



# Cinderella

by Ellie King

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## **Cast in Order of Appearance**

**Cinderella**

**Baron Stoneybroke**

**Baroness Grimelda**

**Atrocia**

**Deplorabelle**

**Demon King**

**Fairy Godmother**

**Villagers – later doubling as courtiers**

**Pushkin the Cat**

**Buttons**

**Footman**

**Prince Charming**

**Dandini**

**Wolf**

**Page**

**MUSIC: OVERTURE**

**ACT I**

**SCENE 1 -A SPOOKY GLADE IN THE ENCHANTED FOREST**

**MUSIC -GENERIC MUSICAL BOX**

*Cinderella & Baron Stoneybroke are playing catch with a ball*

**VOICE OVER**

Once upon a time in a land far away dwelt a lovely young girl called Ella, who lived very happily with her dear, widowed father. Until one day he decided to marry again -

*(Stepmother & Stepsisters appear).* - and sad to say, he chose a wicked woman who had two despicable daughters. They were all very mean to poor Ella, and even made her sleep in the kitchen where the cinders from the fireplace burnt holes in her clothes, so that everyone called her Cinder-Ella.

One day, the Wicked Stepmother sent Cinderella deep into the enchanted forest to collect firewood -

*Cinderella moves away as Fairy Godmother disguised as old woman appears*

- and there she met a poor old woman struggling to collect her own firewood. Now Cinderella, whose nature was as sweet as her face was beautiful hurried to help the old lady, gave her her own firewood, and then helped her to carry it to her home.

*FRONTCLOTH flies in or ? as:*

**SPFX - FLASHPOT OR SMOKE COLUMN - this happens on all Demon's entrances and exits**

*Enter Demon King*

**Demon King**

Ooooh - OH! How sweet; how adorable; how SICKENING! Ugh! It's making my teeth rot! *(is surprised by AUDIENCE's presence)* Ah! Oh - there you are. You must be the audience. *(shades eyes to look at them)* Oh dear *(calling OFF)* Is this it? Seriously? I've seen better audiences at *(insert topical reference)*. Oh well, I suppose you'll have to do. Permit me to introduce myself I - am the Demon King! *(pose)*

**SFX - THUNDER CRASH**

**Demon King cont/....**

*(cupping ear)* Did I hear a boo?? *(ad lib mimed listening)* Really? Dear oh dear - that's not enough boos for an office party! Oh well, staggering on - I am the Demon King *(indicates his skull headed staff)* and this is Cedric - my head of staff! Head. Of staff. See - he's a head, uh?, on a staff. That's comedy gold right there. *(work*

*with audience reaction if any, then..)* Together we are the most powerful force of evil in the universe! With the possible exception of Donald Trump *(or other unpopular current politician or public figure)* But enough biting political satire - on - on with the plot!

I'm here to destroy Cinder-smelly. She's so - nice! *(shudders)* Well this time the story will end MY way - wretched, rotten and miserable. Wretched, rotten and miserable - sounds like a law firm! *(laughs immoderately)*

**SFX - FAIRY BELLS - this happens on all her entrances and exits**

*Enter Fairy Godmother*

**Fairy Godmother**

*(she poses)* Here I am!! No, please, hold your applause!! Wait, what am I saying? Go ahead - I'm all yours!!

**MUSIC - TA-DA CHORD**

*She poses again, waiting for and encouraging cheers from aud*

**Fairy Godmother (CONT'D)**

Now, I'll ask you a question -- one to another  
Do you know who I am? Yes! I'm the Fairy Godmother! *(bowing, encouraging applause)*

**MUSIC repeat TA-DA CHORD**

**Demon King**

*(shouting)* ENOUGH!!! Oh for badness sake: this isn't Pop Idol *(or similar)*

**Fairy Godmother**

Oh look -it's the demon. *(to Demon King)* And how d'you do?  
It's been such a long time since I last saw you.

**Demon King**

Yes, it has - and now you've seen me, you can go. And don't let the door hit you on the way out.

**Fairy Godmother**

Now, now, now - take a little advice -  
You'd have wa-a-a-y more friends if you tried being nice!

**Demon King**

*(shouting)* Nice! NICE!!! Demons aren't nice! We're scary and evil with big pointy teeth and we're never nice; especially not to bossy, know-it-all fairies like you. And I'll prove it. I'm gonna destroy your precious Umb-e-rella. How about that for 'nice'?

**Fairy Godmother**

*(fake scared)* Ooo, now I'm so frightened, ya got me and how.

You're awfully tough -I'd best give up now!  
(*strong*)Ha, Demon King, the conclusion's foregone;  
Good always beats bad, so step up - bring it on.  
(*sweetly*) And now I must go, I've got so much to do  
To make dear Cinderella's dreams come true.  
(*to aud*) Don't worry: I'll win. I always do!  
But for now off I go -ta-ta, toodle-oo!

*EXITS*

**Demon King**

AaaaRRRGH!!! One day I'll toodle her oo! Well, there's only one thing left to say;  
if it's a fight she wants -

**MUSIC INT - BRIEF SPORTS INTRO MUSIC OR??**

**Demon King(CONT'D)**

GAME ON!!! A ha ha ha . . . .(exits)

*SCRIM/SHOW DROP flies to reveal:*

**SCENE 2 -EXT STONEYBROKE HALL**

*STONEYBROKE HALL is an ancient and very rundown MANOR HOUSE.*

**MUSIC -OPENING CHORUS - song and dance - Villagers**

**SfFX - NOISES OFF - crash bucket; cat scream; sounds of a chase**

*THE VILLAGERS move around apprehensively watching the front door of the HALL as the noises increase in volume until the front door flies open with a CRASH and PUSHKIN THE CAT emerges, carrying A STRING OF PANTO-SIZED SAUSAGES in his mouth. He is pursued by THE BARONESS who is carrying a PANTO-SIZED CARVING KNIFE. They make a couple of circuits, scattering the VILLAGERS as they do.*

**Baroness**

(*ad lib*) Stop thief! Give 'em here! Oooo – you miserable moggy!! That's my lunch!  
(*etc.*)

*Cinderella enters carrying her BASKET OF WOOD, which she puts down as Pushkin hides behind her.*

**Cinderella**

Pushkin?? What - ?? (*sees Baroness and knife; tries to protect Pushkin*)  
Stepmother, please!

**Baroness**

Outa my way girl. That cat stole my sausages!

**Cinderella**

He's only playing. He wouldn't really eat them, would you Pushkin? *(he nods head)*

**Pushkin**

Miaow!!!!

**Baroness**

Ya see - NOW DROP. THE. SAUSAGES! *(Pushkin shakes head)*

Oooooooooow -lemme at 'im. I'll turn him into kitty litter!! *(waves knife)*

*Pushkin makes a run for it. Baroness grabs one end of sausages and a small tug of war ensues. Baroness ends up flat on face or bum , but finally in possession as Pushkin runs off.*

**Cinderella**

*(running to help her)* Are you all right Stepmother?

**Baroness**

Get off me girl! Don't touch me with your grubby little hands. I warn you Cinderella - one more incident like this and I'll be wearing that cat as a fur coat! Now listen up - I've a few more chores for you to do. Do the laundry, scrub the floors, wash the windows and paint the fence. And when you've finished that, you can tune up my Harley.

*Begins exit into hall:*

**SFX - LARGE MOTOR CYCLE**

**Baroness (CONT'D)**

*(threatening origin of sound effect)* And you can stop that right now!

**EXITS INTO HALL**

*Cinderella begins to pick up basket of wood as Buttons enters: Pushkin re-enters from opposite side,*

**Buttons**

Hi, Cinderella.

**Cinderella**

Hi Buttons.

*Pushkin crosses to Buttons and attacks him.*

**Buttons**

*(fending him off)* Heyyyy -what'd I ever do to you??

**Cinderella**

*(laughing and removing her angry cat)* Oh Buttons, it's your own fault. You're always teasing him.

**Buttons**

Me? I wouldn't tease a little pussy cat .....

*Takes his HAT off to scratch his head and a TOY MOUSE falls out of it. Pushkin pounces on it and begins playing.*

**Cinderella**

Hey, that's his favourite toy! He's been looking for it everywhere.

**Pushkin**

*Meows at Buttons in a threatening manner, spitting, hissing etc.*

**Baroness (O.S.)**

Cinderella!!!!

**Cinderella**

Oh dear - I have to go. I stayed in the forest far too long and now I'm really late.

*Cinderella begins to exit carrying basket. carrying a PANTO-SIZED CARVING KNIFE. They make a*

**Buttons**

Wait - let me carry that.

**Cinderella**

Thank you but you'd better not. Stepmother told *me* to fetch the firewood, and if I don't bring it in myself . . .

**Buttons**

I know - you'll be in trouble again.

**Baroness (O.S.)**

Cinderella!!!

*Cinderella & Pushkin run into hall*

**Buttons**

Bye. *(Sighs) (to aud)* Oooh - that rotten Baroness! She gets so carried away with her own importance. Trouble is - not far enough away!! But isn't Cinderella lovely? I think she's the most wonderful girl in the world. Can you keep a secret? You can? Well ... *(looks around to make sure no-one is listening, beckons audience closer and leans towards them)*... one day, I'm going to ask her to



marry me. I am! We'll live in a little house, and she won't ever have to sleep in the cinders again I'm saving up to buy her a ring. Right now I've got twenty two *(insert currency with high exchange rate)* and a gallon of petrol *(or current high cost item)* so that's almost a thousand pounds! But you know until I can take her away from all this, it makes me really sad to see how badly they treat her. Does it make you sad boys and girls? Oh, I'm so sad: it makes me want to cry. *(begins to cry theatrically)*

*Villagers all join in until everyone is crying very loudly. Buttons produces large PANTO SIZE TRICK HANKY; biz of nose blowing, wringing out water from hanky. Etc.*

**Buttons (CONT'D)**

Wait....I can't stay sad with all of you boys and girls here! I know!! How about a game??? Yes? *(etc. to aud)* Right - every time I come out here, I'll shout 'Hiyah kids' and you shout 'Hiyah Buttons' right back to me. Can you do that? Let's practise....

*BIZ OF HIYA KIDS GAG – Buttons runs off one side, and returns with 'Hiyah Kids' repeat other side.*

**Buttons (CONT'D)**

Oh, that's marvellous!! I feel better already. Now if I could just do something to help poor Cinderella. . . . Trouble is, I'm only a servant and even the poor old Baron is terrified of the Baroness and her horrible daughters.....the three of them are nothing but nasty, heartless, gold-digging, lazy, evil, vicious, parasitic lumps!

*The Baron enters from the HALL*

**Buttons**

And ugly...the last time I saw a face like those girls it was on the end of my fishing line!

**Baron**

What's that? You say you're going fishing?

**Buttons**

Um - no, your Lordship, I'm not going fishing.

**Baron**

Hmph -well it looks to me like you're lolly-gagging!

**Buttons**

I beg your very pardon. I've never gagged a lolly in my life! I wouldn't know how.

**Baron**

You cheeky boy -now look here *(shows Buttons his hand, Buttons bends close down to look)* - now look here *(shows Buttons other hand: Buttons bends down*

again) - now look there!! (*points off, buttons, still bent over, follows pointing finger; his posterior gets a boot from the Baron.he takes a face plant*) Ha -gets 'em every time!! Now buttons, (*pulls buttons up by seat of pants*) be a good chap and go find my two beautiful stepdaughters -they went off to (*insert local shopping mecca*) to do some shopping, and my lovely wife Grimelda wants them home for lunch. And no stopping on the way! fishing is strictly for your day off!

**Buttons**

But I wasn't . . . . Oh never mind. Bye kids!!!!

**EXITS**

*Enter Pushkin & Cinderella -she is carrying Pushkin's DISH.*

**Baron**

Really, that boy - not the brightest light on the Christmas tree. Sometimes I wonder why I keep him around.

**Cinderella**

You keep him around because you promised his poor mother you'd look after him. And because he's really nice. (*Kisses Baron on cheek*) Hello Daddy.

**Baron**

Hello dear. I know, but I really can't afford to keep him here much longer. Things are terribly tight these days - and I'm not just talking about your Stepmother's girdle.

**Cinderella**

(*upset*) But Daddy, he helps me so much with all the work -I don't know what I'd do without him . . . .

**Baron**

Now, now - don't upset yourself. Maybe I can ask Grimelda to cut her bingo down to five nights a week . . .

**Baroness (OFF)**

EUSTACE!!!!

**Baron**

. . . or maybe not. I'd better find out what she wants. See you later dear. Keep your spirits up.

**EXITS INTO HALL**

*GENERAL EXIT leaving Cinderella AND Pushkin alone on stage*

**Cinderella**

Oh dear Pushkin, what will we do! Buttons can't leave. He's my only true friend

**Pushkin**

*Miaows and points to his chest*

**CINDERELLA**

Oh, sorry Pushkin. You're my true friend too. I'm so lucky to have you both. But just sometimes I wish -

**MUSIC sad longing type song -Cinderella**

*Following song*

**Cinderella (CONT'D)**

Come on Pushkin - we'd better get back to work. Stepmother wants you to chase all the mice out of the barn so off you go.

*Pushkin exits*

**Cinderella (CONT'D)**

Now boys and girls - I need your help. This is Pushkin's dish. Stepmother won't let him eat in the house any more so I had to bring it out here. But he hates anyone touching it, so if you see anyone near it will you call me right away? Will you? I think we need to have a little practice. I'm going to go over there and if anyone goes near his dish, you call my name very loud. Here I go.

*SHE exits and the Orchestra/Musical Director or..? makes a move to take the dish. On the audience reaction, she re-enters.*

**Cinderella (CONT'D)**

What was that? Someone was touching his dish? Who was it boys and girls? It was them??? *(to culprit)* For shame!!

**Baroness (O.S.)**

Cinderella!!!

**Cinderella**

Oh oh, I'd better hurry. Now don't forget.

*EXITS INTO HALL*

*GENERAL ENTRANCE of all VILLAGERS as we discover Buttons entering through the house ad-libbing warnings until he runs up onto the stage:*

**Buttons**

Hiyah Kids!!! Sorry, can't stop – the sisters are on their way back!!!

*Villagers react*

**VILLAGER #1**

Where were they?

**Buttons**

Well they needed make-up so I looked in (*Home supplies DIY store* ) and there they were - buying a vat of plaster Ooh, what's this? Ah ha -it's that rotten cat's dish. I think I'll play a trick on him. I'll hide it .

*Picks up Pushkin's dish: Cinderella runs on to the audience reaction*

**Cinderella**

Buttons!

**Buttons**

What!!

**Cinderella**

What are you doing with Pushkin's dish?

**Buttons**

Um.....polishing it?? (mimes action)

**Cinderella**

Hmm. Well, just put it back. (he does so) Thank you. And thank you boys and girls. See you later!

*EXITS INTO HALL*

**Buttons**

(*to aud*) Yeah - thanks for nothin'.

**SFX- NOISE AND COMMOTION FROM BACK OF HOUSE**

**Buttons (CONT'D)**

Uh oh, what's this? Is it? Is it? It is - It's them. INCOMING!

**MUSIC - UGLY SISTERS' ENTRANCE**

*VILLAGERS react, ducking and cowering etc. as the UGLY Sisters make their way noisily from the back of the house, interacting with the audience on their way down, especially flirting with the men, until they arrive onstage. They carry LARGE SHOPPING BAGS, possibly with the name of a sponsor on them, or if not then a second hand/thrift store. One of the sisters is tall and thin, the other is short and round. Once on stage:*

**Deplorabelle**

Hello boys -here we are -

**Atrocia**

Feast your eyes. (*Strikes pose*)

**Buttons**

Feast - more like an all-you-can-eat buffet!

**Deplorabelle**

*(gives Buttons a playful push resulting in him taking prat-fall)* Cheeky boy!! I'll have you know the boys say I'm so hot, I'm personally responsible for climate change!

**Atrocia**

*(pushing her out of the way)* Well they say I've got a body just like Halle Berry!

**Deplorabelle**

More like Halley's comet!

**Buttons**

You mean a pile of dense matter with a large tail?

*Atrocia pushes Buttons, who takes another prat-fall*

**Atrocia**

Oh you - you can't insult me!

**Buttons**

No - nature beat me to it.

**Deplorabelle**

She's just jealous because all the boys like me better than her! *(to aud)* Don't you boys? *(does hand on hip and hip swaying)*

**Atrocia**

Oh yeah? So how come when we were shopping that nice young man gave ME a ride in his car and took my photograph?

**Deplorabelle**

He was a cop and that was a mug-shot!. He said the punishment for shoplifting was 30 pounds or 30 days

**Atrocia**

And I said thank you - I'll take the money.

**Deplorabelle**

And not for the first time! *(To aud)* Figure it out! *(To her sister)* Anyway, he said I was really cute.

**Atrocia**

No - he said he had to scoot. I've never seen a man run so fast. He was gone before he got there.

**Deplorabelle**

Oo - there you go again.

**Atrocia**

*(shading eyes and looking out)* Do I? Where?

**Deplorabelle**

No - there you go again confusing me.

**Atrocia**

I? Confuse you?

**Deplorabelle**

Glad you admit it. But I'm going to tell mumsie anyway. You're always mixing me up!

**Atrocia**

How can I mix you up when I've no idea what you're talking about??

**Deplorabelle**

Because I; that is you; I mean to say that we: Oh, there -you've done it again!

**Atrocia**

I have? *(Wafting hand behind her)* Sorry about that.

**Deplorabelle**

Ooo, you're so rude, you're so rude . . . .

**Buttons**

How rude is she?

**Deplorabelle**

. . . you're so rude, you're like a barrel of crude oil! *(pushes sister back to beat of words)* Completely unrefined!

**Atrocia**

I'm not a barrel - you are! *(pushing sister back the other way, each push on the beat of a word)*

**Deplorabelle**

Am not *(repeating action)*

**Atrocia**

Are too *(push)*

**Deplorabelle**

Not

**Atrocia**

Too!\_

*Beat. They begin slapping fight - hands slapping hands, heads turned away*

**GENERAL**

Ad lib -'Catfight' 'Ten bucks on the big one' etc. etc. The musicians in the pit also have a bet, perhaps offering the audience odds

**Buttons**

*(coming between them and holding them apart)* Ladies, LADIES!!! Please no fighting

*(they stop) Beat - they do take, then both slap him. He ducks down and escapes to one side. They continue slapping)*

**Buttons (CONT'D)**

Yoo hoo! *(Waves)*

**Atrocia**

*(hands on hips)* Well, I never!\_

**Deplorabelle**

Yes you did - and I've got the pictures!

**GENERAL**

Ad lib laughter as the Sisters square off taking up boxing stances.

**Buttons**

Now, now, this will never do. Where d'you think you are - the House of Commons?! Why don't you both go into the Hall and see if lunch is ready. I'll bet they're filling up your trough even as we speak.

**Deplorabelle**

How very dare you! Wait till mumsie hears what you said!

**Atrocia**

She'll be madder than a dachshund in snow. *(to aud)* think about it...

**Deplorabelle**

Yes - we've been insulted in better places than this!

**Atrocia**

Come sister. Leave us depart.

*Atrocia and Deplorabelle give Buttons a haughty sniff and exit into the Hall, arm in arm and in lockstep.*

**Buttons**

Uh-oh, I'd better go see if I can stop them reaching the mother ship. See you later!

*Exits into hall passing Baron who is entering as is a Footman who blows a trumpet fanfare:*

*Enter Prince Charming*

**Prince Charming**

*(unrolling a Proclamation and reading)* Hear ye, hear ye, hear ye -make way for his most royal highness, the Prince Charming.

*Enter Dandini wearing Prince Charming's cloak. Dandini waves a hand, royal style, and Villagers all bow and curtsy.*

**Prince Charming (CONT'D)**

Now, let it be known that all eligible young ladies in the kingdom are hereby invited to attend a ball tonight at the Royal Palace when the Prince will choose his future bride. If ye be of marriageable age, please claim your invitation now.

*He takes bag from Footman and the Villagers mob them as he hands out invitations as the Baroness enters from the Hall apace.*

**Baroness**

And just what is going on?? Who dares disturb me when I'm watching Coronation Street *(or other awful TV show)* *(Charming is revealed as others move away)*. Oh, so you're at the centre of this are you?

**Prince Charming**

*(bowing)* Ma'am -allow me to . . . .

**Baroness**

Oh, I'll allow you - to get lost! Because if you don't, I'll file this scroll of yours in a place that will astonish future generations of archaeologists!! Now get going!!

**Prince Charming**

Your Ladyship's wit is matched only by her great beauty. Allow me to introduce myself - I am Dandini, valet to his Royal Highness the Prince Charming.

**Baroness**

Prince Charming - isn't that the one with the big ears who talks to flowers?

**Baron**

My dear, I think . . . .

**Baroness**

No, you don't.

**Dandini**

We are here to invite your daughters to the ball tonight.

**Baroness**

Ball - what ball?



**Baron**

That's what I've been trying to tell you - the one where the Prince (point at Dandini) will pick his future bride.

**Baroness**

Prince?? Bride?? Aah... Oops. (curtseying) Ha ha ha ha - so sorry your Royal Highness-ness-ness. I'll be right back. Don't go away now!!! (shouting) Atrocia! Deplorabelle!

*Exits at a run into hall passing and spinning Buttons who is entering from same*

**Buttons**

Hiyah kids! What's going on?

**Baron**

Well, Prince Charming here (indicates Dandini who bows) has invited all the young ladies in the Kingdom to a ball -tonight.

**Buttons**

Wow all the YOUNG ladies are going to his place?? How very Leonardo di Caprio of him (*or similar*) What for?

**Baron**

It's so he can choose his future bride.

**Buttons**

Oh, I see (aside, as he realises ...) Oh, I see!! Oh no! That means he might choose - Cinders . . . . .

*The Baroness enters pushing Atrocia and Deplorabelle in front of her.*

**Baroness**

Go on, mumsie's precious little flowers. Say hello to the lovely Princey- wincey!!

*THEY do so, dimpling, waving and generally being horribly coy and flirtatious.*

**Prince Charming**

(aside to Dandini) These - are her *daughters*?

**Dandini**

Apparently so, sire.

**Prince Charming**

Good heavens. (to Baroness) Charmed I'm sure. On behalf of my master may I present these invitations to the ball tonight.

*The Sisters snatch them out of Prince Charming's hand*

**Deplorabelle/Atrocia**

*Mine! Mine!*

*THEY struggle, fighting over the invitations, ending up on the floor. The Baroness effortlessly lifts them up by the scruff of the necks.*

**Baroness**

Darling little things! Young girls can be so excitable! And how adorable they are (they dimple and coy horribly). You know, between them they have everything a man desires.

**Buttons**

Yes - huge muscles, big feet and hairy chests.

*THE Sisters loom over him threateningly.*

**Dandini**

(shows invitation) We have one more invitation for this house. Is there a third daughter?

**Buttons/Baroness/Deplorabelle/Atrocia**

*No!!*

**Baron**

Yes . . . . .

*THE Baroness stamps on the Baron's foot and elbows him in the midriff.*

**Baroness**

No!! Just my two little angels here! Now, off you go and get ready my darlings. (curtseys to Dandini) Your Principality - we'll see you later . . Ta ta. Eustace, follow!!

*Sisters & Baroness exit into hall followed by Baron*

**Buttons**

(aside) Why did I say no? Why do I want to keep Cinderella away from such an opportunity? Because I don't want to lose her, that's why. I think - maybe I'm not a very nice person after all.

*Exits sadly into hall*

*Villagers also exit leaving Prince Charming and Dandini alone on stage.*

**Dandini**

Boy, am I glad I'm not you! Phew! Imagine being stuck with one of those two 'beauties'! Here Sire, this is the only invitation left.

**Prince Charming**

Thanks, Dandini. (*hands bag to Footman who exits*) And thanks for changing identities with me. This journey gave me a wonderful opportunity to see people as they truly are, not how they think their Prince would like them to be.

**Dandini**

You're welcome - but I'll be only too glad to resume my duties as your valet. It's not much fun being a Prince.

**MUSIC - GIVE ME THE SIMPLE LIFE or FRIENDSHIP or similar-Prince Charming & Dandini**

**Prince Charming**

Well, looks like we were mistaken about there being a third daughter here. Let's head back to the palace and make ready for tonight. (*stubs toe against Pushkin's dish*) Why, what's this?

*Cinderella runs on from hall in response to audience.*

**Cinderella**

Hey you - boy - what're you doing with that? Put it down at once.

**Prince Charming**

Boy!?! (*sees Cinderella and is smitten. Bows*) Your pardon, I was unaware it was so valuable.

**Cinderella**

Don't be sarcastic! It might not be valuable to you, but it is to my cat. (*takes the DISH and replaces it*)

**Prince Charming**

Who are you? Are you a servant here?

**Cinderella**

I might just as well be, but no - actually I am daughter to the Baron Stoneybroke. And who might you be?

**Prince Charming**

I am the Prince - (*recovers himself*) - 's valet, Dandini. And this must be for you. (*handing her the remaining invitation*) It's an invitation to attend the ball being held at the palace tonight

**Cinderella**

A ball!!! Oh, I haven't been to a ball since before my mother . . . . Why thank you, thank you... (*rather likes him*) Will you be at the ball tonight Dandini?

**Prince Charming**

I will. And I'd be honoured if you would dance with me. That is unless of course the – Prince - takes up all of your time!

**Cinderella**

Hah -I don't care that *(snaps fingers)* for stuffy old Princes. *(Dandini coughs)* Oh . . . oh dear. Are you the Prince . . . ?

*Dandini bows*

**Cinderella (cont'd) (CONT'D)**

I'm so sorry. How rude of me.

**Dandini**

Think nothing of it. We'll see you later. Come - Dandini.

*Exits*

**Prince Charming**

Until this evening . . . . *(bows, kisses her hand and follows Dandini off)*

**Cinderella**

Dandini! Oh what a lovely name. Dandini! Who could ever be interested in a silly Prince when there's someone like him.

*Pushkin enters and rubs against her legs purring*

**Cinderella (CONT'D)**

Oh Pushkin -guess what!! I just met the most wonderful person in the world, and his name is Dandini and he invited me to the Prince's ball, and I'm going to dance with him all night! It seems like my dreams might come true after all. I'm actually going to the ball!!!!

**Baroness (O.S.)**

Cinderella!

**Cinderella**

Uh-oh, here we go again!!

*As they exit into the hall we morph into -*

**SCENE 3 -A PATH IN THE ENCHANTED FOREST**

*Enter Demon King.*

**Demon King**

*(to AUD)* Oh, so you stayed. Couldn't tear yourselves away from my brilliance? Well, it's understandable - you're only human after all. Although in your case *(picking on an audience member does hand wobble thing)* Ennh! Well, let's take a peek at the story so far: Prince Charming has to choose a wife so he's invited all the eligible girls in the Kingdom to a ball at his place. Although why he can't swipe right like the rest of us I'll never know. Whatever - it seems Cinderella somehow got

an invitation and now -and this is the funny part -she really believes she's going to go to the ball! (*laughs*) Oh dear, oh dear -this story's been around for hundreds of years - you'd think she'd have figured it out by now wouldn't you? Of course, *you* know she won't be going; *I* know she won't be going - so with any luck this will completely break her heart. Isn't it delicious???

*Begins to exit as*

*ENTER Fairy Godmother*

**Fairy Godmother**

Well I'm back, did you miss me? (*encourages response*) Oh, I knew it -how sweet. Stand by - for our story is almost complete  
Cinderella *is* going to go to the ball  
And will marry Dandini - I mean the Prince -after all!

**Demon King**

The impertinence! You stand there wagging your wand and expect me to believe you don't know what's coming next? (*to aud*) I appeal to you - well some of you surely - (*then to same member of aud as hand business*) you especially - but listen, I appeal to you - doesn't everybody in the world know that Salmonella DOES NOT GO THE BALL??? (*Encourages audience response*)

**Fairy Godmother**

Hush, don't encourage him, he's quite bad enough  
(*to Demon King*) OK - I see, it's time to get tough.  
Now you listen to me, you cloth-eared troll  
Nurturing evil may be your goal  
But I am a force for both goodness and light  
Try and stop me and you're in for a fight.  
Cinderella will realise her destiny  
And to get to her you gotta get past me!!

*EXITS*

**Demon King**

That's what you think, Fairy Dogmother. You just wait and see. I'll come up with a plan so twisted, so twisted -you'll probably meet it coming back. Ah ha ha ha.

*Exits*

**SCENE 4 -THE GIRLS' BOUDOIR**

*there are dressing tables, one for each sister.each contains panto sized hand mirrors, powder puffs & bowls containing powder, cold cream containerswith cold cream and. there is a large dropcloth on the floor*

*at rise - the girls are seated at their dressing tables.they wear housecoats/robes over*

*their panto underwear and hairnets with curlers.*

### **MUSIC - I FEEL PRETTY -UGLY Stepsisters**

*Following song and dance routine, buttons enters carrying two tankards on a tray.*

#### **Buttons**

Hiyah kids! - here you are ladies -two fine glasses of ale.

#### **Atrocia**

How double dog dare you -I ordered wine.

#### **Buttons**

Okay -(whining I hate homework; I wanna new smartphone . . . . .

#### **Deplorabelle**

No, no, no - not that kind of wine, you stupid serf; Riesling, Caber-nett Sov-ig-nin-ion, Chateau Noof de Cha-bliss.

#### **Buttons**

Just kidding; this here is the finest card-table wine money can buy.

#### **Atrocia**

Card-table wine??

#### **Buttons**

Yes - one glass and your legs fold up.

#### **Atrocia**

Go away.

#### **Buttons**

Go away?

#### **Deplorabelle**

Go away and send Cinderella to us.

#### **Atrocia**

We need her to help us get beautiful for tonight.

#### **Buttons**

Talk about Mission Impossible.

### **MUSIC INT -MISSION IMPOSSIBLE**

*THEY ALL look up and around to find source of music -then*

**Deplorabelle**  
(pointing) OUT!

**Buttons**  
Byeeeeeeeeee

*exits*

**Atrocia**  
Really, that boy needs taking down a degree or two.

**Deplorabelle**  
Degree!! I'd like to take him down an entire thermometer! (beat) Ooh, I just can't get my face to go on straight. it keeps avoiding me. *(picks up hand mirror and looks into it.jumps, startled)* Ahh! what's that?? *(gives it to Atrocia)*

**Atrocia**  
*(primping)* Oh, - that's me.

**Deplorabelle**  
Thank goodness - I thought it was me.

**Atrocia**  
Just where is that wretched girl? Cinderella!!!!

*Cinderella enters at a run with their ball dresses, which she hangs up*

**Cinderella**  
Hello Sisters, here are your dresses. All ready for tonight.

**Atrocia**  
Well it took you long enough.

**Deplorabelle**  
Yes, we've been waiting for nearly two minutes.

**Atrocia**  
And it's just not good enough.

**Deplorabelle**  
No it isn't and I'm going to tell mumsie how long we had to wait. And then she'll be really, really cross.

**Atrocia**  
Yes - especially when she sees the mess you made in here.

**Cinderella**  
But I haven't made any mess . . .

**Deplorabelle**

*(throws powder on floor)* Now you have! Ha ha - better clean it up, Cinderella.

**Atrocia**

Oh yes - if mumsie sees that she'll never let you go to the ball.

**Cinderella**

Oh, sister, how could you?

**Atrocia**

Quite easily really. So easily - I can do it too. *(She does)*

**Cinderella**

*(nearly in tears)* Sisters - why are you so mean to me? I've never done anything to hurt you.

**Atrocia**

Well no you don't have to *do* anything.....

**Deplorabelle**

No - you just being here is enough.

**Cinderella**

But I only want to be friends with you. I've always wanted two larger, older Sisters .

**Deplorabelle**

LARGER???

**Atrocia**

OLDER???

**Deplorabelle**

Get her!!

*They begin to chase her, but all are brought up short by the entrance of the Baroness, also dressed in housecoat and curlers. The Sisters, pushing each other out of the way, try to hide behind Cinderella, who extricates herself and goes to tidy up mess.*

**Baroness**

Girls, girls - what are you doing?

**DEPLORABELLE**

*(pointing to Atrocia)* Well she . . . . (ad lib)

**ATROCIA**

*(pointing to Deplorabelle)* I had to . . . . (ad lib)



**Baroness**

*(pinches fingers together -they cower)* Sssh! SH! You mustn't get all hot and bothered. Well, not until you get the Prince alone that is. *(1/2 beat)* So what has been going on here?

*The Sisters shuffle feet, hang heads etc., pointing to Cinderella. The Baroness brings her glare to bear on the unfortunate girl)*

**Baroness (CONT'D)**

WELL??! What's been happening here?

**Cinderella**

Nothing Stepmother.

**Baroness**

*(she makes buzzer noise)* Nnnnnnnn -wrong answer. There should be plenty happening. You should be helping my darling daughters get ready for the ball. Look at them - they desperately need beautification, decoration -- renovation. Atrocia, my darling, how is your complexion? Did you take a bath in asses' milk like I told you?

**Atrocia**

Yes mumsie.

**Baroness**

Was it pasteurised?

**Atrocia**

No - just up to my middle.

**Deplorabelle**

Mumsie, mumsie - do you like the way my eyes are made up?

**Atrocia**

Made up? It looks like they're still fighting.

**Cinderella**

Please, Stepmother, may I go and get ready?

**Baroness**

Go and what?

**Cinderella**

Get ready. For the ball.

**Deplorabelle**

Don't be ridiculous.