

# FOOLPROOF



## **The Snow Queen (extract)**

## Scene 2: A Little Boy and a Little Girl

**OLD WOMAN** Do you remember the window-boxes?

**OLD MAN** Of course, and the flowers! Rose bushes with flowers.

**OLD WOMAN** So high above the street.

**OLD MAN** But so close they could reach across and whisper in each other's ears.

**OLD WOMAN** And do you remember the white bees?

**OLD MAN** Of course I remember the white bees. It all began with the white bees.

**KAY** and **GERDA** enter carrying two cardboard window frames with window boxes. When they reach the **OLD MAN** and the **OLD WOMAN** they all stand face to face and circle round. **KAY** and **GERDA** continue to stand centre stage.

**KAY** Gerda! Hello!

**GERDA** Kay! It's cold today. The wind is sharp, and the leaves are falling from the trees.

**KAY** My grandma says that winter is coming. Will you come and drink hot chocolate with us?

**GERDA** Hold on! I'll climb across.

As **GERDA** mimes climbing between the windows **GRANDMA** enters carrying three mugs. **GRANDMA**, **GERDA** and **KAY** drink the chocolate together.

**GERDA** Look! It's snowing!

**GRANDMA** The white bees are swarming in the sky.

**GERDA** They're not white bees. They're snowflakes.

**KAY** Have they a Queen Bee?

**GRANDMA** They have. She flies where they swarm so thickly. She is the largest of them all.

**GERDA** Where does she live?

**GRANDMA** She is the Snow Queen and she lives in the thick black cloud.

**KAY** Does she ever come to earth?

**GRANDMA** Often at midnight she flies through the streets of the town and looks in the windows. She covers them with beautiful icy flowers and trees.

**KAY** I have seen them!

**GERDA** Can the Snow Queen come in here?

**KAY** If she does, I will put her on the warm stove, and then she will melt!

**GRANDMA** Now children, it's time for bed. Goodnight, Gerda. Goodnight, Kay.

**KAY** Grandma, tomorrow may I take my sledge to the Square and play with the other boys?

**GRANDMA** Of course you may.

**KAY** Goodnight Gerda. Goodnight Grandma.

**GERDA** Goodnight.

***GERDA** makes her way back to her own home and **GRANDMA** picks up the cups and exits. **KAY** shivers with cold, picks up his cardboard window (now snowy?) and looks out. The **SNOW QUEEN** appears and mirrors him through the window. He starts with fright and shakes his head in confusion. As he does so, she laughs and flies off. He watches her, go rubbing his eyes, as though he has something in it.*

**OLD WOMAN** And so Kay settled down to sleep.

**OLD MAN** But in his heart he felt a pain, because the Snow Queen had put a sliver of ice there and he could not pull it out.

**OLD WOMAN** And after that night Kay changed. Everything he looked at seemed ugly and he didn't care about Gerda any more.

**OLD MAN** And so it all began.

### **Scene 3: The Queen**

**OLD WOMAN**        The following day, Kay took his sledge and went to the square.

**OLD MAN**            The boys would tie their sledges onto carts and see how far and how fast they could go.

***KAY** and the **BOYS** laugh and play together in the snow.*

**OLD WOMAN**        Soon a white cart came by. It was pulled by white horses and driven by a lady wearing a white hat and a white fur.

***KAY** runs and ties his sledge to the cart. The **SNOW QUEEN** turns around and smiles at him and then snaps her imaginary reins. The **BOYS** are left far behind and exit.*

**QUEEN**                Faster!

***KAY** begins to get bumped up and down uncontrollably and a **SNOWSTORM** begins.*

**KAY**                    NO!