

SLEEPING BEAUTY

A Fairytale Retold

By Dale Ahlquist

Cast of Characters

19 Females; 9 Males; 11 Either

<u>KNUCKLE:</u>	One of Hecka's minions.
<u>PIMPLE:</u>	One of Hecka's minions.
<u>SCAB:</u>	One of Hecka's minions.
<u>BELCH:</u>	One of Hecka's minions.
<u>ORBA:</u>	One of Hecka's minions.
<u>STUCK:</u>	One of Hecka's minions.
<u>LOOP:</u>	One of Hecka's minions.
<u>GOOZE:</u>	One of Hecka's minions.
<u>DAISY:</u>	Hecka's servant.
<u>HECKA:</u>	The witch.
<u>STEWARD:</u>	Head of the servants.
<u>FIRST SERVANT:</u>	A servant in the castle.
<u>SECOND SERVANT:</u>	A servant in the castle.
<u>THIRD SERVANT:</u>	A servant in the castle.
<u>LADY MAY:</u>	A noble lady.
<u>LADY KAY:</u>	A noble lady.
<u>LADY FAY:</u>	A noble lady.
<u>LADY SAY:</u>	A noble lady.
<u>KING RENWALD:</u>	A king, Rose's father.
<u>QUEEN RONYA:</u>	A queen, Rose's mother.
<u>KING MANDOR:</u>	A king, Victor's father.

<u>QUEEN MAURA:</u>	A queen, Victor's mother.
<u>STELLA:</u>	One of the fairies.
<u>DELLA:</u>	One of the fairies.
<u>NELLA:</u>	One of the fairies.
<u>ELLA:</u>	One of the fairies.
<u>BELLA:</u>	One of the fairies.
<u>WELLA:</u>	One of the fairies.
<u>ZELLA:</u>	One of the fairies.
<u>JOSEPH:</u>	A peasant father who takes care of Princess Rose.
<u>GENEVIEVE:</u>	Joseph's wife.
<u>MARGARET:</u>	Joseph and Genevieve's daughter.
<u>MARTHA:</u>	Joseph and Genevieve's daughter.
<u>ROSE:</u>	The princess.
<u>VICTOR:</u>	The prince. Mandor and Maura's son.
<u>JEM:</u>	One of Victor's companions.
<u>REZ:</u>	One of Victor's companions.
<u>COR:</u>	One of Victor's companions.
<u>WIL:</u>	One of Victor's companions.

Scene Breakdown

ACT I

Scene 1 – Mistress Hecka’s Castle

Scene 2 – The Palace of King Renwald and Queen Ronya

Scene 3 – A Village Street, About Eighteen Years Later

ACT II

Scene 1 – Mistress Hecka’s Castle

Scene 2 – Joseph’s Cottage

Scene 3 – The Palace

Scene 4 – Somewhere outside the Palace

Scene 5 – Mistress Hecka’s Castle

Scene 6 – The Palace

Scene 7 – The Palace

Approximate Length

75 minutes

Time

Medieval Ages

Place

A Kingdom

Scene 3

Setting: A village with a fountain.

At Rise: A few villagers walk by in the background, including one robed and hooded figure. ROSE, MARGARET, and MARTHA carrying baskets. ROSE sets her basket down.

ROSE

What a perfect day!

MARGARET

Rose, for you it's always a perfect day.

ROSE

Margaret, you make it sound like there's something wrong with perfect days.

MARTHA

Rose, what do you want for your eighteenth birthday?

ROSE

Nothing. I have everything I want.

MARTHA

Rose, I thought you wanted to go on an adventure to visit a far-off kingdom.

MARGARET

And not just one adventure. Many adventures. Many kingdoms.

ROSE

Yes, well, that would be nice, too. But then, I've already done that.

MARGARET

What? When?

ROSE

Every night.

MARGARET

Ah, Rose the dreamer.

MARTHA

Nobody dreams like you, Rose.

ROSE

You're a dreamer, too, Martha. So are you, Margaret. We all are. I just like my dreams. Good things happen in them.

MARTHA

I like your dreams, too, Rose.

MARGARET

But wouldn't you *really* like to visit all those places? To see them with your eyes open?

ROSE

(Closes her eyes, smiles, sighs)

Maybe.

(They laugh)

What about you two? What do you dream about?

MARGARET

I sometimes dream about living in a palace.

MARTHA

I dream about marrying a handsome prince.

ROSE

Of course, you do.

MARGARET

What do you mean, "of course"?

ROSE

Those are normal dreams.

MARGARET

But it's not normal to live in a castle.

MARTHA

It's not normal to marry a prince.

ROSE

But it's normal to dream about it.

(Enter GENEVIEVE)

GENEVIEVE

There you are! I always tell you not to wander off.

MARGARET

Mother, we are not little girls anymore. Even Rose is eighteen.

GENEVIEVE

Not quite!

(Enter JOSEPH)

JOSEPH

And Rose, do you mind telling me how you are suddenly almost eighteen years old?

ROSE

Suddenly, Father? It wasn't sudden at all. It was slow and very difficult. In fact, I had to concentrate on it every day.

JOSEPH

Whereas I have had to concentrate on not thinking about it every day.

MARTHA

How do you concentrate about not thinking about something?

JOSEPH

Badly, in my case. I tried to forget that Rose was growing up, and I failed completely. Today I had the enormous surprise that this is your very last day of being seventeen.

MARGARET

Father, you never made a fuss about us turning eighteen.

JOSEPH

And I'm not making a fuss about Rose. Do I look like I'm making a fuss? Genevieve, these young ladies claim I am fussing. Haven't I always let you do all the fussing?

GENEVIEVE

Yes, Joseph, you have always left the fussing to me.

JOSEPH

So, please fuss then. Rose is about to turn eighteen. It requires fussing.

GENEVIEVE

Very well! And what do you suggest I do, Joseph?

JOSEPH

I suggest you help us find the man who sells candied almonds, so that we can buy a bunch of them and eat them!

MARTHA

Good idea, Father!

ROSE

A perfect day!

(Exit all, ROSE leaving her basket behind. Enter VICTOR, sword-fighting with JEM. After a fierce fight, VICTOR disarms JEM and knocks him down. Suddenly REZ enters and begins sword-fighting with VICTOR. Same thing. Then, both COR and WIL enter and VICTOR fights both of them, managing to disarm them and knock them both down. He stands over them, panting. They are on the ground, panting even more.)

JEM

(From the ground)

Had enough?

REZ

We can keep doing this, you know.

COR

Tell us when you admit defeat.

WIL

Yeah.

VICTOR

I tell you I don't want to go to the palace!

JEM

But you have to go. King Mandor and Queen Maura have commanded us to escort you to the castle.

VICTOR

But the King and the Queen are deluded.

COR

That's no way to talk about the King and the Queen.

VICTOR

But it's true. They're not facing reality.

WIL

You should show more respect!

VICTOR

I cannot respect such miserable souls who are living in a fairy tale.

WIL

But they are your parents.

VICTOR

I can't help that.

COR

Yes, you can actually. You can help your parents by obeying them.

VICTOR

That was clever, Cor, but you avoided the point.

COR

Sometimes it's good to avoid the point. In a swordfight, for instance.

WIL

And Victor, you are the one avoiding the point. Cor was right. You simply do not want to obey your parents.

VICTOR

But they want me to marry some horrible princess that I've never met.

REZ

How do you know she's horrible?

JEM

She might be wise.

REZ

And good.

COR

And thoughtful.

WIL

She might even be beautiful.

COR

And after all, she's a princess.

VICTOR

None of that matters. She's under a curse!

That's horrible.

REZ

That's what I said!

VICTOR

Curses aren't so bad.

WIL

What are you talking about, Wil?

VICTOR

I'm just thinking of all the times Jem has cursed me. And Rez. And Cor. I've turned out all right.

WIL

I don't know about that.

JEM

We're talking about a real curse, you numbskulls. A witch's curse.

VICTOR

You don't believe that stuff, do you?

REZ

Yes, I do.

VICTOR

What do you know about witch's curses?

COR

I know enough.

VICTOR

Enough? How much is that? Tell us what you know.

WIL

(Sternly)
I don't want to talk about it, okay?

VICTOR

Okay, let's not talk about it.

JEM

(Pauses)
So what should we talk about?

REZ

Let's talk about hunting. Or fighting.

VICTOR

No, let's talk about women.

COR

And romance.

WIL

(Exasperated)
What is the matter with you?!

VICTOR

We could talk about hunting and fighting. Hunting for a woman and fighting for her hand.

COR

That's romantic!

WIL

I must have hit you all too hard. You've all gone soft!

VICTOR

Do you want to fight some more?

JEM

(With no enthusiasm)
Sure.

VICTOR

But we still have to take you to the palace.

JEM

Give me a few minutes alone.

VICTOR

Five minutes.

JEM

Ten.

VICTOR

Seven.

JEM

VICTOR

Eight.

JEM

Don't make us use force.

(VICTOR reaches for his sword. The COMPANIONS scurry away. JEM returns.)

JEM

Seven minutes.

(Exit JEM. VICTOR sits alone at the well, lost in thought. Enter ROSE, coming to retrieve her basket.)

ROSE

Hello.

VICTOR

(Turning and snapping irritably)

Hello!

(After he sees her, he changes his tone, much softer and friendlier.)

I mean, hello.

ROSE

I've never seen you before. Are you from around here?

VICTOR

I'm...I was just...I mean...I'm...

ROSE

It was a yes or no question.

VICTOR

Yes, I...

ROSE

Yes, you're from around here?

VICTOR

No. I mean, yes, I know it was a yes or no question, and the fact is, I'm not from *here* exactly, but I suppose you could say I'm from *around* here...depending...upon...what you consider "around" to mean.

ROSE

I mean this village.

VICTOR

I'm not from this village. This is the first time I've ever been here.

ROSE

I've never been anywhere else.

VICTOR

Never? That is so amazing.

ROSE

Is it?

VICTOR

So this is your world, right here.

ROSE

I dream about seeing the rest of the world.

VICTOR

I'm sure your dreams are...quite...lovely. But they are probably more exciting than the rest of the world.

ROSE

Why do you say that?

VICTOR

Because I've seen the rest of the world. And this village is more interesting. It has everything you want.

ROSE

How do you know?

VICTOR

Because...it has everything I want.

ROSE

What?

VICTOR

If I could, I would stay right here. Forever. The last thing I want to do is leave.

ROSE

Then why don't you stay?

VICTOR

If I told you, you wouldn't believe me.

ROSE

So you have an unbelievable story. Try me. I have a very good imagination.

VICTOR

What if I told you that four armed men are about to come and escort me to the castle?

ROSE

I wouldn't believe *that*!

VICTOR

See?

ROSE

But that's not unbelievable. That's just unlikely. I was hoping you would at least give my imagination something to do.

VICTOR

What if I told you I am under a curse?

ROSE

Much more interesting!

VICTOR

But you don't believe that either.

ROSE

Whatever your reason for not staying, I'm sure it's more interesting than staying.

VICTOR

No. You have let your imagination fool you. Your life really is more interesting than mine. This village is a wonderful, happy, *normal* place. You can make your own life here, and do things that really matter. My life has been made up for me by other people.

ROSE

How interesting.

VICTOR

Were you listening? I told you my life is not interesting. Unless you think horrible is interesting. It's all going to happen and there's nothing I can...

ROSE

Oh don't bother finishing that sentence. What makes your life interesting is not what happens to you, but what you *do* about it.

VICTOR

Don't you think it's dangerous to defy fate?

ROSE

It's much more dangerous to resign yourself to fate.

VICTOR

That sounds...like...wisdom...or something.

ROSE

(Matter-of-factly)

I've been told it's prudence, actually.

VICTOR

Well, I was right about one thing.

ROSE

What.

VICTOR

I was right about this village being a good place to stay.

ROSE

(With a gentle, playful mocking)

But four armed men are going to come and escort you to the palace.

(Enter the COMPANIONS, hands on their swords)

JEM

Okay, we have to go to the castle now.

ROSE

(Incredulous, as if a joke has been played on her)

Wait a minute.

VICTOR

That wasn't seven minutes!

JEM

And *that's* not "alone." Now let's go.

VICTOR

But, I can't go now. Not now.

REZ

(Tentatively)

Don't make us use force.

(VICTOR starts reaching for his sword)

ROSE

(To VICTOR)

Who are you? I don't even know your name.

VICTOR

And I don't know yours.

ROSE

I'm...

(Enter JOSEPH, GENEVIEVE, MARTHA, and MARGARET)

GENEVIEVE

What's going on?

JOSEPH

Is there trouble?

REZ

Oh, there's trouble, alright.

JEM

(To JOSEPH)

No trouble at all, sir. We're just passing through.

(To VICTOR)

Let's go.

COR

Good thing you're not interested in romance.

(Exit the COMPANIONS and VICTOR, as VICTOR and ROSE exchange looks)

MARGARET

Who was that?

MARTHA

I think he was a prince.

ROSE

Maybe.

GENEVIEVE

A prince? He looked more like a prisoner.

ROSE

Maybe he is a prisoner, too. He might need to be rescued.

JOSEPH

A prince? The son of a king does not need to be rescued. He needs to do the rescuing.

ROSE

Maybe he needs to know what it is to be defeated before he knows what it is to conquer.

JOSEPH

Do you know where they are taking him?

ROSE

To the palace.

JOSEPH

How interesting.

ROSE

Why do you say that?

JOSEPH

Because today we are going to the castle, too.

MARTHA

We are, Father?

JOSEPH

Yes, for some reason, we have been summoned by the King.

BLACKOUT