

Stepmother, Portia, Joy

TRACK 3: CHANGE INTO SCENE 2

They all exit as the curtain opens to reveal the Stepmother's Home.

SCENE 2: THE STEPFAMILY'S HOME

The STEPMOTHER, JOY, and PORTIA enter the house, dressed magnificently and walking with an obvious sense of their own importance. There is no happy light in JOY and no suggestion of intelligence in PORTIA. In fact, the two STEPSISTERS have been named in direct opposition to their true demeanor, for we will never see a genuine smile cross JOY's face, and it is obvious PORTIA isn't bright enough to be a great lawyer like her namesake.

Start

(calling offstage back over her shoulder)
Cinderella, come along! You're cluttering up the street!

CINDERELLA enters and follows them, nearly hidden behind the stack of packages she carries. Onstage is a dining table and four chairs. Downstage is a fireplace. A small chair, a broom, and five trons stand next to the hearth.

Cinderella, close the door.

CINDERELLA sets the packages down on the floor and closes the door.

PORTIA

(approaching the table)
Cinderella, my chair.

CINDERELLA pulls out a chair at the table and PORTIA sits.

STEPMOTHER

Cinderella, my chair.

CINDERELLA pulls out another chair and the STEPMOTHER sits.

JOY

What about my chair, Cinderella?!

CINDERELLA pulls out a chair and JOY sits.

PORTIA

Cinderella, iron my dress, I'll need it.

STEPMOTHER

Cinderella, lay out my new gown for this evening.

JOY

Cinderella, wash my gloves for tomorrow.

CINDERELLA begins to leave to continue her chores.

PORTIA

Cinderella, it's freezing!

STEPMOTHER

Poke the fire, Cinderella.

CINDERELLA stops, turns around, goes to the fireplace, takes an iron and pokes the fire.

JOY

Really, Cinderella!

PORTIA

Cinderella, really!

STEPMOTHER

Now, my daughters, I want to talk to you.

CINDERELLA moves to sit in the downstage chair at the table.

Well, not you - I want to talk to my own daughters.

CINDERELLA goes meekly to her corner by the fireplace and sits in her little chair.

JOY

That girl always wants to sit down.

PORTIA

No wonder she never gets anything done.

STEPMOTHER

Now, Joy...

JOY

Yes, ma'am?

And Portia...
STEPMOTHER

PORTIA

Yes, ma'am?

STEPMOTHER
As you well know, my little moppets, this ball that the Prince is giving is for one purpose only.

PORTIA, JOY
To choose a bride.

STEPMOTHER
Exactly. And every girl in the kingdom wants to marry the Prince. Including you, Portia.

PORTIA
(giggly)
Uh-huh.

STEPMOTHER
And you, Joy.

JOY
(sourly)
Uh-huh.

STEPMOTHER
On our shopping tour today I bought you the most beautiful clothes with all the frills and froufrou my purse could afford.

Her voice hardens.
So whether or not you marry the Prince, you'll both have to marry somebody this year.

PORTIA, JOY
(snapping into frightened obedience)
Yes, ma'am.

STEPMOTHER
(her voice softening again)
Now there's one thing you must remember. When you want to marry a man, you can't rely on your beauty alone.

PORTIA, JOY
No, ma'am.

STEPMOTHER
That does not mean, however, that I want you to neglect your appearance.

(STEPMOTHER)
(rising self-importantly)
Our family has always been noted for its beautiful women. So now let's all go and get our beauty sleep. I'm exhausted from all that shopping.

She starts to exit.

PORTIA
(following her)
I'm all tired out, too, going from store to store the way we did.

JOY
(following them)
You're tired?

PORTIA
(turning back to her, ready for a fight)
Yes, I'm tired!

JOY
I suppose you think you're the only one that's tired!

PORTIA
Well, who bought the most?

JOY
That has nothing to do with it!

PORTIA
That has everything to do with it!

STEPMOTHER
Go to bed, both of you!

PORTIA, JOY
Yes, ma'am.

They exit. The STEPMOTHER turns to
CINDERELLA

STEPMOTHER
Well you - don't sit there gaping at me. Make yourself useful.

CINDERELLA
(jumping up and taking the broom from the hearth)
Yes, Stepmother.

The STEPMOTHER turns on her heels and exits downstage right. CINDERELLA sweeps half-heartedly.

1 end

KING
A THOUSAND!!

QUEEN

Hush!

KING
IT'S MORE THAN THE STURGEON CAN SUPPLY!

CHEF

I TOLD THE STEWARD TO GET US
FORTY ACRES OF LETTUCE
AND SIX HUNDRED SUCKLING PIGS FOR ROASTING.

KING

WHAT ABOUT THE MARSHMALLOWS?

QUEEN

WHO WANTS MARSHMALLOWS?

KING

I DO.

QUEEN

WHY?

KING

FOR TOASTING!

*The BUTCHER opens the covered tray, showing off a
ham and steak.*

STAFF

SURELY YOU'LL NEED A SIDE OF HAM,
AND LOTS OF BEEF FILETS.

BUTCHER

SOME MARBLEIZED STEAKS, A RACK OF LAMB
AND VEAL YOU RAISED TO BRAISE!

The CHEESE STEWARD presents cheese on his tray.

CHEESE STEWARD

LIMBURGER CHEESE AND GOURMANDISE,
GOUDA, GRUYÈRE AND BLEU.

QUEEN

CHUNKS OF SWISS IN BARRELS, PLEASE.

KING
MAKE SURE IT'S HOLE-Y, TOO!

The DESSERT CHEFS present dessert.

DESSERT CHEF

STAFF

PUDDING AND PIES AND RUM SOUFFLE,
SUCCULENT CHOCOLATE ROUNDS,
CREAM PUFFS WE CAN EAT ALL DAY!
TO GAIN SOME ROYAL POUNDS.

*The members of the PALACE STAFF proudly present
very foodstuff known to man for the KING and
QUEEN's inspection. Additional preparations for the
ball - decorations, garlands, bunting, etc - are also
paraded on. The PALACE STAFF dances joyfully, the
number building to a rousing climax. As the number
ends, the STAFF exits and on the final beat of music,
the QUEEN gives the KING a final nod of her head
as if to say, "So there!" and exits. The KING stamps in
his throne as the PRINCE enters.*

PRINCE

Hello, father.

KING

(rising)
Oh, hello, my boy,
(crossing to him)
Christopher, how are you feeling?

PRINCE

Fine, father.

KING

You're not unhappy or anything - are you?

PRINCE

Why, no, father.

KING

Ah-ha! Just what I thought.

PRINCE

It seems to me, sir, that you look a little tired.

KING
I am tired, when I think of that darn ball.

The QUEEN re-enters upstage, unseen by the KING and PRINCE. Hearing the words about the ball, she steps back to eavesdrop on their conversation.

PRINCE
Oh, that Well, to tell you the truth, sir, it isn't a night I'm looking forward to. Dancing with all those... candidates.

KING
Candidates?

PRINCE
Every simpering girl in the Kingdom, each one determined to show that she would be the perfect princess for me.

KING
Yes, I know how you feel, my boy. But your mother's got her heart set on this affair.

PRINCE
I know.

KING
Uh... Christopher... If you talk to your mother about this, don't let her know how you feel. Tell her that you... that you love the idea of the ball. Know what I mean? Make her feel good about it. Now I'll tell you...

The QUEEN is touched by the KING's kind words and crosses into the room. She acts surprised to see the PRINCE.

QUEEN
Oh - hello, my dear.

PRINCE
Mother. I was just saying how much I'm looking forward to the ball. It sounds wonderful.

QUEEN
(smiling)
Does it?

PRINCE
Yes. I was wondering if I could help with any of the preparations.

QUEEN
Well, yes, dear. Maybe you can.

She kisses him on the cheek. The PRINCE is pleased that his mother is happy.

PRINCE
Well... see you later.

He turns and on his way out of the room, stops, smiles and waves goodbye to the KING and QUEEN and exits. The QUEEN, not offended by the deceit, but touched by it, takes a hanky from her sleeve and dabs her nose.

Getting a cold?

The QUEEN shakes her head.

Better take something for it.

She nods.

Don't want to have a red nose at the ball.

I'll be over it by then.

She takes his arm and they exit upstage left.

HERALD

(over the music)
Hear ye, hear ye, hear ye all!! A royal proclamation! A holiday is hereby proclaimed! Let every bank, shop and school be closed. Today is the day of the ball.

SCENE 4: THE STEPFAMILY'S HOME

The STEPFAMILY is dressed for the ball. The STEPMOTHER's hat, JOY's gloves, and PORTIA's wrist corsage are on the table. There is a large pumpkin in the yard, and four MICE huddled in the corner.

STEPMOTHER
Cinderella, my hat!

CINDERELLA hands her the hat.

JOY
My gloves, Cinderella!

end

Cinderella, Godmother

CINDERELLA hands her the gloves.

PORTIA

Cinderella, my flowers!

CINDERELLA hands her the flowers.

CINDERELLA

Oh, you look so beautiful!

STEPMOTHER

Yes, we do! Come along, girls.

They exit upstage right.

CINDERELLA

(calling after them happily)

Have a good time!

Still smiling, she crosses to the fireplace and sits in her chair.

Oh, I wish... I wish...

TRACK 8: FOL-DE-ROL

The GODMOTHER suddenly appears. She is a sensible type of woman, showing no sign of any magic qualities. They come later.

GODMOTHER

FOL-DE-ROL AND FIDDLEY DEE,
FIDDLEY FADDLEDY FODDLE,
ALL THE WISHES IN THE WORLD
ARE POPPYCOCK AND TWADDLE!

CINDERELLA looks up on hearing her

GODMOTHER's voice and rushes to her.

CINDERELLA

Godmother! I'm so glad to see you!

(looking toward the door quizzically)

I didn't hear you come in.

GODMOTHER

I JUST KNEW I WOULD FIND YOU
IN THAT SAME LITTLE CHAIR
IN THE PALE, PINK MIST OF A FOOLISH DREAM.

CINDERELLA

Foolish? What's wrong with dreaming?

GODMOTHER
FOL-DE-ROL AND FIDDLEY DEE,
FIDDLEY FADDLEDY FODDLE,
ALL THE DREAMERS IN THE WORLD
ARE DIZZY IN THE NOODLE.

Step

But isn't every girl dreaming and wishing she were at the ball tonight?

GODMOTHER

Why aren't you there?

CINDERELLA

My Stepmother...

(not wanting to speak badly of her)

Well, somebody has to mind the house.

GODMOTHER

Do you know what I would do if I were you? I'd leave them. If you want to be a servant, you can go to some other place and be paid.

CINDERELLA

You mean leave my stepfamily? I don't think if Father were alive, he would like that. Godmother, do dreams never, ever, come true?

GODMOTHER

Oh, I wouldn't say never – just seldom.

CINDERELLA

I wish you believed in wonderful things. I wish you believed that once in a while something marvelous and magical can happen.

GODMOTHER

Well I don't say that I don't believe that once in a while something marvelous and magical can happen. Only thing is, it's dangerous to believe too much.

CINDERELLA

Do you know what I was wishing tonight?

GODMOTHER

(grinily)
I'm almost afraid to hear.

CINDERELLA

(gesturing to the pumpkin)
I was wishing that pumpkin out in the yard would turn into a great big golden carriage that would take me to the ball.

GODMOTHER
What were you going to do for the horses?

CINDERELLA

(gesturing to the MICE)
Four white mice would turn into horses!

GODMOTHER

Were you going to drive them yourself?

CINDERELLA

Oh, no. There'd be a coachman and a footman, too! Oh, I know what you're going to say, "Fol-de-rol and fiddle-dee."

GODMOTHER

Yes. Fol-de-rol and fiddle-dee!

CINDERELLA

It's impossible, I suppose.

GODMOTHER

Impossible.

CINDERELLA

If only I had a guardian angel, or if you, Godmother, were a fairy Godmother.

GODMOTHER

Ha, ha! Good joke! Ho, ho! Very funny!

CINDERELLA

(resolutely)

Just the same, I am wishing – in the name of every young girl who ever wanted to go to a dance and was told she couldn't. I am wishing that by some magic or "fol-de-rol and fiddle-dee" that I could go to the ball tonight.

TRACK 9: IMPOSSIBLE

GODMOTHER

IMPOSSIBLE
FOR A PLAIN YELLOW PUMPKIN TO BECOME A GOLDEN
CARRIAGE!
IMPOSSIBLE
FOR A PLAIN COUNTRY BUMPKIN AND A PRINCE TO JOIN IN
MARRIAGE,
AND FOUR WHITE MICE WILL NEVER BE FOUR WHITE HORSES—
SUCH "FOL-DE-ROL AND FIDDLE-DEE" OF COURSE IS
IMPOSSIBLE!

(GODMOTHER)

BUT THE WORLD IS FULL OF ZANIES AND FOOLS
WHO DON'T BELIEVE IN SENSIBLE RULES
AND WON'T BELIEVE WHAT SENSIBLE PEOPLE SAY,
AND BECAUSE THESE DAFT AND DEWY-EYED DOPES
KEEP BUILDING UP IMPOSSIBLE HOPES,
IMPOSSIBLE THINGS ARE HAPPENING EVERY DAY!
IMPOSSIBLE!

CINDERELLA

IMPOSSIBLE?

GODMOTHER

IMPOSSIBLE!

CINDERELLA

(gloomily)

IMPOSSIBLE?

GODMOTHER

IMPOSSIBLE!

CINDERELLA

IMPOSSIBLE!

BOTH

IMPOSSIBLE!

Music continues under dialogue.

CINDERELLA

(hopefully)

Is that true, Godmother? That impossible things are happening every day?

GODMOTHER

(grudgingly)

Well, yes – in a way. But...

CINDERELLA

(singing earnestly, as if trying to sing her wish true)

BUT THE WORLD IS FULL OF ZANIES AND FOOLS
WHO DON'T BELIEVE IN SENSIBLE RULES
AND WON'T BELIEVE WHAT SENSIBLE PEOPLE SAY.

GODMOTHER, impressed by CINDERELLA'S confidence, joins her and sings with equal enthusiasm. The MICE join the song as well.

Portia, Joy, Stepmother, Prince, Cinderella, Herald, King, Queen

JOY finally gets to the front, right as the music ends. The other GUESTS clap at the end of the song, and so dancing is done. JOY is nonplussed and ends up talking with the PRINCE.

PORTIA crosses to the STEPMOTHER.

PORTIA
I've lost track of the Prince.

STEBMOTHER
He's talking with Joy.

PORTIA
(dreamily)
Is he?
(STEBMOTHER points)
Oh - that Joy. I wanted a shot at him!

Focus shifts to JOY and the PRINCE.

JOY
Your Highness, may I say something personal?

PRINCE
Yes?

JOY
I think... I think...

PRINCE
You think...?

JOY
Very nice weather for this time of year.

PRINCE
You really should not be so personal.

JOY
But my mother told me to say something personal to you.

PRINCE
(signals to the HERALD)
Perhaps you should return to your mother for further instructions.

HERALD
Next!

The HERALD returns JOY to the STEPMOTHER as PORTIA rushes in to talk with the PRINCE.

PORTIA
I'm gonna be a lawyer! Just like my namesake in Shakespeare's "The Merchant of Venice." Her name was Portia, too!

PRINCE

Really?

PORTIA
Yep! Someday I'll stand up in the courtroom and say something about how, like, the quality of mercy is not strained, know what I mean?

PRINCE

I'm afraid I do.

HERALD

Next.

The HERALD returns PORTIA to the STEPMOTHER as the PRINCE crosses to his parents as if to say, "How much more of this are you going to put me through?"

CINDERELLA suddenly appears at the top of the staircase.

TRACK 14: CINDERELLA'S ENTRANCE

CINDERELLA is now fully dressed for the ball. The PRINCE stops dancing as he sees CINDERELLA. One by one, groups of GUESTS turn to her. Everyone stands like statues, holding their breath as CINDERELLA nervously descends the stairs. The PRINCE, like a man in a trance, moves to meet her at the bottom of the stairs. He extends his hand and she takes it. He guides her onto the floor. The PRINCE bows to her. CINDERELLA curtsies to him. The gavoite resumes, now with a bit more spirit as they begin to dance. The song ends and everyone applauds. Small groups of people form. They are talking and having a good time.

KING
Now the party is beginning to look better!

QUEEN

I wonder who she is.

KING

Watching him dance with that lovely creature - you know, it takes me back.

QUEEN

To where?

KING

To the first time I danced with you, my darling.

The PRINCE leads CINDERELLA downstage.

STEPMOTHER

(from the other side of the stage)

I wonder who she is.

JOY

I never saw that girl before.

PORTIA

Well, whoever she is, it's clear he likes her the best.

PRINCE

Why have I never met you before?

CINDERELLA

Well... I don't get out much.

PRINCE

I don't even know your name. Mine is Christopher.

CINDERELLA

Yes. I know – Christopher Rubert Wÿndemere Vladimir...

PRINCE

I don't use all those names. I would like you to call me just Christopher.

CINDERELLA

You would?

TRACK 15: TEN MINUTES AGO

PRINCE

I have a strange feeling that something has just happened to me and I don't know what it is.

CINDERELLA

That's exactly the way I feel.

PRINCE

Do you have any idea what it might be?

CINDERELLA

No.

PRINCE

Well, let's think back over our history together.

CINDERELLA

It isn't very long, is it?

The PRINCE smiles, shaking his head. As the PRINCE sings, the GUESTS sway gently upstage.

PRINCE

TEN MINUTES AGO I SAW YOU,
I LOOKED UP WHEN YOU CAME THROUGH THE DOOR.
MY HEAD STARTED REELING,
YOU GAVE ME THE FEELING
THE ROOM HAD NO CEILING OR FLOOR.

TEN MINUTES AGO I MET YOU,
AND WE MURMURED OUR HOW-DO-YOU-DO'S.
I WANTED TO RING OUT THE BELLS AND FLING OUT
MY ARMS AND TO SING OUT THE NEWS:

I HAVE FOUND HER!
SHE'S AN ANGEL
WITH THE DUST OF THE STARS IN HER EYES.
WE ARE DANCING,
WE ARE FLYING
AND SHE'S TAKING ME BACK TO THE SKIES!

IN THE ARMS OF MY LOVE I'M FLYING
OVER MOUNTAIN AND MEADOW AND GLEN,
AND I LIKE IT SO WELL
THAT FOR ALL I CAN TELL
I MAY NEVER COME DOWN AGAIN!
I MAY NEVER COME DOWN TO EARTH AGAIN!

CINDERELLA turns away, not knowing how to respond to the PRINCE. The KING, QUEEN, JOY, and PORTIA now join in the dance.

I have told you how I feel, but you haven't described your feelings.

CINDERELLA

(turning to him)
Well, they are very much the same as yours.

KING

Everybody dance!

(Skip song)

end

Cinderella, Prince

ALL
SO WHY IS THE FELLOW GOING CRAZY?

OH, WHY WOULD A FELLOW WANT A GIRL LIKE HER,
A GIRL WHO'S MERELY LOVELY?
WHY CAN'T A FELLOW EVER ONCE PREFER
A GIRL WHO'S MERELY ME?
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH THE MAN?
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH THE MAN?
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH THE MAN?
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH THE MAN?

On the applause, they stomp offstage.

TRACK 17: WALTZ UNDERSCORE

SCENE 6: THE PALACE GARDEN

The PRINCE and CINDERELLA enter.

PRINCE
The ballroom is too crowded.

CINDERELLA

It's nicer out here.

PRINCE

Yes, it is.

*The PRINCE cannot take his eyes off her.
CINDERELLA slyly looks away, but then looks
back again, smiling. There is a moment of happiness.*

CINDERELLA

What time is it? I really must be going soon.

PRINCE

Why?

CINDERELLA

Because I promised my Godmother.

PRINCE

Your Godmother will forgive you if you're a little late.

Music fades out.

CINDERELLA

Oh, no, she won't. I have a strange kind of Godmother.

PRINCE
You're a strange kind of girl. You haven't told me your name yet.

CINDERELLA

It's a silly name. You wouldn't like it.

PRINCE

Of course I would. Whatever you are called is the most beautiful name in the world.

(beat)

I have just told you you have the most beautiful name in the world and you don't say anything.

CINDERELLA

I am afraid so. I'm afraid I might wake up.

They stare into each others' eyes, smiling the biggest smiles ever smiled.

TRACK 18: TWELVE O'CLOCK

CINDERELLA jumps, horrified

(CINDERELLA)

Midnight...?! No...!

*She dashes offstage right. As she exits, she loses a shoe.
The PRINCE calls after her.*

PRINCE

(calling after her)
Please... wait...!

He notices she is limping, and looks to the ground to see her shoe. He picks it up and runs off after her.

(yelling after her)

Please... come back... wait!

*The KING, QUEEN, and HERALD come hurrying
onstage.*

KING

Chris? Are you out here?

QUEEN

I thought I heard someone scream!

HERALD

Your Highness?

Cinderella, Stepmother, Portia, Joy

Christopher?

The PRINCE re-enters slowly, carrying the evening slipper made of glass.

QUEEN

What happened, son?

KING

I don't know. We were talking and suddenly she ran away.

(indicating the slipper)

She didn't even stop when her shoe fell off. Dad, I've just got to find her.

KING

We will, son, we will.

PRINCE

(a sudden thought)

Sir, may I send the Herald through the kingdom in search of her?

KING

Of course.

PRINCE

(handing the slipper to the HERALD)

See that this slipper is tried on every young maiden in the kingdom - every last one no matter how unlikely. Keep trying until you find the foot that fits that slipper. Do you understand?

HERALD

Yes, Your Highness!

PRINCE

Find that girl!

TRACK 19: CHANGE INTO SCENE 7

SCENE 7: THE STEPFAMILY'S HOME

It is the morning after the ball. The STEPMOTHER, JOY and PORTIA are entering for a late breakfast. CINDERELLA is, of course, serving them.

STPMOTHER

What a night! What a magnificent affair.

CINDERELLA

(as if she knows nothing about the ball)

Were there many people there?

Oh, I should say about five thousand.

CINDERELLA

They must have a very large ballroom at the palace.

JOY

About a half mile long.

PORTIA

And what beautiful music for dancing!

CINDERELLA

Did any of you get to dance with the Prince?

PORTIA

I danced about an hour with him.

JOY

(irritated)

An hour?

PORTIA

Didn't you?

JOY

Well, of course I did - if you did.

STPMOTHER

I wouldn't be the least bit surprised if the Prince were to take one of my girls for his bride.

CINDERELLA

Did you know everyone there?

STPMOTHER

Nearly everyone. Except for some girl who arrived late and left early. Probably a princess or something.

CINDERELLA

Did she dance with the Prince?

STPMOTHER

She was only there for a few minutes.

JOY

Did you go to sleep right after we left?

CINDERELLA

I was dreaming of what it must've been like at the ball.

STEPMOTHER
You couldn't possibly imagine what it was like.

CINDERELLA
Maybe I have more imagination than you think.

TRACK 20: WHEN YOU'RE DRIVING THROUGH THE MOONLIGHT

WHEN YOU'RE DRIVING THROUGH THE MOONLIGHT ON THE HIGHWAY,
WHEN YOU'RE DRIVING THROUGH THE MOONLIGHT TO THE DANCE;
YOU ARE BREATHELESS WITH A WILD ANTICIPATION OF ADVENTURE AND EXCITEMENT AND ROMANCE.

The STEPFAMILY is increasingly intrigued.

THEN AT LAST YOU SEE THE TOWERS OF THE PALACE SILHOUETTED ON THE SKY ABOVE THE PARK,
AND BELOW THEM IS A ROW OF LIGHTED WINDOWS,
LIKE A LOVELY DIAMOND NECKLACE IN THE DARK.

IT LOOKS THAT WAY...

JOY
THE WAY YOU SAY...

STEPMOTHER
SHE TALKS AS IF SHE KNOWS.

CINDERELLA
I DO NOT KNOW
THESE THINGS ARE SO—
I ONLY JUST SUPPOSE.

I SUPPOSE THAT WHEN YOU COME INTO THE BALLROOM AND THE ROOM ITSELF IS FLOATING IN THE AIR,
IF YOU'RE SUDDENLY CONFRONTED BY HIS HIGHNESS,
YOU ARE FROZEN LIKE A STATUE ON THE STAIR!
YOU'RE AFRAID HE'LL HEAR THE WAY YOUR HEART IS BEATING,
AND YOU KNOW YOU MUSTN'T MAKE THE FIRST ADVANCE.
YOU ARE SERIOUSLY THINKING OF RETREATING—
THEN YOU SEEM TO HEAR HIM ASKING YOU TO DANCE!

TRACK 21: A LOVELY NIGHT

The STEPFAMILY has momentarily forgotten their disdain for CINDERELLA, so caught up are they in her romantic vision. Now they take over, acting out their fantasy of the way it should have happened—to them! CINDERELLA stands by watching with a knowing smile, genuinely entertained.

PORTIA
A LOVELY NIGHT,

JOY
(pushing PORTIA out of the way)
A LOVELY NIGHT—

STEPMOTHER
(pushing JOY out of the way)
A FINER NIGHT YOU KNOW YOU'LL NEVER SEE.

PORTIA
YOU MEET YOUR PRINCE,

JOY
A CHARMING PRINCE—

STEPMOTHER
AS CHARMING AS A PRINCE WILL EVER BE!

PORTIA
THE STARS IN A HAZY HEAVEN
TREMBLE ABOVE YOU

JOY
WHILE HE IS WHISP'RING,

STEPMOTHER
"DARLING, I LOVE YOU."

STEPMOTHER, JOY, PORTIA
YOU SAY GOOD-BYE,
AWAY YOU FLY,
BUT ON YOUR LIPS YOU KEEP A KISS.
ALL YOUR LIFE YOU'LL DREAM OF THIS
LOVELY, LOVELY NIGHT.

The STEPFAMILY gets caught up in the revelry. CINDERELLA joins them and no one complains. They dance together like they are at the ball. For a moment, they are a family.

Portia, Joy, Stepmother, Godmother, Herald

The STEPMOTHER and JOY are seated at the table. PORTIA rushes to the HERALD and grabs the slipper.

The music ends.

PORTIA
It's my shoe. I'd know that shoe anywhere.

PORTIA sits in her chair and struggles to get her foot into the slipper.

You see? It fits perfectly!

She stands triumphantly and promptly falls on her face. JOY runs over and pulls the slipper off PORTIA's foot.

JOY
Let me try! Let me try!

She sits and tries to get the slipper to cooperate with her foot. When the HERALD reaches to take the slipper back, she tries even harder. However, the slipper simply won't fit.

It fit me perfectly at the ball! You shrunk it!

HERALD
(taking the slipper from JOY)
Is there anyone else in the house?

PORTIA and JOY look at the STEPMOTHER, wondering whether she will mention CINDERELLA.

STEPMOTHER
No, there is nobody else here.

The GODMOTHER suddenly enters.

GODMOTHER
What about Cinderella?

HERALD
Where did...?
(to the STEPMOTHER)
Who's Cinderella?

STEPMOTHER
She's just a sort of chimney sweep and general helper here. There would be no use trying the slipper on her. She didn't even attend the ball.

HERALD
I have instructions to try the slipper on everyone. I'll check the rest of the house just to make certain there's no one else here.

He exits to check out the house.

STEPMOTHER
(to the GODMOTHER)
How dare you come poking your nose into my business!

GODMOTHER
I thought this was the Prince's business. He is the one who is trying to fit the missing girl, isn't he?

PORTIA
But Cinderella?

She laughs her gooly laugh and even JOY looks almost amused.

GODMOTHER
Well, she's a girl.

The HERALD returns. The STEPFAMILY recoils, knowing that they'll be caught in the lie of saying no one else is in the house.

HERALD
Very well. There's no one else here.

GODMOTHER, STEPMOTHER, JOY, PORTIA
(genuinely surprised)
What?!

STEPMOTHER
I mean... I told you so.

GODMOTHER
I don't understand. Where could she be?
(suddenly her face lights up)
Of course! I know!

The GODMOTHER hurries off.

end

TRACK 23: CHANGE INTO SCEN!

Cinderella, Prince

SCENE 8: THE PALACE GARDEN

The PRINCE is sitting on the bench looking most despondent. The HERALD stands holding the cushion with the slipper:

PRINCE

And you tried the slipper on every young maiden?

HERALD

Every young maiden that could be found, Your Highness. I'm sorry.

PRINCE

Thank you. You may go.

The HERALD turns to leave, but pauses a moment, looking at the forlorn PRINCE. Very quietly and with compassion, he places the cushion with the slipper on the bench next to the PRINCE and exits silently. The PRINCE picks up the slipper and studies it. Then, in a gesture of utter defeat, he tosses it over his shoulder. At that exact moment, GODMOTHER appears onstage, catches it, and exits before the PRINCE sees her. CINDERELLA enters and walks across the garden, believing she is alone. She sings quietly a capella:

CINDERELLA

YOU MEET YOUR PRINCE,

A CHARMING PRINCE—

AS CHARMING AS A PRINCE WILL EVER BE!

The PRINCE sees her, watches her for a moment, tries to hear what she is singing, and then speaks.

PRINCE

Who are you?

CINDERELLA

(startled and embarrassed)

Oh... Excuse me, Your Highness, I had no idea anyone was here. I was just...

Ashamed of being caught and her shabby dress, she quickly turns to leave.

PRINCE

Wait!

CINDERELLA freezes.

You look familiar somehow. Do you work in the palace?
CINDERELLA
No, Your Highness.

PRINCE

Maybe it's just the end of a dream. A dream that didn't come true about a glass slipper that didn't fit anyone.

CINDERELLA

(crossing toward him)

Oh, Your Highness, you mustn't give up hope.

PRINCE

It was just a waste of time, a wild goose chase. It was impossible.

CINDERELLA

But, Your Highness—impossible things happen every day.

PRINCE

And even foolish dreams come true?

CINDERELLA

Oh, yes, Your Highness. If you wish hard enough and believe in what you're wishing, even foolish dreams come true.

CINDERELLA has drawn closer and closer to him.

Now the PRINCE looks at her very closely as if for the first time.

PRINCE

Who are you?

CINDERELLA

(embarrassed, crossing away from him)

Oh... I'm just a girl from the village. I think I'd better go. My Stepmother will be wondering where I am.

CINDERELLA starts to leave.

PRINCE

(crossing downstage to her)

Your Stepmother will forgive you if you're a little late.

The PRINCE repeats the sentence to himself, trying to recall why it sounds so familiar.

"... Will forgive you if you're a little late..."

The GODMOTHER has entered upstage left, unnoticed by the pair. In her hand is the glass slipper. As they continue, she sneaks over to the bench, replaces it upon the cushion, and exits upstage left unseen.

CINDERELLA

Really, Your Highness, I must go.

PRINCE

At least tell me your name.

CINDERELLA

Oh, it's a silly name. You wouldn't like it.

The PRINCE turns and takes a few steps, wrestling with the familiarity of her words, as CINDERELLA starts off.

PRINCE

"... Silly name... wouldn't like it..."

He suddenly sees the slipper back upon its cushion. He seizes it and holds it up triumphantly.

Stop!

CINDERELLA stops and turns around to face him. He crosses slowly to her.

Did anyone try this slipper on you?

CINDERELLA

No, Your Highness.

TRACK 24: THE SLIPPER FITS

Slowly, the PRINCE leads CINDERELLA to the bench, kneels before her, removes her shoe and places the glass slipper on her foot. It's a perfect fit!

PRINCE

I have found you! And I still don't know your name.

CINDERELLA

My name is Cinderella.

PRINCE

Cinderella. The most beautiful name in the world!

TRACK 25: WEDDING FINALE: IT'S POSSIBLE!

end

The PRINCE and CINDERELLA hold hands and stroll offstage romantically. The CAST enters from both sides of the stage, taking their places for the Royal Wedding in the garden. EVERYONE in the kingdom has been invited - JOY, PORTIA, and the STEPMOTHER included.

GODMOTHER

IT'S POSSIBLE
FOR A PLAIN YELLOW PUMPKIN TO BECOME A GOLDEN
CARRIAGE.

ALL

IT'S POSSIBLE
FOR A PLAIN COUNTRY BUMPKIN AND A PRINCE TO JOIN IN
MARRIAGE.
AND FOUR WHITE MICE ARE EASILY TURNED TO HORSES!
SUCH FOL-DE-ROL AND FIDDLEY DEE OF COURSE IS
QUITE POSSIBLE!

CINDERELLA, PRINCE

IT'S POSSIBLE!

ALL

FOR THE WORLD IS FULL OF ZANIES AND FOOLS
WHO WON'T BELIEVE IN SENSIBLE RULES
AND WON'T BELIEVE WHAT SENSIBLE PEOPLE SAY.
AND BECAUSE THESE DAFT AND DEWY-EYED DOPES
KEEP BUILDING UP IMPOSSIBLE HOPES,
IMPOSSIBLE THINGS ARE HAPPENING EVERY DAY!

END OF SHOW

TRACK 26: BOWS

TRACK 27: EXIT MUSIC