Fairy Tale:
The Ever After

By Kevin Stone

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DEDICATION

For my parents.

STORY OF THE PLAY

The fairy-tale world is under a curse: Sleeping Beauty has insomnia, Snow White is on the verge of insanity, and Cinderella has lost her faith in magic. These and other fairy-tale characters have gathered in a castle for protection from a dragon which threatens to bring their "ever after" to an unhappy end. Into the midst of their despair steps a mysterious knight. The castle is divided: some think the knight will slay the dragon; others doubt salvation is possible.

The action builds to a final, climactic battle between the forces of good and evil. Along the way, the characters must face their own frailty, rediscover lost faith, and witness the power of the Storyteller.

Fairy Tale: The Ever After is a poignant play full of poetry and symbolism, exploring the themes of providence, sacrifice, and hope.

"We spend our years as a tale that is told."
–Psalm 90:9, KJV

"Every man's life is a fairy tale, written by God's fingers."
–Hans Christian Andersen

"The things I believe most…are the things called fairy tales."
–G. K. Chesterton

ORIGINAL PRODUCTION

"Fairy Tale: The Ever After" was first produced April 26-28, 2001, at Mission Oaks Christian School, Kansas City, Kansas. The playwright directed the following cast:

SNOW WHITE: Laura Shirley
KING ETHAN: Mitch Little
WILLIAM THE BEAST: Jeffery Farmer
HANSEL: Paul Panjada
HEDDA: Brittaney Whittenburg
KNIGHT OF THE GOLDEN STAR: Brian Houchin
BRIAR ROSE: Sarah Thompson
CINDERELLA: Megan Collins
PETER PAN: Nathan Becerra
GRETEL: Melissa Sanchez
FAIRYGODMOTHER: Christin Hill

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(5 m, 6 w)

SNOW WHITE: A lonely girl of crystalline nature, fractured by misfortune.

BRIAR ROSE: Queen of Valencia, patient, compassionate, struggling to keep the faith, but unsure of faith's object.

KING ETHAN: King of Valencia and lord of a crumbling castle; he augments his belief in a Storyteller with a strong faith in himself.

CINDERELLA: Wears fine clothes and a tattered spirit; outspoken and embittered by loss.

WILLIAM: A displaced prince who still struggles with the beast within himself.

PETER: Crippled and no longer able to fly, he dwells under the shadow he thought he had lost.

HANSEL: A young boy, lost in the world and finding the crumbs of faith are all but gone.

GRETEL: His younger sister.

HEDDA: A charwoman who proves things are not always as they seem.

KNIGHT OF THE GOLDEN STAR: A mysterious visitor with some bold claims and powerful magic.

FAIRY GODMOTHER: A messenger of hope.

See additional production notes, *including Props, Music SFX and Set Design, at end of script.*

SETTING

(See drawing at end of script)

The castle of King Ethan and Queen Briar Rose, the last refuge from a terrible dragon that has decimated the ranks of fairy tale characters.

The main stage is a large, open room with a stone-flagged floor and masonry walls hung with tapestries. A wooden table stands CS. A wooden bench stands against an UPS wall. SL is a door leading to a small entryway and, we presume, to the castle's main door leading outside and across the moat. DSL is a stairway cut into the wall, leading to a ledge from which one can access a narrow window. UC is a small wooden door leading down to the dungeon. SR is an arched entryway leading to a labyrinthine hallway. DSR hangs a large mirror.

Another playing area, SR of the main stage, is a courtyard garden. It is autumn, and many fall plants are growing. On prominent display is a tall rosebush with many pinched and wilted red roses. A bench stands near the rose bush. To the SR stands a small, heavy-laden apple tree. A path leading indoors curls off SR, around the tree.

QUOTATIONS

Quotations found within the script:

1. (Snow White) Isaiah 34:12-13 KJV
2. (William) Psalm 90:9 KJV
3. (Knight) "An October Garden" by Christina Rossetti
4. Job 41:1-34 New International Version

ACT I

(AT RISE: MUSIC plays "Storyteller's Theme." LIGHTS up on the Garden. SNOW WHITE is kneeling, as she fingers the roses. BRIAR ROSE stands watching her.)

SNOW WHITE: Once upon a time, you might have graced the temple of a princess. And you, given to some dark-eyed beauty by her one true love. A red, red rose, a fragrant accouterment of love. For you, a vase of thin crystal, and you would have stood tall and straight and vital, at home anywhere — a peasant's table, a scholar's desk, a king's virginal. Once upon a time, it might have been, but you came too late. No one wants you now. Once upon a time, the world would tolerate a rose.

(GRETEL appears and gives BRIAR ROSE a silent signal before disappearing.)

BRIAR ROSE: Snow — it's time.
SNOW WHITE: Is the world such a different place?
BRIAR ROSE: It's the season, Snow. Autumn. Roses die.
SNOW WHITE: Philip told me once of a beautiful white rose, perfect year-round. As white as snow. *(BRIAR ROSE touches SNOW'S shoulder.)* Have you seen it?
BRIAR ROSE: The white rose? No.
SNOW WHITE: No one has.
BRIAR ROSE: Come with me, Snow. It's time.
SNOW WHITE: Is Philip here?
BRIAR ROSE: *(Helping SNOW WHITE to her feet.)* We need to say good-bye.

(THEY exit the Garden. LIGHTS fade up on the main stage as they fade out on the Garden. On the table is a casket. At the head of the table is ETHAN. Also present are PETER, ELLA, WILLIAM, HANSEL, and GRETEL. Peter leans on a crutch.)

ELLA: She is coming?
GRETEL: Yes.
ETHAN: They will be here.
ELLA: Her Majesty understands the decorum of punctuality. Her charge, on the other hand, lives in some time-free dimension where punctuality is an eleven-letter conundrum.
WILLIAM: There's no cause to raise your voice.
ELLA: *(Referring to the corpse.)* You afraid I'll wake him up?
ETHAN: Ella.
ELLA: I wasn't yelling. And if we don't start this thing, we'll never finish.
ETHAN: It would show poor taste, don't you think, to start a funeral without the widow present?
ELLA: You have a corpse on our table. Don't talk to me of taste.
ETHAN: Patience.
ELLA: *(After a pause.)* Anybody know a good story? *(Pause.)* I didn't think so.

(Enter SNOW WHITE and BRIAR ROSE, SR.)

ELLA: Snow! *(SHE crosses to HER for an embrace.)* So glad you could make it! How are the roses doing?
BRIAR ROSE: Ella.

(THEY all take their places.)

ETHAN: The tale of Prince Philip has ended. Sturdy warrior, chivalrous prince, and beloved husband, he enriched the pages of our story and has come to the final page of his. His was a denouement worthy of a prince, fallen in battle with weapon in hand. His cause was just, his enemy grim, his bravery commensurate with the hour of testing. He died defending us, fellow characters, and Philip's cause must not fail.

End of Freeview

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