



2003

### Hans Christian Andersen's the Snow Queen: a Christmas pageant

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Kennedy, Richard. *Hans Christian Andersen's the Snow Queen: a Christmas Pageant*. HarperCollins, 1996. ISBN 0060271159. Contact publisher regarding price. 85 pp.

Reviewer: Joseph Craven

Reading Level: All

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Fantasy Play; Plays; Christmas Play;

Subject: Children's plays, American; Fairy tales--Juvenile drama; Andersen, Hans Christian; Drama--Reviews;

Theme: The greatest power is love.

Production Requirements: Simple to moderate sets, costumes, etc. There are set changes.

Acts: 2

Run Time: 1 hour

Characters: 23+

Cast: Adults and children

Time Period: 100 years ago

Gerda loves Kay, and these two children are to get married when they are older. Grandmother tells Gerda and Kay stories about the Snow Queen but Kay does not believe these stories. Then, the Snow Queen takes Kay. She casts a curse that freezes him. Gerda goes after Kay to try and find him. She goes through many trials and meets many people along her way. Gerda's love for Kay motivates her. When she finds Kay her love for him melts the Snow Queen's curse. Now Kay's love for Gerda can be perfect and eternal.

This play is enjoyable and is an easy read. It is well written. The descriptions create scenes in the reader's head that bring the play to life. This play helps kids learn that someone always loves them but to be careful of those who try to buy their love as the Snow Queen does. It is also a good adventure. Kay did not believe Grandmother's stories about the Snow Queen, and then the Snow Queen comes and takes him to her palace. Also, the adventure Gerda has while trying to find and rescue Kay adds more excitement and conflict. I would encourage others to read or produce this play.