

CONFESSIONS OF THE EIGHTH DWARF: A BEHIND THE FAIRY TALE EXCLUSIVE!

By Bobby Keniston

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A Ten Minute Fractured Fairy Tale Duet

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SYNOPSIS: Welcome to “Behind the Fairy Tale” with your host, Whip Whizzle! Tonight's special guest is none other than the unknown, exiled Eighth Dwarf, known as Conspiracy. According to Conspiracy Dwarf, the story of Snow White is not the sweet, kindhearted heroine we all know and love, but, rather, a conniving former actress, playing sides in a battle for diamond mine rights between the Evil Queen, Prince Charming, and the Dwarfs themselves! Is Conspiracy telling the truth, or is he just a clean-shaven, paranoid dwarf? Is Snow White really the conniving, treacherous villain he claims she is? And where does the Magic Mirror fit into all of this? The truth comes out in this hilarious ten minute fractured fairy tale!

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(1 male, 1 either; gender flexible)

WHIP WHIZZLE (m/f).....The smarmy host of “Behind the Fairy Tale,” a somewhat seedy talk show, looking only for gossip. Whip is very phony and insincere. Note: This part can be played by a male or a female. (42 lines)

CONSPIRACY DWARF (m).....The eighth dwarf who is never talked about. Prefers to go by “Anonymous” these days. Very paranoid, always afraid someone is after him. His eyes dart around, and his fingers never seem to stay still. (42 lines)

SETTING: The set of a talk show, “Behind the Fairy Tale”. This can easily be represented by a few chairs on stage.

PROPS

- Picture of Neige Blanc,
- Playbill (CONSPIRACY)

COSTUME SUGGESTIONS

WHIP WHIZZLE – A sparkly silver suit, or, if played by a female, a sparkly silver dress.

CONSPIRACY DWARF – A black hooded sweatshirt, dark colored pants, and boots.

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Dedication

This play is dedicated to Tracy Sue.

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AT RISE: *WHIP WHIZZLE, our host, is seated in the interviewer chair. The other chair onstage is empty at the moment. WHIP speaks directly to the audience.*

WHIP: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to “Behind the Fairy Tale”, where we expose the truth behind the so-called “Happily Ever Afters”. My name is Whip Whizzle, and I will be your host for the evening. We have a very special guest tonight, who will share with us exclusive, behind-the-scenes information about Snow White and the so-called “Seven” Dwarfs. And how, you may ask, does he have this exclusive information? The answer is simple: he was there! That’s right, ladies and gentlemen, our guest tonight is none other than the secret Eighth Dwarf, tragically erased from the story books because he knew too much. We’ve all heard the story of Snow White--- charming young lady, sings with birds, is kind to everyone she meets--- until an Evil Queen wants to have her killed out of jealousy. There’s even an all-knowing, and quite lovely, magic mirror in the tale. And, of course, Snow White spends some time hiding out with seven kind dwarfs, who do their best to protect her, until, finally, the Queen, gives young Snow White a poisoned apple, and she must be saved by a kiss from the Prince. But is that all there is to the story? Our guest tonight says no. In fact, this exiled eighth dwarf claims that Snow White was playing a part in a scheming game of politics, money, and treachery. Yes, ladies and gentlemen, our guest claims that the soul of your beloved fairy tale character is far from the Snow White her name suggests. Please give a warm welcome to Conspiracy, the Eighth Dwarf!

WHIP stands up, applauding, and encourages the audience to applaud. After a moment, CONSPIRACY DWARF enters, looking very suspicious, agitated and scared. His wide eyes dart back and forth across the room, and his hands wring together. He regards both WHIP and the audience with suspicion. WHIP approaches CONSPIRACY, extending his hand to shake, but CONSPIRACY makes a little yelp and steps back. WHIP holds up his hands, smiling, in a gesture of surrender, and motions for CONSPIRACY to sit down. CONSPIRACY very carefully checks the top, back, and underneath the chair. He then takes a handkerchief out of his pocket and spreads it out onto the chair. He adjusts the placement of the chair, moves it a few inches, and then sits, his knees beginning to shake. It should be noted that, although a mythical dwarf, CONSPIRACY has no beard, and dresses in a black hoodie sweatshirt.

Welcome to the show, Conspiracy. We are so happy to have you!

CONSPIRACY: Please! I don't want to be called Conspiracy anymore! It's not safe!

WHIP: Why not?

CONSPIRACY: It's the name the other Dwarfs gave me. You see, as a mining dwarf, you're given your name by all the others. They called me Conspiracy because they thought I was paranoid. But I don't think being well-informed and prepared for all possible outcomes is paranoid! It's a dangerous world, Whip!

WHIP: Indeed it is. Now, you just said that using your old name isn't safe... what did you mean by that?

CONSPIRACY: I'm in exile, Whip, because I know the truth! I'm always in danger! Even now, in this very moment, I am in terrible, awful danger!

WHIP: All right, all right, let's just take it easy. What do you prefer to be called, if you no longer go by Conspiracy?

CONSPIRACY: Anonymous.

WHIP: Anonymous?

CONSPIRACY: Anonymous Dwarf, that's right.

WHIP: *(Trying to make a joke.)* So you wish to remain anonymous?

CONSPIRACY: *(Not getting the joke.)* For as long as they let me live.

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WHIP: I see. (*Slight pause.*) By “they”, do you mean the other dwarfs? Your old co-workers?

CONSPIRACY: When you're a mining dwarf, your group is more than just “co-workers”, Whip. They are your life. Your union. Your roommates. They are the people you spend your entire waking life with. It goes far beyond having “work friends”. They become sort of like...

WHIP: Family?

CONSPIRACY: No! Not at all! More like jailers than family! You never get a moment of peace! Always working, or having to learn a new song to sing on the way to and from work... choir practice every single night, just so we had song to sing for working! But to answer your question, “they” refers not only to the other dwarfs, who think of me as a traitor, but also Prince Charming, the Evil Queen, and even Snow White herself! They all would stop at nothing to silence me!

WHIP: I must say, it is odd for me to see a mining dwarf who is clean-shaven.

CONSPIRACY: I had to give up my beard in order to stay hidden. It wasn't easy, Whip. The relationship a dwarf has with his beard is very special. It's almost like it was a part of me.

WHIP: (*A little confused.*) Well, technically, it was a part of you, wasn't it? (*CONSPIRACY doesn't answer, but just stares at him blankly.*) All right! Moving on... First off, I would like to thank you for finding the courage to be here tonight to tell your story. I suppose my first question is an obvious one: if you are in such danger, why did you agree to come forward here on my show?

CONSPIRACY: I realized that the truth is bigger and more important than my own personal safety. People have a right to know what is really going on! People need to know that their precious Snow White and Prince Charming are no better than the Evil Queen that everyone fears!

WHIP: Whoa! Now that is a bold accusation, one that may make a lot of my viewers confused, or even angry. Snow White is incredibly popular, after all.

CONSPIRACY: I know this seems hard to believe, and I know that Snow White comes across as very likeable. But I know for a fact that the Evil Queen never planned to have Snow White killed because she was “the fairest of them all”. That’s a purely fabricated myth that the Evil Queen and Snow White created together in order to infiltrate the Dwarfs’ home. (*WHIP gasps.*) I know, I know, but I have proof with me that, before anyone had even heard of Snow White, she was an unsuccessful actress doing dinner theater three villages over!

WHIP: What proof could you possibly have of this?

CONSPIRACY: (*Takes two pieces of paper from his pants’ pockets.*) I have with me a playbill from one of her old productions. (*Handing it to WHIP.*) As you can see here, she went by the stage name “Neige Blanc”, which just so happens to be French for “Snow White”.

WHIP: Remarkable!

CONSPIRACY: (*Handing WHIP the other paper.*) And here is the marquee picture used for Neige Blanc. Although her hair is a little longer in this picture, I think it is quite obvious that this is none other than Snow White herself, the “innocent” girl you all know and love!

WHIP: (*Agreeing.*) If it’s not her, I’ll eat my designer shoes. (*Beat.*) But how can you know that she was in cahoots with the Evil Queen?

CONSPIRACY: Whip, I have it on good authority from a Palace Guard at the Evil Queen’s castle, who happens to be a member of an underground group called “The Illuminated Brotherhood”, that Snow White was invited to the castle as an honored guest, and had a private dinner with the Queen, something that rarely ever happens. It was during this private dinner that they created their sneaky scheme.

WHIP: And what was their scheme? Why would the Queen want Snow White to infiltrate the Dwarfs’ home? What could she possibly gain?

CONSPIRACY: (*Looks around, swallows nervously.*) That’s simple. Diamonds.

WHIP: Diamonds?

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CONSPIRACY: All the diamonds one could ever hope to have. (Beat.) You know how the Dwarfs, my people, have been diamond miners for as long as anyone can remember?

WHIP: Yes.

CONSPIRACY: That's because our mine has been passed down through Dwarf families for generations. Dwarfs don't care about the wealth-- they just love the work. That's why hundreds and hundreds of years ago, a wise wizard, who first created this never-ending mine of diamonds, bequeathed it to Dwarfs. He knew that if the mine ever got into the wrong hands, hands that are desperate for money and power, that no good could come of it.

WHIP: I don't understand... if the mine is within the Queen's land, then...

CONSPIRACY: That's just it. The mine is technically a part of a dead zone, outside the Queen's realm, and also outside the borders of Prince Charming's kingdom. Both sides have wanted to get their hands on that mine for as long as it has belonged to the Dwarfs. But they have no power to obtain it. The Wizard who created the mine, when passing along the deed to the Dwarfs, made a special enchantment that the deed could never pass to other hands unless the Dwarfs signed it over themselves. Knowing how much the Dwarfs loved to mine, and were unable to be seduced by money or power, the Wizard felt safe that the deed would never end up with the wrong people.

WHIP: So let me get this straight: the Queen felt that if Snow White went to you Dwarfs with some sob story about how her life was in danger, that you would take her in to protect her, and that she, through her deception, could convince you all to sign over the deed to her?

CONSPIRACY: That's exactly right! After all, when she first came to us, Snow White was so sweet and kind. She had the other seven wrapped around one of her dainty little fingers in no time! I was the only one who was suspicious.

BY BOBBY KENISTON

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