

# Sleeping Beauty

## Synopsis:

King Demetrius and Queen Miranda have tried for years to have a child. In desperation, Miranda visits the Three Sages – Tegan, Sofia and Quinn. Unable to help, the Three Sages send Miranda to the most powerful Sage of all – the terrifying, three-headed Carabosse. Using the power her Magic Spinning Wheel, Carabosse agrees to help Miranda on one condition: that she, Carabosse, be invited to the Castle for the christening. Miranda consents, a year passes and the Princess Aurora is born, but when Carabosse arrives for the ceremony, the Court, including Demetrius, are horrified by her appearance and shun her. Humiliated, Carabosse places the following curse on the newborn princess: before the sun sets on her sixteenth birthday, she will prick her finger on the spindle of a spinning wheel and die. Tegan is able to alter the curse so that Aurora would not die but sleep until awakened by true love's kiss. Still fearful for their daughter's life, Demetrius and Miranda allow the Three Sages to take Aurora and raise her as their own, changing her name to Brier Rose. Many years pass. The day before her sixteenth birthday, Rose meets and falls in love with Prince Michael, whom she meets in the woods. Before they can kiss, however, Carabosse discovers that Rose is actually the Princess Aurora and tricks the Three Sages into returning her to the Castle. Once there, Rose pricks her finger on Carabosse's Magic Spinning Wheel and falls into a deep sleep. The Three Sages find Michael, inform him of the situation, and he, along with his trusted squire Jack, sets off to rescue her. Battling his way through a Wall of Thorns, Michael kisses Rose awake, only to find Carabosse transformed into a monstrous dragon. They battle, and Michael is about to slay Carabosse when Rose stays his hand. Carabosse confesses that her world is a lonely one and Rose agrees to be her friend. Rose and Michael marry and when their daughter is born, Carabosse is made her godmother.

Setting: The palace of King Demetrius and various locations in the surrounding forest

Set: unit set – one tree and two benches, See Production Notes

Running Time: one hour

## Cast:

*Demetrius* – King of the Castle

*Miranda* – his brave Queen

*Three Sages* – three wise women:

*Tegan* – the one “in charge”

*Sofia* – a born worrier with a soft heart

*Quinn* – a bit fussy but also softhearted

*Carabosse* – a sage with three heads:

*Cara* – the most compassionate head

*Abo* – the “middle” head and the “brain”

*Bosse* – will do whatever Abo says

*Guard* – a palace guard

*Michael* – prince of a neighboring kingdom

*Jack* – Michael's squire and trusted companion

*Rose* – the daughter of Demetrius and Miranda.

*Henchman #1* – one half of The Spinning Wheel, The Wall of the Thorns, and The Dragon

*Henchman #2* – other half of The Spinning Wheel, The Wall of the Thorns, and The Dragon

SETTING: *The palace of King Demetrius and his queen, Miranda, its various rooms and the forest surrounding it. Upstage center is a huge black walnut tree with branches low enough to climb. Downstage right is a bench. Another bench is located upstage left. The shift in scenes should be simple and quick, indicated with changes in lighting and sound.*

AT RISE: *The stage is dark. In the black we hear an infant crying. Lights up reveal KING DEMETRIUS standing center, holding a bundled infant in his arms. The baby is crying. He tries to calm the child but to no avail. Finally...*

DEMETRIUS

*(Calling off)*  
Miranda...? *Miranda!*

*(MIRANDA enters. DEMETRIUS holds out the baby.)*

Miranda, why is she crying?

MIRANDA

Babies cry, Demetrius. It is to be expected.

DEMETRIUS

But our daughter is a princess. She has no need for tears. Anything she wants is hers for the asking.

*(MIRANDA takes the baby.)*

MIRANDA

Aurora does not know she's a princess, darling. All she knows is that she is either hungry...

DEMETRIUS

I just fed her!

MIRANDA

Or sleepy...

DEMETRIUS  
I just woke her!

MIRANDA  
Or needs to be changed...

DEMETRIUS  
I just...

*(Calling off.)*

*Nurse!*

*(MIRANDA laughs at him.)*

MIRANDA  
Have no fear, husband...

*(She pats the baby's bottom.)*

All is well.

DEMETRIUS  
Oh... Good.

*(Baby Aurora cries even louder.)*

And yet she cries.

MIRANDA  
My mother used to say, "When all you try appears to fail, hold her close and tell a tale."

DEMETRIUS  
A tale?

MIRANDA  
A story, Demetrius.

DEMETRIUS  
What story?

MIRANDA  
There, there, little one... little Aurora... do you want to hear a story? Is that it?

DEMETRIUS  
But I don't know any stories!

MIRANDA  
*(Shushing him)*  
Shhh!

DEMETRIUS  
*(Whispering)*  
I don't know any stories!

MIRANDA  
Then *I* shall tell her a story. You go now and prepare for our honored guest.

DEMETRIUS  
Very well...

*(He starts to leave then turns back.)*

But you still haven't told me the name of our honored guest.

MIRANDA  
It's a surprise! Suffice it to say that without her, we would not be celebrating Aurora's christening today.

DEMETRIUS  
But why won't you tell me?

MIRANDA  
I have my reasons. Now go.

*(He starts to leave again then turns back.)*

DEMETRIUS  
This "guest"... it's not your mother, is it?

MIRANDA  
No.

DEMETRIUS  
Good.

*(She looks at him.)*

DEMETRIUS (cont.)

I mean, good... bye. Good-bye.

*(He lifts a hand sheepishly and waves it.)*

Farewell.

*(DEMETRIUS exits. MIRANDA waits to make sure he is gone, then looks down at the baby.)*

MIRANDA

Now that it is just the two of us, Aurora, it is time I told you the story. The story I've never told anyone before, not even your father. The story of how you came to be. Once upon a time, there was a tall, handsome king who lived in a magnificent castle with his queen. They had everything in the world they could wish for, except for the one thing they truly wanted – a child to call their own.

*(MIRANDA places the now pacified baby on the downstage bench, crouches down and pats it gently.)*

Year after year, the king and his queen wished and prayed, but to no avail. They remained childless. Finally the queen, determined not to give up hope, consulted the Three Sages. Lady Tegan...

*(TEGAN enters and crosses to center.)*

Lady Sofia...

*(SOFIA enters and crosses to center.)*

And Lady Quinn...

*(QUINN enters and crosses to center. MIRANDA stands and approaches them.)*

MIRANDA

Your Excellencies. I am here to seek...

TEGAN

*(Interrupting)*

We know why you are here, Your Majesty. You want a child.

MIRANDA

Yes. Can you help me?

TEGAN

The Gift of Life is not ours to give...

THREE SAGES

Alas, we cannot help you.

*(The Three Sages starts to exit.)*

MIRANDA

No! Wait! Please! Please, I'll do anything. Only allow me this dream, I beg of you...

*(TEGAN stops and turns back.)*

Please.

TEGAN

There is another way...

SOFIA

Tegan, no!

QUINN

You mustn't!

SOFIA

It's too dangerous!

*(TEGAN turns to SOFIA and QUINN.)*

TEGAN

If she is willing to take the risk...

MIRANDA

I'll do anything!

*(TEGAN turns back to MIRANDA.)*

TEGAN

There is another, whose power far exceeds our own. Most fear her, yet she alone can help you...

MIRANDA

You don't mean...?

## THREE SAGES

Carabosse!

MIRANDA

But Carabosse is a monster! A three-headed deformity...

TEGAN

Ah, but it is this “deformity” that gives Carabosse the ability to perform wondrous magic.

MIRANDA

My husband speaks of her only in a whisper. She gathers silk from the webs found in the Spider’s Glade and uses it to spin hideous nightmares! And when she is enraged she transforms herself into a fire-breathing dragon by uttering a spell, three strange words. “Nee...”

QUINN

“Neelac”...

MIRANDA

“Fee...”

QUINN

“Feeno”...

MIRANDA

“Noolee...”

QUINN

Nooleevahs”.

MIRANDA

That’s it!

TEGAN

The King knows the Three Words? This spell is known only to the Sages!

MIRANDA

When my husband was a young man he witnessed this transformation for himself. He was forced to battle the dragon and barely escaped with his life.

TEGAN

What did the King do to make Carabosse so angry?

MIRANDA

He won't tell me. I only know he despises Carabosse.

TEGAN

And yet, if you want a child, you must seek her out.

MIRANDA

My husband would never forgive me.

TEGAN

Then don't tell him. Do you want a child or not?

MIRANDA

I do. With all my heart.

TEGAN

Well, then...?

*(MIRANDA considers then nods.)*

MIRANDA

I shall go to Carabosse.

TEGAN

Your Majesty, Carabosse never spins her wheel without demanding a favor in return.

MIRANDA

What sort of favor?

TEGAN

That is for Carabosse to decide. Our blessings go with you.

*(TEGAN raises her right hand. SOFIA and QUINN follow suit. They bless MIRANDA and exit. MIRANDA exits opposite. The scenes shifts to The Spider's Glade. CARABOSSE enters. NOTE: To avoid confusion over lines and who says what, the three heads of Carabosse will be referred to as CARA, ABO and BOSSE.)*

ABO

Look at all these beautiful, beautiful webs ...

CARA

Of finest silk...

BOSSE

A gossamer dream...

CARABOSSE

Oh what a tangled web we weave  
When first we practice to deceive...

(MIRANDA *enters and gasps in horror when she sees*  
CARABOSSE.)

MIRANDA

Carabosse!

CARA

What's that I hear?

ABO

An intruder?

BOSSE

Who goes there?

(MIRANDA *steps forward.*)

CARABOSSE

Who are you?

MIRANDA

I am Miranda, wife of the King.

CARABOSSE

Which king?

MIRANDA

Demetrius...

(CARABOSSE *shrieks angrily.*)

ABO

How dare you come here!

CARA

You! The wife of Demetrius!



ABO

Child...

BOSSE

Child...

MIRANDA

My dream is to have a child. The Three Sages said you are able spin dreams into reality.

ABO

You think I would help you? You, the wife of my enemy? After what Demetrius did to me I find it only fitting that he should be childless.

MIRANDA

Why? What did he do to you?

CARA

Has he never told you?

*(MIRANDA shakes her head.)*

BOSSE

Then you must ask it of him.

*(CARABOSSE starts to exit.)*

MIRANDA

No! Wait! A child!

CARO

Child...

ABO

Child...

BOSSE

Child...

MIRANDA

Do you know what it's like to want a child...? To want to hold a baby in your arms and sing to it and protect it and love it with all your heart? Have you ever loved anyone?

*(CARABOSSE turns to face her.)*