

## Coppelia Story

The eccentric Dr. Coppelius takes pride daily in all the dolls he has made. With his pride and joy, Coppelia quietly reads a book. He dreams that one day she could become the daughter that he never had. He works tirelessly with magic potions and never gives up hope. Swanhilda leaves her house and notices the girl on the balcony; she tries to get her attention but receives no response. Also vying for Coppelia's attention is Franz, Swanhilda's boyfriend. Swanhilda is bothered by his behavior and is convinced her boyfriend is more interested in the girl on the balcony. Back in this small village, it was said that his love was real if you shook an ear of wheat and heard it rattle. During the festivities and dancing, Swanhilda and her friends try the wheat. Alas, they did not hear a thing; the wheat was silent. Upset, Swanhilda runs off, leaving the village festivities.

Later that day, several of Swanhilda's friends heckle Dr. Coppelius in front of his home-the toy shop, and he drops his keys amidst the chaos. Swanhilda and her friends find the keys and decide to enter the doctor's place to find out why the girl on the balcony won't look up from her book.

The girls sneak into the house only to discover they are not alone. Upon further investigation, they realize that it is not people who join them but life-size dolls. Swanhilda goes to the balcony and doubles over in laughter when she sees the object of Franz's eye is also a doll. Feeling mischievous, the girls wind up the dolls to see what happens. Their play is interrupted when Dr. Coppelius returns. He shoos them away, but one stays behind-Swanhilda.

Meanwhile, Franz's curiosity has encouraged him to climb a ladder into Dr. Coppelius' home. The eccentric Dr. Coppelius needs a human soul to transfer to his "daughter" to bring her to life. He invites Franz to stay. He drugs him to sleep and then sets out to work his magic. In order to not blow her cover, Swanhilda, who had hidden on the balcony, puts on Coppelia's clothes and plays along with Dr. Coppelius's spells. She uses an opportunity to wake Franz, and the two succeed in making up and escaping.

Swanhilda and Franz's wedding day has arrived, but their ceremony is interrupted by an angry Dr. Coppelius who wants money for the damages caused in his home. Ultimately the burgomeister (the village mayor) pays him a large sum, and the celebration continues.