

#### SCENE 4. Sound of a doorbell. MASHA NINA VANYA

MASHA: (calling from off-stage) Come in! The door is open.

(Enter MASHA dressed like Snow White, and carrying a shepherd's crook. Her costume is based on the old Walt Disney cartoon: she has a bright blue bodice, with puffy sleeves around her shoulders. She has a big yellow skirt to the floor, and a red bow in her hair. She looks good, but it's a somewhat dominating costume. It is possible she is still putting parts of the costume on.

Meanwhile NINA has let herself in, and enters the Morning Room. She is dressed like a fairy. She holds a fairy wand.

NINA: Hello. Oh my, you look beautiful.

MASHA: Oh dear, I didn't talk to you about costumes, did I? Whatever are you dressed as?

NINA: I didn't have anything, but my aunt and uncle took me to K-Mart, and I'm a princess.

MASHA: Oh you are? I see. I didn't get it. I thought you were a child dressed in her mother's clothes.

NINA: I'm sorry. I wasn't expecting to go to a costume party.

MASHA: No, that's quite evident.

NINA: What are you dressed as?

MASHA: What am I dressed as? You can't tell?

NINA: I think so. Are you that silent screen actress from the old movie who lives in a mansion and says "I'm ready for my close up, Mr. DeMille"? What's her name?

MASHA: No, I'm not Norma Desmond. Although when I'm around you, I feel like her. You must be reading my aura.

NINA: I never really saw the movie. I just saw the clip where she says "ready for my close up." So who are you dressed as? .

MASHA: I'm dressed as Snow White. The Walt Disney version.

NINA: I've never seen "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs." Is it like "the Little Mermaid"?

MASHA: (a touch annoyed) No. One's about a mermaid, and the other's about dwarves.

NINA: I see.

MASHA: Now since I'm Snow White, I feel all the other people going to the party with me must relate to Snow White.

(Enter VANYA dressed like one of the seven dwarfs. Big floppy knit cap, and a pumpkin colored shirt with a belt around and brown pants.)

MASHA: You see -like that. That's Grumpy, one of the seven dwarves.

VANYA: Doc.

MASHA: Right. Doc. Another one of the seven dwarves.

VANYA: You look lovely, Nina.

MASHA: No she doesn't. She looks like a child dressed for Halloween. I'm afraid I can't have it.

NINA: (sad but obedient) Oh. Well maybe I can't go then. I'm sorry I didn't have the right costume.

VANYA: Masha...

MASHA: No, no, Nina. I'm not saying you can't go to the party. I'm so sorry. I'm really being a bully, but when you're my age - whatever that age is - you get used to having your way. I suppose I'm monstrous, but lovably monstrous, I hope. Besides the good news is I have an extra costume that DOES relate to Snow White, and if you'll just put it on, then we'll all be very happy. Now wait right there. I have to ask Spike where he put it.

NINA: Oh I can't wait to see what he's wearing.

MASHA: Really? Why?

NINA: Well, I can't wait to see what everyone's wearing.

MASHA: Okay.

VANYA: What is he going as?

MASHA: He's going, as Prince Charming. It took a long time to convince him, so everyone tell him he looks sexy. Not you, Nina. Vanya, you tell him. I'll be right back.

MASHA: (suddenly takes both of NINA's hands)

Thank you Nina for being so cooperative.

(ends the moment, moves on, exits to the second floor)

NINA: I wonder what costume she has for me.

VANYA: I'm afraid I know. I believe you're going to be a dwarf like me. Dopey.

NINA: I'm just so happy to be included. I love to be around artistic people, who create things, who act, who value the arts.

VANYA: Well Masha obviously fits that. I'm afraid Sonia and I are just ...two lumps on a log.

NINA: Oh I don't think so. I feel you both have hidden reservoirs that just haven't been tapped. Or maybe you're secretly creating things, and not telling anyone.

VANYA: That's remarkable that you say that. I have been writing something... I haven't told anyone, not even Sonia.

NINA: I thought so. I sensed it. Is it a TV pilot?

VANYA: No, it's a play. In progress. And I was thinking of that play Konstantin writes in The Sea Gull. And it's very experimental and mysterious, and I can never tell if it's meant to be a play that's ahead of it's time, or just a play that's rotten. And I might like to write my own version of that play, but relate it to now and see if it would... be good or not.

NINA: Oh I'm so honored you told me this. I feel certain it's good. I always feel so sorry for Konstantin when I read that play, they were so mean to him.

VANYA: Well, life is hard for everyone, I guess.

NINA: You remind me of my uncle, only nicer and more artistic. He burps a lot and doesn't speak much. But you don't burp that I've noticed, and you're quiet but then you speak when spoken to. May I call you Uncle Vanya?