

“UNHAPPILY EVER AFTER”

Written for the stage from Fairytales by
Brothers Grimm, Charles Perrault and Hans Christian Anderson by
Millie Hardy-Sims.

Running Time: 1.5 hours

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CHARACTERS

6F, 4M, 8*

Cast size: Min 13, Max 19

VALBORG, THE EVIL QUEEN^F	Stepmother to Snow White, Valborga succeeded in cursing her stepdaughter to an eternal sleep and in her place cursed the land to misery, and banished her Prince to a life of imprisonment so he cannot save her. She is powerful, magical and evil.
SNOW WHITE^F	The beautiful and kind Princess of the lands of Perrault and Grimmenvald, Snow White spends most of the play in a cursed sleep.
GOLDILOCKS^F	With a history that not even she can remember, Goldilocks was raised by the bears. She is an expert thief and bandit, a skill the Queen wishes to utilise.
ROBIN HOOD[*]	An Outlaw and the leader of the Band of the Red Apple. He has values and he sticks to them, as well as a history rubbing elbows with royalty.
DOREA, THE SEA WITCH^F	Sister to the Evil Queen, Dorea is tasked with guarding the Prince and keeping him from rescuing Snow White. She spends her life torn between the evil she believes she needs to be to please her sister, and the good she wants to do.
KITTY, PUSS-IN-BOOTS[*]	A member of the Band of the Red Apple. Abandoned by her owner as a young cat, Kitty has since made her own way in the world. She is strong, independent and agile and wants nothing more than revenge on the Queen.
JACK, THE GIANT SLAYER[*]	A member of the Band of the Red Apple. Jack used his wits to outsmart the last Giant in existence. He is handy with ideas in a difficult place and has a good heart, if he is a bit of a thief too.
FREYDIS, A DWARF[*]	A member of the Band of the Red Apple. Freydis is the last dwarf in existence after the Evil Queen killed her 6 brothers and sisters. She is good with weapons and tools, and wants to free Snow White and avenge her family.
RAPUNZEL^F	Rapunzel's father tried to sell her to the Queen by claiming she could spin straw into gold. She was rescued by Jack and finds love with Robin Hood. She is a gentle and innocent soul.
AIDEN, THE PRINCE^M	Snow White's true love, he is locked away from prying eyes by the Evil Queen and guarded by her sister Dorea so that he may not rescue his princess. He is handsome, courageous and sure of his love – until he is convinced otherwise.
KING ARTHUR^M	The ex-King of Camelot, his crown was taken from him by Valborga. He has a past, and is a tormented soul.
THE HUNTSMAN^M	Does the bidding of Valborga, whether he wants to or not. He was seduced by her power to do her dirty work, including attempting to kill Snow White.
RAOUL, THE BIG BAD WOLF^M	The Queen's 'pet dog' and the muscle of her army, he is ruthless and rotten to the bone.
MARINA, THE LADY OF THE LAKE^{F+}	Cursed to guard the entrance to Atlantis, Marina is the embodiment of regret and memory.
2x GUARDS^{*+}	Guards that do the Evil Queen's bidding. They are soulless and heartless.
MERGUARD^{*+}	A guard who does Dorea's bidding.
MAGIC MIRROR^{*+}	Knowledgeable above all else, with the power of prophecy. The Evil Queen's confidante, trapped in a filigree frame. This can be created with a human playing the role, or a vide projected.
MILLER^{*+}	A poor peasant desperate to sell his daughter to the Evil Queen.

^F Female
^M Male

* Can be played by either Male or Female.

** Robin Hood's romance with Rapunzel can either be a friendship, or a same-sex romance.

+ These roles can be double-cast depending on cast size.

UNHAPPILY EVER AFTER

ORIGINAL CAST
October 2016 Production

VALBORGA, THE EVIL QUEEN.....	Georgia D-B
SNOW WHITE.....	Kelly P
THE HUNTSMAN.....	Christian H
RAOUL, THE BIG BAD WOLF.....	James C
GOLDBLOCKS.....	Felicity A
ROBIN HOOD.....	Emily M
KITTY, PUSS-IN-BOOTS.....	Jessica M
JACK, THE GIANT SLAYER.....	Emmy P
FREYDIS, A DWARF.....	Sophia A
RAPUNZEL.....	Sophie M
DOREA, THE SEA WITCH.....	Heather P
AIDEN, THE PRINCE.....	Connor M
KING ARTHUR.....	Daniel W
MARINA, THE LADY OF THE LAKE.....	Emily-Rose L
EVIL GUARDS.....	Abi P, Sarah N
MERGUARD.....	Abi P
MAGIC MIRROR.....	Millie H-S
MILLER.....	Sarah N

SCENES

- 1 – Just One Bite Is All It Takes (*Dark Forest*) – Valborga, Snow White, Huntsman
- 2 – Mirror, Mirror, On The Wall (*Dark Castle*) – Valborga, Magic Mirror, Huntsman, Raoul
- 3 – The Master Thief (*The Bears Cottage*)
- 4 – The Archer and the Sneak (*Dark Forest*)
- 5 – The Sea Witch (*Dark Castle*)
- 6 – The Band of the Red Apple (*Dark Forest – Camp*)
- 7 – The Underwater Castle (A Fateful Meeting) (*Underwater Castle*)
- 8 – The True King (*Camelot*)
- 9 – Broken Memories (*Underwater Castle*)
- 10 - The Lady of the Lake (*Camelot – Lake*)

INTERVAL

- 11 – Evil Never Sleeps (*Dark Castle*)
- 12 – The Battle For Atlantis (*Underwater Castle*)
- 13 – The Queen’s Unravelling (*Dark Castle*)
- 14 – The Siege on the Dark Castle (*The Tunnels beneath the Dark Castle*)
- 15 – True Love Will Out (*Dark Castle*)
- 16 – Happily Ever After (*Snow White’s Castle*)

ADVICE FOR STAGING

The set should be a generic castle set with large stones and interchangeable set pieces. These should be:

DARK CASTLE -	A dark throne which should be placed upstage. The magic mirror, which should be a frame through which the magic mirror actor can be seen. There should be a tomb for Snow White on wheels able to be moved on and off.
DARK FOREST –	Created with a forest gobo and green lighting. A single tree.
THE BEARS COTTAGE –	A table, three chairs. Torn curtains.
DARK FOREST: CAMP –	Two ‘tree stumps’ or ‘logs’, a fireplace.
UNDERWASTER CASTLE-	Underwater throne placed upstage. Cage large enough to fit the Prince inside.
CAMELOT -	The sword in the stone. Market stalls.
CAMELOT: THE LAKE -	Water created with either lighting or material.
THE TUNNELS BENEATH	
THE DARK CASTLE -	Created with lighting effects.
SNOW WHITE’S CASTLE -	A red or royal throne placed upstage.

UNHAPPILY EVER AFTER

LIST OF PROPS

Apple (Red)
 Three bowls
 Pillow
 Various bric-a-brac
 (candlesticks, metalwork,
 paintings etc)
 Teddy bear
 Goldilocks' 'wanted' poster

Sack
 Knife
 Arrow
 Longbow
 Small box containing a heart
 Rope (for Aiden's wrists)
 Excalibur (kept in the stone
 until drawn out)

Jack's slingshot
 Red cushion
 New pair of boots
 Rolled up deed x2
 Trowel
 Potion bottles
 Twig
 New axe

SCENE	SETTING	PROPS
1	Dark Forest	Apple (Red)
2	Dark Castle	Apple (Red)
3	Bear Cottage	Three bowls Pillow Various bric-a-brac (candlesticks, metalwork, paintings etc) Teddy bear Goldilocks 'wanted' poster Sack Knife Arrow
4	Dark Forest	Knife Sack Longbow
5	Dark Castle	Small box containing a heart
6	Dark Forest - Camp	Various weaponry (swords, spears, axes etc) Longbow
7	Underwater Castle	Rope (for Aiden's wrists)
8	Camelot	Various weaponry (swords, spears, axes etc) Jack's slingshot Longbow
9	Underwater Castle	Rope (for Aiden's wrists)
10	Camelot – Lakeside	Various weaponry (swords, spears, axes etc) Longbow Excalibur
INTERVAL		
11	Dark Castle	Small box containing a heart
12	Underwater Castle	Rope (for Aiden's wrists) Various weaponry (swords, spears, axes etc) Jack's slingshot Longbow Excalibur
13	Dark Castle	-
14	Tunnels Beneath the Dark Castle	Various weaponry (swords, spears, axes etc) Longbow Excalibur
15	Dark Castle	Various weaponry (swords, spears, axes etc) Longbow Excalibur
16	Snow White's Castle	Red cushion New pair of boots Rolled up deed x2 Trowel Potion bottle Twig New axe Teddy bear

ACT 1

CURTAINS OPEN.

SCENE 1 – JUST ONE BITE IS ALL IT TAKES

EXT. DARK FOREST

LFX: LIGHTS RISE – DARK, DIM, EVIL

VALBORGA stands CS, SNOW WHITE beside her. VALBORGA holds her hand out to SNOW WHITE, a red apple within it.

VALBORGA: Now, now child, you look so malnourished.

SNOW WHITE: The dwarves have said I am not to accept anything. I am sorry.

VALBORGA: Just one bite. That's all it takes.

SNOW WHITE: Perhaps I can spare just one.

VALBORGA: Just one bite.

SNOW WHITE takes the apple and bites it. As soon as she does, she falls, the apple rolling away from her. VALBORGA lets out a loud cackle.

VALBORGA: White as snow, red as blood, black as ebony wood! Where are your precious dwarves now? Nowhere, child! All of your friends are dead. My Huntsman has seen to that as I possess his heart. Nothing but my will can he do. He knows not that he once spared you... that you were once friends. And I have won.

VALBORGA claps her hands and THE HUNTSMAN enters, bowing low. His expression is vacant.

VALBORGA I have succeeded, Huntsman. The Princess is dead. See to it that she is locked away where nobody will find her.

HUNTSMAN: What of the Prince, your Highness?

VALBORGA: `` My Sister has already seen to him. He will be locked away far from prying eyes in a place nobody will find him, except perhaps the fish!

VALBORGA exits, cackling, as HUNTSMAN kneels beside SNOW WHITE.

HUNTSMAN: I am sorry.

HUNTSMAN scoops SNOW WHITE up and carries her offstage.

LFX: LIGHTS FADE

SCENE 2 – MIRROR MIRROR, ON THE WALL

INT. DARK CASTLE

LFX: LIGHTS RISE – DARK, DIM, EVIL

VALBORGA sits on her throne, reclined in a relaxed position. She eats an apple, a crown on her head, thoroughly enjoying herself.

THE MAGIC MIRROR stands to her side in its frame.

VALBORGA: Mirror, Mirror on the wall. Who is the fairest one of all?

LFX. LIGHTS RISE ON MAGIC MIRROR

MAGIC MIRROR: You, oh Queen, are fairest of all.

VALBORGA: That never gets old. How many years has it been now?

MAGIC MIRROR: Six years have passed, oh Monarch fair, Since you defeated the King's only heir.

VALBORGA: Six years? And has the Kingdom ever been so strong? I see fear in the eyes of everyone I pass. What would Snow White have brought the kingdom? A smile and a song? I have brought a reign of prosperity.

Enter RAOUL.

VALBORGA: Ah, Raoul, the Big Bad Wolf. What causes you to enter uninvited. I did not summon you.

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VALBORGA waves a hand in front of the mirror, which

LFX: LIGHT SHINING ON MAGIC MIRROR FADES.

RAOUL: Forgive me, oh Queen, for I bring bad news.

VALBORGA: Oh, you do, do you?

RAOUL: I sent scouts into the woods as you requested, your Majesty. It is as you feared. The people are beginning to rise against you. There is a Rebellion growing in the South. Those who seek to oppose your reign of power.

VALBORGA: It was only a matter of time. Not to worry, I have strategies in place. Where is the Huntsman? **(Shouts)** Huntsman!

Enter HUNTSMAN, who bows.

HUNTSMAN: You called, your Majesty.

VALBORGA: The worst has happened, Huntsman. The Rebellion is growing.

HUNTSMAN: We will put an end to them, your Majesty.

VALBORGA: Have you tracked her down yet?

HUNTSMAN: We believe she is operating around the Riverlands.

VALBORGA: Find her, Huntsman. Bring her to me alive. *That girl* will be of use in the dark days ahead. And by no means must she be allowed to join the Rebellion. The moment they have her on their side is the moment my throne is lost.

HUNTSMAN: We will not let that happen, your Majesty. Raoul. With me.

RAOUL: Aye, Captain.

HUNTSMAN and RAOUL exit.

VALBORGA: No-one will take my happy ending from me. No-one. My nightmares will not come true.

LFX: ALL FADE

SCENE CHANGE: THRONE REMOVED. COTTAGE SET.

SCENE 3 – THE MASTER THIEF

INT. ABANDONED BEAR COTTAGE

LFX: RISE – DIM, DARK – NIGHT

The stage is set with a single table and three chairs upturned as if there has been a fight, with three bowls on the table. A pillow lies in the middle of the floor, discarded. Various candlesticks, metalwork and paintings are scattered. A teddy bear lies face down. A wanted poster lies on the ground.

Enter GOLDILOCKS, SL, wearing a hood pulled over her face and carrying a sack. She lowers her hood and looks around at the mess. Slowly, she stoops and picks up the teddy bear, stroking its head.

GOLDILOCKS: I am sorry I could not help you, my friends.

GOLDILOCKS sits the bear tenderly in a chair and proceeds to collect the candlesticks, metalwork and paintings into her sack. This is done with torn emotion between need to survive and memories of this house. As she has gathered most of the loot, she suddenly spots the wanted poster and crosses to it, picking it up and examining it.

GOLDILOCKS: Is that supposed to be me?

GOLDILOCKS crumples up the poster and throws it against the wall. She begins to tie up her sack when:

SFX: CREAK (STAGE RIGHT)

GOLDILOCKS stands upright and stares in the direction of the noise. Slowly, she scoops up her sack and backs towards SL.

GOLDILOCKS: Who's there? **(Pause)** I warn you, I'm armed! **(She pulls out a knife)** Red? Is that you?

GOLDILOCKS begins to pick up speed in her retreat. She turns to leave ... and crashes straight into HUNTSMAN, who has entered SL. HUNTSMAN grabs her arm.

HUNTSMAN: Ah, Goldilocks. We meet again.

GOLDILOCKS: Huntsman. What are you doing here? Shouldn't you be out doing the Queen's bidding?

HUNTSMAN: But that is exactly what I am doing.

GOLDILOCKS: (**Panicked**) What does the Queen want with me?

HUNTSMAN: Only a word.

GOLDILOCKS: Then you'll have to kill me, because I ain't talking.

HUNTSMAN: I was told you'd put up a fight.

GOLDILOCKS: You were told right.

HUNTSMAN: Good thing I've brought back up. Raoul.

Enter RAOUL, the Big Bad Wolf, SR, who takes GOLDILOCKS' arms.

HUNTSMAN: Take her in.

RAOUL: Right away, Captain.

GOLDILOCKS: You don't scare me. You're nothing but the Queen's trained dog.

HUNTSMAN begins to pick up bowls and inspect them, cooly.

HUNTSMAN: You mustn't insult poor Raoul so. You know what happened to the Pigling brothers.

RAOUL licks his lips.

RAOUL: I can still taste them now. Smokey bacon. Mmm-mm.

GOLDILOCKS: You're a monster.

HUNTSMAN holds up a bowl.

HUNTSMAN: I'm surprised you didn't help yourself to the meal, Goldilocks. Isn't that what you do best?

GOLDILOCKS: Why would I?

HUNTSMAN: I've heard the stories about you and this place. How you broke in and took what wasn't yours – only a child. You've had many years since then to refine your skills. The Queen could use someone like you.

GOLDILOCKS: The stories are wrong. I never broke into this house. The bears found me and took me in. They were the closest thing I've ever known to family – and your Queen has taken them from me!

RAOUL: What about the whole mess with the chairs?

GOLDILOCKS: Baby bear put on some hibernation weight and blamed me.

RAOUL: Did that not make you want to seek revenge?

GOLDILOCKS: I never wanted any revenge on the Bears.

HUNTSMAN: Then why did you come back? (**He opens the sack**) It seems you've gathered yourself a few heirlooms.

GOLDILOCKS: Mine by right.

HUNTSMAN: That, right there. That attitude is why the Queen wants you. That primal need to take things. You have that in common with her Majesty.

GOLDILOCKS: (**Spits**) I have nothing in common with the Evil Queen.

HUNTSMAN: Nevertheless. You have information in that blonde head of yours that she can use.

GOLDILOCKS: I know nothing.

HUNTSMAN: You know enough. The Queen knows about your past, Miss. Locks. She knows about your friends. Your *loyalties*.

GOLDILOCKS: I don't know what you mean! She has taken all of my friends from me!

HUNTSMAN: I'm tired of talking. Save your lies for the Queen. She likes a little entertainment. Take her to the carriage, wolf. Make sure she's secure.

RAOUL: Yes, Captain.

RAOUL begins to drag a protesting GOLDILOCKS towards SL. HUNTSMAN drops the bowl onto the table with disdain. Suddenly:

SFX: ARROW WHISTLING (LEFT TO RIGHT)

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RAOUL lets out a yelp and clutches his arm, releasing GOLDILOCKS. GOLDILOCKS stumbles and falls as RAOUL flails.

HUNTSMAN: What was that?!

SFX: ARROW WHISTLING (LEFT TO RIGHT)

HUNTSMAN dives as though narrowly avoiding an arrow.

ROBIN HOOD: (offstage) Run!

GOLDILOCKS takes the opportunity and grabs her sack, running towards SL. HUNTSMAN makes a grab for her ankle but she jumps over his arm and exits SL.

HUNTSMAN: Raoul! After her! If she escapes, the Queen will have your tail!

RAOUL: She doesn't stand a chance!

RAOUL hurries offstage L.

SFX: WOLF HOWLING (STAGE LEFT)

HUNTSMAN picks up an arrow and investigates it, turning it over and stroking the feathers. Finally, he concludes:

HUNTSMAN: Robin Hood!

With an angry cry, HUNTSMAN runs offstage L.

AFX: FADE ALL

SCENE CHANGE: COTTAGE REMOVED. FOREST SET.

SCENE 4 – THE ARCHER AND THE THIEF

SFX: WOLF HOWLING

EXT. DARK FOREST

AFX: RISE – DIM – NIGHT

Enter GOLDILOCKS, SL, who looks around frantically, panting from running, and quickly hides behind a tree.

A split second later, enter RAOUL, SL, stalking low.

RAOUL: I know you're here. You can't run forever. My sense of smell may not be what it once was, but my hearing is just as good. Come out, come out wherever you are.

RAOUL passes close to where GOLDILOCKS is hiding. It seems he is going to find her when...

ROBIN HOOD: (offstage) Down there, by the river!

RAOUL raises his head, then exits SR swiftly.

SFX: WOLF HOWLING (STAGE RIGHT)

GOLDILOCKS stays hidden for a few moments, before slowly poking her head around the tree. She looks around and gradually comes out from behind the tree. She makes a break for SL, and finds herself face-to-face with ROBIN HOOD, who enters SL.

GOLDILOCKS: (Reaching for her knife) I'm armed!

ROBIN HOOD: And dangerous, I don't doubt. I'm not here to hurt you, Goldilocks. I'm here to help.

ROBIN HOOD holds up his bow.

GOLDILOCKS: It was you who shot those arrows?

ROBIN HOOD: And me who threw my voice and diverted the wolf, yes.

GOLDILOCKS: But... why?

ROBIN HOOD: We need you, Goldilocks.

GOLDILOCKS: Why does everybody need me all of a sudden? I'm nothing special.

ROBIN HOOD: Now, that's where you are wrong.

GOLDILOCKS: I just want to be left alone.
ROBIN HOOD: It's too late for that.
GOLDILOCKS: What do you mean?
ROBIN HOOD: The wolf has marked you. The Huntsman won't stop until you are taken in front of the Queen – dead or alive. We're your only hope.
GOLDILOCKS: We?
ROBIN HOOD: The Band of the Red Apple.
GOLDILOCKS: The Rebellion?!
ROBIN HOOD: Fighting to restore the rightful heir to the throne.
GOLDILOCKS: Who are you?
ROBIN HOOD: **(Removing his hat and bowing low)** Robin Hood at your service, Miss. Locks. **(Standing)** We need you.
GOLDILOCKS: Why do you need me?
ROBIN HOOD: Your skills of breaking and entering are one of a kind, Goldilocks. If we are going to infiltrate the castle and rescue the Princess, we need someone like you.
GOLDILOCKS: The Empire of the Queen took everything from me – my family, my friends, even some of my memories. There are some things they don't want me to remember, and I want to know what. I guess being part of the Rebellion means I won't be alone anymore. Count me in.
ROBIN HOOD: Better news has never been spoken. Come, we should not linger here. These woods are dangerous at the best of times, and you are now being hunted by the Big Bad Wolf.

ROBIN HOOD gestures for GOLDILOCKS to exit Stage Left. She does, and ROBIN HOOD follows with a quick glance over his shoulder.

SFX: WOLF HOWLING – DISTANT (STAGE RIGHT)

LFX: FADE ALL

SCENE CHANGE: DARK FOREST REMOVED. THRONE ROOM SET.

SCENE 5 – THE SEA WITCH

INT. DARK CASTLE

Enter VALBORGA, sitting on her throne in an authoritative, yet relaxed position. GUARD stands beside the throne.

Enter MILLER, who kneels in front of the throne.

LFX: RISE – DIM, EVIL

MILLER: And so you see, your Majesty, without my Sons I have no way of continuing my work as I used to.
VALBORGA: And that is my concern because...?
MILLER: Well... you are the Queen, your Majesty.
VALBORGA: And that means I should concern myself with the moans of peasants? What do you propose to do if you cannot pay rent through your mill?
MILLER: Please, your Majesty. My daughter has a unique gift.
VALBORGA: What is this 'Unique Gift'?
MILLER: If it please your Majesty, my daughter can... **(takes a deep breath)** My daughter can spin straw into gold.
VALBORGA: Can she now? Prove it.
MILLER: **(Floundering)** The trick will only work at night, your Majesty. If I could bring her to you... she will show you herself.

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VALBORGA: So I'm to place this daughter of yours within my own castle? Feeding her and giving her shelter, I suppose?

MILLER: Well...

VALBORGA: Very well. Your Daughter shall be brought to my castle.

The MILLER begins to hope...

VALBORGA: She will live in the dungeons with her lying Father.

VALBORGA clicks her fingers and GUARD steps forward, taking the MILLER by his arms.

MILLER: No! Please!

VALBORGA: Have the daughter brought to the castle. A girl should not be without her father. She shouldn't be too hard to find. I should imagine she'll be in a cottage made of gold.

GUARD: Right away, your Majesty.

MILLER: No! Please! No!

GUARD drags MILLER offstage right, still protesting.

VALBORGA: This job would be so much easier if it weren't for the people.

Enter HUNTSMAN, SL. He drops to his knees in a bow.

HUNTSMAN: Your Majesty.

VALBORGA: Ah, Huntsman. Give me some good news in this land of liars and fakes. Did you catch the girl?

HUNTSMAN: She... She got away.

VALBORGA: Again! Every-time I ask you to find someone, Huntsman, you let me down! Even when I took control of your heart, rendering you little but an empty shell, you still disappoint and humiliate me!

HUNTSMAN: We think she headed south, your Majesty, along the river.

As VALBORGA speaks she grows angrier and angrier, stepping closer and closer to the HUNTSMAN.

VALBORGA: What makes you think the rebellion aren't positioned there? If they get their hands on that girl they can overthrow me! Find her, Huntsman, and bring her to me! Before she uses her unique talents to free the Prince and restore Snow White to power!

HUNTSMAN: With respect, your Majesty, the Prince is still in the custody of your sister, is she not?

VALBORGA: My sister is an imbecile. I only entrusted the Prince to my sister because I trust no others. I would not, however, trust her with my own life.

HUNTSMAN: It will take the Rebellion a long time to find the entrance to your Sister's lair?

VALBORGA: **(Screaming)** Do not answer me back!

VALBORGA crosses to her throne and picks up a small box.

VALBORGA: **(Calming)** I don't know what has given you reason to believe you can talk to me in this manner, Huntsman. Let's not forget that I possess your most important artefact.

VALBORGA waves her hand over the box and the HUNTSMAN doubles over in crippling pain, clutching his chest.

SFX: LOW EVIL HUM

VALBORGA: Find her, Huntsman, and bring her to me!

VALBORGA releases the HUNTSMAN from her power. He gasps.

HUNTSMAN: Right away, your Majesty.

The HUNTSMAN bows and crosses to the door, exiting swiftly, still clutching his chest.

VALBORGA sits contemplatively for a short while, then puts the box down and crosses to the MAGIC MIRROR.

VALBORGA: Mirror, Mirror, listen to me.
Show me my Sister under the sea.

SFX: MAGIC EFFECT

LFX. LIGHTS RISE ON MAGIC MIRROR

Reflected in the mirror is DOREA, the SEA WITCH.

DOREA: Ah, Sister. To what do I owe this honour?
VALBORGA: Enough of the niceties, Dorea. We both know it doesn't suit either of us.
DOREA: What can I do for you, Valborga?
VALBORGA: Is he safe?
DOREA: Who?
VALBORGA: You know very well who! Is the Prince still imprisoned!?
DOREA: He is still imprisoned, yes. I would inform you if he was not. Why do you worry?
VALBORGA: I am having dreams. Nightmares.
DOREA: You think someone will free him?
VALBORGA: I know someone will. Villains don't get happily ever afters. Don't you remember what Mother used to say?
DOREA: Mother was always a fan of big shows. I mean who turns into a dragon nowadays? No wonder the Prince got the better of her.
VALBORGA: There is trouble brewing in the South, Sister. A Rebellion forms.
DOREA: Not here. Under the sea we are safe from your surface wars. The Prince will not escape from me.
VALBORGA: Thank you Sister. You have reassured me.
DOREA: What are little sister's for?
VALBORGA waves her hand.

AFX. LIGHT ON THE MAGIC MIRROR FADES.

VALBORGA turns away.

VALBORGA: I will crush this little Rebellion before they can grab a foothold. I may have lost Goldilocks, but I will make her regret the day she said "yes" to Robin Hood.

AFX: ALL FADE.

VALBORGA exits.

SCENE CHANGE: THRONE REMOVED. FOREST CAMP SET.

SCENE 6 – THE BAND OF THE RED APPLE

EXT. DARK FOREST – CAMP

Enter one third of the BAND OF THE RED APPLE – PUSS-IN-BOOTS (KITTY) and FREYDIS. KITTY sits polishing her boots, whilst FREYDIS pokes the campfire.

AFX: RISE

KITTY: It worries me so when they don't return.
FREYDIS: Where did they go, anyway?
KITTY: Robin went all the way over to the other side of the Kingdom in search of Goldilocks. Jack has gone to the village. The Queen's guards were ransacking houses, searching for someone.
FREYDIS: Poor soul. When can we expect them back?
KITTY: That all depends on what the problem was.
FREYDIS: If it's the Queen's guards, it could be something as little as coughing when not permitted.

FREYDIS and KITTY sit in silence for a few moments, continuing their task.

SFX: STICK SNAPPING (SL)

KITTY and FREYDIS stand, drawing their weapons.

KITTY: Who's there?!
JACK: Jack!
FREYDIS: How do we know it is you?

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Enter JACK and RAPUNZEL, SL, hands up.

JACK: Convincing enough, Freydis?

FREYDIS: You'll do, yes.

KITTY: Was your challenge a success?

JACK: I made it out, but only just. The Queen has tripled her guards.

FREYDIS: And not alone?

JACK: This is Rapunzel. Her Father promised the Queen she could spin straw into gold.

FREYDIS: And he thought the Queen would buy that? Dwarves don't even possess that kind of power.

RAPUNZEL: My Father was a fool.

KITTY: Come. Sit. Warm yourself.

KITTY, FREYDIS, JACK and RAPUNZEL sit around the campfire.

FREYDIS: You must have had a traumatic day, girl.

RAPUNZEL: You could say that, yes.

KITTY: Would you like to talk about it?

RAPUNZEL: Well, it all started when my two brothers left to fight in the wars. Father had no-one to carry on working the mill when he was gone. He was desperate for me to find somewhere to live – even if that meant the Queen's castle. I begged him not to go, not to lie... but...

RAPUNZEL begins to sob. JACK puts an arm around her.

JACK: We've all had parent problems. My own Mother disowned me when I sold the Family cow for magic beans.

RAPUNZEL: I was told that Magic beans don't exist?

JACK: These ones definitely did. Next to a Giant, the Queen looks like a cuddly teddy bear.

KITTY: My owners turned me out on the street. I was forced to make my own way from there.

FREYDIS: I used to have six brothers and sisters. We lived a simple life once our Mother threw us out... making our own way in the world, until the Princess came along.

RAPUNZEL: You know the Princess?

FREYDIS: More than most. My brothers and sisters are all gone now, but I keep fighting on – for her.

Enter ROBIN HOOD and GOLDBLOCKS, SR.

ROBIN HOOD: Merry meet.

KITTY/FREYDIS/

JACK: Robin!

There is a chaotic greeting as the companions meet again.

KITTY: You made it out unscathed!

ROBIN HOOD: Only just.

FREYDIS: And I suppose this is Goldilocks?

GOLDBLOCKS: A pleasure to meet you all.

KITTY: Your skills are legendary, Miss. Locks.

GOLDBLOCKS: As are yours, Miss. Boots.

KITTY bows low.

ROBIN HOOD notices RAPUNZEL. It is love at first sight between them.

ROBIN HOOD: Who is this?

JACK: This is Rapunzel, Robin. Guards broke into her Father's mill and tried to arrest her. She fled and I found her. I brought her here. The Queen has a price on her capture.

ROBIN HOOD: Then you are most welcome here.

RAPUNZEL: I will try to make myself worthy.

RAPUNZEL curtsies. ROBIN HOOD nods his head in acknowledgement, then sits. ALL sit around him.

ROBIN HOOD: Listen. The Queen is advancing her guard.
FREYDIS: We've got her worried.
RAPUNZEL: What is it that you do, exactly?
KITTY: We're outlaws.
FREYDIS: Against the Queen.
JACK: We stand for all things good in the world.
ROBIN HOOD: Everything the Queen does not.
JACK: But it's dangerous. We've lost many already.
RAPUNZEL: I am sorry to hear that.
ROBIN HOOD: We need to put a stop to the Queen's evil reign once and for all.
RAPUNZEL: Does she not hold the Princess captive? Locked in an eternal slumber until the day her love can awaken her?

KITTY: Exactly.
JACK: The Queen locked him away somewhere secret.
FREYDIS: Legend says he is guarded by a terrifying beast.
RAPUNZEL: How will you release him and rescue the Princess?
ROBIN HOOD: That's where Goldilocks comes in handy.
RAPUNZEL: (**To Goldilocks**) I've heard of you. Wanted for many crimes of breaking and entering.

GOLDILOCKS: I never took from those not deserving.
ROBIN HOOD: Goldilocks is the best crook this side of the river. If she can't release the Prince, nobody can.

RAPUNZEL: So where is he being held?
The REBELLION look at each other.
KITTY: Nobody knows.
ROBIN HOOD: That's where you're wrong.
They all look at him.
ROBIN HOOD: Before I found Goldilocks I overheard a few of the Queen's guards talking. They say she is losing faith in her sisters guarding ability.

KITTY: But her Sister is...?
ROBIN HOOD: The Sea Witch Dorea, exactly. Nothing is more important to the Queen than keeping the Prince from Snow White, so by my reckoning the thing her sister is guarding is the Prince himself.

FREYDIS: That means he is in Atlantis?
ROBIN HOOD: Exactly.
JACK: But how are we going to get to Atlantis? The way is barred from all those who do not know of it, and last time I checked... none of us do.

ROBIN HOOD: Not true. There is one who knows the entrance.
JACK: You don't mean...?
KITTY: Robin, last time we asked him to help he slammed the castle door in our faces.

FREYDIS: What makes you think he will help now?
ROBIN HOOD: That was a time of war. It was difficult to know who to trust. Now, Valborga has taken over his Kingdom as well as her own. He is no better off than us. If he wants to take back his kingdom, he must first help us take back ours.

KITTY: That's that then. Freydis, pack up the tent.
FREYDIS: Right you are, Robin.
KITTY, FREYDIS and JACK busy themselves packing away. ROBIN HOOD begins checking his arrows. RAPUNZEL and GOLDILOCKS exchange glances – they are clueless.
RAPUNZEL: Excuse me, Robin... but of whom do you speak?
GOLDILOCKS: Yeah. Who is this man of great importance?
ROBIN HOOD: Of course. You don't know.
ROBIN HOOD stands.
ROBIN HOOD: Goldilocks. Rapunzel. Tomorrow we head for Camelot, where the once great King Arthur will help us find the entrance to Atlantis.

SCENE CHANGE: CAMP REMOVED. UNDERWATER CASTLE SET.

SCENE 7 – THE UNDERWATER CASTLE (A FATEFUL MEETING)

INT. UNDERWATER CASTLE

SFX: DRIPPING, DISTANT WAVES, ECHOEY

LFX: RISE – COLD, SAD, MEDIUM DIM

The stage is bare, with a throne standing UCS.

Enter VALBORGA, SR, accompanied by two GUARDS. She is tense and menacing.

VALBORGA: Dorea! Where are you!?! (She turns to her guards) Go. Seal the entrance, ensure that nobody disturbs us.

Exit GUARDS, SR.

Enter DOREA, SL, accompanied by a MERGUARD, looking anxious yet restrained, almost twitchy as she contains her nervous energy.

DOREA: (bowing her head) Sister. My apologies for keeping you waiting, I was dealing with a matter of some importanc...

VALBORGA: (interrupting) Apologies? Importance? I am your sister, your elder, your better. Nothing is more important to you than me, is that clear?

DOREA: Of course. Forgive me, sister

VALBORGA: (Composing herself) Good. Now (She crosses to Dorea's throne and purposefully reclines into it) Where is he?

DOREA: (Slightly shaken) He... the Prince is ... (she swallows) below, in my most secure cell. He is watched all day and all night – fear not, dear sister, he shall never see the light.

VALBORGA: Bring him to me.

DOREA: Sister, you need not fea...

VALBORGA: (Flaring) Bring. Him. Here. Now!

DOREA bows slightly before clicking her fingers at the MERGUARD. MERGUARD exits SL.

VALBORGA relaxes into Dorea's throne, almost completely at ease. She clutches the arm rests, revelling in her power over her sister.

VALBORGA: (picking at the throne, holding a strand of seaweed) You never did understand, Sister, what Mother taught us long ago – power is everything. I always understood, and that is why I belong up there. (She looks upwards) And you... (she surveys her surroundings in disgust) down here.

Enter MERGUARD, SL, holding the PRINCE – AIDEN – by a rope. AIDEN struggles against his captor - he is furious, fighting with all his energy, but is unable to escape MERGUARD'S clutches. He is pushed before VALBORGA, kneeling before her.

VALBORGA: (Smiling) So... the great Prince Aiden, heir to the Kingdom of Perrault, kneels before me. Not so Princely now, are we?

AIDEN: Where is she!? What have you done with...

VALBORGA raises her hand and clenches it into a fist. AIDEN is cut off, unable to breathe, as he begins to choke. DOREA is obviously uncomfortable, but holds her own.

VALBORGA: One of Mummy's favourite tricks.

DOREA: Sister.

VALBORGA shoots a look at DOREA, before returning her gaze to AIDEN. She reluctantly releases her grip as AIDEN falls onto all fours, gasping for air.

VALBORGA: (coldly) Your precious Snow White lies within my care.

VALBORGA raises her hand and AIDEN magically drops back onto his knees.

VALBORGA: Listen to me very carefully, *Prince* Aiden. Never speak out of turn to me again, lest you wish her an full, irreversible death.

AIDEN says nothing, simply raising his head to meet VALBORGA's eyes. After a moment, his head drops in submission.

VALBORGA: Good boy. **(She turns to the Merguard)** You. Take him away. Half his rations, and ensure the guard is doubled. You will not eat, sleep or rest while he is in your custody. Understood.

MERGUARD: Yes, your Majesty.

VALBORGA: Rest assured... **(she turns to DOREA)** there shall be no chance of his escape.

MERGUARD shoots a look at DOREA, who gives a small nod of approval.

MERGUARD: Right away, your majesty.

Exit MERGUARD with AIDEN, who remains hunched over in defeat.

VALBORGA: Why have you not broken him?

DOREA: You did not specify—

VALBORGA: I specified that his spirit should be shattered; that he should suffer as we have suffered, as *I* have suffered, until nothing remained of him but a shell. Instead I arrive to see the very same boy with fury in his eyes and fire in his heart. Nothing has changed.

DOREA: **(almost admiringly)** He is strong willed, sister.

VALBORGA: **(picking up on this)** By the time I see you next, I expect the fire that rules his heart to be put out – or else, I will be forced **(she clenches her fist)** to take it for myself. Am I understood?

DOREA: Yes, sister. I understand.

VALBORGA: Excellent. **(She stands up, stepping down from the throne)** Now if you'll excuse me, I have a rebellion to crush.

VALBORGA makes to leave and DOREA makes her way towards her throne. VALBORGA suddenly stops.

VALBORGA: Oh, and one more thing, Dorea.

DOREA: **(afraid)** Yes?

VALBORGA: **(smirking)** From now on, you must call me your Majesty.

VALBORGA exits, laughing. DOREA sinks into her throne, extremely sad.

DOREA: **(mournfully)** Yes, Majesty...

She looks to SL, where AIDEN was taken, as:

AFX. ALL FADE

SCENE CHANGE: UNDERWATER CASTLE REMOVED. CAMELOT TOWN SET.

SCENE 8 – THE TRUE KING

EXT. CAMELOT TOWN COURTYARD

The sword in the stone stands CS. A GUARD (1) stands in front of it. A CROWD is gathered, milling around. ARTHUR sits DSL with a ragged cloak and hood over his face. GUARD 2 moves around, occasionally checking what's going on.

AFX: RISE – BRIGHT, DAYTIME

Adlib: Market calls.

Enter ROBIN HOOD, KITTY, FREYDIS, JACK, RAPUNZEL and GOLDBLOCKS. Each wears a hood, hat or shawl over their faces.

ROBIN HOOD: Keep your wits about you. Camelot is no longer the place it once was.

KITTY: You can say that again.

GOLDBLOCKS: What's with the guards everywhere? It's worse than back home.

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JACK: A couple of Camelotians rose up against Queen Valborga and tried to overthrow her rule. They were defeated, unfortunately.

FREYDIS: Since then, the people have been kept under close observation by her crows.

RAPUNZEL: **(pointing to the sword)** Whats that?

JACK: Ah. That would be Excalibur.

RAPUNZEL: The King's sword?

KITTY: Not anymore.

RAPUNZEL: What do you mean?

FREYDIS: When Valborga took over Camelot Arthur was forced to return the sword to the stone. It is said she had more power over him then anyone knew. Valborga tried to remove it herself to prove she was the rightful ruler. When she couldn't, she cursed it once more. Only the true King can remove it, but Arthur fled. Nobody has seen him since.

JACK: They say he is a broken man.

ROBIN HOOD: He did not flee. He may be broken, but he is here.

GOLDBLOCKS: What makes you so sure?

ROBIN HOOD: This was his Father's kingdom. I know Arthur well – we were boys together. He wouldn't just leave it. Split up – Kitty and Freydis. Jack and Goldilocks. Rapunzel, with me. Find him.

GOLDBLOCKS: How will we know him?

ROBIN HOOD: You'll know him.

KITTY, FREYDIS, JACK and GOLDBLOCKS split off and mingle with the crowd. ROBIN HOOD goes to walk, when RAPUNZEL grabs his arm.

RAPUNZEL: How do you know Arthur?

ROBIN HOOD: My father was his sword-master. I saw him almost every-day. I was there the day he pulled the sword from the stone.

RAPUNZEL: Why is it guarded?

ROBIN HOOD: Valborga doesn't want anyone to try in case Arthur returns and succeeds. The last thing she wants is Arthur back in power.

RAPUNZEL: Why?

ROBIN HOOD: Never has there been a more beloved ruler. The people of Camelot owe him a great debt and he was much beloved. The Queen is scared of that.

RAPUNZEL: If Arthur is such a beloved ruler, who dotes on his people... surely if someone tried to pull the sword from the stone and was apprehended by the guard, Arthur would be there to save them?

ROBIN HOOD looks at RAPUNZEL. Her idea is a great one. ROBIN HOOD looks around and nods, then begins discreetly crossing the stage.

RAPUNZEL goes to follow when ARTHUR grabs her hand. His face is still hidden as he speaks.

ARTHUR: Stay back. That sword brings nothing but trouble.

RAPUNZEL looks on, along with the crowd, as ROBIN HOOD comes up behind the sword. He gestures to JACK that he is going to try and pull the sword, and JACK stoops to the ground to pick up a 'stone'. Quietly, discreetly, JACK puts the 'stone' into his slingshot and flings it at GUARD 1, who cries out. JACK is then chased around the stage by GUARD 1, as ROBIN approaches the sword. ROBIN is spotted by GUARD 2, who approaches him with his sword raised. ROBIN HOOD is unarmed and stands no chance, when...

In one quick movement and without warning, ARTHUR stands and draws the sword from KITTY'S belt. He expertly swings it at GUARD 2. GUARD 2 falls and ARTHUR stoops, picks up a "rock" and throws it at GUARD 1, who also falls to the ground. There is a moment of stunned silence.

ROBIN HOOD steps forward.

ROBIN HOOD: Arthur.

ARTHUR removes his hood.

ARTHUR: Robin.

ALL except ROBIN drop to their knees in a bow. ARTHUR and ROBIN embrace each other as brothers.

ARTHUR: You must be mad to come here.
ROBIN HOOD: You must be mad to stay.
ARTHUR: I couldn't leave my people.
ARTHUR gestures for them all to stand. KITTY, FREYDIS, JACK, RAPUNZEL and GOLDILOCKS approach ARTHUR and ROBIN HOOD. CROWD exits.
ARTHUR: What brings you to Camelot?
ROBIN HOOD: We need your help, your Grace.
ARTHUR: If it's to do with Valborga, count me out. I have given my last man to that campaign.
ROBIN HOOD: Sir Lancelot was a great follower, Arthur. You did well by him.
ARTHUR: I did nothing of the sort. Lancelot died at the Queen's hand as all my men have done. I have nothing left to give to that campaign.
ROBIN HOOD: I have lost men too. Allan, Tuck, John... and most lately Will. I know your pain.
KITTY: Robin said you may be able to help us find the Prince.
ARTHUR: Prince?
ROBIN HOOD: Prince Aiden, of Perrault.
ARTHUR meets his eye, longing and pain in his eyes. There is a history there. There is a long pause before he speaks.
ARTHUR: The one who can wake her?
RAPUNZEL: That's him.
JACK: He's being held in Atlantis by Dorea.
ARTHUR: I cannot help you.
ARTHUR goes to walk away, but his path is blocked by GOLDILOCKS.
GOLDILOCKS: Listen here, your *Grace*. I know you've lost a lot. So have we all. And that is why we have to stick together. Without your help, we stand no chance. We're not asking you to come with us – only to help us find Atlantis.
FREYDIS: There are some who say the entrance is within your Kingdom.
ARTHUR: Camelot is no longer my Kingdom. The Queen has guards everywhere. Eyes around every corner. Even if I did know the entrance – I'm sorry. No power from here to Avalon would cause me to get involved again.
ARTHUR pushes past and goes to exit again, but ROBIN HOOD catches his arm.
ROBIN HOOD: Do it for her.
ARTHUR freezes, then meets eyes with ROBIN HOOD. A moment passes, and ARTHUR resigns himself to joining the quest. Turning from ROBIN HOOD, he crosses to the sword in the stone. He pauses, thinking over his scenario.
ARTHUR: You know as soon as I draw this, the Queen will be alerted. She'll know I'm helping the Rebellion. She'll find us.
ROBIN HOOD: That's a risk we'll have to take.
ARTHUR hesitates once more, then - in one epic movement – pulls Excalibur from the stone. He holds it aloft for a few moments, admiring it.
ARTHUR: Hello again.
ARTHUR steps down from the stone and sheathes the sword.
KITTY: What now?
ARTHUR: We head for Bassuns Water.
FREYDIS: Why?
ARTHUR: It is said that Atlantis can only be accessed through the use of black pearls. The only ones in existence in this Kingdom are in the care of Marina, and she resides in Bassuns Water.
GOLDILOCKS: Who is she?
ARTHUR: She's better known around here as the Lady of the Lake.
KITTY: What makes you think she will help us?
ARTHUR: Marina fell in love with one of my Knights – Sir Galahad. As he was human and she was not, her Father turned him to stone. She owes no loyalty to Dorea or Valborga.

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RAPUNZEL: Will she give them to us?
ARTHUR: She owes me a favour or two, so yes.
ROBIN HOOD: Then we must go at once.
GOLDBLOCKS: If the Queen has been alerted, we have no time to lose.
ARTHUR: Come. The Water is South. We should reach it by nightfall.
ARTHUR leads off SL. ROBIN HOOD, RAPUNZEL, FREYDIS, KITTY, JACK and GOLDBLOCKS follow.

LFX: ALL FADE

SCENE CHANGE: CAMELOT TOWN TO UNDERWATER CASTLE.

SCENE 9 - BROKEN MEMORIES

INT. UNDERWATER CASTLE

Enter DOREA. She slumps into her throne, almost swallowed by it. She rests her head in her hands.

LFX. RISE – COLD, SAD, MEDIUM DIM

Enter MERGUARD, marching urgently before kneeling before the throne.

MERGUARD: You sent for me, your highness?

DOREA looks up.

DOREA: Yes, I did. **(she leans forward uncomfortably on her throne)** Release the Prince from his chains – bring him before me.

MERGUARD: **(uncertain)** But... the Queen ordere–

DOREA: **(with steel in her voice)** The Queen? I thought I was your Queen

MERGUARD: **(stuttering)** Yes, your majesty, but–

DOREA: Then you shall do as I have asked. Bring him before me, unshackled.

MERGUARD: I shall bring him at once, you highness.

The MERGUARD exits hurriedly. DOREA meanders to CS, thinking. She begins fidgeting, playing with her hair, absent mindedly trying to ensure she looks her best for AIDEN. She suddenly stops, sighing as she sadly looks into the distance.

DOREA: **(quietly)** What are you even thinking, Dorea? You know it can never be. And yet...

Enter MERGUARD with AIDEN, this time unbound. AIDEN is weak, broken by his imprisonment and lowered rations. MERGUARD shoves AIDEN to the ground before the throne.

MERGUARD: The prisoner, your Majesty.

DOREA: Thank you. Now, leave us. Guard the entrance, ensure that nobody disturbs us.

MERGUARD: **(alarmed)** Surely, the risk...

DOREA: I am the Queen of Atlantis. I am sure that I can handle any 'indiscretion' on behalf of our guest.

DOREA shoots a "don't mess with me" look at AIDEN, who uncomfortably bows his head.

MERGUARD: **(reluctantly)** If you insist, your Majesty.

Exit MERGUARD. An awkward silence as DOREA studies AIDEN, whilst he shifts uncomfortably, avoiding her gaze. DOREA crosses to AIDEN and holds out her hands to help him up. AIDEN flinches. DOREA hesitates, then pulls him to his feet gently, regardless.

DOREA: I apologise for the brutality of my guards. My Sister trained them to take a bit too much pleasure in inflicting pain on others.

AIDEN: **(stepping away from her)** And you don't?

AIDEN turns to face her as he looks straight into her eyes.

AIDEN: (sharply) I have seen your dungeons – don't pretend you're any better than them. You're not.

AIDEN begins coughing and stumbles. DOREA immediately rushes over to help him, but AIDEN raises his hand.

AIDEN: No! I don't need any help from you.

DOREA stops in her tracks, and watches worriedly as AIDEN stops coughing, and pulls himself back to a strong stance, facing away from her.

AIDEN: Why am I here? So you can gloat, like your sister? So you can laugh at the Prince who lost his Kingdom? (more quietly) The Prince who lost the woman he loves?

DOREA inhales sharply and stiffens at this. She takes a moment to compose herself.

DOREA: No, not at all. I invited you–

AIDEN: (interrupting) Invited?

DOREA: ... requested ... your presence, so that we may... talk.

AIDEN turns to DOREA.

AIDEN: (startled) Talk?

DOREA: (anxiously, becoming more nervous as she goes on) Yes. Talk. Only if you want to, that is. I completely understand if not... I mean (beginning to turn away from him, embarrassed) Why would you want to talk with the one keeping you imprisoned in a dungeon...

AIDEN: (thinks. more warmly) No, no actually. It would be nice to... talk.

DOREA: Really?

AIDEN: There's nobody else to talk to in the cells. It doesn't seem like Atlantis is a prime holiday destination.

DOREA: No, I... I suppose not.

An awkward silence ensues. Neither person is quite sure what to say – what can be said. While DOREA is nervous, playing with her hair whilst avoiding his gaze, AIDEN simply stares at her, trying to decipher what exactly she is thinking.

AIDEN: Do you read?

DOREA freezes, confused.

DOREA: Excuse me?

AIDEN smiles slightly.

AIDEN: I asked, do you read?

DOREA ponders the question for a moment.

DOREA: I... I used to. When I was younger, I would read all the time. Then my Mother told me to stop wasting my time with pointless fantasies and burned all my books.

AIDEN seems surprised at this, her answer different to what he expected. DOREA tilts her head slightly.

DOREA: (inquisitively) Do you read?

AIDEN: (he lets out a small chuckle) Before becoming acquainted with your dungeon I did.

DOREA: (embarrassed) What did you like to read?

AIDEN: Stories of heroes and battles from long ago. My favourites were of my family, of course. My Father scoured the whole land to find my Mother. And my Grandfather slay a dragon...I always wanted to be like them – to be heroic, to fight for what I believed in. And to save the woman I love.

AIDEN stares at the ground, lost in thought. DOREA steps towards him. She wants to put a hand on his shoulder but cannot bring herself to do so.

DOREA: Snow White?

AIDEN nods. There is an awkward silence again.

DOREA: I've heard stories of the Princess's kindness.

AIDEN: All of the stories were true.

DOREA: When did you fall in love with her?

AIDEN looks at her, surprised at her question.