

## Swan Lake Story

A party takes place, Prince Siegfried's last before his coming of age. His father has recently died and a new King must take the throne to rule the Kingdom. As history denotes, Prince Siegfried, next in line to be King, must choose a bride on his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. The Queen reminds her son of the urgency and presents him with a jeweled crossbow. Prince Siegfried turns to his friend Beno, asking; "How can I choose a bride and marry someone I do not love?" He pleads with his Tutor, who has been more of a father figure to him, consoles him but reminds him of his duties. Beno cheers him up by saying; "My friend, you have one more night of fun and merriment, we will hunt, for tomorrow is another day!" A party is held on the terrace of the court, with his friends goblets are held high, cheering with the prince on his final evening of freedom. As midnight approaches and his guests begin to leave, Siegfried prepares for the hunt, lifts his crossbow high in the air as he leaves the castle for the Lake of the Swans.

A mist rolls off the meadows, a vision of a beautiful Prince and Princess appear. Magic is in the air, as if enticing Siegfried to go deeper into a world unknown. Mysterious and devious Baron Von Rothbart, who at night becomes a black owl; enters the grounds seizing an opportunity to gain power over the kingdom; but first he has to make Siegfried fall in love with Odile, the Sorcerer's daughter. Little Fairies of the mist bring a white feather to the Prince and he is driven onwards with the magic of the white feather, is drawn backwards, as the evil magic of Von Rothbart confuses him. As if time can stand still, dragonflies and mist monsters try to persuade the Prince with emotions between good and evil. Just then Siegfried sees a vision of many beautiful swan maidens in the mist and then they are gone. The Sorcerer draws the swans back out of sight including the most beautiful one, Odette, who are all under Von Rothbart's evil spell. Of course, the Prince falls in instant love with Odette. Her companions enter again to dance a warning dance, leaving Odette to dance a beautiful pas de deux with the Prince. Odette's sisters dance a warning to them both, but Odette dances a dance of true love and then Siegfried pledges his heart to her. Odette explains the curse bestowed on the maidens, and that only true love will break the curse. Death of Von Rothbart would mean they stay as swans forever. They say a temporary good-bye; Siegfried is now ready for his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday party and will announce his bride tomorrow night.

The ball is grand, with visitors from afar presenting their daughters in hopes that Prince Siegfried will choose one of them as his bride. The Queen speaks, "My son, you have not chosen your bride yet, pick one of these beautiful maidens." Siegfried is waiting, he cannot choose, he is expecting Odette to arrive. Only then will he announce his true love. With this vision in his head, the Prince is delighted with the entrance of Von Rothbart and his daughter, Odile, on his arm. Siegfried is spell bound. He believes Odile to be Odette, and introduces her to his mother. The Queen is delighted her son has found a bride and asks them to dance. They dance in celebration. Prince Siegfried then pledges to marry Odile, then suddenly he sees a reflection of Odette caught in the Queen's throne. Realizing Von Rothbart's deception, he runs from the castle only to see the swans dancing, followed by Von Rothbart transformed into a black owl. He searches for Odette. The pledge of his heart to Odile means that he and Odette can only be together in spirit. A battle of good against evil takes place between Siegfried and the Sorcerer. The love between Siegfried and Odette is far stronger than the Sorcerer's spell. A

fight follows and the Sorcerer loses a wing, causing his death. Prince Siegfried then joins Odette to be together forever. The Kingdom is saved!