

**TO THE RESCUE!**  
**A play for Ava**  
**By Carole L. Cooney**

Setting: Snow White's Palace garden; The Hidden Well

Characters:

Narrator

Maxi, a floppy tan dog

Queen Badella

Kitty

Narrator: Once upon a time, Snow White was playing with her floppy tan dog, Maxi, in the palace garden. She tossed her golden hula hoop high into the air. Maxi ran after the twirling hoop, caught it and began dashing back to Snow White. Suddenly, he stopped! There was a rumble of thunder, and a flash of blinding light! He looked and blinked.

Maxi: Woof! Woof! Grrr... What just happened!? Woof! Woof! Where is Snow White?

Narrator: Maxi jumped around frantically searching for Snow White. He ran this way and that way all over the lawn until he saw something strange.

Maxi: Woof! Woof! Grrr... Oh, my! Oh, my!

Narrator: Maxi crept toward the edge of a large well sunk into the grass. Cautiously, he peered over the edge.

Maxi: I've never seen this well before. (shouting into the well) GRRR... WHERE IS SNOW WHITE?

Queen: (a cackling laugh) Ha, ha, ha! Where do you think she is, Maxi? Ha, ha, ha!

Maxi: (trembling) Who is speaking to me? Where are you? Grrr...

Queen: I am speaking to you, Maxi. I am Queen Badella. I live at the bottom of the well. Now I have a visitor named Snow White. I'll tell her you were looking for her. Ha, ha, ha.

Narrator: Maxi ran this way and that, all over the grass. He didn't know what to do.

Maxi: (frantic) WOOF! WOOF! Who will help me? Who will help me?

Narrator: Suddenly, there was a loud cry heard from the rose bush patch.

Kitty: MEOW! MEOW! Maxi, it's me, Kitty! I will help you just as soon as you untangle me from this thorny bush.

Narrator: Maxi looked toward the rose bushes and saw Kitty snarled among the thorns.

Maxi: Oh! Kitty! Kitty! Let me help you. How did you get tangled in this bush?

Kitty: Maxi, I was chasing a butterfly and wasn't looking where I was going. Then – wham! I ran right into a rose bush and stuck. Thank you for helping me. Now – what can I do for you?

Maxi: Snow White, our princess, fell into a well down by the castle wall. That means old Queen Badella has Snow White and I think she wants to keep her. Kitty, how can we rescue Snow White?

Kitty: Meow, meow! I have an idea. Let's ask the garden spiders to spin a web and lower it into the well. Snow White can hop onto it and we'll pull her up.

Maxi: I like that idea but... but... I'm afraid of spiders.

Kitty: Don't worry. There are lots of friendly spiders. I think Daddy-long-legs will be a great helper!

Narrator: Kitty called Daddy-long-legs and told him to weave a web to rescue Snow White in Queen Badella's well. Sadly, Daddy-long-legs told Kitty he was frightened of Queen Badella, so he couldn't be of help.

Kitty: That's all right, Daddy-long-legs. We'll think of another way to set Snow White free.

Maxi: I know. I can dig a tunnel down to the bottom of the well.

Kitty: Are you sure you want to do that?

Maxi: Yes! Grrr...It's our only chance.

Narrator: Maxi and Kitty ran to the corner of the garden and began to dig. As they worked something wonderful began to happen. Little Rosebud Fairies sat on the rose petals talking quietly to each other. Soon they had a magical plan to help Maxi and Kitty set Snow White free from the clutches of ugly Queen Badella.

Maxi: Kitty, this digging is getting easier and easier. I can't figure out why this is happening.

Kitty: I think I know, Maxi. I heard the Rosebud Fairies talking about a magical plan to help us.

Maxi: I think we've reached the bottom of the well, Kitty. Just one more poke in the dirt wall and we'll be there.

Narrator: Maxi poked a hole big enough to see Snow White trapped in the bottom of the well. Suddenly the Rosebud Fairies sent forth their strong perfume. Queen Badella loved the scent of roses. She inhaled so deeply, it made her collapse on the floor in a deep sleep.

Maxi: Look, Kitty. The Queen has fainted. Quick! Let's rescue Snow White!

Kitty: Meow! Meow! Snow White, come with us.

Narrator: The Rosebud Fairies led Maxi, Kitty and Snow White through the dirt tunnel to the lawn above. When they were safe, the Rosebud Fairies clapped their hands and sealed the tunnel. Then they flew to the top of the well and held hands and danced round and round and round and round until the well was closed and covered with lush green grass.

Maxi: Woof! Woof! I'm so happy to see you Snow White!

Kitty: Meow! Meow! Me, too!

Narrator: Snow White hugged her favorite pets, Maxi and Kitty. Then, it was time to play. Maxi grabbed the golden hula hoop and tossed it high in the air. Snow White and Kitty chased the hoop until they fell down laughing. Why were they laughing? The hoop was high above their heads swinging from a branch of an apple tree. Now the hoop needed rescuing!