



Rob Wiedell

Norman Maine Publishing

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Ella Aftor
3

*For my wife Amy
and our children
Cameron, Katelyn, and Rylie.*

*And to Mrs. Mullikin,
who inspired me to write.*

Ello After

4

Ello After was first performed at Fellowship Christian Academy, Jacksonville, NC, May 2011: Rob Wiedell, director; Susan Fountain and Linda Sutherland, costumes; Amy Wiedell and Kathy Wiedell, design; Vivian Ellison, ballroom choreographer; Bev Stephens, public liaison; and Richard Sutherland, master carpenter.

CINDERELLA: Tiffany Fountain

PRINCE: Ethan Ellison

JESTER: Tim Holmes

STEPMOTHER: Vivian Ellison

OLDER SISTER: Sarah Baker

YOUNGER SISTER: Samantha Boehm

MALIPHANT: Cameron Wiedell

KING: Cameron MacLaughlin

COUSIN REGINALD: John Ahern

ANITA: Mary Johnson

CHEF: Jason Montalto

PALACE GUARD: Jeremy Sabo

PALACE SERVANT: Cameron Wiedell

PIRATES: Brandon Blahak, Dalton Hornsby

TOWNSPEOPLE: Stephan Clemans, Donovan Poellnitz,
Katelyn Wiedell, and Caitlyn Clemans

Ella After

COMEDY. Audiences of all ages will enjoy this humorous sequel to “Cinderella.” The ball is over and the Prince discovers who left the glass slipper behind...a beautiful, charming maiden named “Cinder” Ella. Due to the King’s failing health, the happy couple realizes they only have one week to plan the wedding. Not only does everyone in the kingdom have to be invited, but the couple has to choose a menu for their reception without offending the royal French chef, who would like to serve snails and fish eggs. When a mysterious scroll arrives at the palace, the Prince learns that if he marries Ella, a commoner, he cannot become king. Unwilling to cancel the wedding, the Prince decides to prepare his dimwitted, inept cousin to take the throne. Then with the wedding just days away, Cinderella is kidnapped and it is up to the Prince to find her before it is too late!

Performance Time: Approximately 60-75 minutes.



Illustration by Gustave Doré from the book by Charles Perrault

About the Story

The story of Cinderella is an ancient, popular folktale of which hundreds of versions exist worldwide. The first recorded version of the tale is thought to have been written down in China in 850-60 A.D. and features a heroine named Yeh-shen and a magical fish and a golden shoe. The story was first published in France by Charles Perrault in 1697. It is Perrault's tale that introduces Cinderella's glass slipper, animal servants, and the pumpkin carriage. Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm's German version is known as "Aschenputtel" ("Ash Girl"). In this tale, Ashenputtel plants a tree at her mother's grave and it is there that a magical white dove and gifts appear.

Characters

(4 M, 5 F, 5 flexible)

(With doubling: 4 M, 5 F, 3 flexible)

ELLA: “Cinder” Ella, a beautiful, charming commoner who has won the Prince’s heart; female.

STEPMOTHER: Ella’s stepmother who would like the Prince to marry one of her daughters instead of Ella; female.

OLDER STEPSISTER: Ella’s stepsister who would like to marry the Prince; female.

YOUNGER STEPSISTER: Ella’s stepsister who would like to marry the Prince; female.

PRINCE: Head-over-heels in love with Ella and acts a bit giddy in her presence; male.

KING: Prince’s father who is in poor health; wears a robe, crown, and ring; male.

JESTER: Palace “entertainer” who can’t juggle very well; wears a jester’s costume and hat; flexible.

REGINALD: The Prince’s dimwitted first cousin; male.

CHEF: Palace chef who takes food seriously; has a thick French accent; flexible.

ANA: Protector of the royal family who works undercover as a servant girl at the palace; female.

MALIPHANT: Prince from a neighboring country who has been working undercover as a palace servant; wears a mask and a hooded cloak to cover his knight’s costume; male.

PIRATE 1: Works for Maliphant; has an Australian accent; flexible.

PIRATE 2: Works for Maliphant; has an Australian accent; flexible.

GUARD: Guard at the palace; flexible.

Options for Doubling:

PIRATE 1/GUARD (flexible role)

PIRATE 2/CHEF (flexible role)

Sets

The sets can be as simple or elaborate as your budget allows. The curtain is used often for smooth transitions between scenes. While action happens in front of the curtain, the set will be reset behind the curtain.

Cinderella's cottage. A simple backdrop can be used.

Palace. A simple backdrop can be used. There is a throne for the King.

Pier near the ocean. There is an image of a merchant sailing vessel in the background. There is a post large enough for Ella to be bound to.

Synopsis of Scenes

ACT I

Scene 1: Cinderella's cottage.

Scene 2: In front of curtain.

Scene 3: Palace.

Scene 4: In front of curtain.

Scene 5: Palace.

Scene 6: Palace.

Scene 7: Palace, moments later.

Scene 8: Prince's palace.

Scene 9: Cinderella's cottage.

Scene 10: Cinderella's cottage, late at night.

Intermission, opt.

ACT II

Scene 1: In front of curtain

Scene 2: Cinderella's cottage.

Scene 3: A pier near the ocean.

Scene 4: Cinderella's cottage.

Scene 5: Palace.

Scene 6: In front of curtain.

Scene 7: In front of curtain.

Scene 8: A pier near the ocean.

Scene 9: In front of curtain.

Scene 10: Palace.

Props

"Glass" slipper, for Ella	4 swords, for Palace Guard,
Low stool	Prince, Pirates
Short scroll	Dull-colored normal
Sack of gold coins	clothes, for Jester
3 Balls for juggling	2 Satchels for the Prince and
Scroll about 10 feet long	Jester
Silver serving tray	2 Scepters
Samples of "escargot"	Large, old-fashioned keys
Samples of caviar on	on a ring
seaweed (grape jelly on a	3 Daggers for the Prince,
spinach leaf)	Ana, and Maliphant
Stilts	Small bouquet of plastic
Towels	flowers
Clothesline	Deck of playing cards
Mop and bucket	Baby powder
Women's scarf	Vial for antidote
Elegant necklace	Wedding gown with train,
Handcuffs and shackles	for Ella
Ropes	Royal cloak and crown, for
	Prince, King, and Jester

Special Effects

Inspirational music
Wedding music
Fanfare
Triumphant music
Grand music

Ella Aftor

11

**"They, everyone
has their talents...
some can sing,
some can cook.
My family
destroys kingdoms."**

-Maliphant

Scene 1

(AT RISE: Cinderella's cottage. The Older Stepsister is sitting on a stool while the Prince tries to force the "glass" slipper on her foot. The Jester is talking to the Stepmother off to one side.)

JESTER: *(To Stepmother.)* Why don't you go get the other girl, your stepdaughter?

STEPMOTHER: There is no other girl! Besides, I don't know where she is.

(Ella enters. The Jester hip-chucks the Older Stepsister off the stool and brings the stool over to Ella. Ella tries on the slipper and it fits. Ella covers the Prince's eyes.)

ELLA: I never dreamed a moment like this would happen to me.

(Prince takes Ella's hands and stands.)

PRINCE: It's you! What's your name? You're the girl I've been looking for!

ELLA: It's Ella, and I've waited my whole life to hear those words.

PRINCE: I've waited my whole life to say them.

(Stepmother examines the slipper.)

STEPMOTHER: *(To Stepdaughters.)* This is all *your* fault! If you would have done what I said, we'd be on our way to the castle by now! Get out of my sight!

OLDER STEPSISTER: Don't say that, Mommy! I was dainty!

YOUNGER STEPSISTER: I was delicate!

OLDER STEPSISTER: I was charming!

OLDER SISTER/YOUNGER STEPSISTER: We *tried!*

Ella After
13

(Stepmother and Stepsisters exit out the back.)

PRINCE: *(To Ella.)* Do you believe in happily ever after?

ELLA: I do now...

(As they dance, lights fade to black. Curtains close.)

Scene 2

(AT RISE: In front of curtain. Disguised as a mysterious stranger, Prince Maliphant enters from the back. He is wearing a cloak to hide his sinister knight's costume. Stepmother enters from the side. Only a spotlight is on them.)

STEPMOTHER: Well?! What did you find? *(Maliphant says nothing but hands her a scroll. Reads scroll.)* Oh, this is terrible! This is evil! I love it! *(Menacing laugh. Maliphant remains silent but holds out his opened palm. Drops a sack of gold coins in his hand.)* Worth every piece!

(As the lights fade to black, Stepmother mimes to him the next step of her plan.)

Scene 3

(AT RISE: The palace. The Prince is pacing back and forth. The Jester is practicing juggling. Jester struggles to find a rhythm and then he finally does. At this point, the Prince turns and runs into the Jester, knocking all the balls to the floor.)

PRINCE: Sorry. *(Jester lets out a long sigh.)* Do you think she's forgotten where I live?

JESTER: *(Dumbfounded.)* Sire!

PRINCE: Right. Stupid question. I'm just so anxious to see her. She is the most amazing person I've ever met!

JESTER: I hate to say, "I told you so," but —

PRINCE: Ha! She's coming today, so we can make more wedding plans! Have I mentioned how excited I am?

JESTER: Your Highness, might I suggest that a young lady may find it unappealing for a young man to be so giddy at her presence?

PRINCE: Oh. Right. Good tip.

(Prince practices playing it cool. First, he sits on the edge of the stage and crosses his feet with his hands behind him. He whistles. Prince looks at Jester. Jester gives Prince a disapproving look and shrugs. Prince tries standing with his back against the wall and his hands in his pockets. Jester rocks his hand back and forth, indicating it's only "so-so." Prince tries leaning against the wall with his shoulder. He examines his fingernails. The Jester just shakes his head. Ella enters without either of them noticing.)

ELLA: Your Highness?

(Prince's knees buckle.)

PRINCE: Hello.

(Nervous and excited, Prince approaches Ella.)

ELLA: I'm sorry I'm so late.

PRINCE: Oh, that's okay. (*Looks over his shoulder at the Jester.*)
I was just hanging around.

(*Jester takes Ella's hand and kisses it.*)

JESTER: Milady, enchanting as always.

ELLA: Good to see you again. (*To Prince.*) Stepmother knows we'll be getting married soon, so she adds something new to my list of chores every day. Soon, I'll have to get up 15 minutes before I go to bed just to get it all done each day.

PRINCE: Can't your stepsisters help?

JESTER: (*Sarcastically.*) Oh, no! Sugarplums don't do work.

(*Embarrassed, Ella laughs.*)

PRINCE: (*To Ella.*) Well, you're here for now. Are you ready to get started?

ELLA: (*Looking around.*) I still wake up every morning wondering if I'm dreaming all this.

PRINCE: I know what you mean. (*Pause as Prince gazes at Ella. Jester clears his throat.*) I have something for you. (*Takes out a necklace and holds it out to her.*) It belonged to my mother.

(*Ella takes the necklace from him.*)

ELLA: I didn't bring anything for you, I'm afraid.

PRINCE: If all I ever received in this life was you by my side, I would still be the richest man on earth.

ELLA: (*Blushes. Indicating necklace.*) It's beautiful. Would you put it on me? (*Ella turns around and the Prince fastens the necklace. Ella face him.*) Well?

PRINCE: Beautiful.

ELLA: I'll never take it off.

(Long pause as Ella and Prince gaze at each other. Jester clears his throat loudly.)

PRINCE: Have you finished your guest list?

ELLA: Not much of a list. *(Hands list to Prince. Confused, Prince turns the list over several times looking for names.)* I've never had much time to make friends, so it's just my stepmother...and stepsisters.

(Ella sheepishly smiles at him. Prince's smile is a frozen one. He blinks several times and then takes the Jester aside.)

PRINCE: *(To Jester, aside.)* Nothing with frosting! Tell the chef!

ELLA: I had a wonderful idea. In honor of the day we met near the clothesline, I thought I would embroider a personal hand towel for each of the guests at the wedding. So if you'll let me see *your* list, I'll get started. *(Jester hands the Prince a large scroll. Prince hands the scroll to Ella. Ella unrolls the scroll and it is about 10-feet long.)* Oh, my...

PRINCE: Father says it would be impolite not to invite everyone in the kingdom.

ELLA: *(Playfully.)* Well, we could put the wedding off for a little while.

(Prince looks at the Jester, who nods at him. Prince takes Ella's hands.)

PRINCE: Actually, I was waiting for the right opportunity.

ELLA: *(Nervously.)* For what?

PRINCE: Father's health continues to fail. The physicians are unsure how much longer he has.

ELLA: I see.

PRINCE: I'm afraid that the happiest day of my life may happen without Father.

ELLA: Are you saying you want to wed sooner?

PRINCE: *(Nervously.)* I was thinking at week's end.

ELLA: Oh, my.

PRINCE: I'm sorry. Is this happening too fast?

ELLA: No! It's just that I haven't had time to finish my wedding dress.

PRINCE: I'll have a dozen seamstresses at your beck and call.

ELLA: What of my chores?

PRINCE: Actually, that is taken care of already. A young lady who lives not far from your farm came to me today and offered to be of assistance to you before the wedding. I knew your workload was increasing, and she said she'd be delighted.

ELLA: Delighted? Has she met Stepmother?

PRINCE: *(Holds his breath.)* I believe she's there now.

ELLA: Oh, my. *(Ella and Prince laugh.)* As usual, I am overwhelmed by your kindness. I don't know what to say.

PRINCE: *(Touching her face.)* Say you'll marry me as soon as possible.

ELLA: Yes.

PRINCE: Yes?

ELLA: Yes! Yes! Yes! At week's end! I must go. There are a thousand things to do. Stepmother has probably given the new girl indigestion by now. *(Runs out then runs back in.)* Adieu, my love!

(Ella exits. Prince savors the moment. He breathes in deeply and exhales quickly. He then turns, jumps, clicks his feet together, and happily runs off.)

JESTER: *(To himself.)* How come this type of thing never happens to me?

[END OF FREEVIEW]