

COXCOMB

Alan Sutherland

Who clawed the crust and from the matrix pulled
The natal green and squeezed its throat until
The coxcomb burst into its reddened world,
Allowed the beech to mellow to its full

Brindle alertness. Languor led the branch
And pain the stem to fan into a crest ;
But shattered bloom and wilted leaf—is each
Definitive of spasm or of rest?

Snow White and the Seven Complexes

Joseph Dutton

IF DR. BRUHN'S students had seen him standing in line outside the movie theater, jostled by a swarm of excited, shouting children, they would certainly have laughed. The dignified old professor was not the type of man one would expect to see in such a place ; he belonged irretrievably to the oak-panelled study or to a secluded nook in the library. And towering above the little people around him, Dr. Bruhn himself was well aware of the fact. The expression on his face was one of conscious aloofness, but tiny lines at the corner of his mouth revealed his embarrassment.

Beside him stood a pink-cheeked little girl with one of her gloved hands held firmly in his. In the other hand she clutched a crumpled sack of candy. Faint smudges of chocolate could be seen on her chin and on the tip of her turned-up nose. A straw bonnet covered with spring flowers sat primly upon her head, and from under the bonnet long brown pigtails extended to her waist. The shiny little face looked up at the old man. "Grandpa," she said, "will I like this movie?"

Dr. Bruhn was not prepared for the question. He hesitated. "Yes, I think you will like it, Janie. It's a very good story." The answer was not a good one, he realized, but he hoped that Janie would be satisfied.

"What's it about?" the little girl asked. She was still uncertain.

"Well, it is the story of a girl named Snow White who . . . I shall spoil the movie for you if I tell you all about it. Wait and see. I'm sure you will like it."

Janie looked at her grandfather doubtfully and probably wished that the movie would be about Hopalong Cassidy ; but instead of asking another question she pacified herself by selecting another chocolate from the sack and popping it into her mouth.