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Opening extract from

Snow White (Early Reader)

Written by

Sally Gardner

Published by

Orion Children's Books

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Snow White

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Chapter One



One snowy day long ago, a queen
sat by her window sewing.
While she stitched, her thoughts went
to the baby she was going to have.





The queen pricked her finger on her needle, and three drops of blood fell on to the snow. She looked at the redness of the blood, the whiteness of the snow, and the blackness of the ebony window frame and said, "I wish my baby's skin to be as white as snow, her lips as red as blood and her hair as black as ebony."



Soon after this the queen gave birth to a beautiful little girl whom she named Snow White. But happiness turned to sorrow, for the young queen died.



The king was mad with grief.
He could not bring himself even
to look at his little daughter.



Snow White was taken away to
be brought up in another part of
the great palace, where her father
could not see her.



A year passed and the king married again. His new queen was very beautiful and very vain. Each day she would spend hours looking at herself in her magic mirror.



Then she would ask, "Mirror, Mirror on the wall, who is the fairest of us all?"

And the mirror would answer,

"You, queen, are the fairest in the land."