

SPIKE. Tell me, did you like my audition? Feel free to be honest.
VANYA. Um ... I liked it very much. I don't see why HBO didn't cast you. I think they must be ... muddled.

SPIKE. Yeah, screwed up, huh? Come on, old guy, let's go chow down, and you can tell me more of what you thought. *(They start to exit to the dining room.)*

VANYA. *(Not sure what else he can say.)* Tell you more? Alright ... *(They exit to the dining room.)*

Scene 2

Sound of a doorbell.

start
MASHA. *(Calling from offstage.)* Come in! The door is open. *(Enter Masha dressed like Snow White, and carrying a shepherd's crook. Her costume is based on the old Walt Disney cartoon: she has a bright blue bodice, with puffy sleeves around her shoulders. She has a big yellow skirt to the floor, and a red bow in her hair. She looks good, but it's a somewhat dominating costume. It is possible she is still putting parts of the costume on. Meanwhile Nina has let herself in and enters the morning room. She is dressed like a princess. She holds a fairy wand.)*

NINA. Hello. Oh my, you look beautiful.

MASHA. Oh dear, I didn't talk to you about costumes, did I? Whatever are you dressed as?

NINA. I didn't have anything, but my aunt and uncle took me to K-Mart, and I'm a princess.

MASHA. Oh you are? I see. I didn't get it. I thought you were a child dressed in her mother's clothes.

NINA. I'm sorry. I wasn't expecting to go to a costume party.

MASHA. No, that's quite evident.

NINA. What are you dressed as?

MASHA. What am I dressed as? You can't tell?

NINA. I think so. Are you that silent screen actress from the old movie who lives in a mansion and says, "I'm ready for my close-up, Mr. DeMille"? What's her name?

MASHA. No, I'm not Norma Desmond. Although when I'm

VIS+M+S
SIDE 4
NINA / MASHA

around you, I feel like her. You must be reading my aura.

NINA. I never really saw the movie. I just saw the clip where she says, "ready for my close-up." So who are you dressed as?

MASHA. I'm dressed as Snow White. The Walt Disney version.

NINA. I've never seen *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*. Is it like *The Little Mermaid*?

MASHA. (*A touch annoyed.*) No. One's about a mermaid, and the other's about dwarfs.

NINA. I see.

MASHA. Now since I'm Snow White, I feel all the other people going to the party with me must *relate* to Snow White. (*Enter Vanya dressed like one of the seven dwarfs. Big floppy knit cap, and a pumpkin-colored shirt with a belt around and brown pants.*) You see — like that. That's Grumpy, one of the seven dwarfs.

VANYA. Doc.

MASHA. Right. Doc. Another one of the seven dwarfs.

VANYA. You look lovely, Nina.

MASHA. No she doesn't. She looks like a child dressed for Halloween. I'm afraid I can't have it.

NINA. (*Sad but obedient.*) Oh. Well maybe I can't go then. I'm sorry I didn't have the right costume.

VANYA. Masha ...

MASHA. No, no, Nina. I'm not saying you can't go to the party. I'm so sorry. I'm really being a bully, but when you're my age — whatever that age is — you get used to having your way. I suppose I'm monstrous, but lovable monstrous, I hope. Besides, the good news is I have an extra costume that **DOES** relate to *Snow White*, and if you'll just put it on, then we'll all be very happy. Now wait here, I have to ask Spike where he put it.

NINA. Oh I can't wait to see what he's wearing.

MASHA. Really? Why?

NINA. Well, I can't wait to see what everyone's wearing.

MASHA. Okay.

VANYA. What is he going as?

MASHA. He's going as Prince Charming. It took a long time to convince him, so everyone tell him he looks sexy. Not you, Nina. Vanya, you tell him. I'll be right back. (*Masha suddenly takes both of Nina's hands.*) Thank you, Nina, for being so cooperative. (*Ends the moment, moves on, exits to the second floor.*)

NINA. I wonder what costume she has for me. *end*