

SNOW WHITE'S BLACK HEART by HESTER KAMIN

QUEEN: Oh, my. Here she comes.

Snow White comes around the corner listening to headphones.

QUEEN (*sing-song*): Snow White!

Snow White doesn't hear her.

QUEEN: Snow White!

Snow White still doesn't hear her.

QUEEN (*lifting headphones and yelling in her ear*): SNOW WHITE!

SNOW WHITE: What?

QUEEN: Don't say "what," say "pardon."

SNOW WHITE: Why?

QUEEN: Because it's more polite.

SNOW WHITE: What?

QUEEN: Polite!

SNOW WHITE: What?

QUEEN: POLITE!

SNOW WHITE: WHAT?

QUEEN (*shrieking like a harpy*): POLITE! IT'S MORE POLITE!

Pause. Queen calms down, smooths her hair, smiles at audience.

SNOW WHITE: My *real* mother would never treat me like you do.

QUEEN (*to audience*): You see? You see how I suffer?

As if in snapshots, we see Snow White in frozen poses scowling, smoking, throwing a tantrum, smoking a cigarette, cheating on a test. Snapshots of Queen suffering at the hands of Snow White: Snow White rejecting gifts, pulling her hair, yelling at her, etc. Back into action. Queen looks at audience for support.

QUEEN: Snow White, why don't you go and watch some television?

SNOW WHITE: No.

QUEEN: Why?

SNOW WHITE: I don't want to.

QUEEN: Why don't you want to?

SNOW WHITE: Because.

QUEEN: "Because" is not a sentence, dear Snow White. Did you hear a noun or verb? Because I didn't.

Silence. Snow White glares at her, then puts on her headphones again. Queen lifts them off.

QUEEN: Snow White, I have something very, very important to tell you.

SNOW WHITE: What?

QUEEN: You must never, ever, ever go into the forest.

SNOW WHITE: Why?

QUEEN: The forest is dangerous.

SNOW WHITE: The forest is not dangerous!

QUEEN: Yes it is! The forest has wild animals!

SNOW WHITE: Wild animals?

QUEEN: It has fast rivers!

SNOW WHITE: Fast rivers?

QUEEN: And worst of all--

SNOW WHITE: What?

QUEEN: The forest has--

SNOW WHITE: What?

QUEEN (*whispering*): Bad boys.

SNOW WHITE (*with interest*): Bad boys?

QUEEN: Bad boys with knives!

SNOW WHITE (*with interest*): Bad boys with knives?

QUEEN: And that, Snow White, is why you may never, never go to the forest. I forbid it. Don't even ask me if you can go into the forest, Snow White, don't even try. Because the answer is no, no, no.