

# INN OF THE SEVEN DWARVES

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Characters:

Mean Queen Esmerelda (mezzo)

Snow Drift (soprano)

Boss (baritone)

French Chef (tenor)

Landscaper (mezzo)

Italian maid (baritone)

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## EXCERPT:

Boss: (storming off) I don't know what yer sayin'! Just do yer' work! That's what I'm payin' for!

SD: Why can I understand you and he can't?

Chef: Let me see your feet.

SD: My feet?

Chef: I knew it! It's the shoes.

SD: The shoes?

Landscaper: Con-verse.

Chef: Con'verse. Converse'. As in conversation. Listening. Being patient.

Landscaper: Trying. Not closing your mind. Not shutting people out because they're different.

Chef: She's Mexican. I'm French. But we understand each other. It's like the shoes are magic.

Landscaper: Maybe it's because we know what it's like to be the outsider.

SD: Do you understand everything each other says? Wow!

Landscaper: Well, there are some things that we don't get. In those cases, we bring in...

Maid: (entering carrying "The Shoe"): THE SHOE!!

SD: (whispering) Who's that?

(*Fleidermaus*)Landscaper: SOMETIMES IT'S TOUGH TO UNDERSTAND AND LEADS TO MUCH DESPAIR, HOW TO UNDERSTAND THIS NEW LAND, DOES ANYBODY CARE?

Chef: THE THREE OF US ARE NOT ALIKE, ITALIAN, MEXICAN AND FRENCH, WHEN WE DON'T GET ONE ANOTHER, THIS SHOE MAKES IT A CINCH!

L/C/M: OH, IT'S THE SHOE, YES, IT'S THE SHOE, THE WONDERS THAT THIS SHOE CAN DO! HE (I) SAYS (SAY) BONJOUR, SHE (I) HEAR(S) HOLA, THE WONDERS OF THE SHOE!

Add SD: LA—(repeat chorus)

L: SOMETIMES WE SAY IT WITH A SMILE,

L/C/M: IT'S UNDERSTOOD IN ANY LANGUAGE FROM GROWN UP TO A LITTLE CHILD, A SMILE AND OPEN HEART TEAR WALLS APART, AH, AH---

Landscaper: But when we have to use words, and we can't find the right ones in the right language... All: OH, IT'S THE SHOE, YES, IT'S THE SHOE.....

Maid: I am Sophia! You are so very, very nice!

Chef: And she sings like a leetle bird! Une petite oiseau!

SD: Why, thank you. My name is Snow Drift. You can call me Snow.

Maid: Grazie for being so nice. Not everyone is nice to us, you know. Anyone that moves from their home country to America can tell you that it is not easy.

Chef: It is not easy to leave behind the land that you know. To leave behind your friends, your school, maybe your grandparents or aunts and uncles.

Landscaper: Then to arrive in a place where everything moves so fast. Everyone but you understands what's going on. You feel lost.

Maid: You feel alone. It is hard to make friends when you don't understand the language.

Chef: It is hard to learn in school when you don't understand the language. I was at the top of my class in my old country. Here, people think I'm not smart because the language is still hard for me.

SD: I don't speak any language but English. I know my friends from other continents...Europe, Africa, South America...speak several languages. I am so impressed with that. I can't imagine if I suddenly moved to Czechoslavkia. I would have to point to everything.

*Mikado*)

Maid: YOU'D HAVE TO POINT TO EVERYTHING AND HOLD YOUR HANDS LIKE THIS (hands out questioning) YOU'D HAVE TO KEEP A LIST, VOCABULARY LIST.

SD: IF I STUCK TO ENGLISH ONLY AND REFUSED TO STRETCH MY WINGS, JUST THINK OF WHAT I'D MISS, JUST THINK OF WHAT I'D MISS!

Chef: FOR WITHOUT THE SHOE, YOU'D FUMBLE AND NOT SEE WHAT THERE'S TO SEE, YOU WOULD CLOSE YOUR EARS TO NEW IDEAS AND CURIOSITY, YOU'D MISS OUT ON EXCITING THINGS, THINGS THAT ARE NEW TO YOU,

SD: I'LL LEARN A LANGUAGE RIGHT AWAY, I MAY NOT HAVE THE SHOE,

L: YOU MIGHT NEED TO USE THE BATHROOM AND NOT KNOW- WHAT TO DO,

UNLESS YOU HAVE THE SHOE, UNLESS YOU HAVE THE SHOE, All: UNLESS YOU HAVE THE SHOE...

SD: You know what's funny about it? America is a land of immigrants. People have migrated to America for hundreds of years. We're all immigrants if you go back far enough. The only native Americans are the Native American Indians who have always lived here. And it's believed that they may have originally come from Asia thousands of years ago.

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Boss: (bursting in) If I don't get this bed and breakfast on the map after this, I never will! Listen up! We're gonna be famous! It's the big break I've been waitin' for! Oh, good grief. You can't understand me. (slo-o-owly) Queen Es-me-rel-da is passing through near here. A po-li-ti-cal tour. (giving up; faster again) If she decides to have her entourage stay here at the inn, we'll be on the news, in the magazines, on Entertainment Tonight! Why did I send that housekeeper to town to pick up my order of peacock feathers? She'll be gone for two days. I never dreamed I'd need her. *(Pirates of Penzance)*

QUEEN ESMERELDA'S COMING AND I NEED A MAID TO CLEAN THE INN,

IT NEEDS TO BE MORE SPOTLESS, TIDY, SHINY, THAN IT'S EVER BEEN,

WHY DID I SEND MY MAID AWAY TO SHOP FOR ME IN AMSTERDEN?

THIS IS MY CHANCE FOR FAME, I'LL BE ON NIGHTLY NEWS AND CNN!

WITHOUT MAID TO KEEP IT CLEAN, THE FANCY QUEEN WILL HATE THE PLACE,

SHE WON'T STAY HERE, SHE'LL JUST PASS BY, AND I WILL NEVER SHOW MY FACE,

EMBARASSED, SHAMED, I'LL WISH THAT I HAD GONE INTO THE FISHING TRADE,

THE SHAME OF COMING CLOSE TO FAME, BUT THWARTED BY A MISSING MAID!

L/C/S: THE SHAME OF COMING CLOSE TO FAME, BUT THWARTED BY A MISSING MAID,

THE SHAME OF COMING CLOSE TO FAME, BUT THWARTED BY A MISSING MAID,  
THE SHAME OF COMING CLOSE TO FAME, BUT THWARTED BY A MISSING, MISSING MAID!

Boss: I HAVE TO HIRE SOMEONE AND I HAVE TO DO IT STRAIGHT AWAY,  
THERE IS NO TIME TO TARRY, I MUST FIND SOMEONE THIS VERY DAY,  
I DO NOT NEED A SPECIALIST, SHE CAN BE VERY GENERAL,  
I'D GLADLY HIRE SOMEONE WHO'S A MODERN MAID THAT'S GENERAL, (exits)

L/C/S: HE DOESN'T NEED A SPECIALIST, SHE CAN BE VERY GENERAL,  
HE'D GLADLY HIRE SOMEONE WHO'S A MODERN MAID THAT'S GENERAL!

Chef: You could get hired as a housekeeper!

SD: I need the job, but I don't think I want to be anywhere near where the Mean Queen might be. I should leave.

Landscaper: It's too dangerous. You don't know where her tour is taking her. If she comes across you on the road...well, she will try to come across you on the road. Splat. Get my drift, Snow Drift?

Chef: Stay here. We will protect you. No one wants to be alone. We are stronger together.

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Chef: I don't think she'll bother you again.

SD: Thanks for the intervention. I would have probably eaten that...

Boss: (mesmerized) Apple. What a beautiful apple. I miss my grandma's apple pie. Now, that's American. I've even heard it said, "American as apple pie."

SD: Actually, ancient Egyptians and Greeks made pie. They...

Chef: Mais, non! Ne mangez pas la pomme de terre!

Boss: (About to bite) What'd he say??

SD: Apple! Don't eat the apple! It's poisonous!

Chef: Put his hand on the shoe. Let's try it. (All touch shoe) The Mean Queen put poison on the apple. Your "housekeeper" is really Snow Drift. (Boss gasps) Yep, the great, great granddaughter of Snow White herself.

Landscaper: (entering) She is wise and very kind. She is open to others who are different. I see you gave him the Shoe. I wanted to give him the Boot.

Boss: Now, that I can understand you...now, that I can really talk to you, I'm speechless. I can't believe you saved me. I've been so mean to you.

Chef: Sometimes people are mean out of ignorance. Ignorance doesn't mean stupid. It means not understanding something.

SD: Sometimes it's not trying or not wanting to understand.

Landscaper: Think of that redwood tree that I am going to plant for you. It was shipped here from California. It is going to live here, grow here, take root here. For it to be able to live, we're going to have to take care of it, nurture it, water it. It's going to need our help.

Boss: I'm starting to get it. I'm going to have to work at it. I'm going to have to be open minded. I'm going to have to go out of my way to help others. People that talk differently, have different customs, need my help to take root in a new place.

SD: We need to remember that America has been a melting pot since the first explorers and settlers came here. Someone in each of our families was an immigrant at some point in time.

Chef: What makes America so interesting is that it is the product of so many different cultures. It's a mash up, a salad bowl, a mosaic.

*Paradox-Pirates of Penzance*

Landscaper: WALK INTO TOWN AND LOOK AROUND, YOU'LL FIND DIVERSITY ABOUNDS,

Chef: SPAGHETTI, PIZZA, BURRITOS-, FARFALAH AND EGG ROLLS,

SD: THE VOLKSWAGEN FROM GERMANY, CARS FROM KOREA, FROM JAPAN,

B: (finally getting it) ITALIAN SHOES AND SWISS MADE CLOCKS,

L/C/SD: IT'S ALL A MELTING POT! B: A MELTING POT! L/C/SD: A MELTING POT!

SD: SEE SARIS MADE IN INDIA, C/L: THERE'S FRENCH PERFUME AND RUSSIAN HATS.

ALL: OUR MELTING POT HAS THIS AND THAT! A MELTING POT, A MELTING POT, OUR COUNTRY IS A MELTING POT, FROM FAR AND NEAR, IN EV'RY YEAR, A MELTING POT!

(solo lines or tutti) OUR MUSIC COMES FROM MANY PLACES, MANY COUNTRIES, MANY RACES, SYMPHONIES, SOME WRITTEN BY BEETHOVEN OR KODALY, THE DRUMS OF AFRICA AND SUCH INFLUENCED ROCK AND ROLL SO MUCH, FROM BLUES TO JAZZ AND ALL WE HAVE, IT'S ALL A MELTING POT, A MELTING POT, A MELTING POT, OUR MUSIC IS A MELTING POT, IT'S BORN FROM MUSIC HEARD BEFORE AND GROWS TO MORE IN THIS GREAT POT! A MELTING POT, A MELTING POT, OUR MUSIC IS A MELTING POT, FROM FAR AND NEAR, IN EV'RY YEAR, A MELTING POT!

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