

Act I

Scene 1 Snow White's real mum dies

Fan - fare

Good Queen walks on - and dies

Eunice enters from the side

Eunice: *(Comes on loosely singing Russ Abbott's Atmosphere)* Oh! *(sees the audience)* Where did you lot come from? *(to a particular member of audience)* Are you a meteorologist, dear? I'm a Libra *(Holds out palm)* What does the future hold for me?

Look at that lot at the back – they look a bit special. They must be from the met office – do you need a tea break dear?

(turns to a professor)

And how about you – what do you do dear? You look like you've spent too much time in the (iso)bar dear! Goodness, these lines have a Tendency to get a bit (iso)tach-y!

Well, welcome to the court of King Ho-gan Josh, our new king of Meteorology. You can count yourselves very lucky indeed – he usually spends Christmas at the Sardar Palace, with the beautiful Gardens of Gulab. From here he rules with his beautiful Queen, and their daughter... Snow White. Ooooh! She's a clever one! She's a young PhD student right here in the castle. Well she's not actually in the castle, she's been pushed into the Library by a load of Met Office astrologers or something – I don't know.

(Sid wanders on stage with a Mug)

(sees dead body) What's this? Oh! It's the Queen – I think she's dead! This is bad! A Dead body on my nice clean floor! We'll have to get it in a Coffin before it stains the stage! Sid! Sid!

Sid: Oh, Hello.

Eunice: Sid, we need a coffin for the Queen.

Sid: I've got one right here, but it's decaff I'm afraid.

Eunice: NO! I wanted a coffin. What are we gonna do with the body now?

Sid: Well, cleaners away. You're gonna have to move it yourself.

Eunice: What are you on about, I'm the cleaner. And I said coffin, coffin, coffin, coffin.

Sid coughs 3 times - lamely

Eunice: I despair sometimes I really do. If you want something done, it's best doing it yourself. I'm off to get Lomas to Knock up a quick coffin. You all wait here. *(lights off)*

Scene 2 The Wake

Lights up with Queen stood upright in custom-made coffin. King (with tacky fake beard) and Snow white

Eunice: We're here in the dead centre of the castle – and all the people of the land will be coming to pay their respects to the King and his daughter, Snow White. People will be dying to get in here you know. Oooh here's someone now.

Enter Browning and Hoskins:

Sid: Hello, who are you?

Hoskins: Hi, I'm Brian Hoskins and this is Keith Browning. We're here to meet the Queen! (*Happily*)

Sid looks puzzled

H & B (*in unison*): We were really surprised to be included in this group: We have never thought of ourselves as being pioneers! It is a real bonus in meteorology that research that you enjoy doing can quickly move to being useful?

Sid: (*Confused*) Well she's over there. Please, join the queue.

(sends them to side of stage)

Enter Evil Queen followed by Cath and Phyllis

To Sid

Evil Queen: Hello, we're here to pay our respects.

I'm Eleanor Highwood – lady of modelling aerosols.

Sid looks puzzled – checks out her bum.

Evil Queen: Oi! Don't be so cheeky. Where's the king? Leaves Sid.

Cath and Phyllis begin to follow – Sid stops them

Sid: 'Scuse me. Who are you?

Cath: We're lady Highwood's attractive daughters. I'm Cath

Phyllis: And I'm Phyllis

Sid: Eh? Sorry, my hearing's not so good. Maths and Physics did you say? Daughters? – you look more like poor cousins to me. Anyhow you'll have to join the queue with the rest of them.

Cath and Phyllis join queue at stage side (push in front of B&H?)

Evil Queen sidles up to King

Evil Queen: My deepest condolences your highness. Highwood of got here earlier but my stupid daughters slowed me down.

King: Boo hoo. Woe is me.

EQ: Oooh your poor thing. Come here. *Cuddles him.* You can cry on my shoulder. You must be sooo lonely here in this castle, RAIN-ing all by yourself.

King: Boo hoo yes.

*Enter Cath and Phyllis. Shuffle forward in queue onto centre stage.
Hoskins and Browning join the queue behind them.*

Hoskins: Aaaaaggh, at last this looks like the queue that old hag cleaner was on about.
Keith: Queue?! Looks more like a conveyer belt to me. A warm one at that.

Enter Prince -joins queue

Eunice: Ooh, look it's that dashing Prince.
Prince: Well actually, I'm the meteorologist formally know as Prince. Its tipping it down out there.
Brian: What? A bit of convection hey?
Keith: I expect its slantwise (*finger motion*)
Prince: I'm not so sure. Looked more like – *frontal rain, frontal rain.*

Snow White: Oooh, you're wet through. You need to warm up. How about a cup of coffee?
Prince: Sounds good.
Snow White: Do you want milk or cream?
Prince: *Cream on the top. (song)*
Eunice: Allright that's enough of that. (*bosses them off with duster*)

Cath, Phyllis, Brian, Keith & Prince all Exit.

Evil Queen: How would you like to detect some of my aerosols using your Lidar?
King: Are you saying what I think you're saying?
Evil Queen: Yes – Lets Marry.

Wedding Music. Exit all except Eunice.

Eunice: And so the King and Lady Highwood were married.

Cue slideshow of comedy photos, King and Ellie being married by Rev IwJ and Eunice on a beach, plus assorted other photos.

Scene 3 Queen and mirror stuff

Enter Queen followed by Sid

Evil Queen: Come on Sid. (*To nobody in particular*). Aaahhh. I think it'll go nicely here. Now Sid, where's that mirror?
Sid(*carrying a Mirror newspaper*): There you go. Just finished reading it.
Evil Queen: What, the paper?
Sid: Water vapour, right oh. (*Exit*)

(Enter Cath and Phyllis)

Eunice: Cath and Phyllis? You're in the wrong panto. Aren't you supposed to be in Cinderella?
Phyllis: Um...yes.... They've coalesced us with your panto so we only have to write one script and cut down on admin costs
Cath(*interrupting*): And we can steal your best jokes, 'cos we haven't got any funny ones.
Evil Queen: You two stop talking to the hired help /(*stroke*) narrator.

Sid comes on

Sid: Stroke the Narrator? Well, ok...

(*strokes the narrator.*)

Eunice: Ooh.. Later, later, young man!

Evil Queen: Cath, Phyllis, have either of you seen my mirror?

C and P: Its behind you. (*Panto style*)

Evil Queen: Aaaaaggh. Now then, better check it's working
Mirror, mirror on the wall.
Who's the cleverest of them all.

Recording: Inness, Royal Meteorological Society

Inness: Umm Well....

You are of Course, same as any other day,
Although you're neck and neck,
With the lovely Sue Gray.

Evil Queen: Sue Gray? She isn't even in this Panto, hence I am cleverest! There's no-one in this land anywhere near as clever as me.
Mwwwhhhaaahhh.

Lights Down. Exeunt

Scene 4 In the library doing work (modelling)

Snow White is in the Library using a computer. Eunice walks across stage, sweeping.

Snow White: Why won't it run! Oh I hate Unix.

Eunice: What have I done now deary?

Snow White: Oh, not you Eunice. I said I hate Unix.

Eunice: Eunuchs? I know what you mean – hardly real men are they?

Snow White: No... oh don't worry.

Eunice: What are you doing anyway? I thought you'd finished your thesis.

Snow White: It's that evil step mother of mine. She's making do with an additional chapter on the effects of the stratosphere on the troposphere – everyone knows there IS no relationship!

Eunice: Relationship? Oh, I've had a few of them. There was this one week with this charmer called Brian, and his friend Michael with his long beard and obscure questions, then there was this other one who used to hang out with them. What was his name?.....(Walks off stage)

Snow White: That's what I need! Hoskins McIntyre and Robertson!! I'll download it now using – "Acrobat Reader, Reader, reader" (*to the tune of Paperback writer*)
Starts to read the paper

Enter Prince who looks lovingly at Snow white.

Prince: There's Snow White (Prince's 'the most beautiful girl in the world plays)

Snow White: That's It!

Prince: What?

Snow White: I've just read Hoskin, McIntyre and Robertson! And I understand it!

Prince: So what are you doing your PhD on?

Snow White: Basically, I'm a modeller, but I work in parameterisation.

Prince: So you're a 'Sexy Model Fudger' (*Sung to Prince song*)

Snow White: Oh! You're such a charmer. Do you want to go for a coffee? It must be ooh.. about ten minutes since I last had a cup.

Exit to back.

Scene 5 Back to the mirror

Evil Queen: Now then mirror, make my day.
Mirror, mirror on the wall.
Who is the cleverest of them all?

TV: Inness, Royal Meteorological Society

Inness: Ummm, well....
It used to be you, but there's a young scientist
Who read H, M and R; And got the Gist

Evil Queen: What?!?! I don't believe it! Who is this little upstart.

Inness: Ummm, well
She is a girl, her mind has much might.
It's your step-daughter, the cleverest, the brilliant Snow White.

Evil Queen goes nuts.

Evil Queen: Right, that's it. I've had enough of that girl. Cath..... Phyllis.....go get my faithful Huntsman, Ellis. You'll probably find him in the Royal Coffee Room.

Cath and Phyllis go off to get Ellis

Evil Queen: Mwwwhahahahah – I'll get you, Snow White

Enter Ellis, led by Cath and Phyllis

Evil Queen: Aaahh. Elliss. I've got a little job for you.

Ellis: Have you read the help page? You know you're not supposed to talk to me directly. E-mail me, you'll get an automated reply and I'll deal with it in my own sarcastic time.

Evil Queen: Don't you think I've checked there? I'm not a lecturer you know.
(Oh yes you are)

Oh, all right to tell you the truth I can't work e-mail, But I've got a proper job for you. – it involves young girls and wood....

Ellis: *(Excited)*Tell me more!

Evil Queen: My horrible step daughter has gotten too clever – I need her....disposed of. Take her down to the woods and.....STEAL HER THESIS!!

Ellis: Her Thesis? In the woods? This will be an excellent opportunity to try out my new wireless network. *(aside)* It's slower than the usual network, but I got a flashy laptop out of it - heh-heh.
-I'll do it!

Evil Queen: Eeeeeexxcееееelleeeent! Then do it- right away!

Ellis: Righto, I'll nick it now!
Exit Ellis

Cath: Now, My Queen, you will have the knowledge you seek to be the cleverest – you will truly be a five star genius!

Phyllis: Yes, and we shall be able to steal some of the prestige – just by hanging out with you!!

Evil Queen: Silence! I will be the cleverest! And then I will get all the funding – all the funding in the world!
Mwahahahahahahahahahahahahahah!
Phyllis and Cath join in

Exit all

ACT II

SCENE 1

Eunice: Now, have you all been paying attention? I know it's rather like a lunchtime seminar, so for those of you who drifted off, I'll summarise: Our Evil Queen Ellie wants to get her hands on Snow White's brilliant Thesis and Huntsman Ellis, entranced by Queen Ellie's evil influence, is on his way to steal it for her.
We rejoin Snow White wandering in the wilderness beyond the castle taking a few meteorological measurements, unaware of the shadowy figure slinking through the undergrowth...

(Lights up on Huntsman creeping up on SW.)

Huntsman(to audience): 'Shhh! Nice and quiet now and I'll soon have that thesis.'

SW (to audience): 'Oh dear, this thesis is so heavy. I wish I hadn't got a reference for every letter of the alphabet now, it's way too long. I'll just put it down here for a little while - it's safe there isn't it everyone?'

Audience: 'Oh no it isn't!' etc

(Hunter steals the thesis from her bag and starts to sneak off)

Huntsman (to self): 'Ah, I've got her thesis, ha-ha-ha! The queen will be so happy she'll have coffee with me all day long. I should just check it's the right one, let me just read a little.' (starts reading thesis) 'but no! woe! This thesis is so brilliant, I couldn't possibly steal it' (starts blubbing)

(SW notices the huntsman and turns around)

SW: 'Who are you? what are you doing? Why do you want to steal my work - you're not even my supervisor!'

H (blubbing): 'I'm so sorry - Queen Ellie wanted me to steal your thesis - and I so want to please her. She's jealous of your fantastic work because the mirror said that yours is the best thesis in all the land.' (cries more)

SW: 'There there, don't cry. I'm sure it won't be so good once my supervisor's gone through it. Besides, I think I've got something in here that will fool the queen - it's not quite as good as my thesis, but it'll do' *(Pulls out Hoskins Mcintyre and Robertson, although at this stage we don't know what it is)*

H: 'Oh, Thank you! Now I must rush back to the queen on my sparkling Harley - did I tell you about it? It's absolutely marvellous. Big, solid and massive with fork tubes like tree-trunks and a twin cam 88B balanced engine - fifteen hundred cc of burning love...'

(someone rushes on stage with big sign saying SPAM FILTER and Ellis is pushed off stage)

SW: 'Oh no - now that the queen is plotting to steal my work I can't possibly go back to my office - I must leave before the queen finds me' (panics and rushes off)

Eunice: 'There she goes - Snow White runs blindly deeper into the wilderness. As the night draws in it becomes a dark and haunting place filled with weird and fantastical creatures- brr, just gives me the willies thinking about it.

Soon Snow White realises she has lost her way. She starts to WALKABOUT in the BACK OF BEYOND, taking many twists and THREE TUNS until she is hopelessly lost'

[Flash pictures of Pubs as they are mentioned]

SW (trips over a purple turtle if we can find one...)

SW: 'I'm hopelessly lost! I'm sure I've seen that LITTEN TREE somewhere before. This is too much of a RISC.' *(sound of the DARCness starts in the distance, quietly)* '(panicking) Oh no - is that the sound of the QUEENS HEAD Huntsman chasing me?' *(sounds get louder)* 'Phew it's alright - but that's strange, it's some kind of weird band?'

Eunice: *(as David Bellamy?)* Now, Boys and Girls, Snow White has stumbled upon one of the most interesting forms of career resurrection pulled off in recent times by a Data Assimilation group. I feel very honoured to spot them in their natural environment. It's Frankie Lahoz, Ed Geer, Dan Brugges and Justin Bannister - The DARCness!'

(DARCness enter)

Can't explain all the feelings that you're making me feel
My heart's in overdrive and O'Neill's behind the steering wheel

Solving X, Solving B
Solving T. God you're VAR 4D

I believe in a thing called VAR
Just listen to the rhythm of my heart
There's a chance we could make it now
We'll be rockin till the SUN'S go down
I believe in a thing called VAR
Ooh!

(DARC wave at crowd and take applause. O'Neill enters, still carrying suitcase.)

O'NEILL: 'No, No - you're supposed to be DARC not The Darkness. You've got it wrong - I was going to go off and have fun and you lot were supposed to be working. How am I going to take so many Italian holidays if this happens when I go away?' (pushes DARC off stage)

Eunice: Still with us everyone? 'Well, by now it was AFTER DARC (double pun!) and Snow White no longer had GREAT EXPECTATIONS of finding somewhere to sleep, when she sees in a clearing a small (FISHERMANS) COTTAGE'

SCENE 2

(Snow White enters cottage. On the wall are 7 boards with 7 names and unfinished plots)

SW: 'What is this place? With all these awful plots and low boards these meteorologists must be in the infancy of their careers - is it the RUSU nursery? is this ES4? Maybe if I can tidy these plots up they'll let me stay.' (Goes to Shiney's) 'Actually Shiney's plots aren't that bad - he must have got himself a secretary now or something. But all the rest are rubbish.' (Gets to Geordie's plots which are drawn on hexagonal paper) 'These are very funny shaped plots, but they do all fit together nicely with a little effort.'

*(Tidies rest of plots up - humming 'hi ho'.
Get's a shock from Sparky's plots)*

SW: 'All this tidying has worn me out - think I'll just have little sleep before they all come back.'

*(Strains of Hi Ho song as dwarves come from back towards stage.)
(If possible, at all times in the panto, dwarves should shuffle around on knees.
The dwarfs/supervisors are wearing hats with their names on? They are also carrying a giant poster that they have had at a conference - it needs at least two dwarves to carry.)*

Song:

'Hi Ho, Hi Ho

It's home from the conference we go

<whistling>

Hi Ho Hi Ho Hi Ho Hi Ho

High Low High Low

Weather systems are all go

A baroclinic atmosphere is what we fear

High Low High Low High Low High Low

Hi Ho Hi Ho

We love our phd students so

They do our plots, we pay them peanuts

Hi Ho Hi Ho Hi Ho Hi Ho

(Towards the end of the verse Lawro the giant (Jeff on stilts) joins in with the singing. Dwarves gradually stop singing and look up at him, perplexed)

Doc: Who are you?
Lawro: 'Don't mind me, I'm leavin' in the auDum for the West. Just doin' some work for Slingo.'
Geordie: Slingo?
Tashful: Slingo?

(all dwarves singing again as Lawro walks off)

Slingo, Slingo
She runs us all you know
She brings us Yanks
and lots of cranks
Slingo, Slingo, Slingo, Slingo...

<verse whistled>

Hi Ho, Hi Ho
It's home from the conference we go
<whistling>
Hi Ho Hi Ho Hi Ho Hi Ho'

(Dwarves arrive home and take their hats off)

Shiney: So how did you all enjoy the Research for Mini Scientists conference?

Geordie: The RMS in BOREwich?

Chatty: The only good thing about it was that the beds were nice and short.

Tash-full: The University of Easy Afternoons was OK I thought, plenty to do like ultimate frisbee, the MegaQuiz, ...

Sparky: ...and a nice pool to avoid boring talks in.

(The whole time, Dopey is slumped in a corner. Supervisors notice new plots)

Tashful (thoughtfully stroking tash, looking at plot): 'Things have really been smoothed out. There's a great plot here.' (then, over-acting) 'With these results behind us we're sure to be awarded our sixth star and then we can take over all of atmospheric science and then the world!' (evil laugh)

Doc: 'Don't be so DRAMATIC, you're taking your act too far. Anyway you're forgetting that we're the good guys this year.'

(Geordie puts his hand up)

Doc: Yes, Geordie?

Geordie(*nervous*): 'Crumbs! What if the person who did this is still in the house?'
(*hand to forehead*)

Chatty: Someone has used Stephenson yellow here. There is nothing like a good yellow to bring out the important facts in an OHP. In fact (monologue continues...)

(*Chatty talks so much that snow white is woken up. Dwarves "run" and hide*)

SW (to audience): 'What was that? Is there someone in the house?'

(*SW moves around slowly, with dwarves comically shuffling along behind her - SW to audience: Is there anybody here? They're behind you etc. Eventually she spots them*)

SW: 'Oh, you're not children, you're little supervisors! Let me guess who you are'

SW(to Shiney): 'You're clearly the boss of these SHINEy happy people'

Sparky (interrupting quickly): 'Yes, that's him'

SW (to sparky): 'Lightning fast, you must be HARRISON, Sparky'

Doc (pulls baby out of rucksack or coat etc): 'And this is *my* new daughter'

SW: 'You're MARSHALLing that baby very well - you must be Doc'

Doc: 'No, I'm Prof now! You'll just have to ADAPT'

Chatty: 'Oh, Prof. You're so so IMPERIAListic after your time away. Actually, if anyone's interested in my trips away, I'm showing slides in GU01 in a few minutes. I've been to Svalbard, Switzerland, China, ...'(keeps going with places)

SW to sparky: 'Oh, he is chatty isn't he?'

Sparky: 'Exactly'

Chatty: '..., and Tyne and Wear'

SW: 'Who would ever go to Tyne and Wear?!?' (Geordie puts his hand up in a nervous way) 'Oh, so you must be Geordie'

SW: 'Who's left?' (Dwarves have to shuffle around so that Tashful ends up at front) 'With those shorts and GRIME-y running shoes, you must be Tashful, which leaves one more' (counting off names on plots) '1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 - wheres dopey?' (said straight as in the real dwarf)

Tashful: 'Oh he's over there in the corner - don't mind him, he's Dutch.'

SW: 'Ah, I see - Dope-----y'

Dwarves (together): 'well, we know who we are, but who are you?'

SW: 'My name is Snow White. I'm a phd student and I'm trying to finish my thesis but the evil Queen Ellie wants to steal it so that she can be sure that she has the fairest thesis in all the land. I managed to fob the hunter off with an old photocopy but I'm sure she'll come after me again. I just need somewhere to hide while I finish writing.'

Shiney: 'Don't worry my dear, everything will be ok. We'll hide you in the CGAM room. No-one will ever suspect that the best thesis in the world could come out of there.'

(Dwarves cheer and applaud and all run off stage)

SCENE 3

(Cuts to queen in her castle. Huntsman rolls up on his bike)

Eunice: Wake up at the back, not long to go before the interval, we all need a cup of tea. So, back at the castle evil, evil work is being done. What did Snowwhite give the huntsman? Will the evil queen be fooled by it? The evil queen is working hard at her research.

Queen: ' Mirror, mirror on the wall, to answer this burning question, you I call, How much aerosol from a volcano does there fall?'

TV: Inness, Royal Meteorological Soc

Mirror: 'Ummm – well, the answer that you seek, is a number of which I shall speak...'

The Huntsman interrupts...

Huntsman: 'Queen Ellie, I have it, look!'

TV: 'And it's 5 points off for an incorrect interruption.'

Queen: (To TV) 'Oh shut-up smarty-pants.' (To Hunter) 'How dare you interrupt? I was about to get the answer to the ultimate question of life, the aerosols and everything.'

Hunter: 'But look my Queen, I have brought you the best thesis in the land - Snow White is no more'

Queen: 'Ah, the thesis!' <Evil laugh> 'You have done well my servant.'

Huntsman: I have tickets for the croquet final, shall we make a picnic out of it?

Queen:(Evily) 'Go and fix flash first, then we'll talk about it.' (then, to audience) 'At last, at last. This is the best thesis in the world!'

Oh no it isn't! etc.

Queen goes to mirror

Queen: 'Mirror mirror on the wall, who has the fairest thesis of them all? I have it! <evil laugh> (holds "thesis" up in the air)'

TV: Inness, Royal Meteorological Society

Mirror: 'Umm... the paper in your hand is not good enough to be the one, it's merely Hoskins, McIntyre, and Robertson. Snow white's thesis is still the best, She's in the 7 supervisors' cottage, getting some rest.'

Queen: 'Noooooooooooooooooooooooooooo'

Act III

SCENE 1

Eunice: Are you sitting comfortably everyone? Well then I'll begin. The evil queen has been plotting to finish off Snow White while you have been watching that nice man. *(or whatever else went on in the interval)*. Anyway, that's enough of my gossiping, let's get back to the castle.

Q (To audience) I've just moved house - in fact I've moved into the new wing. Of course they had to clear the whole of the new wing to make room for me, but I'm worth it

(man in white coat walks on)

Q Excuse me: who are you?

Psychologist: I'm a psychologist- I think you're in our offices- we own this part of the new wing.

Q I THINK you'll find that your offices are now part of my imperial bedchambers. So naff off Peasant.

P Oh well, errr, anyway, We're looking for people to take part in an experiment we're conducting about the nature of psychosis. We sent a dozen or so emails about it to everyone this morning.

Q Oh you want the panto scriptwriters- you'll find them down the corridor over that way.

(as he walks away, the huntsman walks in with a cardboard box)

Q yes, what is it, my devoted slave?

Hunter: Your majesty, we've run out of space in the new wing- there's just not enough room for all of your clothes and all my new PCs.

Q Oh you fool! Leave the unix box here.

Hunter Majesty- was it so wise to spend all your climate-prediction.net money on a new wardrobe?

Q You presumptuous peasant! A large part of climate-prediction.net is communication of science to the public, and just how am I supposed to go on the national news without a new Armani suit, eh? Anyway, if anyone asks about the money we'll just blame it all on Oxford University.

(Hunter leaves)

(Queen watches and waits until Hunter has disappeared)

Q (to audience) Now, to more urgent matters. How do I get rid of that accursed Snow White? She stays in her cottage all day with those seven supervisors. Let me think...
AHA! I could get a sandwich from agriculture, poison it, and somehow get Snow White to eat it- In fact I wouldn't even have to poison the sandwich to do the job properly!

(Queen puts her hands in her pockets)

Damn! I haven't got anything smaller than a 20 pound note. I may be the evil Queen, but not even I'm going to try to buy an ag sandwich with a 20 pound note. Anyway, how could I possibly make an ag sandwich look attractive enough to eat?

AHA! I could put Snow White to sleep forever by giving her a copy of Batchelor's Introduction to Fluid Dynamics to read. Ah- but my last copies were deemed weapons of MATHs distraction by the UM, and destroyed.

Oh wait- I've got it! Ah yes, That's a BRILLIANT PLAN!

(big fat evil scenery chewing laugh as she walks off stage)

SCENE 2

Eunice: Meanwhile, unaware of all this, Snow White carries on with her idyllic life in the cottage in the Wilderness. Ahh now isn't that lovely....

(Snow White is washing the dishes)

SW (to audience)> I used to hate Friday at noon- that's when I had to do all the CURRENT WASHING up, but I love Friday at noon nowadays, because that's when I indulge in EXPERIMENTAL STUDIES OF CROCKERY-DETERGENT ISSUES...

(Pause)

...and that's completely different.

Oh look- the soap bubbles are coalescing into some sort of modon structure- I wonder if a cluster analysis...

Oh who am I kidding? It's the same old thing and I'm the same old scrubber.

(Queen knocks on door, disguised as Keith?)

SW Hello, can I help you?

Q Hello, I'm from the Three Tuns delivery service, delivering beer to your seven supervisors

SW Haven't I seen you somewhere before?

Q Probably, at the three tuns- the staff turnover is so quick there...

SW Ah

Q Yes, we deliver beer nowadays. We're the best, our service has been called STELLA, FOSTER than anyone else. We have an amazing PEDIGREE, as we have the COURAGE of our convictions, and do our job with PRIDE. We're the GIN-uine article. We're LAGER than everyone else, so they do get BITTER and WINE about us a lot.

SW (To audience) ABBOT she drinks CARLING BLACK LABEL

Eunice Carlsberg don't do meteorology department pantos, but if we did, they would probably have puns as outrageous as this one

Q Now, we have some things on offer here...

Q (To herself) Now what's the best thing to kill her?

SW WHAT?

Q Errr I mean, I said, "Now what's the best thing: tequila!"

SW Ahhhhh OK.

Q (To herself) Aha- this'll whisk her off to a sleeplike trance!

SW WHAT?

Q Errr I mean, I said "this whisky is awfully cheap in france"

SW Ahhh ok. Well, I'll take a case of that, and two cases of this, and four cases of that (points to imaginary crates etc)

Queen walks off stage

Q (To audience) My plan is progressing perfectly...HA HA HA HA HA!

SW Oh I've been doing crockery-detergent issues for an hour now, I'll just have half a pint. After all, it's friday lunchtime: what harm could just one drink possibly have?

(Passes out)

Queen comes back (to side of stage)

Q HA HA HA! Everything is going according to plan. This is one drink you will NEVER sleep off Snow White. Of course- there is one thing that'll wake her up- love's first kiss! But I'm safe, I mean, who'd ever try to

kiss her? She's comatose, looks like a corpse and she stinks of alcohol.
So as long as they keep her away from Brannigans I'm fine!

Yet another evil laugh, then the Queen walks off stage

SCENE 3

Eunice Oh lovelies, don't despair! It's not as scary as my underwear! Now here's our dashing prince, look he's having a coffee on the balcony with the huntsman, unaware of what's befallen Snow White...

Huntsman: Now, as I was saying, the reason why the Harley Davidson is a better motorbike than anything else is...

P (looking very bored) > Is what? I don't know

H Well...anyway, it's not important. I see that the Queen has eliminated one thorn in her side

P What- has someone removed the bollard from the car park?

H no no- I mean the queen has dealt with Snow White. There's no way she'll finish the greatest PhD of all in the 4 year NERC deadline

P NERC?

H Yes, the Never Ending Research Council

P But how do you know all this?

H The Queen told me everything when we were having coffee on the balcony at 6 in the morning.

P You really get in early doors don't you?

H Well, to be fair, at the end of the day, this job is a MARATHON not a sprint. I come into work when the sun comes up, and stay until the SUNs go down.

P Whatever. What were you saying about Snow White?

H Snow White now lies in the cottage in the deep wilderness in a deathlike trance, the likes of which you haven't seen since the last Quo Vadis. Apparently, she can be woken up - but only with love's first kiss. In other words, Snow white will be asleep forever!

P Love's first kiss, eh?

H Oh well, I can't stay here and chat- I've got things to do.

(Hunstman gets up and leaves)

P (To audience) Snow white- in danger! I have to find her, and save her!

SCENE 4

Prince is strolling through the woods and sees Marco waiting impatiently

P What's the matter? You lost?

Marco: no no no no no no no. I'm waiting for a seminar speaker. They were supposed to turn up half an hour ago. It's very annoying when you try to organise the tuesday seminars and then the speakers forget.

Prince Is the seminar going to be cancelled?

M no no no no no no no. It's just late. but wait till I find the speaker- I'm going to give her a PIZZA MEI mind.

Prince Can you tell me the way to the cottage where Snow White lives? Is it near?

M no no no no no no no- it's a small house crammed with people. Yes, I thought students might be living there. You need to go that way (points off stage). It's across a lake over there. Enjoy- I'm heading back to work to enjoy the hooker reception!

Prince Hooker reception?

M no no no no no no no- a "hooker reception". I got an email from some dutchman advertising it. I thought to myself- this would not happen in an Italian university, but hey, I'm in britain to learn about your cultural curiosities. Apparently the reception will have lots of exhibitions and installations. Wow! It sounds like something I'd watch on channel 5 on friday night.

Prince I have a feeling that this reception may not be what you think it is you know.

M no no no no no no no- I know exactly what it is (Marco wags his finger at Prince). You big american pop stars can't have all the beautiful girls to yourself you know. Ah well- Arrivederci, as we say in Bangor. I hope you find your Snow White.

(Marco walks off)

Prince carries on walking and encounters Janet

Janet: Oh jings! Och- what's up with you laddie. You look like someone who just received terrible reviews in the Reading Chronicle...

Prince Oh, it's just that I have to save a woman who's fallen under an evil spell. She lies now, comatose, as if dead, somewhere in the forest.

J Jings! Och, well, I have to say, your predicament has much dramatic value, although the originality of your situation is low, and the subtext I must say reeks of....

Prince What? Anyway, I need to find where she lives. can you help me?

J Och, well, the comatose woman sounds familiar. I have heard of such a woman, though I dismissed her as a feeble attempt at performance art, with no redeeming cultural or sociological value whatsoever. Her performance sounds as empty as a rotating tank with no fluid in it, dearie.

Prince Err what? Anyway, can you help me?

J Oh jings, yes I can. Settle down dear. Don't let your laminar state get all turbulent now. I DO know where she is, but she lies across Whiteknights lake, in a little cottage.

Prince Across a lake? Oh no- but how I can I get across the lake! This is terrible. If I can't save Snow White who can! Who'll give her love's first kiss?

J Och- your sorry story sounds like such a hotpotch of stereotypical narrative. But I'll help ye- I actually have a boat made out of lego!

Prince What? Lego- don't be daft! lego doesn't float.

J Och, but this is special NERC funded wind-tunnel tested technical lego!

Prince Great. But what are you doing with a boat? Ah- you must've been testing boundary layer fluxes from a calm fluid surface.

J Errr no, let's just say it's near Christmas and the customs allowance for whisky from France is awfully low, anyway...the boat's over there dearie (points off stage). Remember though, the boat will only work with the right roughness (Rubs Prince's chin). Now off you go. I would come with you, but I have some theatre work I have to make PROGRESS with. Bye

(Janet leaves)

Prince OK, I have a boat, but what now. I have no idea how to sail a boat all the way across the lake!

(Hilary comes running up, generally bouncing)

Hilary: Ahoy, landlubber!

Prince hello there- can you help me? I need to get across this lake.

H Aha- a sailing dinghy. A type 42N3NN3-3N3N3-Q89NG0 fibreglass composite if I'm not mistaken!

Prince Actually, it's made of lego.

H (looks sheepish) Errr yeah I knew that. Hmm sailing across Whiteknights lake is fraught with danger: the monstrous sea monster, the killer freak waves....

Prince It's a tiny lake- there aren't any monstrous sea serpents on it!

H (suddenly inspired) Well, the swans then.

(They both nod and agree)

Prince And freak waves?

H Yes, freak waves. You get them in large oceans you see, which is my area of expertise. I've calculated how often they occur and have come to the conclusion that they're actually far more likely on this lake.

Prince Even on a lake this small?

H That shows how little you know about coupled processes doesn't it? And what if we hit a freak wind gust? Big wind gusts can be pretty horrible if you get them in the INDIAN OCEAN

Prince Yes, as restaurants go it's very poorly ventilated isn't it?

H No no- THE indian ocean! Anyway, I can't help you as I'm too busy: I'm stuck in my research

Prince What's the problem?

H I'm trying to identify a pattern in my model, but I just can't. I've tried all sorts of pattern matching algorithms with the UM, but nothing works! I've even tried using NERDs

Prince That's not a nice way to talk about the CGAM postdocs.

H No, NERD; Normalised Eigenvalue Regression Derivative. I've tried using GEEKS

Prince Now come on- the 3rd floor postdocs may be a bit anoraky but still...

H No, GEEK- Global Empirical Entropy prediKtor. Nothing works.

Prince Well, maybe you something that's a little bit different. Maybe you could massage your model results a bit to give you the answers you want.

H You mean-

Prince That's right- you've gotta be another one of those <DAAA da-da-da> sexy model fudgers. The Met. Departments full of them.

H Great! I'll tell you what, as you've helped me, I might as well help you across the lake- it'll cut 10 minutes off my lap time! Err but don't tell Laila or Emily I told you that, OK?

(Prince and Hilary Walk off stage, Prince reappears)

P Well, I'm across the lake! Now which way...

(Ian James appears in sandals, school uniform)

IJ: Hello there

Prince If you don't mind me asking, how did you get across the lake?

I I errr...I walked around it. See? (Points off stage) I have to come this way to get to the school disco. I'm in charge of it, you see.

Prince Oh. I see, oh well. I need to save Snow White by giving her love's first kiss. Can you help me?

I Excellent- after 3 months my first useful job as head of school disco! Well, I could help you, but my head's too messed up trying to MC this school disco meeting. You see, I don't think I'll get any RESPEC there.

Prince Why's that then?

I I usually start with some snazzy gramophone records with the latest beat combos, and then move onto some cool mellow jazz. (pause, looks at audience) Nice! (jazzman fastshow style)
But that really doesn't seem to get everyone else at the school disco charged up. I wonder if my music isn't edgy enough. I wonder if it's just too politically correct.

Prince I see the problem- it's your material.
(rapping) The music's gotta be fluid and dynamic-
so you help your colleagues to jam it.
Use the post-viva speech
To give groove some reach.
One last thing: in order to be kewl
Dress and impress,
and you'll rule the school.

I You mean I've got to be a bit nuts- a bit insane?

Prince Yes, the crowd responds to displays of SHEAR INSTABILITY.

I Thanks! You've really helped me (gets out baseball cap, turns it round). Well, dude, your messed-up beaudacious babe is, like, totally crashed out over there in a cottage in the clearing. Oh well, I gotta mosey. Later, princely dude!

(Ian walks off)

Prince At last, I'm near the cottage. I'm nearly there! I'm coming to save you Snow White!

Act IV

*Start Snow White asleep. Dwarves enter. See Snow White on the be(table).
Dwarves need to enter so that they are standing in order for the line up later...
Geordy, Sparky, Shiney, Noisy, Tashful, Doc, Dopey*

Eunice: Not long to go now my dears and then we can all go and have a nice beer, I mean cup of tea. Oh look here come those funny little lecturers, back from another conference.

Dwarves enter - returning from conference. They are singing

Dwarves: 'Hi Ho, Hi Ho
It's home from the conference we go
<whistling>
Hi Ho Hi Ho Hi Ho Hi Ho

As dwarves reach the front they change to a different song:

Dwarves: Woolnough, Woolnough,
Its down to coffee I go,
With a cup of tea,
And my knobbly knees,
Woolnough, Woolnough

Dopey: Hi Doc

Doc: No I'm prof

Dopey: Hey what ever man. How was the holiday - conference? Where did you go ?

Doc: Atlantis. Nice place, bit wet. But I did get this great conference bag.

Dopey: Yeah cool man. I went to the Haaaaague and I got one of those far out bags too.

(All of the dwarves look at their own bags and suddenly seem less impressed because they are all the same).

Sparky: Hey, where is that lazy PhD student? I need her to make me some plots for my conference proceedings.

Geordy: I bet she's having another coffee break...

Sparky (to Geordy): or running around campus wearing nylon shorts...

Shiney (to Sparky): or playing music...

Noisy: (to Shiney): or playing cricket...

Tashful: (to Noisy): or swimming...

Doc: (to Tashful): or rehearsing for some amateur production...

Dopey: (to Doc): or recovering from a pub crawl...

Dwarves (in unison): PhD students are soooooo lazy.

Geordy: Yeah there she is lying on the table. I bet she was HARING down drinks with Len Shaffrey in the Purple TORTOISE last night.
(Try to wake the bint up)

Sparky: Oh, she's not getting up. I could revive her with my Kinder Surprise (turns to audience) Electrodes. (produces large shiney kinder egg thing that splits into two to make ER electrodes).

Tashful: We haven't time for that. I've got another conference in Morcombe (brings out & wiggles glasses).

Shiney: Very Wise. (Usual M&W stance adopted)

Geordy: Didn't that waster David leave a glass box lying around here?

Dopey: Yeah all he did was sit around and drink all day. Watching the birds go by.

Doc: What was his name... Frame? ...

Noisey: No not David Frame, Blane. David Blane

Sparky: (to audience) This act is as esoteric as Marc Stringer's Badminton Tournament.

(Put her in a glass box and leave her on the side of the stage. Narrator could periodically throw things at her).

Dwarves: Bob Plant, Bob Plant,
Think of a rhyme we can't,
No not Led Zep,
But Urban Met,
Bob Plant, Bob Plant

Dwarves leave

(Prince breathless, runs in to find bird-in-a-box.)

Prince: Ah there she is, my beautiful princess. She would look great in DIAMONDS AND PEARLS but all I have is this RASPBERRY BERET.

Eunice: (to Prince)Oi. Quick hide.(to audience) Look who's coming. It's that evil Queen and that nice old man Brian Hoskins. And who have they got with them?... Its that wise old bearded man from the East – it's Michael McIntyre. And they're both fr-us. Oh no it says 'F-R-S'.

(Enter Queen, Hoskins and McIntyre)

Queen (aside): (Cackles). Now my evil plan will come to fruition. My thesis will remain the best ever. Snow White is still asleep and these two examiners (points) are already loosing patience with her. She will never pass her viva – haa haa.

McIntyre: Where is she? This is highly irregular. I must be bumbling back to Cambridge.

Hoskins: It's a shame. It a nice a piece of work. And she was a good student.

McIntyre: Put your hand on your heart and tell me that we're through.

Queen: (to audience) ha ha I'm immediately going to the examinations office to tell them that she's failed.

(Queen leaves, Prince stands up)

Prince: (aside) This is desperate. What an evil plan. I must rescue my sweet heart. (to audience) .With their old eyes and this wig and hat (that have been conveniently left here in true panto style) I'll be able to pass as Snow White and take her viva for her.

(During viva Prince talks in normal voice but occasionally forgets himself and talks in falsetto)

Prince: Excuse me Sirs. I'm here.

Hoskins: About time. It took you longer to get here than the Urn Repair Man....

McIntyre: and I've come from Cambridge "especially for you"

(All sit around table. Lights go down. Who wants to be a Millionaire Music.)

H + M: Lets play, Who wants to be a Doc-tair.

McIntyre: p42. I see that you've taken a brand new stance now. Come on baby tell me about the local motion.

Hoskins: Is it,

A: PV

B: Banana

C: I know you'll get to like it if you give it a chance now.

D: Thermal Wind Balance.

(Answers appear on screen as Hoskins reads them)

Prince (not sure): Hmmm, errr, is it, no

Hoskins: You know you've still got 3 life lines.

Prince: I'll ask the audience!

(Audience: shout a lot of things, Prince listens)

Prince: Rub it?... (listens) Oh C ... "I know you'll get to like it if you give it a chance now".

Hoskins: Is that your final answer.

Prince: Yep.

McIntyre: You had major corrections, we'll find out if you have minor corrections after this break.....

(Comercial Break Section, a bit rapid fire)

(Oklahoma music, enter Ross Reynolds with stetson, should talk in eccentric deep south accent)

RR: Hodwy y'all Ross Reynolds here, do you want an exciting holiday. Severe winds guaranteed. Storm chasin' and tephigram tracin' in Oklahoma with Extreme Weather Holidays.

(Exit RR, music changes to Eye of the tiger. Enter Anthony Illingworth with box of dbZ which looks like Daz, knocks on door)

Eunice: Oh its that Anthony Illingworth off the telly.

AI: Bonjour I'm here to test out new dbZ ultra, improves your brightness by a power of six and detects all small particles.

Eunice: Oh have you brought your largest, steerable.... (cut off by scratch on the soundtrack. And shampoo sound track starts)

(Music changes to Raindrops Keep Falling on my head, enter Alan Thorpe)

Alan Thorpe: Do you ever get tired of all those meteorological organisations you have to chair. Acronyms driving you mad? Thorpe laboratories have come up with the perfect solution. Now you only need to take one bottle into the shower. That's right just NCAS 'n' go. (cheesy grin)Because I'm worth it.

(Back to the studio)

Hoskins: Hi we're back. When we left Snow White was on major corrections trying to get onto minor and she answered C

McIntyre: Snow you had major corrections. You've now got minor corrections.

McIntyre: For no corrections; I see you've done some back trajectories. Tell me how do you step back in time?

(Up on screen)

A: Runge-Kutta 4

B: Semi-Lagrangian

C: FORTRAN

D: Better the devil you know.

Prince: Oh I need to phone to friend

Hoskins: Who do you want to call?

Prince: Hoskins, McIntyre, I want And Robertson. *(Ann Robinson?)*

McIntyre/Hoskins (look at each other): Who?

M+H pass phone to Prince. He dials number.

Ring ring ring.

Recorded voice: Sorry the number(person?) you have dialled has not been recognised.

McIntyre: No answer. Sorry nobody knows where he is now

Hoskins: Well guess anyway.

Prince: (stutter) B-b-b-b-...

Hoskins: What are you blathering about woman?

Prince: (nervously) ... Lucid repetition..?

(dwarves enter at start of singing and do dancing thing with body letters. After music intro McIntyre strips jacket to reveal womens clothes on him – like last year!)

McIntyre (stands):

In my imagination,
There is no complication,
Our talks are lucid all the time,

In my mind a sweet sensation,
There is no hesitation,
Reading papers would be fine,

I'm dreaming,
The papers all made sense,
They're all in the right tense,
But talks are all I do,
For funding to come through,

We should be so Lucid, Lucid, Lucid, Lucid,
We all should be so Lucid in talks,
We should be so Lucid, Lucid, Lucid, Lucid,

We all should be so Lucid in correspondence with the Royal Meteorological Society.

Eunice: Oh do hurry up boys, (turns to audience) this act is going as slowly as the new tap on the coffee urn.

Hoskins: Ok Ok. You've certainly struck the right chord with Michael my dear.

McIntyre: Marvellous. Pass -with no corrections!

Hoskins hands over certificate.

Hoskins: Its is customary to give a speech. Blah blah blah. Lets celebrate in the usual way. Off to the Tuns.

Applause

Shiner: Come on Snow White

Prince (*delaying*): I'm coming, I just need to check my thesis to find out which words I used most often.

Everyone gone

Prince (*aside*): At last everyone has gone and I'm alone with Snow White. I feel a kiss coming on (*kiss music as Prince approaches*)

Prince gets ready for the kiss holding up certificate as if it were mistletoe. Puckering up the lips.....

Suddenly Snow White leaps up and takes the certificate.

Snow White: That'll be mine. Thanks very much. My plan worked. I was never asleep at all. I pretended to be asleep because I didn't want to sit my viva, I knew this chump would do it for me. Half a pint to send me to sleep, you must be joking! With year round pub crawls and summer schools I am well trained. I'm to the 3 Tuns to celebrate with everyone else. Yippee Skippy.

Music starts everyone piles on and we all sing a song.

Stuck with the mirror and you?

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