

Theatre
2 Act Play (Farce)

Bedtime Stories

STOP! Your cherished childhood memories are about to be tampered with. You'll die laughing when you learn the psychological truth, but be warned, you'll never see Red Riding Hood and Snow White in the same way again.

ACT 2

SCENE 1: THE CONSULTATION ROOM

DOCTOR CASE is asleep in his chair. Sitting opposite him is a life sized RAG DOLL version of Snow White. The toy box has reverted to its normal size. Grandma's house and the forest scene have been restored.

The PLANT is smoking a joint in his pot. HOOD and WOLF are back in the storybook. MS CLARKE (now dressed virginally) wakes up and resumes typing.

PLANT *(Disappointed) Oh man. (Sucks on joint rapidly to finish it. Coughs.)*

SFX *INTERCOM buzzes on Doctor Case's desk.*

DR CASE *(Buzzer wakes him up. He pushes a button) Yes Miss Clarke.*

MS CLARKE Doctor Case Mrs Tilbert phoned again. She needs to see you urgently. There were no other bookings so I gave her the first appointment after lunch.

DR CASE Ah yes, very efficient Miss Clarke.

MS CLARKE Thank you Doctor.

DR CASE *(Presses the intercom again.) Miss Clarke.*

MS CLARKE *(Hopeful) Yes doctor.*

DR CASE Would you come in here for a moment, there is someone I'd like you to meet.

MS CLARKE Is there?

DR CASE Yes.

MS CLARKE But I thought you were alone.

DR CASE Oh no Miss Clarke, to the contrary.

(MISS CLARKE stands up walks towards Dr Case's door, knocks and enters.)

DR CASE *(Stands to greet Ms Clarke and gestures towards Snow White the rag doll.)* I don't believe you've had the pleasure of meeting my wife.

MS CLARKE *(Gobsmacked.)*

DR CASE Miss Clarke. My wife, Mrs Snow Case.
(pause)
Miss Clarke? Say something. Don't be shy.

MS CLARKE *(Steps forward and shakes the rag dolls hand)* How do you do Mrs Snow....Case.

DR CASE Please Miss Clarke. Just Snow. No need for formalities here.

(MS CLARKE turns and looks at Doctor Case.)

DR CASE What is it Miss Clarke. What's wrong?

MS CLARKE She's not real, Doctor.

DR CASE I know this is hard for you Miss Clarke. Don't you think I've seen the way you look at me. I know that secretly you have been in love with me for years.

MS CLARKE But Doctor, your wife is a rag doll!

(MRS TILBERT enters reception and DINGS the bell. MS CLARKE hurriedly exits Dr Case's office and shuts the door. She leans up against the door aghast, totally ignoring Mrs Tilbert.

DR CASE continues to talk and joke with his wife - Snow White the rag doll.)

MRS TILBERT *(Attempts to attract Ms Clarke's attention)* Hello Miss. Hello. Is anybody in there? *(Pauses)* Hmm the lights are on but nobody is home.

(MRS TILBERT dings the bell frantically.)

MS CLARKE *(Jumps to her senses)* Mrs Tilbert! I'm sorry. I just had a bit of a nasty shock.

MRS TILBERT *(Looks toward Case's door and lowers her voice)* He didn't, you know, try anything did he?

MS CLARKE *(Embarrassed)* Good gracious me no. He just...*(suddenly stands to attention.)* I'm sorry Mrs Tilbert; you can't see Doctor Case today.

MRS TILBERT Why ever not? You said I had the first appointment after lunch.

MS CLARKE The doctor ate a chicken sandwich teaming with salmonella and died.

MRS TILBERT Nonsense girl. Food poisoning takes 48 hours to develop.

SFX *(BUZZING of Ms Clarke's intercom.)*

MS CLARKE He had to go out on an emergency then.

MRS TILBERT I don't believe you. That's him buzzing on the intercom.

MS CLARKE No it's not. He's not with it - I mean here with us at the moment.

MRS TILBERT Well someone is in his office. *(Moves toward Dr Case's door)* Shall I take a peek?

MS CLARKE *(Rushes to block Mrs Tilbert)* No you can't go in there. He's with his wife.

MRS TILBERT But you just said he wasn't here. Is he in or out? Which is it?

MS CLARKE Both. He's in and out, if you know what I mean.

MRS TILBERT No, I don't think I do know what you mean.

MS CLARKE He's in and out with his wife.

MRS TILBERT Do you mean...? In his office with his wife!

MS CLARKE Yes.

MRS TILBERT That's disgusting. Wait a minute, he hasn't got a wife.

MS CLARKE Er...

MRS TILBERT Good god! He's not with someone else's wife?

MS CLARKE *(Looking confused, then the penny drops)* Oh no, I didn't mean it like that.

(Dr Case's door opens. DR CASE stands in the doorway.)

DR CASE I thought I heard voices. What kept you Mrs Tilbert?

MRS TILBERT This silly girl here told me you were dead. Then she said you weren't in. Then she said you were with someone else's wife.

(DR CASE ushers MRS TILBERT into his room, scowls at Ms Clarke and slams the door. Ms Clarke puts her ear to the closed door.)

(MRS TILBERT takes a seat. In the chair next to her sits SNOW WHITE the rag doll. Mrs Tilbert can't stop looking at her.)

DR CASE Now you told Ms Clarke you had to meet with me urgently. What is the problem?

MRS TILBERT *(Distracted by the doll)* Since I saw you last Timothy...

DR CASE Timothy what, Mrs Tilbert?

MRS TILBERT Does that *(points to the doll)* have to be in here?

DR CASE Which?

MRS TILBERT *(Gingerly pokes her finger into the doll's arm)* This. It's rather-

DR CASE *(Defensive)* Rather what, Mrs Tilbert?!

MRS TILBERT Rather... off... really.

DR CASE *(Enraged)* Off! I'll tell you what's off. It's the likes of narrow minded women like you who-

(MS CLARKE bursts through the door and picks up Snow White - the doll, and moves her to the couch.)

MS CLARKE I'm sure Mrs Snow Case would be far more comfortable on the couch over here Doctor. Don't you think?

(CASE follows CLARKE with the doll to the couch.)

MRS TILBERT Mrs Show Case?

DR CASE No. Mrs Snow Case, Mrs Tilbert!

- MRS TILBERT What ever do you use her for? Frighten kiddies who watch too much telly.
- DR CASE *(Protectively clutches the dolls hand)* I'll have you know Mrs Tilbert that this is my wife you are mocking.
- MRS TILBERT Your wife! Have you gone completely -
- MS CLARKE Life, Mrs Tilbert. Doctor Case means life. He has put a life time of work into this...er...comfort doll and it... has healed many a tortured mind exposed to... too much 'telly'.
- DR CASE Thank you Miss Clarke! But I do not need you complicating matters by telling my patients lies about my wife.
- MRS TILBERT See he did say wife.
- (MS CLARKE pries CASE loose from the doll and sits him back with his back to the doll.)*
- MS CLARKE Now you just forget about your life there Doctor Case. Mrs Tilbert, I'll be outside if you need me.
- (CLARKE leaves the room, closes the door and returns to her desk. HOOD slips out of the storybook and slides in under the doll resting on the couch. No one notices.)*
- DR CASE *(Frequently glancing back at the doll)* You were saying Mrs Tilbert.
- MRS TILBERT I'm paying you one hundred and fifty dollars an hour. The least you could do is look at me when you talk to me.
- DR CASE *(Turning)* I'm sorry Mrs Tilbert, but you know how it is?
- MRS TILBERT No I do not. I gave up playing with dolls twenty-five years ago.
- DR CASE Mrs Tilbert why do you persist with this passive aggressive behaviour toward my wife?
- MRS TILBERT What do you mean?
- DR CASE I'm afraid I cannot tolerate you referring to Mrs Snow Case as 'that doll'. I must ask you to stop it at once. Now, you were saying.
- MRS TILBERT *(Looking back at the doll)* Um, my husband thinks Timothy -
- (HOOD makes SNOW WHITE - the doll, wave at Mrs Tilbert.)*

- DR CASE *(Facing away from the doll)* Yes I realise what you have to say may be traumatic Mrs Tilbert, but you must express yourself freely. Remember, free association allows repressed memories to pass into the conscious mind where they can be dealt with.
- MRS TILBERT My husband thinks -

(HOOD makes SNOW WHITE - the doll, wave again.)
- DR CASE *(Frustrated)* Your husband thinks WHAT?
- MRS TILBERT Did you see that? That doll just waved at me. *(Pauses)* No of course you didn't see it. And nor did -
- DR CASE *(Interrupting)* Will you stop insulting my wife by referring to her as 'that doll.' If you feel the need to address my wife, her name is Mrs Snow Case.
- MRS TILBERT My husband says a balanced diet of telly helps kids sort themselves just as much as bedtime stories.
- DR CASE Your husband is a -

(HOOD makes SNOW WHITE - the doll, caress herself in an erotic manner.)
- MRS TILBERT Good heavens!
- DR CASE What is it now Mrs Tilbert?
- MRS TILBERT Did you see what that doll just did?
- DR CASE *(Peering directly into Mrs Tilbert's face)* Mrs Tilbert. If you call my wife 'that doll' one more time, I'll be forced to throw you out of my office.
- MRS TILBERT But Mrs Snow Case just fondled herself.
- DR CASE I beg your pardon!
- MRS TILBERT Look for yourself.

(CASE spins around to look at the doll. No movement.)
- DR CASE Mrs Tilbert my wife is asleep. Kindly keep your voice down and stop making up pathetic stories to get my attention. Now, where were we?

- MRS TILBERT We were discussing my husband.
- DR CASE Ah yes that fool...I mean your husband.
But what happened to Timothy?
- MRS TILBERT *(Looking at the doll distracted)* Timothy?
- DR CASE Yes Timothy, your son.
- (HOOD makes SNOW WHITE - the doll, sit up and caress her breasts.)*
- HOOD/SNOW Ooh ugh ooh ah Timothy. I want you Timothy. Take me now Timothy.
- DR CASE Mrs Tilbert. That was not in the slightest bit funny. In fact, that was a very disturbed and sick thing to say.
- MRS TILBERT It wasn't me. It was that doll - I mean your wife. Mrs Snow Case, she said it.
- (CASE marches over to the couch)*
- DR CASE My wife is asleep. See her eyes are closed and her respiration's are shallow. Those, Mrs Tilbert, are the physical signs of sleep. *(PACES back toward Mrs Tilbert.)* Now kindly tell me what emergency brought you into my rooms this afternoon before I am forced to ask you to leave.
- MRS TILBERT My husband thinks these sessions are a waste of - *(Looks over at the doll)*
- (HOOD makes SNOW WHITE - the doll, lie back on the couch, thrusting her hips and edging her skirt up her thigh.)*
- HOOD/SNOW *(Breathless)* Timothy. Laurie. I want you both, at once.
- DR CASE Mrs Tilbert I've had it with you. You're one of those obsessive neurotics put on this earth to make my life hell. *(Peers into Mrs Tilbert's face.)* Don't think I don't know what you're doing. I bet if I look down your list of boring housewife accomplishments I'd find ventriloquism hidden amongst them wouldn't I?
- MRS TILBERT Well, I've never been so insult-
- DR CASE And I bet I'd probably find out you're a slovenly, telly watching couch potato along with that brainless husband of yours.
- MRS TILBERT *(Verging on tears)* I. I-

- HOOD/SNOW *(Moans and writhes building to orgasm.)*
- DR CASE Now look what you've done. All this shouting has given my precious Snow nightmares.
- (CASE rushes to SNOW'S side. HOOD makes SNOW collar Case with both arms and pull him on top of her.)*
- HOOD/SNOW Take me Laurie. I want to feel your manhood throbbing inside me.
- MRS TILBERT Good gracious me! It's one of those dolls. I should have known. You're a very sick man.
- DR CASE *(Embarrassed)* Snow my darling wake up. You're dreaming.
- HOOD/SNOW *(Holding on tight and wreathing)* No I want you, every inch of you. NOW!
- MRS TILBERT This is disgusting. I can't watch this any longer.
- DR CASE Snow my darling, open your eyes. I'm with a patient. Wake up.
- MRS TILBERT You're completely mad. *(Screams)*
- (Ms CLARKE jumps up from her desk and rushes into the room.)*
- MS CLARKE Is everything al-right? Oh dear. Naughty Mrs Snow Case.
- DR CASE Miss Clarke do something. I think my wife is having some sort of seizure.
- MRS TILBERT Cold water. That will fix them.
- (Mrs Tilbert exits out of reception.)*
- MS CLARKE Doctor Case! What the hell are you trying to do? Get struck off the register. Let go of that stupid rag doll.
- (CLARKE grabs an arm and starts to pull. CASE pulls back.)*
- DR CASE She's not a rag doll. She's a smart intelligent woman and she's my wife. I love her.
- MS CLARKE But she's got buttons for eyes, embroidered lips, wool for hair, and cotton for brains. She's not real. Do you hear me? She is not real.

End of extract