

The Lost Diary of Snow White

The Lost Diary of Snow White is a novel by Boyd Brent, written in the form of a diary. It is a retelling of the classic fairy tale, *Snow White*, with some unexpected twists. In this extract, Snow White explains that her life isn't quite as perfect as the fairy tale would have you believe.

Strictly speaking, I'm not supposed to keep a diary. No fairytale characters are. It's the unwritten rule of the land. And now I know why: because life here is so unlike anything people in the real world have been led to believe. Once it's finished, I'll have to find a hiding place for it. But if you're holding it now, it means it's been found, and the truth about my life can *finally* be revealed...

5 Monday.

"Mirror, mirror on the wall, who's the fairest of them all?"

"You are Snow White," replied the mirror. I've never much cared for this mirror. It's not even supposed to have an opinion — not according to the fairy tale upon which my life is based. It's only my evil stepmother's mirror that's supposed to say what an unrivalled beaut I am. Well, it simply isn't true. I mean, there's pale and then there's PALE. And I'm the kind of PALE that makes me visible from space most nights.

I can't *tell* you what a relief it is to share this secret: you can't believe everything you read in fairy tales. The truth is that all the mirrors in the land (not to mention all the reflective surfaces) are wrong about my fairest-of-them-all status. I caught my reflection in Not Particularly Hopeful's eyes the other day, and his eyes said (you heard me correctly, welcome to my fairytale paradise), "You are without doubt the fairest of them all Snow White." At this point, you may be wondering who Not Particularly Hopeful is. You know there are seven dwarves, and even though you can't name them all, you're pretty certain that none of them are called Not Particularly Hopeful. Yet another misunderstanding about my life. There are *five* dwarves, and contrary to popular belief, none are even remotely Happy. How could they be, with names like Not Particularly Hopeful, Insecure, Meddlesome, Inconsolable and Awkward? According to the little lamb that skips past my kitchen window every morning, the dwarves represent facets of my own personality. Cripes. That's deep. Particularly for a constantly-on-the-go lamb of such tiny proportions.

Then there's Prince Charming. He wasn't supposed to arrive until *after* my stepmother poisons me, and I've been in a coma for a hundred years. As the story goes, that's when he wakes me with a kiss, and after that we live happily ever after. No pressure, then. But the other day, when the little lamb hopped, skipped and jumped past my kitchen window, it bleated something about a hunky prince on a white stallion coming into my life. "Really?" I replied. "Stop the press. We're talking in a hundred years' time, once I'm fully rested and up to the challenge of living happily ever after."

30 "No," replied the little lamb. "His arrival is imminent."

An extract from *The Lost Diary of Snow White* by Boyd Brent.

1 Give two features of the text that show it is a diary.

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2 marks

2 Why do you think the word "PALE" is written in capital letters in line 10?

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1 mark

3 Look up the word 'irony' in a dictionary. Find and copy an example of irony from lines 12-15.

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1 mark

4 What do lines 19-22 tell you about Snow White's personality?

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2 marks

5 How is the language in this extract different to the language used in traditional fairy tales?

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2 marks

6 Do you think Snow White is looking forward to living happily ever after? Explain your answer.

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2 marks

Total
out of 10