballet version of this story was reportedly staged in Rome in 1912 under the title "Biancaneve," roughly coinciding with the centennial of the Grimm Brothers' first published collection. It was choreographed by Luigi Manzotti, a ballet master renowned for his sumptuous productions of fairy tales and legends.

The ballet version of "Snow White" received a significant boost in the mid-20th century following the success of the 1937 Disney animated film. The film's popularity prompted several ballet companies to adapt the story into a dance spectacle. One noteworthy production was by the British ballet company Ballet Theatre UK, which premiered its "Snow White" in 2008, earning wide acclaim for its enchanting choreography and innovative set design.

In 2011, the New National Theatre Ballet of Tokyo mounted a production of "Snow White" that was lauded for its beautiful interpretation of the classic tale. Choreographed by Angelin Preljocaj, the ballet offered a fresh take on the story, combining the classic elements of the fairy tale with modern dance techniques. The ballet has since been performed by numerous companies worldwide, demonstrating the enduring appeal of "Snow White" and its adaptability to the expressive medium of ballet.