



PantoScripts Perusal

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

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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 (*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

FG 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*)

FG 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.

FG 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'?

FG *(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 GAME ON!!! A ha ha ha(exits)

SCRIM/SHOW DROP flies to reveal:

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SCENE 2 - EXT STONEYBROKE HALL

STONEYBROKE HALL is an ancient and very rundown MANOR HOUSE.

MUSIC - OPENING CHORUS Song and dance - Villagers

SFX - 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 (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.

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 here 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)*

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

MUSIC - UGLY SISTERS' ENTRANCE

VILLAGERS react, ducking and covering 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? *(Waffing 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

Atrocias 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 Yoo hoo! (*Waves*)

Atrocias (*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!

Atrocias 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!

Atrocias Come sister. Leave us depart.

Atrocias 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.

Charming 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?

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!!

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.

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

Dandini Apparently so, sire.

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.

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 - Prince Charming & Dandini

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.

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)*

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?

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?

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 I'm so sorry. How rude of me.

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

Exits

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 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 -

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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

FG 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)

FG 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 containers with 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 -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)*

Atrocía (*priming*) Oh, - that's me.

Deplorabelle Thank goodness - I thought it was me.

Atrocía 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.

Atrocía Well it took you long enough.

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

Atrocía 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.

Atrocía 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.

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

Cinderella Oh, sister, how could you?

Atrocía 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.

Atrocía 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???

Atrocía 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 Atrocía*) Well she (ad lib)

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

Baroness (pinches fingers together -they cover) 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 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.

Atrocia You weren't invited.

Cinderella Oh but I was. See . . . (produces INVITATION from pocket) my invitation.

Baroness Where did you . . . (goes to grab invitation, but Cinderella is too quick)

Cinderella The Prince's valet gave it to me.

Deplorabelle Mumsie - don't let her go . . .

Atrocia She'll steal my Prince.

Deplorabelle My Prince!

Atrocia My Prince!

They square off for a boxing match or for martial arts, ad libbing 'My Prince' etc.)

Cinderella Sisters, stop it! *(they do)* I'm not interested in your stupid Prince; I'm meeting Dandini, his valet. And anyway, you can't stop me from going, any of you. I have my invitation and I'm going to the palace. Tonight!

Exits

Deplorabelle/Atrocia Mumsie!!!

Baroness Hush, hush my pretties. One of you will marry the Prince, never fear; I'll find some way to stop her. In the meantime, get ready. You will dazzle him tonight. Or else!!

EXITS

Deplorabelle Well I'll be the belle of the ball.

Atrocia Bell?? More like someone dropped a clanger! I'll be the one he chooses.

Deplorabelle Take that back. *(tosses a pinch of powder in Atrocia's face)*

Atrocia No. *(tosses a bigger pinch of powder in Deplorabelle's face)*

Deplorabelle Take it back.

Atrocia No.

SLAPSTICK. (FEEL FREE TO CREATE YOUR OWN VERSION)

"BEAT. Atrocia puts FULL POWDER PUFF into Deplorabelle's face, then turns to apply cold cream to her own face)

Atrocia dabs a bit of cold cream on her right cheek, a bit on her left, then pauses to admire herself in the mirror; she has taken more cream onto her fingers. During this Deplorabelle mimes various attacks, looking to audience for approval. Finally, Deplorabelle pushes Atrocia's head forward so her face goes into the cream then turns back to mirror.

Atrocia rises, taps Deplorabelle on the shoulder and when she turns, puts handful of cream on Deplorabelle's nose, turns back to mirror.

Deplorabelle puts handful of cream down Atrocia's back, then smacks it. Turns back to mirror.

Atrocia taps Deplorabelle on shoulder. When she turns, Atrocia puts large amount of cream down Deplorabelle's front. When she smacks it, a squirt of cream comes up to hit Atrocia in her face.

Atrocia grabs pot of powder, as does Deplorabelle. They square off, then crown each other with pots. THEY grab their pots of cream and head downstage, flicking small amounts at and threatening each other. then threatening the audience as Baroness enters unseen by them. She heads between the two just as they haul off to cover the audience in cream counting 'a-one, a-two, a'three' and then they swing in and she gets the lot."

BLACKOUT

SCENE 5 –ON THE WAY TO STONEYBROKE HALL

SHOW SCRIM/FRONT CLOTH comes in or...

FIFTEEN-POUND GAG

Enter Baron from one side, Buttons from the other

Baron Hello Buttons. You look fed up. What's the matter?

Buttons Well, Cinders is going to the ball and I'm stuck here so I'm depressed.

Baron Oh dear. Why don't you go and get yourself a treat? Put a bounce in your step.

Buttons Oh, good idea. I'll go to *(insert name of store)* and get a pogo stick Oh no, wait –I don't have any money!

Baroness That's okay –I've got fifteen dollars. *(three panto sized five pound notes)* You can borrow that.

Buttons Thank you very muchly. That's fifteen pounds I owe you. *(both begin to exit)*

Baron Hold on –I've given you all my money; now I've none left for myself.

Buttons That's okay –I'll lend you five pounds. There you go.

Baron Thank you very much.

Buttons So that's ten pounds I owe you, and five pounds you own me, right?

Baron *(doubtfully)* Right.

Buttons So if I give you the ten pounds I owe you *(gives Baron two five-pound notes)* and you give me the five pounds you owe me... *(takes back the five-pound note)*.. we're straight, right?

Baron Just a minute

Buttons What's the matter?

Baron That's not right.

Buttons You don't understand do you? Here, look, I'll be you and you be me. *(they change sides. Buttons takes the three five-pound notes)* Now, ask me to lend you fifteen pounds.

Baron Please will you lend me fifteen pounds?

Buttons Certainly –five, ten, fifteen *(counts the notes into Baron's hands)*. Now that's fifteen pounds you owe me.

Baron Thank you. *(begins to exit)*

Buttons Just a minute -I've lent you all my money; I've none left for myself.

Baron That's alright; I'll lend you five pounds. *(gives him a five-pound note)*

Buttons Thank you. So now I owe you five pounds and you owe me ten pounds, right.

Baron *(doubtfully)* Right.

Buttons So if I give you the five I owe you *(hands him a five-pound note)* and you give me the ten pounds you owe me *(takes two five-pound notes off him)* now we're straight. *(begins to exit)*

Baron No we're not.

Buttons Oooh - you know what the matter is don't you? You're on the wrong side. *(they both change sides: Buttons takes the three five-pound notes)* Now, ask me to lend you fifteen pounds.

Baron Please will you lend me fifteen pounds?

Buttons Certainly *(counts the notes into Baron's hands)* Now that's fifteen pounds you owe me, right?

Baron Right.

Buttons Are you sure?

Baron Yes I'm sure.

Buttons Right - then I'll take it all at once. *(he snatches the money from him and runs off DL)*

Baron *(beat)* Hey -that's not right. *(runs after him)*

Enter Fairy Godmother

FG So there you all are, oh I'm in such a hurry
I've got to make sure Cinders hasn't a worry
Remember that silly old Demon King's threat?
Well I'm off to make sure he's done nothing bad yet.
If he really thinks he's a chance against me
He's sorely mistaken, I can guarantee. (beat)
Ho hum. Being a Fairy's nice - and that's the truth
But I still remember my magical youth.
I was such a cutie, a fair fairy sprite
And never stayed home on a Saturday night.
But now that I'm older, with my wings a bit droopy
The elves don't think me quite such a cutie . . . you see

MUSIC – Fairy Godmother song

FG Well, there we are - much better for a song.
Now let's go and see just what's going on.

EXITS

PantoScripts Perusal