



CINDERELLA
BY
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Extract

A SMITH SCRIPT

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Act One Scene One
The Prologue – In Hardup Woods

(To eerie music and from the back of the stage, the cloaked figure of the Fairy Godmother appears, she is bent double and appears to be old and frail. She comes down the stage.)

Fairy Oh there you are, you did take your time.
Yes I am a fairy, and I always, but always speak in rhyme.
Now mortals this is important and please, try to understand,
I was once Queen in Fairy Land.
Until one day, by chance I fell,
Under a deep and old magical spell.
This spell can only be broken by one pure of heart,
I need to find someone, who fits the part!
I've looked in Shrewsbury, and searched in Stoke,
But my quest will finish in Stoneybroke.
For I've heard that the sweetest girl dwells there,
She's downtrodden, ill-treated and yet does not despair.
She's kind and considerate, she leads a good life,
For some worthy Prince, she will make a good wife.
With your help I'll make certain that she gets her feller,
And so now let's go to Stoneybroke,
To seek out Cinderella!

(The lights fade to a blackout and she is gone.)

End of the Prologue

Act One Scene One
The Village of Stoneybroke in the Bank

(The Chorus come on and sing and dance.)

Song & Dance:

(There is the blast of a hunting horn and the children of the chorus dressed as a fox and hounds enter and perform a dance, followed by the chorus dressed as huntsmen, they go into a big production number.)

Song & Dance:

(At the end of the song a hunting horn blown extremely badly is heard.)

1st Chorus: What on earth was that?

2nd Chorus: It sounds like the Master of the Hunt is approaching.

3rd Chorus: What old Baron Hardup?

4th Chorus: (*looking off*) Oh crikey, he's got his wife with him.

5th Chorus: What about her daughters?

4th Chorus: Well I can't see them.

6th Chorus: Well you can hardly miss them.

(*The Horn sounds again and Baron Hardup enters with his wife, Baroness Voluptia having a piggy-back.*)

Baroness: Tally Ho! Roderick, Whoa!

(*The Baron stops and she falls off his back onto the floor.*)

Baron: I've Whoa-ed.

Baroness: Help me up you idiot.

Baron: Yes dear.

(*He helps her up.*)

Baroness: I cannot think why I ever married you.

Baron: No, nor can I.

Baroness: You're useless.

Baron: I can't be that useless, I've just bought you that new washing machine.

Baroness: I never wash!

Baron: (*sniffing*) Phew! You're telling me.

Baroness: Oh Roderick, how can you stand there and be so cruel to me?

Baron: It's quite easy really.

Baroness: That's it I've had enough. I'm going to Mothers.

Baron: Can I have that in writing please?

Baroness: Oh you beast!

(*She exits.*)

Baron: That's it, now she's gone we can have some fun. I should say so, what! (*To audience*) Allow me to introduce myself. I am Baron Hardup of Stoneybroke Mansions, it's council but we're not buying. But my name and my house are quite apt, you see I'm well, financially embarrassed, in short - I'm skint. Things were alright until I met Voluptia. That was her, with more gob than a gobstopper! I met her on holiday in Shanklin, have you been there? Well it's a bit like (*local place*) only there's less to see. Anyway she came over to me after I had won the donkey derby and battered me with her handbag. I mean how was I supposed to know that the donkey I'd been riding was actually her daughter? Now Voluptia had actually got two daughters Chardonnay and Channel, They make our lives hell. Oh I forgot, how

could I there's my own daughter Cinderella, The kindest girl that you'll ever meet, what! what!

Chorus: Oh yes, she's sweet, kind, it is a shame etc.

Baroness: *(from OS)* Roderick!

Baron: Oh I knew it was too good to be true, there's the old foghorn again. Well I must be off. Tally Ho! What! What!

(He exits down stage left as Dandini; Equerry to the Prince enters up stage left.)

Dandini: Hello everyone.

Chorus: Hello Dandini.

1st Chorus: Is the Prince not with you?

Dandini: The Prince, Lord Ford, doesn't agree with hunting.

2nd Chorus: Oh that's a bad show!

Dandini: Indeed it is Lady Table.

3rd Chorus: The Master of the Hunt, Baron Hardup was here a moment ago, have you met him?

Dandini: No, Lady Carpetsdown I haven't, but I've heard all about him and his family.

(Baron Hardup re-enters.)

Baron: Hey hey, now what goes on here? What! What!

Dandini: We're on the hunt sir. Will you not borrow an old nag and join us?

Baron: An oldnag!

Dandini: Yes, have you got one?

Baron: I married one! Dashed Impertinence! Now look here lanky legs, I know the hunt is on because it is my hunt and these are my private grounds, I am Baron Hardup of Stony-broke Mansions.

Dandini: You're Baron Hardup? I was told that Baron Hardup, was as strong as an Ox, as brave as a Lion, an Adonis of a man at whom all ladies swoon on sight of.

Baron: That's right.

Dandini: No, no it can't be you. Besides I was also informed that thee grounds are part of the royal charter.

Baron: Then you've been misinformed fish face.

Dandini: Very well I concede that you are Baron Hardup, but it's well known that you have no private grounds and no money.

Baron: *(exploding)* You Blackguard sir! Who are you?

Dandini: Me? *(He thinks for the moment)* Well, I'm the Prince.

Baron: *(taken aback)* The... Prince! You... you mean Prince Charming?

Dandini: None other.

Baron: My humble apologies, your royal highness. I don't know what to say.

Dandini: Then don't.

Baron: Please forgive me your highness.

Dandini: There is nothing to forgive. And now if you would excuse us, we would like to continue with the hunt.

Baron: Yes of course your highness, I am ever so sorry your highness.

(He exits bowing and scraping, all laugh.)

Dandini: Well come on my subjects, don't just stand there laughing, let's get on with the hunt.

(The Prince enters upstage left unseen by Dandini or the Chorus.)

Chorus: Yes your highness etc.

Prince: Yes your highness? Certainly your highness?

Dandini: *(still being the fake prince and not seeing the real prince)* That's right my man and remember it's not your highness but *(he turns to see the Prince, he bows very quickly)* Your Royal Highness.

Prince: And might one enquire what this is all about your highness?

Dandini: Oh sire, I don't know what you'll say.

Prince: I don't know myself Dandini, until you give me an explanation.

Dandini: Well, your highness. It was just a little joke I was playing on Baron Hardup.

Prince: I see.

Dandini: He's a pleasant little fellow and well, on the spur of the moment.... Oh your highness, will you please forgive me, I should never of done it.

Prince: Done what?

Dandini: Well I pretended that I was you.

Prince: You pretended that you were me?

Dandini: Yes your highness.

Prince: *(thoughtfully)* You pretended that you were me.

Dandini: Please forgive me sir. It was just this once and it'll never happen again.

Prince: Dandini, I'm not happy about this trick you played on the poor old Baron, but you have given me an idea.

Dandini: Have I sir?

Prince: Yes. How would you like to be me, just for one day?

Dandini: I beg your pardon sire?

Prince: I want you to pretend that you're me, just for the day.

Dandini: Your highness jests of course.

Prince: I have never been more serious about anything in my entire life. You see Dandini I have often wondered what it would be like to be an ordinary person. To be me, not me the Prince, but me, myself. To be liked as myself, even loved as myself.

Dandini: You mean....

Prince: There comes a time Dandini, when power, privilege and position can become very boring.

Dandini: I'd never be bored. Prince: I wonder?

Dandini: *(off in a dream world)* To have the power of a Prince, to be respected as a prince to be even loved as a prince!

Prince: Dandini Dandini.

Dandini: *(coming round)* I'm sorry sire.

Prince: We'll swap places. Here's the royal insignia, take it, wear it.

Dandini: You mean that I'm actually going to be a prince, a real prince?

Prince: You will pretend to be the prince, and I shall be Dandini.

Dandini: Just for today?

Prince: Just for today.

Song:

(At the end of the song, they exit, The Prince bowing to make way for Dandini. There now comes a hollering and shouting from the back of the auditorium. Chardonney and Channel Hardup, The Ugly Sisters enter through the audience. They are grossly overdressed in riding outfits and each astride a child's hobbyhorse. Channel is riding hers backwards.)

Channel: Oh look, look!

Chardonney: What's the matter?

Channel: I've been nobbled.

Chardonney: You silly moo, the heads at the other end.

Channel: Well what's this then?

Chardonney: That's it's Never you mind what that is, just get on it properly.

Channel: Right. Whoa mare! *(She makes a lot of fuss about getting off the horse and re-mounting.)* I'm on.

Chardonney: Channel, is your horse fast?

Channel: Fast? Fast! It runs faster than a dose of salts.

Chardonney: We're late; the meet's gone off.

Channel: You know, I thought I could smell something.

Chardonney: It's all your fault Channel.

Channel: What do you mean Chardonney?

Chardonney: When we came to that last ditch, you should have taken it.

Channel: I drank three pints; I'm not licensed to take anymore. Chardonney:
Don't you find horse riding gives you a headache?

Channel: No, quite the reverse actually.

Chardonney: Ooh did you see that deer, dear?

Channel: That was no deer, dear. That was a stag, hag.

(The Baroness and Baron enter quickly.)

Baroness: Girls! Girls! Quick! The prince is arriving! Dismount at once!

(The sisters begin jumping all over the place, as though the horses are out of control.)

Chardonney: Oooh help me! Help me!

Channel: Whoa! Father do something!

(The Prince and Dandini (who is now pretending to be the prince) arrive and watch the scene with some amusement. The sisters finally dismount and fall in a heap on top of the Baron.)

Chardonney: Which one's the Prince?

Baron: *(from underneath)* The one with good legs and the funny hat.

Channel: They've both got good legs and funny hats.

Baroness: *(to Dandini)* Your Royal Highness, may I present my two daughters.

Channel: *(To the Prince)* Oy mush, take my nag and tether it up.

(The Prince looks angry and is about to say something.)

Dandini: Dandini, do as you are bit.

Prince: Oh yes, sorry your highness. *(He takes hold of Chardonney's arm and*

begins to walk her off.) Would you come this way madam?
 Chardonnay: What on earth do you think you're doing?
 Prince: Well I was told to take her nag and tether it up.
 Channel: Not this nag (*indicating Chardonnay*) that nag. (*She gives him the horse.*)
 Chardonnay: Just for that you can take mine as well. (*She hands over her horse to the prince who takes the off and immediately returns.*)
 Dandini: (*to the Baroness*) You were saying madam.
 Baroness: Oh yes your highness, may I present my two daughters, Chardonnay.
 Chardonnay: Oh your warship. (*Dandini kisses her hand, she swoons.*) Oh my gawd! (*She faints into the Barons arms, who misses and she ends up on the floor.*) Why didn't you catch me you nit?
 Dandini: Your married daughter I presume?
 Baroness: Oh no, Chardonnay is still very much single.
 Baron: And willing.
 Chardonnay: And able.
 Dandini: I bet you've had your moments though.
 Chardonnay: Oh yes, before I reached the age of discretion, I was dragged into the garden of love.
 Dandini: Really?
 Chardonnay (*getting carried away*) Dragged into the garden of love!
 Channel: Yes, by an old rake!
 Chardonnay: How dare you, you cat! I'll scratch your eyes out for you!
 Channel: Oh belt up.

(The sisters start to fight.)

Baron: (*getting between them*) Girls, girls, girls! (*He blows a piercing whistle which stops them*) Half time! Now behave yourselves just remember we're in the presence of royalty and (*local town councillor.*)
 Channel: Oh your highness what ever will you think of my skin blister.
 Dandini: You're what?
 Channel: My skin blister, right on the end of my foot, do you want to have a look?
 All: No!
 Channel: I was only joking, my skin blister, my sister. That's here there with the elevated conk.
 Chardonnay: How dare you my nose isn't elevated.
 Channel: You know well that your nose turns towards heaven.
 Chardonnay: Only when you've got your socks off!
 Channel: How dare you! How dare you! (*They start to fight again.*)
 Baroness: (*pulling Channel away*) And this is my other dainty morsel, Channel.
 Channel: Oh princy, I've overcome with emulsion.
 Dandini: Charming girls, Baron, they're so... so... so cultured.
 Baron: You think so?
 Baroness: Of course my girls are cultured; they even play the cello sidesaddle.
 Channel: (*in semi faint*) I shall never be the same girl again.
 Chardonnay: (*aside*) Shush! Don't tell everyone.
 Dandini: Any they are so much alike.

Chardonnay: Oh prince how can you say such a thing? Everyone knows that I'm the good-looking one.

Channel: What do you mean? I'm the good-looking one.
Chardonay: I'll have you know that I won first prize in a beauty contest.

(During the ensuing quarrel, the Prince and Dandini make their exit.)

Channel: What Crufts?
Chardonay: I did, I took first prize.
Baron: Oh yes, someone saw you take it and made you put it back again.
Chardonay: *(to Channel)* You beast!
Channel: Swine!
Chardonay: Just you remember who was boxing champ at brownies. Oh Prince what will you think of my ... Oh he's gone.
Baron: I'm not surprised. You behaved disgracefully.
Baroness: Roderick, stop picking on my little darlings, they behaved excellently.
Baron: I'd hate to see it when they misbehave themselves.
Channel: *(to Chardonay)* It was all your fault.
Chardonay: What do you mean, all my fault? You started it.
Channel: No you started it by telling all those lies.
Chardonay: What lies?
Channel: About winning the beauty contest.
Chardonay: Are you suggesting that I told fibs?
Channel: Worse than that, you told whoppers!
Chardonay: Ooooooh I'll box your ears for you!
Baroness: Girls, I am sure that you both made an excellent impression on the prince. It's just a toss of a coin to see which one of you he chooses.
Channel: All right then, give me a coin.
Baroness: Don't look at me for money.
Chardonay: Nor me.
Baron: *(Guiltily)* Nor me.

Channel: You've always got one hidden away somewhere father. Come on Chardonay, help me to help papa to find a coin.
Chardonay: Right you are sister.

(They make a grab for the Baron, tip him upside down and shake him until a single coin drops out of his pockets. They then put him back down.)

Channel: Don't ever hide out on us again!
Chardonay: Yes, remember papa, we're like the Inland Revenue, and we'll take every penny you've got. *(To Channel)* Now what do you want with the coin?
Channel: Well mama said it was a toss of a coin to see which of us the prince chooses, so *(she tosses the coin)* what is it then?
Chardonay: What's our cat got?
Channel: Wrong, it's heads.
Chardonay: That's right, our cat's got a head.
Channel: Oh that's not fair! This time you toss the coin and I'll call it.
Chardonay: *(tosses the coin)* What is it?
Channel: What's our cat got?

Chardonnay: Tails.

Channel: That's right, our cat's got a tail.

Baroness: Girls, you must prove yourselves if you're going to catch the prince's eye.

Channel: Why is it going to fall out?

Baroness: Oh good grief! Girls you must prove yourselves with actions and not words.

Baron: And remember, we need the money.

Ugly Sisters: (*Groaning*) We need a man.

Baron: I need a drink.

Baroness: Come along Roderick!

(The Baron and Baroness exit)