

**Cast In Order Of Appearance:****Narrator****Mother****Father****Evil Sister 1****Evil Sister 2****Cinderella****Pages****Step-Mother****Prince****Pigeons****SFX: Grimly Speaking theme music**

NARRATOR : The wife of a rich man fell sick and called her only child to her bed.

MOTHER : Dear child, be good and pious, and then the good lord will always protect you. I will look down upon you from heaven and in this way be near you.

NARRATOR : The mother then closed her eyes and died. Day after day the maiden went to her mother's grave and wept. She missed her mother and her father was slowly becoming more and more demented.

**SFX: weeping**

NARRATOR : She remained pious and good. By the following spring, her father had wed again.

FATHER : A toast to my new wife, who brings into this house two beautiful daughters.

**SFX: glasses clinking**

NARRATOR : It was true that her step-sisters were beautiful, but their hearts were black and vile. Now began a bad time for the man's true daughter. When he was called away on business, the step-sisters took away her pretty clothes and gave her an old dress and wooden shoes to wear.

EVIL SISTER 1&2 : Just look at the proud princess now!

**SFX: laughter**

NARRATOR : She worked from morning 'til night carrying water, lighting the fires, and doing all the cooking and washing. Her step-sisters were mean to her every chance they could get. They made fun of her -

**SFX: nyah nyah ny nyah nyah**

NARRATOR : - and gave her no bed so she had to sleep in the cinders by the hearth. Because of this, she always looked dusty and dirty; so they called her Cinderella. One day her father was going to the fair. He asked the step-sisters what they would like.

EVIL SISTER 1 : Beautiful dresses!

EVIL SISTER 2 : Pearls and jewels!

NARRATOR : And when he asked Cinderella what she might find dear, she said -

CINDERELLA : Father, on your way back home, break off the first branch that knocks your hat off and then bring that branch to me.

NARRATOR : And so he brought home dresses, pearls and jewels for the step-sisters and a small spray from a hazel tree for Cinderella. She went to her mother's grave and planted the spray ever so carefully. Her tears watered this tender plant and in time it grew into a handsome hazel tree.

**SFX: trumpets**

PAGES : Hark ye, hark ye, the King has announced a three day festival. All the beautiful young girls of the country are invited so that the Prince may choose a wife. Hark ye, hark ye the King has spoken.

**SFX: trumpets**

NARRATOR : The step-sisters became giddy and gleeful at this news and called to Cinderella.

EVIL SISTER 1 : Cinderella, comb our hair for us!

EVIL SISTER 2 : Brush our shoes and fasten our buckles!

EVIL SISTER 1&2 : We're going to the King's palace!

NARRATOR : Cinderella begged her step-mother to let her go.

STEP-MOTHER : You? You go? All covered in dust and dirt? You have no clothes or shoes. How can you go to the festival?

CINDERELLA : Oh please, oh please let me go.

STEP-MOTHER : Hmph. Let's see -

**SFX: beans being poured**

STEP-MOTHER: I have just emptied **one** dish of dried beans into the ashes. If you have picked them all out in **two** hours, you may go with us.

NARRATOR : When her step-mother left the room, Cinderella ran to the window and called -

CINDERELLA : You tame pigeons, you turtle doves, and all you birds beneath the sky, come in here and help me pick up these beans.

**SFX: birds**

NARRATOR : All the birds came down and crowded the floor. After only an hour had passed, they were all finished picking up the beans and putting them in a dish for Cinderella to give to her step-mother. Then out they flew.

**SFX: birds**

NARRATOR : Her step-mother was not amused.

**SFX: beans being poured**

NARRATOR : This time she emptied **two** dishes of beans into the ashes and told Cinderella she had only **one** hour to pick them all out. When her step-mother left the room, Cinderella again ran to the window and called -

CINDERELLA : You tame pigeons, you turtle doves, and all you birds beneath the sky, come in here and help me pick up these beans.

**SFX: birds**

NARRATOR : All the birds again came in through the window just like before. Less than an hour had passed and the job was all finished. But Cinderella's step-mother was still not pleased and went back on her word.

STEP-MOTHER : No, Cinderella. You cannot come with us. You have no clothes and you don't know how to dance. You'll only be laughed at and we'd be ashamed of you.

NARRATOR : Being cruel and heartless, the step-mother and step-sisters left Cinderella behind while they all rode to the festival in a fancy carriage. Cinderella went to the hazel tree, sat beneath it, and spoke to a little white bird.

CINDERELLA : Shiver and quiver, little tree. Silver and gold throw down over me.

**SFX: magic sound**

NARRATOR : The little bird threw down a gold and silver dress and fine slippers embroidered with silk and silver. She put them on and off she went to the festival.

**SFX: festival music**

NARRATOR : When Cinderella arrived, not a soul knew who she was. The Prince danced with her all night and wouldn't let any one else near her. As he was escorting her home, she escaped from the Prince -

**SFX: footsteps running**

NARRATOR : - and jumped into the pigeon shack behind her father's house.

**SFX: door slamming**

NARRATOR : The Prince waited in the dark. After a bit, the father arrived.

PRINCE : Excuse me sir, but the maiden that I was walking with has jumped into your pigeon house.

NARRATOR : The father went and got his ax. He broke the door down -

**SFX: ax chopping**

NARRATOR : - but there was no one inside. Cinderella had jumped out the back of the pigeon shack -

**SFX: jump down and footsteps running**

NARRATOR : - and gone back to her mother's grave.

**SFX: magic sound**

NARRATOR : She then took off her clothes of silver and gold and the little white bird carried them away. Cinderella then raced home.

**SFX: footsteps running**

NARRATOR : Now, the father was suspicious that the maiden in question might be his serving wench. For you see, he no longer recognized Cinderella as his daughter, just as a servant of the house. So he took the Prince into his house and into the kitchen.

**SFX: footsteps and mumbling "Ye'd better come this way."**

**SFX: door opening**

NARRATOR : They found Cinderella sleeping in her dirty clothes amongst the ashes. In the low fire light and dusty air, the Prince did not believe she was the maiden with whom he had danced the night away.

**SFX: Prince sighs “oh well”**

NARRATOR : The next day the festival began again.

**SFX: trumpets**

NARRATOR : Her step-mother and step-sisters set out for the second party.

EVIL SISTER 2 : Goodbye.

STEP-MOTHER : Goodbye, Cinderella.

EVIL SISTER 1 : Yes, goodbye.

NARRATOR : When they left, Cinderella ran back to the hazel tree -

**SFX: footsteps running**

NARRATOR : - and was given a dress even more beautiful than the one before.

**SFX: festival music**

NARRATOR : She and the Prince danced this night away also. The Prince once again wanted to walk her all the way to her door, but as they neared her house she pushed him hard -

**SFX: oomph! and fall to the ground**

NARRATOR : - and climbed up a tree in the garden. Again her father arrived and the Prince said -

PRINCE : That same maiden as before has escaped from me. I believe she has climbed up this pear tree.

NARRATOR : The father, thinking the Prince had perhaps been a little bit too merry that night, went and got his ax again. He cut down the tree -

**SFX: tree crashing down**

NARRATOR : - but there was no one in it. While he was chopping the tree, Cinderella had jumped down from it to the other side of the fence.

**SFX: jump down and footsteps running**

NARRATOR : She then raced back to her mother's grave -

**SFX: magic sound**

NARRATOR : - gave her fine dress to the little white bird, and returned fast as the wind to her home.

**SFX: footsteps running**

NARRATOR : The father once more suspected it was his serving wench and so again he took the Prince to his kitchen. But when they found her asleep in her dirty clothes amongst the ashes by the hearth, the Prince still did not recognize her as the maiden in question in the low fire light and dusty air.

**SFX: Prince sighs "ah, for cryin' out loud -"**

NARRATOR : The next day was the last day of the festival.

**SFX: trumpets**

NARRATOR : This time the little white bird gave her an even more magnificent dress and the slippers were a brilliant gold. She and the Prince once more danced the entire evening away together.

**SFX: festival music**

NARRATOR : This time, Cinderella escaped from the party so quickly that the Prince didn't even have a chance to follow her.

**SFX: footsteps running**

NARRATOR : Ah, but he was prepared. He had arranged for the entire back staircase to be coated with sticky pitch and one of Cinderella's slippers got stuck in it -

**SFX: suction pop sound**

NARRATOR : - as she ran down the steps.

PRINCE : Ya! At last I have something to help me find the maiden. The one who shall be my wife is the one whom this slipper fits. And I know just the house I'll start with.

NARRATOR : Word of the Prince's plan spread throughout the festival crowd.

**SFX: crowd sounds**

NARRATOR : Cinderella's step-mother and step-sisters began chattering away.

STEP-MOTHER : Did you hear that, my daughters? You still have a chance to marry the Prince.

EVIL SISTER 1 : Yes, I have pretty feet.

EVIL SISTER 2 : And I have pretty feet, too!

STEP-MOTHER : We must hurry home at once.

NARRATOR : Soon the Prince arrived at their door.

STEP-MOTHER : Let my first daughter try on the slipper, your grace.

NARRATOR : The Prince handed over the slipper and the step-mother carried it into the next room to her eldest daughter.

EVIL SISTER 1 : It doesn't fit! I can't get my big toe into it. Whatever shall I do?

STEP-MOTHER : Cut your toe off. When you are Queen you shall have no more need to go on foot.

NARRATOR : Convinced her mother was right, the girl cut off her toe, put on the shoe, and swallowed her pain. The Prince fell for this deception.

PRINCE : Come. We shall ride back to the palace on my horse.

**SFX: horse walking**

NARRATOR : But as they passed Cinderella's hazel tree, two pigeons began to cry.

PIGEONS : Turn and peep, turn and peep. There's blood within the shoe. The shoe it is too small for her, your true bride still waits for you.

PRINCE : They are right! You are a false bride. We must return at once to your house.

**SFX: horse galloping**

STEP-MOTHER : Let my other daughter try on the slipper, your grace.

NARRATOR : The Prince presented the slipper again and the step-mother carried it into the next room to her youngest daughter.

EVIL SISTER 2 : It doesn't fit! My heel is too large. Whatever shall I do?

STEP-MOTHER : Cut your heel off. When you are Queen you shall have no more need to go on foot.

NARRATOR : Convinced her mother was right, the girl cut off her heel, put on the shoe, and swallowed her pain. The Prince was fooled once more.

PRINCE : Come. We shall ride back to the palace on my horse.

**SFX: horse turning and walking**

NARRATOR : But as they passed the hazel tree, the two pigeons began to cry once more.

PIGEONS : Turn and peep, turn and peep. There's blood within the shoe. The shoe it is too small for her, your true bride still waits for you.

PRINCE : They are right! You are also a false bride. We must return at once to your house.

**SFX: horse galloping approach**

NARRATOR : When they arrived, the Prince went to speak with the father.

PRINCE : Have you no other daughters?

NARRATOR : The father became confused and told the Prince that there was only a little kitchen wench that his late wife had left behind after she died. She couldn't possibly be the bride he was seeking.

PRINCE : Bring her to me. I must see her.

STEP-MOTHER : Oh no, she is much too dirty. She cannot show herself.

PRINCE : Bring her now!

NARRATOR : Cinderella heard the Prince's demand and quickly washed her hands and face clean. When she was handed the slipper, she put it on and it fit perfectly.

PRINCE : Come! We shall ride back to the palace on my horse.

**SFX: horse walking**

NARRATOR : On their way to the palace, two white doves flew down -

**SFX: doves cooing**

NARRATOR : - and set themselves upon Cinderella's shoulders. When the wedding was celebrated -

**SFX: wedding music**

NARRATOR :       - the two step-sisters came. They wanted to get into Cinderella's good graces and share in her good fortune. But, as the step-sisters sat down to watch the ceremony, the two white doves flew to them -

**SFX: birds fluttering**

NARRATOR :       - and pecked their eyes out.

**SFX: cries of pain**

NARRATOR :       This was their punishment for being wicked and trying to deceive the world.

**SFX: Grimmly Speaking end theme music**