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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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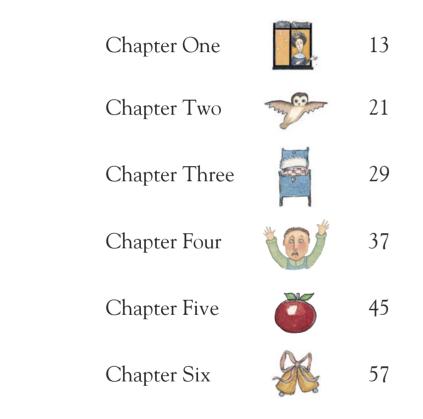
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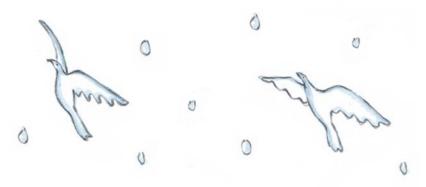












One snowy day long ago, a queen sat by her window sewing. While she stitched, her thoughts went to the baby she was going to have.

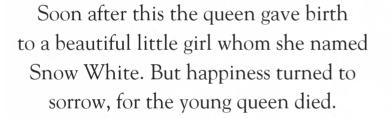


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The queen pricked her finger on her needle, and three drops of blood fell on to the snow. She looked at the redness of the blood, the whiteness of the snow, and the blackness of the ebony window frame and said, "I wish my baby's skin to be as white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



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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?"

