

# CINDERELLA

## A MUSICAL FOR CHILDREN

Book, Music & Lyrics  
by David Warrack

Characters: Sophronia  
Clothilda, Sophronia's sister  
Stepmother, Sophronia and Clothilda's Mother  
Cinderella, Sophronia and Clothilda's step-sister  
The Fairy Godmother  
Prince  
Duke, Narrator, Prince's pal

Time Way back when

Place Stepmother's cottage, Prince's palace

- SONGS:
1. Cinderella's Waltz (instrumental)
  2. Once Upon a Time (Company)
  3. A Spanish Dancer (Clothilda, Sophronia)
  4. Here We Are (Cinderella)
  5. When You Can't Find the Rhyme (Fairy Godmother)
  6. A Yodelling Song (Clothilda)
  7. I've Always Wondered (Prince)
  8. I Love To Be Crazy (Stepmother)
  9. I'll Always Remember Tonight (Cinderella, Prince)
  10. Tell Me the Story (Cinderella)
  - 10a. Once Upon a Time (Fairy Godmother, Duke)



Stepmother cuts them off.

STEPMOTHER

Let Mummy do this.

SISTERS

Yes, Mummy.

STEPMOTHER

She barks.

CINDERELLA!!

Cinderella appears with a mop.

CINDERELLA

Yes, Mummy?

STEPMOTHER

How many times must I tell you? STEP – mother. STEP– mother. Now fasten my gown and be quick about it.

CINDERELLA

Trying to do as she is told.

I don't think I can. It's too small.

STEPMOTHER

What did you say?

CINDERELLA

Somehow completing the task.

It's a perfect fit.

STEPMOTHER

Right!

4

CLOTHILDA

Where are my shoes, Cinderella? I told you to find them.

SOPHRONIA

To Clothilda.

Find them yourself.

To Cinderella.

Cinderella, finish my hair.

CLOTHILDA

Well, let me tell you, she is going to find my shoes before she does that!

SOPHRONIA

Hair.

CLOTHILDA

Shoes.

SOPHRONIA

Hair.

CLOTHILDA

Shoes.

STEPMOTHER

And find my handkerchief, Cinderella!

Cinderella accidentally pulls Sophronia's hair going after Clothilda's shoe.

SOPHRONIA

Ouch.

CINDERELLA

Sorry! Here are your shoes, Clothilda. And your handkerchief, Stepmother. Now for your hair, Sophronia.

STEPMOTHER

Fasten my necklace.

Cinderella does.

SOPHRONIA

But when will she finish my hair?

CLOTHILDA

She's so lazy!!

SOPHRONIA

Dreadful.

STEPMOTHER

Deplorable! You will make us late for the ball!

CLOTHILDA

And where are my gloves? I can't go to the ball without them.

STEPMOTHER

You certainly can't.

SOPHRONIA

Hurry!

CLOTHILDA

The gloves.

Cinderella brings them.

STEPMOTHER

Are you watching for the carriage, Cinderella?

CINDERELLA

Yes, Step mother, I am watching.

STEPMOTHER

Tell us the second it is at the door. Do you understand?

She turns to her ... lovely daughters.

Now, let me have a look at you. Clothilda, don't slouch. We want to see you in all your beauty. And Sophronia, my, my, my, are we in pain, my sweetheart?

Sophronia is writing on the floor. It isn't pretty.

SOPHRONIA

I don't know if "we" are, but I am! These shoes are killing me.

CLOTHILDA

With great love.

That's because you have such big feet.

SOPHRONIA

With equal grace.

So what? Just look at your hands. You better keep your gloves on all the time, dear Clothilda, if you don't wish the Prince to notice how you bite your nails.

Gunfight at Mama's Corral.

CLOTHILDA

You loud-mouth!

SOPHRONIA

You viper.

CLOTHILDA

You snippet.

SOPHRONIA

You, ... you, ... twit!

STEPMOTHER

Girls, girls, girls – not too much fun now. I want you to be sweet and graceful at the ball.

To Clothilda. Blowing an air kiss.

Sweet,

To Sophronia. Another exciting air kiss.

And graceful.

CLOTHILDA

And the prince will dance with me, and I'll be his Princess!

SOPHRONIA

You will not! I'll be his Princess.

CLOTHILDA

No, I will. Mother said so!

SOPHRONIA

She said I will!

BOTH

MOTHER!!!!

STEPMOTHER

If you won't stop this minute, I'll have one of my little headaches and lose control of my little temper, and we won't be able to go to the big ball.

CINDERELLA

Oh, how I wish I could see the ball too!

SOPHRONIA

You? At the ball?

CLOTHILDA

Cinderella, at the ball?

STEPMOTHER

You must be joking.

The three of them laugh uncontrollably. Stepmother cuts them off.

I love your laughs. Love them!

CINDERELLA

But I know how to dance.

She demonstrates.

When Father was alive, he made sure I was taught.

STEPMOTHER

Well, that was a long time ago.

CINDERELLA

Yes, it was.

STEPMOTHER

Just be grateful you have a roof over your head.

CLOTHILDA

You would make a fine spectacle of yourself in those rags and your feet all dirty.

SOPHRONIA

And tripping over your feet, while you try to imitate us dancing –

BOTH

In Spanish!

SONG #3:

A SPANISH DANCER

OTHERS MAY TRIP AND OTHERS MAY FALL.  
THEY'LL NEVER BE THE BELLES OF THE BALL.

ALL EYES WILL BE TURNED OUR WAY.  
WHEN THEY SEE US, THEY'LL ALL SHOUT, "OLE!".  
AH! MEN WILL BE LINED UP RIGHT OUT THE DOOR,  
WANTING TO TAKE US OUT ON THE FLOOR,  
INTRIGUED WITH OUR SPANISH FLAIR,  
AND THE SPANISH CLOTHES WE BOTH WILL WEAR.

STEPMOTHER

But darlings, your gowns aren't Spanish.

CLOTHILDA

On us, they'll look Spanish!

SOPHRINA

Si, si!

SISTERS

WE'LL DANCE THE LIGHT FANTASTIC.  
MEN WILL FALL INTO OUR ARMS.  
WHO CAN RESIST A SPANISH DANCER  
AND HER SPANISH CHARMS?

CLOTHILDA

OTHERS MAY BE QUITE PRETTY AND SWEET,  
BUT THEY WILL ALL GO DOWN TO DEFEAT.  
OUR MEDITERRANEAN POISE  
WILL BE IRRESISTABLE TO ALL THE BOYS.

SOPHRONIA

AH! THEY'LL BE EXCITED, FATHER AND SON,  
TO HEAR OF THE BULL FIGHTS WE BOTH HAVE WON,  
AS WE INSPIRED TOREADORS TO FIGHT.  
YES, THIS SPANISH THINGS WILL WIN THE NIGHT!

STEPMOTHER

But sweethearts, you've never been to Spain.

CLOTHILDA

Who cares?

SOPHRONIA

In some other life, we must have been!

SISTERS

WE'LL DANCE THE LIGHT FANTASTIC.  
MEN WILL FALL INTO OUR ARMS.  
WHO CAN RESIST A SPANISH DANCER  
AND THE SPANISH WAY SHE WALKS,  
THE SPANISH WAY SHE TALKS,  
THE SPANISH IN HER HAIR?  
WHY, WE'VE SPANISH LEFT TO SPARE.

WE'RE FULL OF SPANISH CHARMS.

This would be an appropriate place for the crystal chandelier to fall and crash.

OLE!!

They fall and join the chandelier on the floor.

STEPMOTHER

In awe.

My, you even fall with grace, both of you!

The sisters snort, appropriately.

But enough nonsense. Cinderella, didn't I tell you to watch out for the carriage?

CINDERELLA

Yes, Stepmother.

STEPMOTHER

And to be clear, you were not invited to the ball, and even if you were, you don't have a gown!

CINDERELLA

I was just wishing, I guess.

STEPMOTHER

Well, don't wish out loud. It hurts my ears.

CLOTHILDA

Mummy, will the prince really choose one of us to be his bride?

SOPHRONIA

Will he? Will he?

SISTERS

Will he??!!

STEPMOTHER

Well that's the whole reason for the Ball, my precious charmers. He is hoping to choose one of the young ladies in attendance, and I have great hopes for my girlies! How could he resist you? But remember now, if the Prince is to notice you, you must – Sparkle! Sparkle! Sparkle!

They spin. And of course, each lose their balance.

CLOTHILDA

Like this, Mother?

In a heap, together on the floor. Slowly getting up.

SOPHRONIA

You do look foolish.

CLOTHILDA

Foolish?

SOPHRONIA

You might as well give up.

CLOTHILDA

Give up?

SOPHRONIA

You haven't got a chance.

CLOTHILDA

I haven't?

SOPHRONIA

Not with me around.

CLOTHILDA

Ad lib argument. Stepmother cuts them off. Only Sophronia shuts up. Clothilda continues. Stepmother put her hand over her mouth.

STEPMOTHER

You both have such a way with words. But seriously, girls ...

SISTERS

Looking at house.

I can't believe she said that.

STEPMOTHER

This is a wonderful chance for both of you, and I hope you give the Prince a tough decision. Who could choose between the two of you!!!!???? But you must remember the things I taught you, and mind your steps when you are dancing.

SISTERS

Oh, we will. Just you watch!

WE'LL DANCE THE LIGHT FANTASTIC.  
MEN WILL FALL INTO OUR ARMS.  
WHO CAN RESIST A SPANISH DANCER,  
AND HER SPANISH CHARMS? OLE!

To the horror of the audience, they continue to dance.

STEPMOTHER

Oh, it's a Mother's delight when her own children find their own ways of expressing what's in their souls.

She takes a moment to admire them

I never would have thought it could be this perfect! Oh, my darlings, this night will belong to you.

CINDERELLA

Stepmother!

STEPMOTHER

Churlishly.

What is it?

CINDERELLA

The carriage is at the door.

STEPMOTHER

Well, why didn't you say so, you stupid girl? Don't you dare to show your face outside while we are gone. We do have an image to maintain.

The girls and their Mother all snort in tandem.

Cinderella, you make me so ashamed. Come girls. To the ball!

They all exit.

CINDERELLA

Good-bye. Have a good time. Don't worry about me. I'll be alright.

She starts to clean up from the tornado.

It must be so wonderful to go to the ball. The lights, the beautiful dresses, the music ...

And of course, the music arrives on cue. She picks up a broom and pretends it is the Prince.

Oh, I'd be honoured to dance with you, your Highness. Dancing is such a joy to me.

SONG #4:

HERE WE ARE

HERE WE ARE, THE PRINCE AND I  
 SWIRLING AROUND THE FLOOR.  
 WHO COULD ASK ANYTHING MORE?  
 IT'S SOMETHING RIGHT OUT OF A DREAM.  
 HERE WE ARE. NO ONE QUESTIONS WHY,  
 THOUGH IT'S CLEARLY AGAINST THE ODDS,  
 AS THE ENTIRE BALLROOM APPLAUDS.  
 WE'RE SUCH A PERFECT DANCING TEAM..

THE MUSIC IS SOARING,  
 THE MAGIC IS HAPPENING,  
 AN OBVIOUS CONNECTION.  
 EACH MOVEMENT IS PERFECTION,  
 WE BELONG IN EACH OTHER'S ARMS.  
 WITHOUT EVEN TRYING,  
 WE'RE TWIRLING AND FLYING,  
 FOR ALL THE COURT TO SEE,  
 THE HANDSOME PRINCE AND LITTLE OLD ME!

HERE WE ARE, GIRL AND ROYALTY,  
 WRAPPED IN EACH OTHER'S ARMS.  
 QUITE AWARE OF EACH OTHER'S CHARMS,  
 AND HOPING THE MUSIC WON'T END.  
 HERE WE ARE, QUITE CONTENTEDLY  
 IN THE MIDST OF A CHARMING DANCE,  
 TINGED WITH THE PROMISE OF A ROMANCE  
 NEITHER CAN REALLY COMPREHEND.

HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE? WHO'D HAVE IMAGINED  
 THAT SOMEONE LIKE ME WOULD FIND SOMEONE LIKE YOU?  
 HERE WE ARE, WITH THE MUSIC ENDING.  
 EYES ON EACH OTHER, MESSAGES SENDING  
 AS DESTINY DEMANDS US TO DO.

She curtsies.

Why, thank you, sir, but I am not half as beautiful as my stepsisters. Just look at them, sir. Are they not the most graceful ladies at the ball? No, you're right, Prince. They're not.

She stops and looks at the rather sad broom.

But then again, you're not really a handsome Prince, are you? Oh, how I wish it could be real. It just seems so unfair.

She sits down on the floor, and has a comfortable cry. And of course, the Fairy Godmother appears.

FAIRY GODMOTHER

Goodness gracious, smoke and mirrors.  
Cinderella, dry those tears.

CINDERELLA

Startled.

Oh! Who are you? Where did you come from? Did I leave the door open?

FAIRY GODMOTHER

There's no reason you should cry.  
Tell her children, who am I?

With any luck, they correctly inform Cinderella.

Yes, that's right. I'm the one.  
Your fairy Godmother. Isn't this fun?

CINDERELLA

My fairy Godmother? How did you get here?

FAIRY GODMOTHER

I've heard you dreams, and wishes too.  
So I've flown in to look after you.

CINDERELLA

You really know what I want?

FAIRY GODMOTHER

Of course, ...

Aside.

And it's not a hobby horse.

CINDERELLA

And you can help?

FAIRY GODMOTHER

I am your Fairy Godmother, dear,  
And your wishes brought me here.  
The order, I admit, is tall,  
But I will help you go to the ball.

CINDERELLA

Oh, will you, Fairy Godmother, will you? I don't mind hiding somewhere in the background, if only I can see the ball!

FAIRY GODMOTHER

Hide in the background? Not a chance!  
You'll go as a guest, and dance every dance.

CINDERELLA

Catching sight of herself in the mirror. Suddenly deflated.

In these rags?

FAIRY GODMOTHER

Obviously not, indeed.  
Now, what is it that you need?  
Any ideas?

Asking audience.

Oh, yes. Of course, we need a beautiful dress.

It appears.

Now, what's the spell? Bibbity, bobbity boo?  
No, no, no, no, that won't do.  
That was for when I chose to be  
In a movie, not for here.

Hmm, two eggs, well beaten, half a cup of sugar, a teaspoon of lemon juice, oh dear – that doesn't rhyme.

CINDERELLA

Amused.

No, it doesn't.

FAIRY GODMOTHER

Fiddlesticks. If it doesn't rhyme, it won't work.

CINDERELLA

Not only that, but it sounds like the recipe for a magic cake.

FAIRY GODMOTHER

Right! And we're after a dress supreme, one right out of a fairytale.

CINDERELLA

Oh, please try, Fairy Godmother.

FAIRY GODMOTHER

Patience, patience. It's coming ... back.  
A Fairy never quite loses the... knack.  
But of course, it's coming ... clear.  
We need some help from the children ... here.

She addresses them.

Think of rhymes. Everybody. Think of every rhyme you ever heard. Twinkle, twinkle little star.

CHILDREN

How I wonder what you are.

CINDERELLA

Baa baa black sheep, have you any wool?

CHILDREN

Yes, sir, yes, sir, three bags full.

FAIRY GODMOTHER

What rhymes with "high".

CHILDREN

(WHATEVER)

CINDERELLA

What rhymes with “day”?

CHILDREN

(WHATEVER)

FAIRY GODMOTHER

Excited.

Thank you all, that’s what I required  
I am back, I’m inspired.  
Excellent. We can proceed.  
My mind can find the rhyme I need.  
Everybody, close your eyes.  
Help us with our magic surprise.  
Wish as hard as you know how.  
Help us make the magic now.  
Everyone wish for a beautiful gown  
For Cinderella to wear to town!

CINDERELLA

Eyes closed.

I wish, I wish.

FAIRY GODMOTHER

A wish from me, a wish from you.  
All the children wish it too.

Music, lights, magic. A gown descends.

CINDERELLA

Oh, Fairy Godmother. It’s the most beautiful gown I ever saw.

She holds it in front of her.

FAIRY GODMOTHER

Good grief, that won't do.  
Neither foot has got a shoe.

CINDERELLA

Oh dear. What's to be done?

FAIRY GODMOTHER

Well, if by chance, the Prince you meet,  
You must have something on your feet.  
Children, help us out once more.  
Wish for shoes upon this floor.

CINDERELLA

I wish, I wish.

FAIRY GODMOTHER

We don't want chairs, we don't want kippers,  
But we all wish for a pair of slippers.

Shoes arrive from every possible angle backstage. It's joyous.

Goodness gracious, let's rejoice. Now we truly have a choice.  
This one's leather, this one's brass, I wonder if any are made of glass?

CINDERELLA

Here! Look, Fairy Godmother! They are perfect.

FAIRY GODMOTHER

Right you are. Now off you go.  
Time's a-wastin', don'tcha know.

CINDERELLA

I'll be ready in a flash, Fairy Godmother.

She runs off with the gown and the slippers.

SONG #4:

WHEN YOU CAN'T FIND THE RHYME

FAIRY GODMOTHER

THAT WAS CLOSE. I CONCEDE IT.  
WHERE'S MY MIND WHEN I NEED IT?

WHEN YOU CAN'T FIND YOUR HAT OR YOU CAN'T FIND YOUR SHOE  
YES, IT IS INDEED A BOTHER,  
OR THE BOOK THAT YOU LOVE, OR THE GLOVES THAT ARE BLUE,  
OR YOUR MOTHER OR YOUR FATHER.  
WHEN YOU CAN'T FIND THE SUNGLASSES  
GRANDFATHER GAVE YOU,  
IT MAKES YOU DETERMINED  
THAT NOTHING CAN SAVE YOU,  
BUT OH, THE VERY WORST TIME  
IS WHEN YOU CAN'T FIND THE RHYME.

WHEN YOU CAN'T FIND YOUR TEDDY BEAR, ISN'T IT SAD?  
OR THAT YELLOW PAD OF PAPER?  
OR THE RING FROM YOUR GRANDMA YOU KNOW YOU JUST HAD,  
THAT HAS SOMEHOW TURNED TO VAPOUR.  
WHEN YOU CAN'T FIND THE TOY  
THAT YOU PLAYED WITH THIS MORNING,  
THAT WENT OFF AND DISAPPEARED  
WITHOUT ANY WARNING,  
IT REALLY IS SUCH A CRIME.  
BUT NOTHING BEATS LOSING THE RHYME.

FOR IF AT THE END OF EACH LINE OR SO  
AN AY MEETS AN AY OR AN OH MEETS AN OH,  
IT'S SIMPLY HEAVEN SENT,  
AND EVERY FAIRYLAND FAIRY'S CONTENT.

IF YOU CAN'T FIND YOUR BOOTS OR YOU CAN'T FIND YOUR CHAIR  
OR YOUR RED AND YELLOW JACKET,  
YOU SHOULD NOT LOSE CONTROL, THROUGH TEMPTATION IS THERE  
TO MAKE AN AWFUL RACKET.  
WHEN YOU CAN'T FIND THE TOWEL  
WITHOUT WHICH YOU HATE DRYING,  
THERE'S NOT ANY QUESTION  
AT ALL THAT IT'S TRYING.

BUT OH, THE VERY WORST TIME  
IS WHEN YOU'RE PLAYING THE RHYMING GAME  
BUT YOU CAN'T MAKE ANYTHING SOUND THE SAME.

NO ONE'S AS UPSET AS I'M,  
WHEN I CAN'T FIND THE RHYME.

Cinderella rushes in, attired for the ball.

CINDERELLA

Look, Fairy Godmother. What do you think?

FAIRY GODMOTHER

Turn around. Over here.  
You look simply lovely, dear!

CINDERELLA

Laughing.

Oh thank you, thank you, dear Fairy Godmother. I'm so happy and excited. I can't believe this is really happening to me. I am truly grateful.

She gives the Fairy Godmother a quick, but sincere kiss.

FAIRY GODMOTHER

It was nothing. Now, to get you there,  
That pumpkin outside will have room to spare.  
You'll arrive in style, how nice.

CINDERELLA

But who will pull the coach?

FAIRY GODMOTHER

Mice!  
I saw some under the house, my dear.  
We'll turn them into horses, don't fear.

CINDERELLA

Oh, Fairy Godmother, you are so very clever. Please come to the ball with me. Please. Won't you?

FAIRY GODMOTHER

No, that's not my place at all,  
But you'll be fine at the ball.  
Now, what's bothering me? Oh!  
There's something more you need to know.  
Children, help me please. Talk.  
It has something to do with a clock.

With any luck, the children keep things moving along nicely!

But of course. Oh, yikes!  
When the clock in the tower strikes  
Twelve times, the magic will die.  
Leave the Palace my dear, fly!

CINDERELLA

Don't worry, I'll remember.

FAIRY GODMOTHER

Now there's no more time to waste.  
Hurry, Cinderella. Make haste.  
For the rest of your life, this night you'll recall.  
The night you met your Prince at the Prince's Ball.

TRANSITION #1: Cinderella runs offstage. Duke enters as Fairy Godmother addresses the house.

And so, Cinderella, not quite understanding how it all had happened, was transported to the Palace in a magnificent Pumpkin Carriage, pulled by four snow white horses.

The goodness in Cinderella's heart, up in Fairyland was prized,  
And so, through the magic of my spell, her dream was realized.

She looks at the Duke and smiles. Scenery switches to the Palace Garden as they speak.

DUKE

As she approached the Palace, she pinched herself to convince herself it was all real. And can you imagine?! She found that it was!

FAIRY GODMOTHER

The Carriage pulled up in front of the Palace.  
Trumpets sounded a clarion call.  
The dreamed-of moment had finally arrived:  
Cinderella was at the Ball.

DUKE

Unfortunately, so were her Stepsisters. Yech!

Duke and Fairy Godmother into the mist.

SCENE 2

The Palace Garden. Sophronia and Clothilda enter.

CLOTHILDA

Ouch, you clumsy thing. If you haven't broken my foot with your HUGE one, it will be a miracle.

SOPHRONIA

I do not have big feet. And anyway, you keep pushing yourself forward and tripping over me!

CLOTHILDA

It was you who stepped on my foot, let me remind you.

SOPHRONIA

Poor thing.

CLOTHILDA

If you didn't gape at the Prince with your mouth open, you would have seen me.

Sophronia starts to speak. Clothilda continues.

I bet you did it on purpose so that I couldn't dance, didn't you?

SOPHRONIA

The prince doesn't seem to be in a great hurry to dance with you. And no wonder. Just look at you!

CLOTHILDA

Wih irony.

That must be because he is so greatly taken with you – and your BIG FEET!

SOPHRONIA

You miserable twerp.

CLOTHILDA

You big horse.

SOPHRONIA

You insignificant flea.

CLOTHILDA

Cow!

SOPHRONIA

Donkey!

CLOTHILDA

You wretch!

SISTERS

MOTHERRRR!!!!

Stepmother rushes on.

STEPMOTHER

Here I am, my sweethearts. Are we arguing again? This is the Prince's Ball. Remember? Sweet and graceful.

CLOTHILDA

Well, she started it.

SOPHRONIA

Did not!

CLOTHILDA

Did too!

SOPHRONIA

Did not!

CLOTHILDA

Did too!

SOPHRONIA

Did not!

CLOTHILDA

Did too!

SOPHRONIA

It was Clothilda telling me that I have big feet.

STEPMOTHER

Then keep them out of sight, sweetheart. Perhaps the Prince won't notice.

She waves to an invisible guest.

CLOTHILDA

The prince hasn't even looked at me.

SOPHRONIA

He looked at me.

CLOTHILDA

That's because he probably never saw anyone so odd before.

STEPMOTHER

Quiet, girls. The Prince is coming this way!

SISTERS

Let me see! Let me see!

They look offstage.

CLOTHILDA

Who is the other one?

SOPHRONIA

Boy, is he old!

STEPMOTHER

He is the Duke of ... something ..., and he is the King's oldest friend. Now is your chance, girls. Think of something witty to say. And don't forget ...

ALL THREE

Sparkle, sparkle, sparkle!

SOPHRONIA

I HAVE SOMETHING WONDERFUL TO SAY, Mother. I've been rehearsing it all day!

CLOTHILDA

So do I. And I've been rehearsing it all week!

SOPHRONIA

With a mind like yours, you'd need a month.

CLOTHILDA

No I wouldn't. I'm clever.

STEPMOTHER

You're both clever. And when it comes to looks, you're both so ...

She observes them with a critical eye. Being a Mother, she tries not to be disturbed by the sight.

Incredibly interesting! He'll never be able to resist you. Shh.

They gather excitedly off to one side as the Prince and the Duke enter from the other. Stepmother makes herself known with a bow, from which she barely recovers.

Your Highness. May I present my lovely daughters? They are both sweet of temper, brilliant of mind, gifted, and charming. This is Clothilda.

Clothilda comes forward. The prince involuntarily recoils, but recovers and smiles, careful to keep a distance between them.

CLOTHILDA

What lovely weather we are having, your Highness. I shouldn't think that it will rain.

PRINCE

To Duke, aside.

Help!

Duke moves into the line of fire. Age often leads to unfortunate bravery.

DUKE

Rain/ Why should it rain?

He looks up.

There are no clouds

STEPMOTHER

Isn't she witty, your Highness. Making a little joke!

PRINCE

I see.

He doesn't.

STEPMOTHER

And she is so gifted. Her voice. From the Angels! Why don't you sing for the Prince, dear?

CLOTHILDA

Sing?

STEPMOTHER, SOPHRONIA

Sing!

SONG #6:

A YODELLING SONG

CLOTHILDA

THOUGH I LIVE IN THE CITY, I LONG  
FOR THE JOYS OF A YODELLING SONG.  
I LOVE TO OPEN UP MY THROAT  
IN THE HILLS ALONE THERE WITH MY GOAT.  
THAT'S THE REAL ME, OPEN AND FREE.  
SO IF THIS IS AS GOOD AS IT GETS,  
LEARN TO YODEL, AND WE'LL DO DUETS.  
WHAT JOY, WHAT BLISS -  
TO BE HEALTHY AND STRONG,  
SINGING A YODELLING SONG.

YODEL-LA – EE – OO.  
I'M A LADY WHO  
LOVES SINGING A YODELLING SONG.  
YODELA!

Duke rises and applauds.

There's another verse.

DUKE

I'm sure there is. But one should always save something back. The sense of anticipation that cleats is beyond measure.

Clothilda giggle. Mother gathers her. Speaks to Prince.

STEPMOTHER

You have no idea. It only gets better!

PRINCE

Splendid.

STEPMOTHER

And, her repertoire is vast. Vast. She knows SO many songs.

DUKE

I just bet she does!

STEPMOTHER

And now!! Let me present my other daughter, Sophronia.

She applauds. No one joins her.

She knits!

PRINCE

In awe.

Knots?

SOPHRONIA

I wish I could show you. I do a very nice sock.

PRINCE

Congratulations.

SOPHRONIA

Warming up, egged on by her Mother and the Prince's obvious interest.

Striped, argyle, plain ...

Oozing sex.

Woolies.

PRINCE

Looking to Duke to be rescued.

Charming.

DUKE

Clearing his throat.

I do think his Highness would prefer to dance.

He tries to clear a path with his cane, so he and the Prince can escape. Stepmother artfully avoids it.

STEPMOTHER

Of course. What am I thinking of? Your Highness would be more than welcome to dance with one of my daughters.

PRINCE

Turning to Duke and mouthing silently.

(Help!!!)

STEPMOTHER

You choose, sir – hard as it may be.

PRINCE

Gathering himself. Playfully.

If I must, I must. But of course, so must the Duke! That's an order, my friend. Your choice.

Duke exits with Clothilda, Prince with Sophronia.

STEPMOTHER

There they go! One with the Prince, one with the Duke.

She quivers with excitement. It's horrid to observe.

What a happy Mother I am.

She is suddenly aware of the audience, and speaks to them.

Good evening, everyone. I know who you are – the observers! Here to observe –

She bows.

The antics of High Society. Well, I must admit, it is indeed lovely to be so cultured, a imbued with grace, and tutored in the ways of proper etiquette. But despite my obvious grace and timeless beauty, I have a confession. Cultured as I am, ... every now and then, ... against all appearances, ... in spite of my inner voice saying "No, no, no!", .. a teensy, weensy part of me wants to do something foolish, something off the cuff, something unexpected, something – CRAZY!!

SONG #7:

I LOVE TO BE CRAZY

I'D LOVE TO BE ABLE TO BE LESS REFINED,  
AND DO ALL THE SILLY THINGS THERE IN MY MIND.  
ALAS, I'M A LADY WITH AN IMAGE TO KEEP.  
IF I LOST MY LADYLIKE WAYS, I'D LOSE SLEEP.  
I'D LOVE TO GO ROLLING AROUND ON THE GROUND.  
I'D LOVE TO MAKE FACES. MY FACES ASTOUND!  
I'D LOVE TO LET OUT THE MOST HORRID OF SCREAMS,  
BUT ALAS, I'M RESTRICTED TO SCREAMS IN MY DREAMS.

I'D LOVE TO BE CRAZY, TO RAVE AND TO RANT,  
BUT ALAS, I'M A LADY, SO I CAN'T!

I'D LOVE TO GO UP WHERE THE ORCHESTRA PLAYS,  
AND SING IN SOPRANO, MY VOICE WOULD AMAZE.  
I'D LOVE TO MAKE ALL THE MUSICIANS GO WILD,  
AND DANCE LIKE A GYPSY, OR SOME HORRID CHILD.  
I'D LOVE TO CUT THROUGH ALL THE PHONINESS HERE,  
TO JUMP UP AND SWING FROM THAT HUGE CHANDELIER,  
THEN FALL IN THE MIDDLE OF THAT GORGEOUS CAKE.  
IF ONLY YOU KNEW HOW LITTLE IT WOULD TAKE!

I'D LOVE TO BE CRAZY, TO RAVE AND TO RANT,  
BUT ALAS, I'M A LADY, SO I CAN'T!

Sophronia enters

SOPHRONIA

Mothe! Mother!

STEPMOTHER

What is it, my precious?

SOPHRONIA

The prince won't dance with me anymore.

STEPMOTHER

Heavens! Why not?

SOPHRONIA

I think I ... stepped on his feet. Just a trifle.

STEPMOTHER

Oh dear!

SOPHRONIA

Only a few times.

STEPMOTHER

Oh, Sophronia, dear, if only you could be a little less ... awkward.

SOPHRONIA

I'm trying, Mother, honestly.

Clothilda runs onstage.

CLOTHILDA

Oh mother!

STEPMOTHER

And what is the matter with you, darling?

CLOTHILDA

The Duke left me at the end of the dance.

STEPMOTHER

Very likely he'll dance with you later in the evening. Were you amusing?

CLOTHILDA

I said everything you told me to say. But he yawned.

Sophronia laughs. Clothilda turns to her.

I hate your laugh. Hate it, hate it, hate it!

STEPMOTHER

Sighing.

If only you were a little more like me. Or, if only I were a little bit younger. I'd outshine them all.

SOPHRONIA

You do anyway, Mother!

CLOTHILDA

You certainly do.

STEPMOTHER

Do you really think I outshine them all?

SISTERS

Yes!!!

She turns to house.

Do you agree?

They probably don't. She doesn't let it bother her, and exits with her charming daughters close behind. Duke and Prince appear from the other side, laughing.

DUKE

What a partner!

PRINCE

She stepped all over my feet.

DUKE

Mine as well. Painful.

PRINCE

You hid it well. So, this is kind of depressing.

DUKE

Well, some of the girls are quite lovely.

PRINCE

Perhaps. But rather dull. And these are the "available lasses" dear Papa wanted me to choose from.

DUKE

Oh dear. Those are his orders?

PRINCE

I'm afraid so.

SONG #8:

I'VE ALWAYS KIND OF WONDERED

EVERYONE LOOKS AT ROYALTY,  
SURE THAT OUR WORLD'S A FANTASY,  
BUT ON THE INSIDE LOOKING OUT,  
THAT'S NOT WHAT IT'S ABOUT.  
ON DISPLAY FROM SUNRISE,  
SO MANY RULES TO MEMORIZE.  
DADDY SAYS JUMP? YOU MUST, HE'S THE KING.  
BEING A PRINCE CAN BE A TERRIBLE THING.

DUKE

You could do worse!

PRINCE

He's on a roll.

AND WHILE WE'RE ON THE SUBJECT,  
THERE'S THIS MATTER OF MY FATHER SAYING  
TIME YOU FOUND YOURSELF A BRIDE.  
YOU KNOW WHAT? I'D RATHER HIDE.

DUKE

Michael, I promise you. She's out there, somewhere.

## PRINCE

I'VE ALWAYS KIND OF WONDERED,  
 WILL I KNOW HER WHEN I SEE HER?  
 I'VE ALWAYS KIND OF WONDERED,  
 WILL I KNOW HER WHEN SHE TALKS?  
 HOW LONG BEFORE THE MAGIC HAPPENS?  
 IN AN INSTANT, CAN YOU REALLY KNOW?  
 I'D LIKE TO HAVE THE ANSWER,  
 BEFORE MY HAIR HAS TURNED TO SNOW.

IS IT LIKE A BOLT OF LIGHTNING?  
 WHEN IT HITS, ARE YOU REELING?  
 I'VE ALWAYS KIND OF QUESTIONED  
 MY REACTION TO THE SHOCKS.  
 CAN ONE CONFUSE IT WITH INDIGESTION,  
 OR IS IT LIKE THE ANSWER TO A PRAYER?  
 I'D LIKE TO KNOW THE SECRET  
 BEFORE I AM TOO OLD TO CARE.

MY FANTASY IS THAT SHE WILL BE  
 SO CLEVER AND GORGEOUS  
 AND CARING AND GIVING  
 THAT DOUBT WILL FLY AWAY.  
 WHAT GIVES ME PAUSE  
 IS THAT IF SHE HAS FLAWS,  
 WILL I SEE BEYOND THEM?  
 CUZ I'VE GOT A MILLION,  
 OR WILL I MISS THAT MOMENT  
 TO ASK HER TO STAY?

I'VE ALWAYS KIND OF WONDERED,  
 WILL I KNOW HER WHEN I SEE HER,  
 AND WILL IT BE HER VOICE,  
 OR SOMETHING IN THE WAY SHE WALKS?  
 IT SEEMS SO EASY TO IMAGINE,  
 BUT SO DIFFICULT TO QUITE BE REAL.  
 I'D LIKE TO HAVE THE ANSWER  
 WHILE I AM YOUNG ENOUGH TO FEEL!

I KNOW IT ONLY HAPPENS TO A CHOSEN FEW,  
 AND WHO KNOWS WHO THEY MIGHT BE?

BUT I'VE ALWAYS KIND OF WONDERED  
IF THE WONDER MIGHT HAPPEN TO ME.

DUKE

Well, Michael, this much I know. You are a hopeless romantic.

PRINCE

That obvious, huh?

DUKE

I'm afraid so. In fact, you remind me of another one I met long ago.

PRINCE

Seriously?

DUKE

Your Father. And guess what. He knew her when he saw her.

PRINCE

Then why won't he give me the same chance?

DUKE

He only has your best interests at heart. I promise you.

PRINCE

Forgive me for being somewhat skeptical. He said every available, eligible woman was coming. And strongly indicated that if I didn't pick one, he'd choose for me. Am I too old to run away from home?

DUKE

Amused.

Let's avoid that. How can I help?

PRINCE

Could you keep them at bay for a bit? I need some fresh air to clear my head.

DUKE

As you wish.

He exits.

PRINCE

As I wish. Ha! If only. Truth is, ... I'm completely lost.

Cinderella enters behind him, hearing his last words.

CINDERELLA

Oh, are you lost too?

PRINCE

Unhappy at being discovered.

That I am.

CINDERELLA

I'd help if I could.

PRINCE

That's very kind but ...

He turns, sees her, and stops. His mood changes to a hint of delight.

Do you have an invitation?

CINDERELLA

She searches, finds it, and holds it out to him.

Yes, I do, sir. Do I give it to you?

PRINCE

Amused.

Why, yes. That is my job. I collect invitations. And I'm very good at it, if I may say.

He bows as she gives him the invitation.

CINDERELLA

I'm sure you are. I have a strong sense that one day you will head up the entire invitation branch of the castle.

PRINCE

Enjoying every moment.

Please enter, m'lady.

She starts inside, then stops.

CINDERELLA

Isn't it silly? I wanted so much to come to this ball, but now I am frightened.

PRINCE

Frightened? But why?

CINDERELLA

You see, sir ...

PRINCE

Call me Michael.

CINDERELLA

May I?

He nods.

You see, Michael, I've never been to a ball at the Palace before. In fact, I have never been to a ball anywhere! They are all sure to stare at me.

PRINCE

You can count on that.

CINDERELLA

Concerned.

Oh.

PRINCE

Because you are so very charming. Are you here alone?

CINDERELLA

It was the only way I could come, and I really wanted to ... because ...

She is embarrassed.

PRINCE

Because ...?

CINDERELLA

This will sound silly, but ... I just wanted to see the Prince. From a distance. Oh, I know he wouldn't notice me, not with so many beautiful ladies around, but, well, I would just be fascinated to see what he looks like.

PRINCE

Nothing particularly exceptional, I promise you!

CINDERELLA

Oh, shh.

She laughs.

You shouldn't say that! Someone might hear you, and tell you that you can't be an invitation collector anymore, and there goes your chance ...

BOTH

To head up the whole division.

CINDERELLA

And I'm sure you've probably worked very hard to get where you are!

PRINCE

Thank you. It's nice to be appreciated. So, that's it – one glimpse of the Prince, and you're on your way>

She hesitates.

Out with it.

CINDERELLA

Shyly.

I'd love to have one dance. I've never danced at a ball before.

PRINCE

Never. Then where have you done most of your dancing?

CINDERELLA

Grinning, head bowed.

At home. With a broom. A very handsome broom, if I may say.

They both laugh.

PRINCE

Well, in that case, although I know I have a lot to live up to, ... may I have this dance? I have it on the best authority that I dance as well as the Prince.

CINDERELLA

Michael, don't say that. Someone might hear.

She is so tempted.

Are you sure you're allowed?

PRINCE

I promise. I'm allowed.

He bows, and holds out his hand. She curtsies and takes it.

SONG #9:

I'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER TONIGHT

They dance.

YOU SHOULD NEVER BE ALONE.

YOU SHOULD NEVER BE WITHOUT SOMEONE TO PROTECT YOU,  
SOMEONE ABLE TO BE HERE AT YOUR SIDE, LIKE ME.

THOUGH WE ONLY MET A MOMENT AGO,  
YOU HAVE TOLD MY HEART ALL IT NEEDS TO KNOW.  
HERE BESIDE YOU FEELS SO RIGHT.  
I'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER TONIGHT.

CINDERELLA

Good heavens. I have never met anyone quite so willing to share his feelings! May I remind you, good sir – you don't even know my name.

PRINCE

Sometimes mystery is quite enchanting.

CINDERELLA

THOUGH I HAVEN'T EVEN TOLD YOU MY NAME,  
I CONFESS, MY HEART IS FEELING THE SAME.  
FULL OF LAUGHTER AND DELIGHT,  
I'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER TONIGHT.

PRINCE

FOR TONIGHT WE FOUND EACH OTHER AND CONNECTED,  
JUST AS IF SOMEHOW IT HAD BEEN DIRECTED,  
JUST AS IF A POWER FROM BEYOND  
HAD GONE AND WAVED A MAGIC WAND.

CINDERELLA

I'm convinced my Fairy Godmother must be lurking around here somewhere.

PRINCE

Who?

CINDERELLA

Oh, just a magical friend I happen to know.

PRINCE

You are quite mysterious, and it's delightful!

I'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER TONIGHT.

CINDERELLA

ALL MY LIFE A PART OF ME MUST HAVE KNOWN,  
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS MOMENT ALONE.

PRINCE

NOW OUR FUTURE SHINES SO BRIGHT.  
I'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER TONIGHT.

BOTH

FOR TONIGHT WE FOUND EACH OTHER AND CONNECTED,  
JUST AS IF SOMEHOW IT HAD BEEN DIRECTED,  
JUST AS IF A POWER FROM BEYOND  
HAD GONE AND WAVED A MAGIC WAND  
AND BROUGHT YOU INTO SIGHT.  
I'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER TONIGHT.

PRINCE

Alright, the time has come. Please. Your name?

CINDERELLA

She whispers.

It's a secret. I can't tell anyone my name tonight.

PRINCE

Amused.

Why?

CINDERELLA

You see, right now, tonight, I am not really myself.

PRINCE

Well, then, who are you?

CINDERELLA

A mystery woman.

PRINCE

And what if the Prince were to ask you? Would you tell him?

CINDERELLA

Not even him.

PRINCE

You are absolutely magnificent!

Music resumes and they dance offstage. Duke runs on from the other side and speaks to the audience.

DUKE

Please, everyone, don't tell her I am here. I'm just worn out. Oh dear, where am I going to hide.

He cowers in the corner, doing his best imitation of a plant. Stepmother runs on, graceful as ever.

STEPMOTHER

Yoohoo, your grace! He is not here. But I saw him coming here. The naughty man. He is playing a game with me. Where are you? Dukey!

Sisters enter, on the run.

CLOTHILDA

Motherrrr.

SOPHRONIA

The most awfyl thing!

STEPMOTHER

Prepared for the worst.

What is it, my darlings? Tell me. Tell me!

SISTERS

Whining as only professional whiners can whine.

The prince is dancing with a most beautiful princess.

CLOTHILDA

He is making a fool of himself over her.

SOPHRONIA

He never once looked at me that way when we were dancing.

SISTERS

It just isn't fair!!

SOPHRONIA

Since she came, he hasn't danced with anyone else.

CLOTHILDA

Can you see them?

STEPMOTHER

Where?

SOPHRONIA

Pointing offstage.

There.

STEPMOTHER

Oh. What a lovely gown.

She catches herself.

But not as lovely as either of yours!

CLOTHILDA

He has completely spoiled the Ball for me.

SOPHRONIA

Me too.

STEPMOTHER

Suddenly animated.

OH, LOOK! There is the dear Dukie. I see you, you devil, you.

To girls.

He won't escape me this time.

She chases him into the audience.

SOPHRONIA

We might as well go home now.

CLOTHILDA

Not yet. We haven't eaten. Have you seen the food they've laid out?

SOPHRONIA

Food?

CLOTHILDA

Food! Follow me.

They exit with no grace whatsoever. Prince enters courtyard with Cinderella.

PRINCE

The air is much nicer out here. I hope you don't mind that I am keeping you all to myself.

CINDERELLA

Oh no, you have been so kind. I don't know anybody here, and you you've made me feel that it doesn't matter.

PRINCE

I didn't want to give anyone else a chance to dance with you.

CINDERELLA

Laughing.

So I noticed.. But, ... I wouldn't want to dance with anyone else.

PRINCE

Even the Prince?

CINDERELLA

No, thank you. You've made me feel quite royal enough.

PRINCE

So you think I might have some Princely potential?

CINDERELLA

Absolutely. After all, you did rescue me.

PRINCE

I did?

CINDERELLA

From being alone at the ball. Michael, this has been the most beautiful evening of my life.

PRINCE

And mine. And now, the time has come.

CINDERELLA

For what?

PRINCE

For you to tell me your name.

CINDERELLA

Shyly.

I suppose you're right. You see ...

Clock starts to chime.

Oh, no. Listen.

PRINCE

It's just the clock

CINDERELLA

What is the time? I've lost track.

PRINCE

Just coming up to midnight. The night is young.

CINDERELLA

Oh no! Already? I didn't realize ... I have to go.

PRINCE

What do you mean? Wait!

CINDERELLA

I'm so, so sorry. Thank you for everything. Good-bye!

She runs offstage, losing one of her slippers in the process.

PRINCE

No. Please. Don't go!

Duke enters.

DUKE

Michael. What's going on?

PRINCE

My beautiful Princess. She's gone. And I don't even know her name.

DUKE

Spying the errant slipper, and picking it up.

Well now. What have we here? It appears to be a slipper.

MICHAEL

Taking it from the Duke.

It's hers. She must have lost it when she was running away.

DUKE

Michael, I have an idea.

PRINCE

I'm listening.

DUKE

We must try this slipper on all the girls in the Kingdom, beginning tomorrow. We are bound to find your unknown beauty. You must issue a proclamation that you will marry the one whom this slipper fits!

PRINCE

Brilliant, Dorian. You're a true friend.

He exits, Fairy Godmother enters, scene changes back to Cottage.

TRANSITION #2:

FAIRY GODMOTHER

Cinderella ran off into the night,  
Past the Castle guards and flags,  
And two seconds later, she was out of sight,  
Her gown returned to rags.

DUKE

Where there had been a magnificent carriage, with four snow white horses, there was only a tired pumpkin, and four very confused mice.

FAIRY GODMOTHER

And little did Cinderella know  
As home in tears she ran,

DUKE

Interjecting.

With the mice!

FAIRY GODMOTHER

That the Prince basked in her afterglow,  
And proclaimed, as only Princes can:

Spot on Prince, reading proclamation.

PRINCE

Whoever fits the royal slipper, by my Royal Decree, will become my bride.

Blackout on Prince.

FAIRY GODMOTHER, DUKE

To audience.

Isn't it romantic?!

SCENE 3: The cottage, the next morning. Cinderella, back in her rags,  
cleaning up.

CINDERELLA

O.K. get it together, girl. Simply admit it was all a wonderful dream. Right?

She stops.

Right?

SONG #10: TELL ME THE STORY

THIS IS TOO UNREAL.  
DID IT REALLY HAPPEN?  
DID THAT MAN AND I REALLY DANCE?  
WHAT A WAY TO FEEL.  
JUST AS IF IT HAPPENED,  
JUST AS IF THERE WAS A ROMANCE.  
WHAT A REALISTIC DREAMER I'M BECOMING.  
IS THAT SOMEONE AT THE DOOR,  
OR JUST THE SOUND OF MY HEART DRUMMING?

THIS IS TOO BIZARRE,  
AND A LITTLE SCARY.

DID THAT MAN AND I REALLY TOUCH?  
HAVE I GONE TOO FAR, BELIEVING THAT A FAIRY  
GODMOTHER HELPED ME THAT MUCH?  
DID THE PUMPKIN LOOK THAT FINE?  
DID THE MICE BECOME A TEAM?  
SOMEBODY TELL ME, WAS IT JUST A DREAM?

She addresses the audience directly.

If only I knew. But if it was dream, where did this slipper come from?

Commotion offstage.

Oh no, they're coming home. I have to hide it!

She does. The terrible trio enter in all their post-ballroom glory.

SOPHRONIA

Oh, how my feet ache!

CLOTHILDA

I can hardly keep my eyes open.

SOPHRONIA

What time is it?

CLOTHILDA

It must be long past midnight.

SOPHRONIA

I'll be a mess tomorrow.

CLOTHILDA

You're a mess now.

STEPMOTHER

Girls, sweethearts, enough. She had better not have gone to bed.

SISTERS

Loud enough to shatter glass.

CINDERELLA!!!

CINDERELLA

Who was totally visible to those not inordinately consumed with themselves. She responds, quietly.

I'm here.

STEPMOTHER

What are you doing up?

She quickly corrects herself.

It's a good thing you are still up to help us.

CINDERELLA

Taking their wraps, helping them with their shoes.

I've been waiting for you. I wanted to hear about the ball.

STEPMOTHER

Why would you want to hear about the ball?

SISTERS

What does it have to do with you?

STEPMOTHER

Just don't think you can sleep in, in the morning.

CINDERELLA

I won't. I promise.

STEPMOTHER

Good. Now I'm off to bed. The Duke chased me all night and I'm simply exhausted

She exits.

CLOTHILDA

Who does she think she's kidding?

CINDERELLA

Sophronia, please – tell me about the ball.

SOPHRONIA

It was the grandest affair.

CLOTHILDA

You couldn't possibly start to imagine it. The lights, the music, the dancing ...

SOPHRONIA

I danced with the Prince.

CINDERELLA

Really!?!??

CLOTHILDA

So what? He left you after twenty seconds and never looked at you again.

SOPHRONIA

He would have, had it not been for that Princess who came later in the evening. From the moment she arrived, he never looked at anyone else.

CLOTHILDA

He even missed his chance to dance with me!

CINDERELLA

What did she look like? Was she pretty?

SOPHRONIA

Oh yeah, I guess she was, with the fancy gown and all that, but if you've got money, who wouldn't have a nice dress? No big thing.

CINDERELLA

And what was the Prince like?

SISTERS

Ohhhh.

CLOTHILDA

Something else. He was all in Green and White. Infact, he was the only man at the ball who was all in Green and White.

Light bulb

Green and White?

SOPHRONIA

You got a problem with that? Not everyone dresses in rags, you know.

CLOTHILDA

And then the strangest things happened.

SOPHRONIA

Weird. She disappeared. Hey! That rhymes. Weird, disappeared

CLOTHILDA

Sarcastically.

You're so clever. Well, it isn't you he's going to look for tomorrow.

CINDERELLA

Who is it?

SISTERS

I can't believe she said that!

SOPHRONIA

The princess, stupid. Who else?

CLOTHILDA

Boy, you can be dumb sometimes. Listen up. The Prince is going to search for the beautiful Princess who lost her slipper at the ball. Got it?

CINDERELLA

But why?

SOPHRONIA

Why else, birdbrain.? He wants to marry her!

CLOTHILDA

You know what I think? I think she comes from some other Kingdom entirely. She couldn't live around here and not be noticed!

Enter Stepmother in her bedclothes. It's frightening.

STEPMOTHER

Girls, girls, girls!

The other three react in shock.

TRIO.

Oh! Ah! Ow!

STEPMOTHER

Beddy bye, now. We have to get our beauty sleep. Remember, the Prince is coming TOMORROW!

CLOTHILDA

What's the use?

STEPMOTHER

Who knows? I believe there is still a chance. If you ask me, I don't believe they'll ever find the unknown beauty. And the Prince did say he would marry the girl who fits the slipper. Who knows? Cinderella, hurry. Help Clothilda put away her things.

SOPHRONIA

Mine too.

Cinderella does.

STEPMOTHER

Now. Off to bed, girls. Clothilda.

Air kiss.

Sophronia.

Air kiss.

You were both splendid this evening.

Girls exit.

CINDERELLA

Goodnight.

STEPMOTHER

Cinderella, I want you up at dawn, as usual. This floor needs scrubbing! But don't you dare wake us up with any noise.

CINDERELLA

No. I'll be quiet as a mouse.

Aside.

Well, as quiet as a mouse is when a mouse isn't a horse pulling a carriage!

STEPMOTHER

More confused than normally.

What?

CINDERELLA

Nothing, Stepmother. Goodnight.

STEPMOTHER

Harumph.

She flounces off. Cinderella starts off, then stops.

CINDERELLA

Green and white?

She exits. Lights to black. End of scene.

TRANSITION 3: Duke and Prince on the street the next day.

DUKE

It's a wonder you aren't tired yet, Michael. We've been searching for hours.

PRINCE

How can I be tired? I'm excited. I'm convinced we are going to find my lovely princess. Even if I don't know her, even if she is in some sort of a disguise, I have her slipper right here. And if the shoe fits ...

DUKE

What about trying it on some of these ladies?

They go into the audience. They are unsuccessful.

Well, thank you all! It was worth a try. But we must move on to the next house.

Lights fade as Prince and Duke exit.

SCENE 4: Lights rise on inside of Stepmother's Cottage. Cinderella enters with a bucket of water. The terrible trio are there in their glory.

STEPMOTHER

Hurry, Cinderella. There isn't much time. Come on girls.

SOPHRONIA

Do up the back of my dress, Cinderella.

CINDERELLA

But this is your gown from last night.

SOPHRONIA

Of course it is. I want the prince to recognize me.

CLOTHILDA

Mother, I'm still so sleepy. Can't I go back to bed? Sophronia, take your huge feet out of the ice water.

SOPHRONIA

Why?

CLOTHILDA

It was my idea.

STEPMOTHER

To Sophronia.

Do as she says, dear. It would be a miracle if your ... substantial foot fit that slipper!

SOPHRONIA

I know. But miracles happen. And it feels so good.

Clothilda grabs the bucket.

CLOTHILDA

My turn.

She puts her feet in.

Ah. That's better.

STEPMOTHER

Hurry with the towel, Cinderella. We don't have much time. I expect the Prince could come any minute!

SOPHRONIA

Are you sure?

CLOTHILDA

Have you seen him?

STEPMOTHER

Not yet, but the streets are crowded to catch a glimpse of him, so he must be near.

She peeks out the window.

Here they come! Don't forget to smile! Don't forget to curtsy. And don't forget to ...

SISTER

Sparkle, sparkle, sparkle.

STEPMOTHER

Cinderella! Get out of sight. Under the table.

To sisters., as Cinderella gets under the table.

Are we ready?

Knock on door. Stepmother answers and steps back.

Please come in.

Duke and Prince enter with little enthusiasm.

Welcome to our humble home Your Highness, Your Grace.

DUKE

Good day to you ladies.

He looks woefully at the Prince.

STEPMOTHER

Please excuse our appearance. We have just gotten out of our beds!

PRINCE

Astounded.

Just now?

STEPMOTHER

Oh yes. We were so tired, having gotten home very late from the Ball, where we danced all night ...

She begins to demonstrate. Duke cuts in.

DUKE

Indeed. Well, if you were at the Ball last night, then you know why we are here.

CLOTHILDA

We know all about the slipper, and how his Highness is going to choose his bride.

SOPHRONIA

It's so exciting!

STEPMOTHER

O.K. girls, off with the shoes. Let's see those darling fotties!

PRINCE

Aside to Duke.

Oh no! I recognize those feet. I still have the bruises to show for it!

DUKE

Fear not. This won't take long.

PRINCE

Please tell me there's no chance the slipper would fit either of them. Please!

DUKE

Trust me. Impossible.

STEPMOTHER

We are ready, your Grace.

CLOTHILDA

Let me go first.

SOPHRONIA

I'm the eldest.

DUKE

Motioning to Sophronia to sit, as he gets down in front of her.

The left foot, please.

She presents it. He tries on the slipper.

I'm afraid the slipper is definitely too small.

CLOTHILDA

Told you so! My turn.

She shoves Sophronia off the chair, takes her place, and presents her left foot with great ceremony.

I am ready.

Duke tries the slipper on Clothilda.

Well, young lady. You definitely have a smaller foot than your sister, so much so that the slipper is actually too large.

CLOTHILDA

It feels perfect.

DUKE

Removing the slipper.

I'm so sorry. It's not a fit. Have we seen all your daughters, Madame?

STEPMOTHER

Of course. One, two. Plain as day!

DUKE

To audience.

They certainly are.

PRINCE

Are there any other young ladies in the house?

STEPMOTHER

No. Definitely not.

PRINCE

Then whose foot is that?

He points at Cinderella's foot barely showing from under the table. Stepmother moves over and shoves it under the tablecloth with her foot.

STEPMOTHER

Oh. That's not a foot. Well, it is a foot, but a foot to be forgotten. Forget it, please. Ridiculous. Right, girls

SOPHRONIA

Right.

CLOTHILDA

Ridiculous.

PRINCE

I wish to know who that foot belongs to.

STEPMOTHER

Taking prince downstage.

It belongs to a kind of scullery maid. No one to look at, and certainly not a lady. The very idea! She has never been to the Palace in all her life.

DUKE

I think the Prince would prefer to judge for himself. He has decreed that he must try the slipper on every young lady in the Kingdom, bar none.

STEPMOTHER

As Duke helps Cinderella out from under the table.

You must be joking. Cinderella to try on the slipper? We'' I never ...

Cinderella and the Prince look at one another.

PRINCE

Cinderella. So that's your name. Even in those rags, I recognize you. Sit down, please.

She sits down on the chair. Duke tries on the slipper. He looks up at the Prince.

DUKE

Your Highness. It's a perfect fit.

THE TERRIBLE TRIO

What?

CINDERELLA

I have the other slipper with me.

She takes it out of her pocket, and puts it on.

THE TERRIBLE TRIO

Louder.

What?

PRINCE

Holding out his hand and getting her up from the chair.

Then you are my Princess. There is no doubt. And you must be my bride.

CINDERELLA

Me? A Princess?

STEPMOTHER

Impossible!

SISTERS

Do it. Do it. Keep it in the family!

PRINCE

I've never seen anyone more suited to the role.

DUKE

But why were you hidden? And why did you run away from the Ball?

PRINCE'

I think that's fairly obvious.

He turns to look at the Terrible trio.

They were jealous of her sweetness and charm. How could you be so wicked? Shame on you.

THE TERRIBLE TRIO

Cowering.

Shame! Shame! Shame!

STEPMOTHER

We are truly sorry, your Highness. We didn't realize ...

PRINCE

You must be punished.

CINDERELLA

Michael. Please. Don't be too hard on them. Whatever may have happened in the past, they are my family.

DUKE

Pity.

CLOTHILDA

Will you forgive us, Cinderella?

SOPHRONIA

We'll never be mean to anyone again.

CINDERELLA

Of course I forgive you. I am so very happy, I can't be cross with anyone.

PRINCE

How kind and lovely you are.

CINDERELLA

Lovely? In these rags?

PRINCE

Lovely.

STEPMOTHER

I'm sorry, but I still don't understand. How did you get that beautiful gown .... If it really was you at the Ball.

CINDERELLA

It's a long story. You see, there was this Fairy Godmother ..

CLOTHILDA

A Fairy Godmother?

SOPHRONIA

I wish I had a Fairy Godmother.

PRINCE

Well, watch your stepsister. When you learn how to be gentle and kind like her, maybe your Fairy Godmother will look after you too.

SISTERS

Falling over each other with excitement.

Oh, I can't wait. Wow. How exciting. Yay. Etc. etc. etc.

PRINCE

But now, Cinderella, we must go to the Palace.

He puts out his hand. Cinderella takes it.

We must get ready for the most wonderful wedding this country has ever seen.

DUKE

But Michael. Has she agreed?

Prince looks at Duke, then Cinderella. Down on his knees.

PRINCE

Cinderella. Will you do me the honour of marrying me and making me the happiest Prince ever.

SISTERS

Do it! Do it! Do it.

CINDERELLA

Yes. Of course. It's been a very short courtship, but I can't think of a single reason to say no.

PRINCE

Thank you.

He stands. They embrace. He gestures toward the door.

Shall we?

SISTERS

Us too? Us too?

CINDERELLA

Please. Let them come. And their mother!

PRINCE

As you wish.

To the Duke.

Dorian, please escort the ladies.

DUKE

My pleasure, Sir.

Though it is obviously not. He addresses the Terrible Trio.

I'll be right with you.

Cinderella, the Prince, and the Terrible Trio exit. Fairy Godmother enters from the other side to join the Duke and addresses the audience.

FAIRY GODMOTHER

And so it ended, as it should,  
As perhaps you all knew it would.  
Even the Stepsisters changed their ways,  
And the Stepmother chased the Duke for the rest of her days.

DUKE

Frightening! Cinderella became the Prince's bride, and when the Prince was finally the King ...

BOTH

Looking at one another.

Oh. But that's another story.

SONG #10A:

ONCE UPON A TIME (reprise)

ONCE UPON A, ONCE UPON A, ONCE UPON A TIME  
IN A KINGDOM FAR AWAY,  
A PRINCE WENT LOOKING FOR A PRINCESS.  
HE SEARCHED FOR HER NIGHT AND DAY.  
ONCE UPON A, ONCE UPON A, ONCE UPON A TIME  
A LADY AND A PRINCE  
FELL IN LOVE ONE NIGHT,  
AT FIRST SIGHT,  
AND THEY'VE LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER SINCE.

Lights dim. End of play.











