

# Cinderella

by Bradford and Webster 2011

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# Cinderella - a Pantomime

# by Toby Bradford & Tina Webster

## **Scenes**

# ACT 1

## **PROLOGUE**

SCENE 1 - THE VILLAGE MARKETPLACE

SCENE 2 - THE KITCHEN, HARDUP HALL

SCENE 3 - THE VILLAGE MARKETPLACE

SCENE 4 – THE FOREST

SCENE 5 - THE KITCHEN, HARDUP HALL

SCENE 6 - CHUMPNEY'S SPA

SCENE 7 - THE GARDEN, HARDUP HALL

# ACT 2

SCENE 8 - THE BALLROOM OF THE ROYAL PALACE

SCENE 9 – A CORRIDOR, HARDUP HALL

SCENE 10 - TRINNY AND SUSANNAH'S BEDROOM, HARDUP HALL

SCENE 11 - THE KITCHEN, HARDUP HALL

SONGSHEET

FINALE WEDDING

# Cinderella - Cast List

Cinderella Traditional Principal Girl. Pretty, kind and loving.

Treated badly by her step-mother and step-sisters.

Prince Charming Traditional Principal Boy, usually played by a female.

Dandini Charming's equerry and best friend. Second Principal

Boy.

Trinny & Susannah The two Ugly Sisters. Step-sisters to Cinderella.

Traditionally played by males, panto-dame style.

Very over-the-top and flirtacious!

Buttons Works for the Hardup Family. Cinderella's best friend

Baron Horace Hardup Cinderella's Father

Baroness Lucretia Hardup Cinderella's wicked Stepmother & mother to Trinny

and Susannah

Fairy Godmother Traditional Fairy Godmother

King Cornelius Charming Prince Charming's Father. A little dim, but means

well. Often gets his words muddled, which adds to his

comedy character

Queen Prudence Charming Prince Charming's Mother. Definitely the one in

charge!

Miss Fitt Manager of "Chumpneys" the luxury spa

Britney Receptionist and helper at "Chumpneys"

Rosie & Daisy
Petunia
Village Gossip
Herald
Two Village Gossip
The Royal Herald

Also, for the opening 'ballet':-

Young Cinderella Young Trinny Young Susannah Cinderella's Mother Young Baron

Young Baroness

Plus chorus roles of "Villagers" and "Courtiers"

#### **CINDERELLA**

#### **ACTI**

# **Prologue**

Dramatic music, dark stage. Smoke..... Mirror ball....to create a "dreamy" effect. Fairy Godmother's entrance .... possibly with a pyro flash.

The upstage area remains smoky & mirror ball revolves. As the Fairy Godmother narrates the story from DSR. A ballet or mime is acted out upstage, in a dream-like way.

# **Fairy Godmother**

Once upon a time I've a tale to tell, and true And, if you'll stay a while I will tell my tale to you

Not so very far from here Lived a Baron, and his wife Who loved each other dearly And they shared a happy life

And soon the pair were blessed With a baby, pure and sweet A beautiful little girl Who made their lives complete

And this is where I join this tale For I have a part to play My job, as Fairy Godmother Is to keep her from harm's way

The Baron and his family Grew happier, year by year But little did they realise That tragedy was near

An illness struck the Baroness And she faded, day by day She left two badly broken hearts When she sadly passed away

The Baron comforted the child But the child missed her mother So he took himself a second wife Though he didn't want another

The woman, at first, seemed good and kind She tended every need But, beneath this evil masquerade She was full of spite and greed

The Baron, grieving, did not see That his scheming second wife Was, in truth, a wicked step mother Destroying his daughter's life

He does not know the suffering That Cinderella must endure From this evil woman and her girls To his daughter, good and pure

So, now, for Cinderella's sake I'm here to play my part
To keep her safe and happy
So, I think it's time to start .....

# Scene 1 - The Market Place in the Village of Derbydale

Opening chorus number "Dancing in the Streets"

Buttons (to audience)

Hello, kids! Oh, there's no-one there ... did we forget to let them in?

Villagers shake their heads & encourage Buttons to get on with it

## **Buttons**

No? Oh right .... better try again then! Hello, kids!

#### **Audience**

Hello!

# **Buttons**

(to villagers) Hey, you're right – there are people out there! (to audience) I bet you don't know who I am?!

#### **Audience**

**Buttons!** 

## **Buttons**

Buttons? How did you know that? Have you been here before? I guess all of these buttons gave you a bit of a clue, didn't they?

Yes, you're right, I am Buttons. So, now that you know who I am, I'd better find out who you are

(Down steps into audience, starts front right)

Hello, I'm Buttons, pleased to meet you (holds out hand, to shake)

(to next person) Hello, I'm Buttons, pleased to meet you (holds out hand, to shake)

(to next person) Hello, I'm Buttons, pleased to meet you (holds out hand, to shake)

## **Villagers**

Buttons!!!

## **Buttons**

Oh, yes, what am I thinking? This will take far too long!

(returns to stage)

I'll tell you what, do you mind if I just shout to everyone at once? I'll shout "HELLO KIDS!" And you could shout back "HELLO BUTTONS!" Shall we have a go? ...... HELLO KIDS!

#### Audience

Hello Buttons!

#### **Buttons**

Hmmm, not bad .... but you don't seem to have much energy. Is that because you haven't had any chocolate? Is your Mum saving the selection boxes until Christmas Day? Do you like chocolate?

#### **Audience**

Yes!

## **Buttons**

I absolutely love chocolate! I bet you can't guess what my favourite chocolate is? (gives audience clues, if required)

#### **Audience**

**Chocolate Buttons** 

#### **Buttons**

That's right, Chocolate Buttons! Would you like some? I always carry a few spare bags (pulls out some bags of Choc Buttons)

So, let's try again ..... HELLO KIDS!

## **Audience**

**HELLO BUTTONS!** 

## **Buttons**

Blimey, that was brilliant! You can definitely have some Buttons. Here you go! And some over there! And over there!

(Buttons pulls out a bag of real buttons and is about to throw them but realises just in time) Whoa!! That was close. Whoops. You wouldn't want to eat these. These are **real** buttons. They're my spare ones - in case I lose any off my jacket. **They** certainly wouldn't melt in your mouth!

So, getting on with the story .... as you know, I'm Buttons, and I live at Hardup Hall, just down the road. I work for Baron Hardup and his family. I'm a kind of ...er...

## Rosie

Dogsbody!

# **Buttons**

No, I'm not! I'm a ... well, actually, yes, I suppose I am, really

#### Rosie

They don't even pay you, do they?

#### Buttons

Of course they pay me! Only an idiot would work for nothing!

#### **Daisy**

So, how much do they pay you?

## **Buttons**

Oh, about (thinks, as though reckoning up & counts on his fingers)

#### Rosie

Well?

## **Buttons**

(looks to ground) Nothing

## Rosie & Daisy

Nothing?

## **Buttons**

**Nothing** 

## Daisy

So, you are an idiot?

## **Buttons**

No! ... I .... er .... I get my board and lodgings.

## Rosie

So you've got your own room?

#### **Buttons**

Of course! ... well, not exactly. I ... er ... sleep in the airing cupboard.

Daisy and Rosie shake their heads.

#### **Buttons**

Well, at least it's warm!

#### Daisv

Oh, Buttons, why do you work there?

## **Buttons**

Er (thinks, then his face brightens) ... job satisfaction!

# Rosie

Job satisfaction? Running around after the Baron's spiteful wife and her two spoilt, ugly daughters?

# **Buttons**

(looks around, worried) Shhh! ...

Daisy whispers something to Rosie

#### Rosie

Oh, I see. Daisy says that you fancy Baron Hardup's daughter, Cinderella

#### Ruttons

No, I don't! She's just my best mate. We get on really well. She's bright ... and funny ....

#### Rosie

...and you fancy her

# **Buttons**

...and she has a beautiful smile ... it kind of lights up the room ...

# **Daisy**

....and you fancy her

#### **Buttons**

....and gorgeous eyes .... all deep and sparkley...

#### Rosie

....and you fancy her

#### **Buttons**

.... and really nice legs ....

# Rosie & Daisy

... and you -

## **Buttons**

- and I fancy her. You're right. That's the only reason that I stay at Hardup Hall .... I really love Cinderella.

## Rosie

Does she love you?

## **Buttons**

I don't know

# **Daisy**

You don't know?!

## **Buttons**

Well, it's just that .... well I know that she really **likes** me ... you know ... as a friend, we get on really well – she's bright and funny ... and she has a beautiful smile ... it lights up the room ...

#### Rosie

Yes, you mentioned that earlier.

#### **Buttons**

..... but I'm not sure whether she could ever actually fancy me

#### Daisy

Why don't you ask her?

# **Buttons**

Ask her?

# Rosie & Daisy

Yes!!

## **Buttons**

What, just come right out and say it?

#### Rosie

Why not?

# **Daisy**

# Song "Tell Her"

## **Buttons**

(with new-found courage) Yes! You're right! I will!

Buttons steps forward to soliloquise.

#### **Buttons**

I will tell Cinderella how I feel.

Buttons quickly exits

## Daisy

I thought that you liked Buttons, Rosie?

#### Rosie

Oh, I do .... but he's obviously in love with Cinderella (shrugs/sighs)....

Rosie and Daisy exit. Blackout

# Scene 2 - The Kitchen at Hardup Hall

Cinderella is heard singing in the distance

# **Buttons**

Oh gosh! That's her! That's Cinderella .... well, here goes! Wish me luck!

Cinderella enters

# Cinderella

Oh, hello Buttons, what are you doing here?

#### **Buttons**

I've been waiting here for you. I've got something to tell you – something really special

# Cinderella

Have you, Buttons? What is it?

Buttons does a "wish me luck" kind of look to the audience, with fingers crossed

## **Buttons**

I'm in love

## Cinderella

Oh, Buttons, you've got a girlfriend! That's wonderful! (pretend coyness) Though I did think that I was the only girl in you life.

## **Buttons**

Oh, er, um...

#### Cinderella

Oh, Buttons, I'm only kidding. It's great that you've got a girlfriend – I can't wait to meet her

#### **Buttons**

But Cinderella ...

#### Cinderella

Don't be shy, Buttons! I know that it's a bit embarrassing to admit that you're in love for the first time – but I'm you're best friend – you can tell me!

#### **Buttons**

Do you love anyone, Cinderella?

## Cinderella

Oh. Buttons! Look at me ... in my scruffy old dress .... who would fall for me, looking like this?

#### **Buttons**

I .... I ... think you're beautiful ...

## Cinderella

(laughs) You're so kind, Buttons ...

#### Ruttons

But what **did** happen to your nice clothes? Why are you wearing that old dress? Your Step-Mother's been making you do chores again, hasn't she?

#### Cinderella

(sadly) Yes ... and she made me tear up the last of my nice dresses to make dish rags and dusters ...

#### **Buttons**

(to audience)

Come on! It's sadder than that!

# **Audience**

Aaaah!

#### **Buttons**

That's better!

(to Cinders) Oh, Cinderella, you've really got to tell your father how horrible she is to you ... and those two daughters of hers – doesn't he realise how spiteful they are?

## Cinderella

Oh, Buttons, I can't tell my father. When my mother died, he thought it was his duty to provide a family to care for me - it would break his heart if he knew he had married such a monster..... don't worry, I'll be fine ...

#### Buttons

Oh Cinders. (idea) I know something that'll cheer you up. Meet my new friends. Hello kids!

## **Audience**

Hello Buttons!

# **Buttons**

I said HELLO KIDS!

# **Audience**

**HELLO BUTTONS!** 

#### **Buttons**

Great aren't they?

#### Cinderella

They're wonderful.

#### **Buttons**

Here you go.

Buttons throws choccy buttons to the audience. He again pulls out his bag of spare buttons but realises just in time

## **Buttons**

Oooh, that was a close one. You don't want to be eating my spare buttons, do you?

## Cinderella

So, Buttons, tell me about this girlfriend of yours.

Trinny & Susannah enter – big entrance - pose

# Short excerpt of "Don't Cha Wish Your Girlfriend was Hot Like Me"

which is quickly cut short by Buttons, unbeknownst to the sisters, popping into the wings and coming back with a plug on a flex, as if he has unplugged all the band's equipment.

# **Trinny**

(glaring at musicians) How terribly, terribly rude! There's little enough talent on this stage, without cutting me off in my prime!

## Susannah

Talent? You?? Trinny, I'm the one who got through the Pop Idol audition

# **Trinny**

They put you in the "weirdo's and misfits section" – with the toothless granny from Jarrow and that guy who worked in the chicken factory

## Susannah

Hmph! You're just jealous! Everyone is always jealous of me! That's the price one has to pay for being talented and gorgeous! (strikes a pose)

#### Trinny

Soooo, Buttons! Tell us about your girlfriend!

## Susannah

When did you meet her? During a power cut?

## **Trinny**

Yeah! Cos it'd be dark and she wouldn't be able to see how ugly you are.

# Susannah

Yeah!

# **Trinny**

Wait! I can smell chocolate – Cinderella, have you been stealing chocolate from my secret chocolate supply?

#### Cinderella

No, of course not. I don't know where your secret chocolate supply is

#### Susannah

It's in her bedroom, third wardrobe along, underneath a pile of dirty socks and underwear ... whoops!

# **Trinny**

So you've been stealing my chocolate! No wonder you've put on so much weight

#### Susannah

You're so rude! No manners whatsoever! .... Belch!!

## **Trinny**

That's disgusting! You should be more like me – well-mannered and cultured

# Susannah

Cultured?! I've seen more culture in a Muller yoghurt!

# **Trinny**

Oooh!!

## Susannah

(to Cinderella) Right, where's this chocolate?

#### Cinderella

We haven't got any left. Buttons was just throwing some chocolate buttons to the boys and girls.

# Susannah

Chocolate! I knew it! Grab him! Search him!

Trinny grabs Buttons and the Sisters start to search his pockets. Susannah finds the bag of spare buttons and starts cramming them into her mouth. Meanwhile, Trinny sneers at the audience

# **Buttons**

(to Susannah) No!

#### Cinderella

(to Buttons) Shush!

## Trinny

You wasted chocolate on smelly boys and girls?! They're so smelly, I can smell them from here.

## Susannah

(talking about "chocolate" buttons) I think they're Swiss.

#### Trinny

(looking around the audience) Really? How can you tell?

## Susannah

They're a bit too crunchy. And they taste funny.

# **Trinny**

What? (realisation) I'm talking about the boys and girls, stupid!

#### Susannah

Don't call me stupid. You're the stupid one!

# **Trinny**

Am not! Stupid!

## Susannah

Stupid!

# **Trinny**

Stupid!

## Susannah

Stupid!

They start fisticuffs. Buttons moves in to separate them

# **Buttons**

Girls! Girls! Can't you just accept that you're both stupid and move on?

Sisters nod ... then realise .... & start on Buttons

## **T & S**

What??!!

## **Trinny**

Well you're really,

# Susannah

Really,

## **Trinny**

Really,

# Susannah

Really

## T & S

Stupid!!

# Susannah

And don't touch us! You're so ugly, it might be catching.

## **Buttons**

So, **this** is what they taught you at that posh finishing school in Switzerland?

# Susannah

It wasn't Switzerland, it was Norway

#### **Buttons**

Oh yes, because you look like a Norse (to audience) an 'orse, get it .... it doesn't get any better, folks!!

Susannah goes for Buttons, but he quickly speaks...

#### **Buttons**

That's not very <u>ladylike</u> behaviour!

# **Trinny**

I can't abide that sort of behaviour ..... because I'm a lady!

#### Susannah

(recovering her dignity) Yes, dear, of course you are, dear ...... And I'm a lady too (to audience) I really am

## **Buttons**

Cinderella is more of a lady than you'll ever be ...

T & S handbags up

# Susannah

Oooh! And who rattled your cage, Zippy?

#### Buttons

It's Buttons (quite hurt. Indicates buttons on costume) buttons, not zips.

T & S start doing "Zippy" impressions, mocking Buttons

# **Trinny**

Oh, hello, my name's Zippy.

#### Susannah

Yes, Zippy - a sad little man who collects buttons.

# Cinderella

Leave him alone!

It's all getting a bit noisy, then Step-Mother enters. Everyone shrinks back, with fright

## Step-Mother

What on earth is going on? What is all this racket?

T & S are suddenly all coy and goody-goody

#### Trinny

Oh, Mummy, Mummy, Cinderella is being horrible to us

# Susannah

Yes, Mummy, she was calling us all sorts of nasty names

## SM

Oh my poor cherubs

# Cinderella

I was not!

#### SM

Quiet! Wicked child!

# **Trinny**

And she's invited lots of friends round without permission. Look!

T & S point at audience in a tell-tale way. SM surveys scene with an evil glare

#### SM

Friends? Cinderella doesn't have any friends

## **Buttons**

Oh yes she does!

#### SM

Oh no she doesn't

# **Buttons & Audience**

Oh yes she does

#### SM

Oh no she doesn't

# **Buttons & Audience**

Oh yes she does

#### **Buttons**

.... and I'm definitely Cinderella's friend!

# **Trinny**

Well, maybe it was **Buttons** who invited them – I know for a fact that he's been giving them chocolate – he probably stole it from my secret chocolate supply

# SM

Have you been stealing chocolate from my darling Trinny, and feeding it to these repulsive children?

#### **Buttons**

I wouldn't ever give my friends chocolate that has been hidden under her dirty laundry .... disgusting!

## SM

Disgusting, eh? You, Buttons, are the **disgusting** one – feeding these ... **disgusting** little boys and girls. Look at them! Namby pamby little children (*mimics Child Catcher's scary sing-song voice*) Chil-dren! lock them up in a cage! Hide their repellent forms from view!

T & S look worried

#### **T & S**

(pathetically) M-mummy?

#### SM

Oh, no, not you, my angels. (To audience) Just all of the other nasty little people!

# **T & S**

Ha!

T & S pull faces at audience. Baron Hardup enters

#### **Baron**

Ah, here you all are, hiding in the kitchen

T & S stop pulling faces at audience and roll their eyes when Baron enters

#### Cinderella

Daddy!

Cinderella rushes over to hug her father. Sisters – fingers down throats, indicating nausea

Oh, you're back. Did you sell them, dear?

#### **Baron**

(embarrassed) Oh, er, yes.

## Cinderella

(suspicious) What have you had to sell now, daddy?

#### **Baron**

Oh, we really did need to raise some more money, your Step-Mother suggested ...

#### SM

Where's the money, dear?

Baron holds up bag of money. SM grabs it

## SM

Mine, I think.

Sisters look on greedily

# **Baron**

(gingerly) By rights, the money should be Cinderella's.

#### Cinderella

Daddy? Why is it my money? Oh, Daddy, what did you sell?

## SM

Just some old trinkets.

#### Cinderella

Daddy? Oh no, not Mother's jewellery?

Baron drops his head, ashamed

#### SM

(fakes nicety) Oh, my dears, we can't dwell in the past. We must look to the future!

#### **Trinny**

Yes, future designer dresses...

# Susannah

And future designer shoes...

#### Cinderella

Oh, Daddy, how could you?

#### SM

Sentimental hogwash!

#### **Baron**

Lucretia! Please! .... Cinderella ... I'm sorry ... I've let you down .... I've let your mother down ...

#### SM

Horace, we're your family now ....

Baron exits

#### SM

Horace, please.....(fake niceness quickly disappears) What a poor excuse for a man ... I don't know why I married him.

#### Cinderella

You married him for his money! And now you've spent most of it! You really are a wicked step-mother, aren't you? (she drops onto a chair, crying into her hands)

## SM

(nicey-nicey) Oh Cinderella .... don't be like that. You know that I care about you ..... as much as my own two daughters

T & S look at each other

.... and I hate to see you upset

Cinderella raises her head

# Cinderella

Do...do you really mean that?

#### SM

My dear, of course ..... (wicked) NOT!!! I can't stand your pretty little face! And I hate to see you upset, but **only** because you're wasting time that could be spent working! Here's my shopping list – now, stop feeling sorry for yourself! (to sisters) Come along, darlings, (shakes money bag) we have our own shopping to do

SM, T & S exit ... sisters pushing each other...

# Trinny

Oh, mummy, I need a new dress!

# Susannah

New shoes!.... I need new shoes!

Cinderella starts to cry again

## **Buttons**

Don't cry, Cinders

#### Cinderella

But, my father – how could he sell my mother's things?

#### **Buttons**

Cinderella, your father doesn't realise what a sly, manipulative woman your step-mother really is ..... and if he knew how she treats you, he'd...

#### Cinderella

...he'd be devastated ..... he's tried to do his best for me, and .....(shrug) No, Buttons, I don't want him to know (brightens) And we're not going to be beaten by that wicked woman and her nasty daughters! Let's get out of here – where's that shopping list?

Buttons picks up list and it unrolls and the bottom hits the floor

#### **Buttons**

Are you sure about this!

#### Cinderella

Gosh! What's on it?

#### **Buttons**

Oh, just the usual stuff for your step-sisters, by the looks of things (reads from list)
Cheese and onion crisps, Mars bars, Turkey Twizzlers, Spicy wedges, pork pie, chocolate cake, sponge cake, cream cake, cheese cake, cherry cake, fruit cake, carrot cake.... Oh, and two cans of Diet Coke

#### Cinderella

Diet Coke eh? They're obviously cutting down! Tell you what – add eggs and mushrooms to the list – and I'll make us a nice omelette when we get back

#### **Buttons**

(writing on list) Eggs .... there's not mush - room on this list! Mush - room! Ha ha!

## Cinderella

Very funny, Buttons! Oh well, at least you've cheered me up!

#### **Buttons**

That's what friends are for!

Song "You've Got A Friend" or "You've Got a Friend in Me"

# Cinderella

Come on ... we'd better get on with this shopping!

Buttons & Cinderella exit

# Scene 3 - Market Place, The Village of Derbydale

The village market place is still busy with people milling about, shopping and selling their wares. Herald enters. He unrolls a large poster and hangs it up. Villagers start to pay attention to what he is doing

# **Daisy**

It says there's going to be a Royal Ball! And all of the e...e...

#### Rosie

Eligible

# **Daisy**

Eligible ... maidens are going to be invited

#### Rosie

The King and Queen are looking for a bride for Prince Charming

#### Petunia

Not surprised - I've heard he's a bit of an odd-looking fellow. I was talking to the Post Mistress, not two days ago, and she's just 'ad some new stamps delivered – got that Prince Charming's 'ead on 'em. True as I'm standin' 'ere, she reckons 'e's got both 'is eye's on the same side of 'is 'ead. Not a word of a lie

#### Rosie

Well, you can say what you like, but I for one, would love to get an invitation

## Daisy

And me!

#### Petunia

I wouldn't mind 'avin' a mooch around the palace, I must admit. But I've heard the queen's a right toffy-nosed old ...

## Herald

Make way for Their Royal Highnesses, the King and Queen ....

King and Queen enter

Villagers are bowing and curtseying. The Queen looks decidedly uncomfortable.

## Queen

Ooh ... not too close! Run along now!

Villager gives Queen a posy of flowers

#### Queen

Flowers? How .... nice ... hold these, Cornelius, one doesn't know where they've been. Oh, dear me, you know one isn't used to this sort of thing ... mixing with the ...you know - riff raff

# King

They're not riff raff, dear, they're your loyal objects, and if you want to keep your coffins topped up with their taxes, then you have to be nice to them.

## Queen

Subjects!

## **King**

Sorry?

#### Queen

Loyal subjects, not objects! .... And it's "coffers" not "coffins"

# King

Oh, I'm terribly sorry, dear. (to a villager) Hello there! (to queen) Oh I do like these Royal whereabouts

#### Queen

Walkabouts!

#### Kina

Walkabout? Why, dear? Do you fancy a glass of sherry? It's still before noon – that's a little early, dear – even for you

## Queen

Cornelius! One's patience is wearing thin

## King

I'm trying, dear, I really am

## Queen

You certainly are, Cornelius!

Queen is growing uncomfortable. She looks around

#### Queen

Oh where **is** Prince Charming? I told Dandini to make sure he got here on time. It's awful! All these ... (gestures towards villagers, with distaste) ... surrounding one .... It's really most dreadfully unpleasant. One is ready to return to the palace

# King

But, Prudence, we've only just got here. And we were going to make the announcement about the Royal Ball.

#### Queen

Well, one can't very well do that if one's son is not here, can one?

## King

But we need to find him a suitable wife – you know that Royal Prototype says that he should be married before his twenty-first birthday

## Queen

Protocol!

#### King

Why do we need to involve Interpol? It shouldn't be that difficult to find a suitable girl for him to marry.

#### Queen

Interpol??! (sighs and shakes head) Give one strength!

#### King

But, you've already met most of the princesses in the land, and you say that none of them is suitable for our Prince Charming

#### Queen

Cornelius, you've arranged visits from the most unsuitable princesses! That Snow White – her mother was absolutely evil! And half of them didn't even turn up – Rapunzel – imprisoned in a tower? An unlikely excuse, if ever I heard one. And Sleeping Beauty – lying on a bed, waiting

for a Prince to kiss her? Young hussy! One doesn't want any son of one's mixed up with her sort!

# King

I'm sorry, dear, I do my best

#### Queen

Yes, Cornelius – but it's just not good enough, is it?

That is why one has arranged this Royal Ball. Every eligible maiden in the land will be there. Surely **one** of them will be suitable for Prince Charming? *(looks around for Prince)* **If** he actually manages to turn up! *(sigh)* Herald! Get one out of here!

## Herald

Make way! Make way!

Herald, King & Queen exit

Buttons and Cinderella enter, weighed down with their shopping

## Cinderella

Is there much shopping left to do, Buttons?

#### **Buttons**

No, we've just about finished, I think

As Buttons checks the shopping list, Cinderella spots the proclamation poster advertising the Royal Ball

#### Cinderella

Hey, Buttons, have you seen this? There's going to be a Grand Royal Ball at the Palace. It says that every eligible maiden in the land will be invited, and that the prince will choose his bride!

#### **Buttons**

(sarcastically) Very romantic ... line 'em up, reel 'em in

## Cinderella

Well, I agree, it's not the ideal way in which to meet one's future wife – but you have to admit, it's quite exciting! And Prince Charming is very handsome, apparently

# **Buttons**

Really? I've heard he's got both eyes on one side of his face. Like one of those flat fish. I bet that was his nickname at school .... "flatfish" .... or ... "fishface"

# Cinderella

Is that true?

#### **Buttons**

Apparently. I'm not just trying to put you off him or anything.

## Cinderella

Oh, Buttons! But he is a prince. Do you think that I might receive an invitation?

#### **Buttons**

Maybe, I guess. Why? Would you like to go?

# Cinderella

Oh yes, Buttons, I'd love to go! Just imagine! Meeting the Prince! And there'll be other courtiers there, too, I expect – you never know, I might meet **someone special**!

#### **Buttons**

I didn't know that you were looking for a boyfriend

#### Cinderella

Well, I hadn't really thought about it .... but with you getting a girlfriend .... maybe romance is in the air!

#### **Buttons**

But Cinderella, I haven't got a -

Buttons is interrupted, as Trinny, Susannah & Step-mother enter, carrying more designer clothes bags

Song excerpt "If you think I'm sexy"

#### Susannah

Cinderella!!! Have you bought me some cake?! I need some cake ... now!!

# **Trinny**

Shopping for designer clothes is just so terribly stressful – especially when I have to carry my own bags! (she drops her bags on the floor) Cinderella! Pick up my bags right now, before everything is ruined and it's all your fault!

Susannah throws her bags to the floor

## Susannah

Mummy, mummy, my arms really ache .... and it's all Cinderella's fault!

#### SM

Cinderella! Why are you just standing around, resting, when my poor little angels have been working so hard? Take their bags! And have you finished the shopping list I gave you?

# Cinderella

(picking up all of the bags) I.. I think so ..... Buttons?

#### Buttons

(reads from shopping list) yes .... yes .... crisps ....got that .....

# Susannah

Cake!! Have you got the cake??

#### Buttons

Yes, we've got the cake .... er ... just the mushrooms left to buy

#### SM

(raises an eyebrow) Mushrooms?

#### Cinderella

Yes ... er ... I was going to make omelettes. You can buy mushrooms from that stall over there

# SM

Buy them?! Buy them???!!!

#### Cinderella

Um ... (unsure) ... yes .....it's just a few mushrooms ....

#### SM

You want me to spend my hard-earned cash on mushrooms? There are hundreds of them lying around in the forest, just waiting to be picked! Get yourself off to the forest and get me a punnet of mushrooms

#### Cinderella

It's my father's hard earned cash

#### SM

We'd better look after it then – make it a **basketful** of mushrooms! What are you waiting for, girl??!!

Cinderella gives her bags to Buttons, keeping the basket, but she stays where she is. SM stands in front of Cinders, she is now simmering with evil

## SM

NOW!!!!!!!

Cinderella runs off, in fear

#### SM

Home! Now!

SM start to head off stage, followed by Buttons

# **Trinny**

Mummy, now that smelly Cinders has gone, we're just going to hang around here for a while

SM and Buttons exit.

# Susannah

Yeah, we want to meet boys

## **Trinny**

Shush!! She might hear you .... Are you sure there'll be some boys here?

# Susannah

Oooh yes! They're always hanging around in the market place, watching Eastenders on the Big Screen ..... you know - those ...er .... what-do-you-call-'em boys... all dressed in black .... the half-dead-zombie-kind-of-look

## **Trinny**

I'm not fussy – half-dead's fine – so long as he's male, and still breathing. I haven't had a snog in ages ...

They peer out into the audience

#### **Trinny**

See anything you fancy? What about him?

# Susannah