

Cinderella

SCENE 1 - THE CASTLE ON THE HILL

Song of the Storyteller

*Someplace, sometime, and who can tell
Exactly when the story comes around...*

Narrator 1

Once upon a time in a beautiful country, where trees grow tall, and rivers flow peacefully on their way, a stately castle rose like a dream on a hill beside a little town. The town had all the usual places - a village square, dress shop, flower shop, a food market and an art store, for artists painted the scene often. Something about a marble castle rising behind an everyday town inspires the imagination.

Narrator 2

In this colorful setting, filled partly with wonder, and partly with ordinary things, our story takes place. You might not have expected it, actually. Surprise is one of the treasured elements of life, and if everything was expected, surprise might never be known or felt. Still, surprising as it was, all the pieces were there at the very beginning.

Narrator 3

I don't suppose it would hurt to tell you a secret. There's a girl in this story who carries in her heart the sweet purity of her mother and the noble integrity of her father. She was born far away, but on a dark night an attack by warriors from the west took the lives of her parents. At the last minute she was sent away, with a letter and a box filled with money, to friends in a distant land, but an unfaithful servant intercepted the rescue, and sent her instead to one of his relatives.

Narrator 4

The relative's name was Nona Greadmore, and, seeing the opportunity to step up into high society, she decided to keep both the child and the money. Purchasing a manor on the edge of a beautiful town, she moved there with her two daughters. But the money, which seemed so plentiful at first, slowly dwindled, and in order to keep up appearances, she raised the child as a servant girl.

Narrator 5

High on the hill behind the village stands the castle of King John IX and Queen Anna Rose. They rule the land well, with wisdom and love. Their son, Prince John X, has grown up to be a strong, young man in charge of the castle guards. Each morning you can hear them going through their drills up on the marble courtyard.

(Curtain opens.)

Song 1 - A Story to Tell

*What if you had a story to tell from way back
in the days when there were knights
knights in shining armor
Holding their shields high in the sun
Marching shoulder to shoulder
Swords lifted high over everyone
Enemies fear whenever they hear
the sound we make
the sound of the trumpet
and the earth that shakes beneath
We are the warriors defending
the Castle on the Hill
Mighty warriors of Prince John
Mighty warriors of Prince John*

*The story we tell, remember it well
begins in a castle high above the valley
where high on the castle wall
A king and a queen look over the scene
ruling the land with wisdom
freedom and justice for one and all
And they have a son whom everyone knows will be
the heir to the riches and the kingdom and the throne
We are the warriors defending
the Castle on the Hill
Mighty warriors of Prince John
Mighty warriors of Prince John*

*Left... March... 1... 2...
Right... Thrust... Block... Thrust
Lend your hand to a cause that's just...*

Ah___ Ah___

Close... Now regroup...

1... 2... 3... 4...

Mark your spot and hold to the line...

Attack___ Ah___

Step to the left... Jump... Thrust...

Close... Now regroup... Hey

March... March... March and then

Thrust... Block... Thrust again...

Ah___ Ah___

Ah___ Ah___

1... 2... 3... 4...

Hold the shield, raise the sword

*Enemies fear whenever they hear
the sound we make
the sound of the trumpet
and the earth that shakes beneath
We are the warriors defending
the Castle on the Hill
Mighty warriors of Prince John
Mighty warriors of Prince John*

March... March...

March 2 3 4

March... March...

March 2 3 4

March... March...

March 2 3 4 (fade out)

(As the guards march off, the King and Queen walk across the stage to speak with Prince John.)

Queen

You're doing a fine job with the castle guards, son.

Prince

Thank you. We're working hard.

King

I remember the day you first learned to hold a sword.

Prince

That was a long while ago.

Queen

How time flies.

King

You've grown up brave and strong, John.
We're proud of you. Ever thought about
becoming an ambassador?

Prince

Not really. I like it here, working with the castle guards each morning and visiting the village in the afternoon.

Queen

Disguised as one of your own tutors?

Prince

Hey, if they knew I was the prince, they would treat me differently. I want to know them as they really are.

King

It will make you a better king someday, understanding people like that, but it does seem strange that up here in the castle, you're Prince John, and down there in the village, you're Mr. Pops.

Prince

(laughs) You won't tell anyone?

Queen

No. It's your secret, and we'll help you keep it.

King

But if you change your mind about being an ambassador, let me know. It might help you meet a royal princess.

Prince

You're picturing a wedding?

King

We're not rushing things, but it has crossed our minds. Whoever the right girl is, somehow you'll have to meet her.

(The scribe enters.)

Scribe

Your majesty, a letter has arrived from friends in a neighboring kingdom. Would you like to read it in the library?

King

I'll be right there. (turning to the prince) Think about it, John. You might talk with your mother. She's good at these things.

(The King leaves.)

Queen

We're not pressuring you, John. But like the scribe said, we do have friends in neighboring kingdoms. Some of them have daughters.

Prince

I know. But at least for the moment, my heart's here. I like teaching.

Queen

And you're good at it. But someday you'll be king, and having a faithful companion by your side... that's a good thing too.

Prince

Do you remember meeting dad?

Queen

Yes.

Prince

What did you say to him?

Queen

The usual things... but then I found I didn't have to say anything.

Prince

You mean he did the talking?

Queen

No. He looked at me, and then... he didn't say anything either.

Prince

Just silence?

Queen

Oh, John... sometimes...

Song 2 - No Words to Say

There are no words to say when Love comes

Try your best - there are no words to say

*For when the heart has opened
to find another close*

Then the world changes all in one day

And there are no - no words to say

There comes a day - a day in your story

There comes a day the heart only knows

*When on the path you'll find her
standing close to you*

And love, opening up, like a rose

Will tell you things the heart only knows

And I could sing how winter's cold

can never touch the flame

*How everything else changes while what's
true remains the same*

But words would fail before my song was done

Have you ever tried to hold a candle

up against the sun

There are no words to tell the wonder

If there were words the wonder would cease

Silence knows its moment when

Love alone can sing

The song born of love, joy and peace

And you will hear the music

When you do, be still

Reach out your hand and bring her home

To the Castle on the Hill

(Curtain closes.)

SCENE 2 - NOON AT GREADMORE MANOR

(This scene begins with the curtain closed. Cinderella is busy working in the kitchen. After the narrators speak, Madame Greadmore enters.)

Narrator 6

The world is filled with contrasts. There are places where children grow up like Prince John did, surrounded by love and care. And then, there are other places, not very far away, where young hearts just as valuable grow up neglected and scorned. Down the road from the castle, around the bend and across the village square, stood Greadmore Manor. It had once been a beautiful dwelling, but it was darker and less inviting now, perhaps because the expectations of those who lived there had grown darker also.

Narrator 7

But one girl lived there whose heart was like the sun shining bright on a summer morning. She didn't know how she came to be there - no one knew that - or at least, if anyone did, they weren't telling. She only knew that's where she was, and so she set about the work of living this moment, one day at a time. On this particular day, she was working in the kitchen, preparing the noon meal.

Cinderella

(singing to herself as she works)

Madame Greadmore

(entering) What's that noise I hear?

Cinderella

You mean the soup boiling?

Madame Greadmore

Actually, I was referring to your singing. Let's have a little less noise and a little more punctuality. My daughters will be here any minute.

Cinderella

The soup's hot, and the bread is almost done.

Madame Greadmore

"Almost done" isn't acceptable, Cinderella. When my daughters walk through the door, the noon meal is to be on the table. Do you understand?

Cinderella

Yes, Ma'am.

Madame Greadmore

(suddenly changing her tone)

And here they come now, my pride and joy.

Renata

Hello, mother.

Elsa

What's for lunch?

Madame Greadmore

Elsa?

Elsa

Greetings, Mother.

Madame Greadmore

That's better. Now, come into the dining room and tell me, how was your morning?

(The curtain opens and they enter the dining room. Cinderella serves them, going back and forth to the kitchen as needed.)

Renata

Actually, it was rather uneventful. A few people walked past the flower shop, but no one bought anything.

Elsa

Does that surprise you? (holding her nose) Flowers?

Madame Greadmore

And you, Elsa?

Elsa

My morning was B - double O - triple O - booring.

I sewed fabric strips together while Crumble Bonnet talked.

I couldn't wait to get home for lunch.

Madame Greadmore

Is that what you call the Dress Shop owner?

Crumble Bonnet?

Elsa

She deserves it.

Renata

(looking at the soup) Vegetable soup again? Mother, can't we at least have something interesting when we come home?

Madame Greadmore

Just eat it.

Elsa

"Interesting." Now there's a word for you.

I wish this town had a little more of it.

Madame Greadmore

You think this is a boring town?

Elsa

Double O - triple O - booring.

Renata

You have to admit, not much happens here.

Madame Greadmore

(speaking to Cinderella as she brings something to the table)

What do you think, Cinderella?

Do we live in a boring town?

Cinderella

(pausing next to the table)

The people are interesting.

Elsa

Leave it to Cinderella to find something good.

Renata

That's because you go to their houses to clean their fireplaces...

Elsa

...and tell stories to their children

Renata

... and pet their doggies and kitties

Elsa

...like you were a princess or something.

Renata

Now there's a laugh.

Cinderella

All I said was the people are interesting.
(Cinderella returns to her work.)

Elsa

Well, keep your interest to yourself.

Me? I've got real work to do. Back to the dress shop.

Renata

And me... back to the flower shop.

Bye, mother. See you at supper.

Madame Greadmore

Bye, girls. Have an "interesting" afternoon. (The daughters groan and leave.) Now, Cinderella, for your afternoon... I've added two more houses to the list. Here it is.

Cinderella

(surprised) Two more?

Madame Greadmore

Excuse me. Are you complaining?

Cinderella

No... it's just... I already have fourteen.

Mrs. Greadmore

So... now you have sixteen. Fireplaces need to be cleaned, and we need the money. Do the work well, and be back in time to prepare dinner.

Cinderella

Yes... I will.

Madame Greadmore

And... I've got things to do. See that I'm not disturbed.

Cinderella

Yes, Ma'am.

(Madame Greadmore leaves. Cinderella carries the dishes back to the kitchen and the curtain closes. Vladimir, the mouse, enters the kitchen, eating a piece of cheese.)

Vladimir

Did your list get longer?

Cinderella

Oh, hi, Vladimir. Yes, it did.

Hey, what is that you're eating?

Vladimir

It's real good cheese... from the castle.

Cinderella

They gave you that at the castle?

Vladimir

They didn't exactly give it to me. I took it.

Cinderella

From the castle kitchen?

Vladimir

No, from the castle garbage. Maybe the queen didn't finish her ham and cheese sandwich.

Cinderella

Vladimir, be careful. We have cheese here, you know.

Vladimir

(smiles) Not like this.

Cinderella

Well, as long as you found it in the garbage and didn't steal it from the kitchen.

Vladimir

Cinderella, I never steal. Before I was a castle mouse, I was a church mouse. Bye.

Cinderella

Bye, Vladimir.

(Cinderella cleans the kitchen and the fireplace as the next scene unfolds, then walks into the village when the dialogue begins.)

SCENE 3 - AFTERNOON IN THE VILLAGE

(A soloist begins the next song. The curtain opens after the first verse to reveal the park in the center of town. All kinds of activities are going on - people are sitting at spinning wheels, or building things, sewing, selling flowers, etc.)

Song 3 - Heart of a Princess

There is a princess living in the valley

She doesn't even know her name

The whole town calls her Cinderella

for her work as a servant girl

cleaning fireplaces

And you and I, we might not have seen it

You and I, we might not have known

She was a servant girl

living in the valley

Serving all with the heart of a princess

She has the heart

The heart of a princess girl

(Curtain opens)

Everyone knows there's a reason for the story

Even if the reasons are unknown

Living life without father or mother

she was raised as a servant girl

never knowing she was

Born the child of royal inheritance

Born the child of royal degree

She was a servant girl

living in the valley

Serving all with the heart of a princess

She has the heart

The heart of a princess girl

And by, all the years went by

Never knowing why - it was hers to be the

Child without father or mother

Walking down the road

With a bucket for water

And a rag on the end of a pole

(Song stops... dialogue begins as Cinderella enters... the villagers speak with her as she moves across the stage... then the song continues.)

Aiyana - Voice in the Village

Hi, Cinderella. How are you today?

Cinderella

Quite well, thank you.

Aiyana

We'll be seeing you later?

Cinderella

Your house is number four on my list.

Aiyana

I'll leave some of your favorite cookies on the counter.

Cinderella

Thank you.

Leila - Voice in the Village

You're stopping by our place too, right?

Cinderella

I'll be there.

Leila

Darby and Schmootz will be waiting. You know, if I let them off their leashes, they'd go home with you.

Cinderella

That may be true.

Darren - Young Boy in the Village

Hi, Cinderella. Are you coming to my house?

Cinderella

Yes, I am.

Darren

Will you have time to play?

Cinderella

We'll see. I have two extra houses today.

Maybe if I work fast. I better run, okay?

Darren

Bye, Cinderella. See you later!

There is a princess living in the valley

She doesn't even know her name

The whole town calls her Cinderella

for her work as a servant girl

cleaning fireplaces

And you and I, we might not have seen it

You and I, we might not have known

She was a servant girl

living in the valley

Serving all with the heart of a princess

She has the heart

The heart of a princess girl

She has the heart

The heart of a princess girl

(Mr. Pops enters. The villagers gather around.)

Kaelyn - Voice in the Village

Hey, Mr. Pops is here.

Villagers

(Mr. Pops!) (All right!) (Yeah!)

Braxton - Voice in the Village
Mr. Pops, what you got today?
Gwennan - Voice in the Village

Something to teach us?

Mr. Pops

I sure do. What would you like? History?
Geography? Or... the way stuff goes.

Villagers

(The way stuff goes!) (The way stuff goes!)

Mr. Pops

Okay. Everyone in?

Villagers

(Yeah, we're in.) (Count on us.)

Song 4 - The Way Stuff Goes

Mr. Pops

The sun goes up and down
The moon goes up and down
From the east to the west of town
You may as well write it down
A bunch of stuff goes up and down
"Your turn."

Villagers

The sun goes up and down
The moon goes up and down
From the east to the west of town
You may as well write it down
A bunch of stuff goes up and down
"Let's try it."

(Tap dancing, beach balls being tossed, etc.)

Mr. Pops and Villagers

The saw goes back and forth
The needle goes back and forth
The clock swings back and forth
The geese fly south then north
A bunch of stuff goes back and forth
"Let's try it."

(Tug of war, and gymnasts going back and forth...)

Mr. Pops

And oh, doesn't it make your mind
kind of go split-fancy
over the hill, start dancing
You could be one of the happiest people of all
And oh, doesn't it make your feet go
rumble-a-toe-tapping
don't want to be caught napping
You can sing it winter, spring, summer and fall
Winter, spring, summer and fall - hey!
Winter, spring, summer and fall...

Mr. Pops (and Villagers answering)

Ah, time for a little rest, hey? Strike up the band!

The spinning wheel goes round - "Yeah"
The wagon wheel goes round - "Yeah"
The hands on the clock go round - "Yeah"
I'll tell you what I've found - "You tell us"
A bunch of stuff goes round and round
"We already knew that."

Mr. Pops and Villagers

So this is what we found

A bunch of stuff goes round and round

A bunch of stuff goes back and forth

A bunch of stuff goes up and down

It isn't hard to show - and we think

Everyone should know

That's the way - that's the way

That's the way stuff goes

Round and round, back and forth, a bunch of stuff goes
up__ (yeah)... and__ (yo)... down_____ Hey!

(All leave except Mr. Pops and two villagers.)

Basil - Voice in the Village

Mr. Pops, how do you know so many things?

Mr. Pops

Oh, I've had a good education.

Basil

Will you come tomorrow? I enjoy school in the park.

Mr. Pops

That's good. I like teaching.

Amethyst - Voice in the Village

Is it true you're a tutor for the prince?

Mr. Pops

Where did you hear that?

Amethyst

Oh, around. Do you really know the prince?

Mr. Pops

I suppose I do.

Amethyst

Will you do something? Will you tell the prince I said hi?

Basil

For me, too.

Mr. Pops

I'd be glad to. I'm sure he'll appreciate it.

Basil and Amethyst

Thank you. See you tomorrow.

Mr. Pops

Bye.

(The two villagers leave and Cinderella comes back
across the stage, walking home.)

Mr. Pops

Hello. I don't think I've met you.

Cinderella

I'm Cinderella.

Mr. Pops

My name is Mr. Pops. I teach in the park every afternoon.

If you'd like to be part of our class, you're invited.

Cinderella

I would love to, but I clean fireplaces, and then

I go home to prepare dinner.

Mr. Pops

Oh, I see. Well, can you read?

Cinderella

Yes. I learned by reading recipes.

Mr. Pops

Suppose I bring you a book? You may read it, and when
you're finished, I'll bring another one.

Cinderella

You have books?

Mr. Pops

I have a whole collection. What would you like?

History? Geography?

Cinderella

I'll try history, I guess.

Mr. Pops

Then I'll bring one of my favorite history books to this park an hour before sunset? Can you come then?

Cinderella

If I can get away. I'll try. I gotta run now, or I'll be late.

Mr. Pops

Okay, hope to see you later.

Cinderella

Bye.

(Cinderella leaves. Marcello, the Head Guard enters.)

Marcello

Mr. Pops? The prince has requested to see you in the castle.

Mr. Pops

It's okay, Marcello, no one's around. What is it really?

Marcello

Your mother, the queen, sent me to tell you dinner is almost ready... and... it's your favorite!

Both

Pigs in a Blanket! Woohoo! (clap)

Mr. Pops

But I'm coming back an hour before sunset.

Marcello

What's up?

Mr. Pops

I met a new student. She's busy every afternoon, but she'll read a book if I bring one.

Marcello

Well, if anyone has books, it would be you.

I'll come too if you like.

Mr. Pops

Sure, that would be great. But now...

Both

It's dinner time - (clap).

(Curtain closes as they walk offstage.)

SCENE 4 - DINNER AND THE GUEST

(This scene begins with a closed curtain. Cinderella is preparing the evening meal in the kitchen. Renata enters, carrying flowers.)

Renata

Hey, Cinderella, where's my mother?

Cinderella

She hasn't come down yet.

Renata

Take these and put them in a vase.

Cinderella

They're very pretty.

Renata

Well, they're not yours.

Cinderella

Whose are they?

Renata

No one's. They were left over; that's all.

(Cinderella takes the flowers. Renata leaves. Elsa enters.)

Elsa

Where's Renata?

Cinderella

She went upstairs, looking for your mother.

Elsa

Uh, flowers again. I hate 'em.

(Elsa turns to go, but as she is leaving, Nona and Renata enter. The conversation begins in the kitchen, but soon the curtain opens and they move into the dining room.)

Madame Greadmore

Dinnertime, dinnertime... best hour of the day. The sun still up, the work of the day done, and I get to find out what's happening in the lives of my two treasures.

Elsa

Mother, you're treating us like little kids again.

Madame Greadmore

You were once, you know.

Elsa

Not any more. Besides, there's nothing to tell. Another boring afternoon. B - double O - triple O - booring.

Madame Greadmore

Elsa, your storytelling is enchanting. And you, Renata? I see you didn't sell all the flowers.

Elsa

(holding her nose) I sure wish you had.

Renata

Well, it was a boring day, but then, just before closing, a lady I've never seen walked over to our part of the market

(A knock is heard at the door.)

Madame Greadmore

Now who is that? Don't people know not to come visiting at dinner? Cinderella, answer the door and tell whoever it is to come another time.

(Cinderella goes to answer the door.)

Elsa

Knowing Cinderella, she'll probably invite them in.

Madame Greadmore

Don't invite them in.

(While Renata is speaking, Cinderella acts out the part of meeting the person, looking over her shoulder as if unsure of what to do, then welcomes the guest in.)

Renata

Anyway, I was saying, it was a slow afternoon. Then a lady came in, and I knew she was high society. She's staying in a house across the park, and she asked about help cleaning. I told her of Cinderella and -... oh, she's here.

Madame Greadmore

What? Oh, pardon me, Ma'am. I nearly always answer the door myself, but... my servant girl ran ahead.

I don't think we've met.

Governess Duvanne

My name is Governess Duvanne.

Madame Greadmore

I'm Nona. These are my daughters, Elsa and Renata.

Governess Duvanne

I met Renata this afternoon. She sold me a fine bouquet of flowers.

Elsa

(holding her nose) Hope you like 'em.

Madame Greadmore

Well, isn't this a treat? Come sit down. Have you had your dinner yet?

Governess Duvanne

Yes, thank you, I have.

Mrs. Greadmore

Some dessert, then? You'll stay a few minutes, won't you?

Governess Duvanne

I have a few moments.

Madame Greadmore

Then it's all settled. Have you met Elsa in your travels through town? She works in the Dress Shop.

Governess Duvanne

I haven't been in the Dress Shop yet, but when I need a dress made, I'll visit.

Elsa

We have many fine fabrics. I'm sure you'll find something you like.

Madame Greadmore

So, Governess Duvanne, what brings you here?

Governess Duvanne

I'm staying for a short time in a house across the park. I need a little help cleaning, and I thought you might advise me.

Madame Greadmore

We can do more than that. Cinderella, come here, child. This is my servant girl. She cleans fireplaces all around the village.

I'm sure we can arrange something.

Governess Duvanne

You're Cinderella?

Cinderella

Yes, Ma'am.

Governess Duvanne

When you finish at the other houses, would you come by my place on your way home?

Cinderella

Yes, Ma'am. I'd be happy to.

Madame Greadmore

Then it's all settled... except for the cost... we haven't discussed that.

Governess Duvanne

Oh, I'm not worried about the cost.

Madame Greadmore

I didn't think so. Cinderella will do a fine job for you, won't you, dear?

Governess Duvanne

I'm sure she will. I must leave now. Dessert was very good.

Thank you for your kindness. Cinderella, I'll see you tomorrow afternoon, all right?

Cinderella

Yes, Ma'am.

(Madame Greadmore walks Governess Duvanne to the door.)

Madame Greadmore

May I walk you to the door? We're especially pleased to make your acquaintance, Governess. You may stop by whenever.

Governess Duvanne

Thank you.

(Governess Duvanne leaves. Madame Greadmore walks back to the table.)

Madame Greadmore

Well, isn't this a fine turn of events. Miss "I Got Money To Burn" arrives, buys flowers from my very own Renata, promises to get a dress made from my court jester, Elsa...

Elsa

Thanks, Mom.

Madame Greadmore

...and gives Cinderella some more work... not caring about the cost. What a day! Think I'll go for a stroll down "Wealth Be Mine Avenue." Come, Renata. Come, Elsa. We're going for a walk.

Renata

Do we have a choice?

Madame Greadmore

I said "We're going."

Elsa

Then... I won't waste any time deciding.

Lead on, oh greedy one.

Madame Greadmore

Elsa, show some respect. I'm your Mother.

Elsa

Don't I know it!

(The three leave. Cinderella is beginning to clean up when The Mouse Gang tumbles in.)

Somerset Brie - Mouse Queen

Cinderella, we're here, and we're ready to help!

Anything we can do?

Cinderella

Oh, thank you, Somerset. I could use some help tonight.

Somerset Brie - Mouse Queen

Busy day?

Cinderella

Yes, two more houses now.

Somerset Brie - Mouse Queen

Vladimir told me.

Cinderella

But a good thing happened too. A teacher named Mr. Pops is letting me borrow a history book. He's bringing it to the park an hour before sunset.

Somerset Brie - Mouse Queen

An hour before sunset? Child, you better get going.

We'll stay and clean up. What do you say, Gang?

Mouse Gang

Your wish (salute) is our command.

Somerset Brie - Mouse Queen

See? We've got it covered.

Cinderella

Thank you. You have no idea how much this means.

Somerset Brie - Mouse Queen

Vladimir, you go along, and take good care of her.

Vladimir

Your wish (salute) is my command.

(Vladimir and Cinderella leave. The Mouse Gang gets to work cleaning the kitchen.)

Song 5 - Many Thousand Hours

Many thousand hours in the kitchen and counting
That's how she spends her years
No one else in the kitchen to notice her accomplishments
Or once in a while a tear

Many thousand hours till there's no use in counting
The minutes come and go
At a steady pace first the months then the years go by
Neither fast nor slow

Cinderella, we can't do everything
But we can save you a minute here and there
Run along and have a good time
We'll do the work around here

Taken all at once who could ever accomplish it
One job at a time it flows
Each day unmistakably like the one just before it
And on and on it goes

Walk over to the cupboard and back
Bring the bowls out, bring them back
Pull the plates out, put them back
Hang the cups up on the rack
Work a day, work a day, no slack
Work a day, work a day, work!

Cinderella, we don't know everything
But we know you have a job that never ends
Run along and have a good time
You have a Mouse Gang for friends

Many thousand hours in the kitchen and counting
That's how she spends her years
No one else in the kitchen to notice her accomplishments
Or once in a while a tear

(curtain closes)

SCENE 5 - THE PARK AT SUNSET

Song of the Storyteller
Someplace, sometime, and who can tell
Exactly when the story comes around...

Narrator 8

Many thousand hours in the kitchen and counting... the mice were right... except for this... no one was counting. Cinderella wasn't keeping track, and nobody around seemed to notice... except the mice... they understood. And that was important, for Cinderella's heart might have broken a thousand times if not for the understanding she received from her little friends. Once again, on this evening, they had come through.

Narrator 9

There are some moments which are just about perfect. The sun is shining, the air is a little cooler than in the heat of the day, and the clouds shine with bright colors as the evening comes. This was the picture as Cinderella and Vladimir made their way down the tree-lined street, and over to the park. Marcello and Mr. Pops arrived first.

(curtain opens)

Mr. Pops
What an evening this is, Marcello.
Take a look at that sunset.

Marcello

It's a good one. Two great things on one evening. the sunset...

Mr. Pops and Marcello

...and pigs in a blanket. Woohoo! (clap)

Marcello

So tell me about your new student.

Mr. Pops

Her name is Cinderella. She cleans fireplaces every afternoon. I guess that's why she's not around when I visit the park.

Marcello

You actually found someone who doesn't know Mr. Pops?

Mr. Pops

I guess so. But I'm glad I met her. She may be a smart girl with few opportunities.

Marcello

You have a way of reading people. Perhaps you're right. Here she is now.

Mr. Pops

Good evening, Cinderella. I'm glad you were able to come.

Cinderella

So am I. I was busy... but I have some great friends... of the mouse variety... and they stepped in to help.

Marcello

And... this is one of them?

Cinderella

Yes, this is my good friend, Vladimir.

Mr. Pops

Pleased to meet you, young Vladimir.

Vladimir

Pleased to meet you, Mr. Pops. And you too, Marcello.

Marcello

Thank you. How do you know my name?

Vladimir

From my visits to the castle.

Mr. Pops

You've been in the castle?

Vladimir

Lots of times. I eat the cheese in the castle garbage.

It's very good.

Mr. Pops

Probably the cheese the Queen doesn't eat. She takes it right out of her sandwich and leaves it on the plate.

Cinderella

Mr. Pops, you mean you actually eat with the Queen?

Vladimir

I didn't know a tutor got to eat with the Queen. Wow!

Mr. Pops

Well... yes, actually... I do. But perhaps we're getting off topic.

Marcello

I should say so. Mr. Pops, why don't you and Cinderella take a look at that book.

Mr. Pops

Yes, thank you, Marcello. That's a good idea.

Cinderella, would you like to see the book?

Cinderella

I would love to.

(Mr. Pops and Cinderella sit down on a park bench, leaving Marcello and Vladimir to continue the conversation.)

Vladimir

Wow, that's awesome!

Marcello

A history book?

Vladimir

No, a tutor who eats lunch with the queen. Maybe someday
I could eat lunch with the Queen.

Marcello

For a mouse, you have very high ambitions.

Vladimir

How wonderful it would be! She could hand me the cheese,
and I wouldn't have to go digging through the garbage. (pause)

Hey, Marcello, I have a question.

Marcello

What about?

Vladimir

It's about the drills you do every morning with Prince John.

Marcello

You know about the drills, too?

Vladimir

Sure. My question is about the part that goes...

Left... March... 1... 2...

Right... Thrust... Block... Thrust

Lend your hand to a cause that's just...

Ah... Ah...

That's where I get mixed up. What comes next?

Marcello

Well, you have to do this.

Close... Now regroup...

1... 2... 3... 4...

Vladimir

Close... Now regroup...

1... 2... 3... 4...

Marcello

Stronger. More energy.

Vladimir

Close... Now regroup...

1... 2... 3... 4...

Marcello

That's better. Keep your sword pointed like this.

Vladimir

Like this?

Marcello

Yes, now strong.

Close... Now regroup...

1... 2... 3... 4...

Vladimir

Close... Now regroup...

1... 2... 3... 4...

*(Mr. Pops and Cinderella stand and walk over to Marcello
and Vladimir.)*

Mr. Pops

Looks like you have a student too.

Marcello

I think you're right.

Vladimir

Thank you, Marcello. Next time Cinderella comes
to see Mr. Pops, I'll come and you can teach me
some more, okay?

Marcello

It's a deal.

Mr. Pops

From now on, it's the four of us.

Cinderella

Thank you. Vladimir and I appreciate it.
I'll take good care of the book. I promise.

Mr. Pops

I'm sure you will. Next week,

I'll bring you a new book.

Vladimir

And, if you happen to remember,
maybe a nice, big hunk of cheese?

Mr. Pops and Marcello

(laughter) It's a deal.

Cinderella and Vladimir

Bye, thank you.

(Cinderella and Vladimir leave.)

Marcello

You know... for a young mouse, he has a valiant heart. You
almost wonder if he could grow up to be a castle guard.

Mr. Pops

For a young girl, she has a beautiful heart. You almost
wonder if she could grow up to be a queen.

Marcello

You never said anything like that before.

Mr. Pops

I never had a reason to.

Marcello

One other thing... Vladimir knows who Prince John is, and he
knows who Mr. Pops is, but he hasn't made the connection.

If he figures it out, your cover will be blown.

Mr. Pops

We'll have to be careful from now on.

(Curtain closes as they walk offstage.)

SCENE 6 - THE DISCUSSION IN THE CASTLE

*(Takes place in front of the curtain... the King is thinking
when Flip Top enters.)*

Flip Top

Oh, hi, King. What's happening in Marble Plaza?

King

Not much. Just thinking.

Flip Top

Hey, I got one for you! What did the little, sleepy prince say
when the royal knight in shining armor tucked him in?

King

What did the prince say?

Flip Top

He said, "Thank you, Good Knight!"

King

Flip Top, I don't need jokes right now. I need a solution.

Flip Top

To what?

King

My son doesn't want to be an ambassador.

Flip Top

So, you have other ambassadors.

King

But how will he meet a princess if he never
visits another kingdom?

Flip Top

Ooooh... got pain on your brain cause the prince
got no bride by his side? Is that it?

King

Got any solutions?

Flip Top

Do I have solutions? Ooooh, sure can doooo.

(The Queen enters.)

Queen

Here you are. You must have something on your mind.
This is where you come to think.

King

It's John. I just want him to meet some royalty somewhere.

Queen

I spoke with him. He's not really interested
in visiting other kingdoms.

Flip Top

Why should he? He's got a marble roof over his head, a nice
place to conk out for the night, and Pigs in a Blanket.

Woohoo! (clap)

Queen

The reason is... his heart is here, working with the guards and
teaching in the village.

King

But he won't meet a princess on the village square.

Flip Top

Wait. I got it! I got it!

King

What?

Flip Top

Don't ask. It's still coming. Ooooo... Ooooo...

Sure Can Dooooo... why that's it!

Queen

Flip Top, what are you thinking?

Flip Top

Every year you host the Autumn Festival, right there on the
Village Square. It's like a town picnic... but this year... forget
the picnic... a Grand Ball... in the Castle... and every young
lady for miles around will be invited. You see? If the prince
won't go there... we'll bring 'em here!

King

Hey, Flip Top!

Queen

What a wonderful idea. Say, Flip, why don't you
call the Scribe and the Herald.

Flip Top

Sure can do! Sure can dooooo! (Flip Top tries to find the
opening in the curtain.) Hey, King, maybe you need a few
more openings in the royal curtain. Oh, forget it! (He dives
and rolls under the curtain.)

Queen

Who would have guessed?

King

Flip Top comes through.

Queen

With an "ooh..." and a

King and Queen

"Sure can doooo."

(The Scribe and Herald appear.)

Scribe

You called, sir?

King

Yes, we have a royal decree! It's called the Autumn Festival
Invitational Proclamational! Ready to write?

Scribe

(pulls out parchment and huge pen)

Sir. I'm ready.

King

Be it forthwith declared and proclaimed...

Queen

that on the happenstance of the Autumn Festival...

King

which has heretofore been rather picnic-like in nature...

Queen

that this year, we shall host in the Castle...

King

a grand and formal ball...

Queen

to which every young lady is invited.

King

May it be signed, sealed and heralded.

(A blast from the Herald.)

Scribe

Shall we spread the news immediately, sir?

King

Yes, let it be known in lands far and near.

Queen

With one exception.

Herald

You mean the wicked barbarians from the west?

King

Yes, don't invite them. But everyone else must hear the news!

Scribe

It shall be done, sir. Come on, Harold, we've got work to do.

Herald

It's not Harold. It's Herald.

Scribe

Don't bother me with vowels. Let's get started.

Herald

Here?

Scribe

Always start at the beginning... and don't confuse the two.

Herald

Huh?

Scribe

(clears throat, then speaks with an accent) Be it forthwith
declared and proclaimed... (Herald blasts the trumpet)...
that on the happenstance of the the Autumn Festival (blast)...
which has heretofore been rather picnic-like in nature (blast)...
that this year we shall host in the Castle a grand and formal
ball... (blast)... to which every young lady is invited...

(BLAST)

Herald

...unless you're one of the wicked barbarians from the west.

Scribe

Yes. In that case...

Scribe and Herald

Foggedaboutit.

Scribe

Next stop... the village. Come on, Harold.

Herald (as they are leaving)

It's not Harold. Oh, foggedaboutit.

SCENE 7 - ALL OVER TOWN

Narrator 10

The news went through town like wildfire. Everywhere people were talking. A grand, formal ball in the castle? Nothing like this had ever happened before. Farther and farther the news went, out across the land and into the neighboring kingdoms.

Narrator 11

But nowhere was the excitement more intense than here in the little village at the foot of the hill. Everyone was working together, and the summer days flew by with dreams and plans and preparations.

(During the next song, the whole summer goes by, and a number of important ideas are presented. The curtain opens to reveal the townspeople hard at work... the village square is filled with activity... Elsa is at the Dress Shop, Renata at the Flower Shop... the Castle section of the stage shows the King and Queen and other Castle officials working with paper and pen keeping track of deliveries, correspondence, etc. The Greadmore kitchen is first a place for Cinderella and Madame Greadmore to talk, then later the location for The Mouse Gang to bring fabric and start sewing. At one point, Governess Duvanne, walking through the village, orders a new dress for her niece. The Guards also march through, carrying supplies from the dock. Mr. Pops, Marcello, Cinderella and Vladimir arrive near the end of the song to show that the book project has continued through the summer as well as Marcello's teaching of Vladimir about the Guard Drills. When the song ends, nearly everyone is somewhere on stage.)

Song 6 - So The Summer Went By

*So the summer went by
And the news of the proclamation
Spread across the land
Like sunshine across the sea
Kingdoms far and near
Responded to the invitation
On the evening of the Autumn Festival
Reserve a place for me
Ah - - - Reserve a place for me*

(In the village square... Mr. Pops walks through)

Coralie - Voice in the Village

Mr. Pops! Have you heard about the Grand Ball?

Mr. Pops

Grand Ball? Tell me about it.

Tameryn - Voice in the Village

It's going to be wonderful. Right in the Castle.

Brenna - Voice in the Village

Everyone's invited. Will you be there?

Mr. Pops

If everyone's invited, then I must be invited too.

Maybe I will be there.

Deveron - Voice in the Village

I hope so, Mr. Pops. It won't be the same without you.

The mood in the village square

Is filled with anticipation

Nothing like this before

Has happened in the little town

*Everywhere you turn
The picture is preparation
All want to be part of the story
When history is going down
Ah - - - History is going down*

(Action shifts to Greadmore Manor. Cinderella is working in the kitchen. Madame Greadmore enters.)

Madame Greadmore

Cinderella, great news! I have four more houses for you.

Cinderella

Four more?

Madame Greadmore

This will help pay for my new dress. Oh, isn't it wonderful?

Cinderella

Well?

Madame Greadmore

Don't stand there chattering, child. There's work to be done.

(Madame Greadmore exits. Cinderella picks up her bucket and rags and walks out into the village.)

Colette - Voice in the Village

Cinderella, I'm so excited about the Grand Ball.

You're coming, right?

Cinderella

I would like to.

Colette

Don't miss it. This is "once in a lifetime."

(Governess Duvanne enters.)

Governess Duvanne

Cinderella, may I see you a moment?
Here comes Elsa, too. What perfect timing!

Elsa

What can we do for you, Governess?

Governess Duvanne

I'd like to have a beautiful dress made... for my niece.
She's coming to the Grand Ball.

Cinderella

That's wonderful.

Elsa

What size?

Governess Duvanne

That's why I asked you to stay, Cinderella.
My niece is about your size.

Elsa

That makes it easy. Stand still, Cinderella. (Elsa measures Cinderella with a measuring tape as the dialogue continues.)

Governess Duvanne

You'll like my niece. You even look a little like her. I know you'll be good friends.

Cinderella

I look forward to meeting her.

Elsa

I promise, Governess, your niece will have the finest dress money can buy. That is, if money is no object.

Governess Duvanne

Make it as pretty as you can.

Elsa

I knew you'd say that. You can count on us.

(Cinderella leaves to go to her work. Action shifts to the members of the Mouse Gang, who are all assembled in the kitchen at Greadmore Manor.)

Vladimir (running in)

Listen, everyone.

Somerset Brie - Mouse Queen

What is it, Vladimir?

Vladimir

Governess Duvanne just ordered a dress for her niece.

Friesla the Mouse

I didn't know she had a niece.

Vladimir

Well, apparently she does, and her niece is coming to the ball.

And... Madame Greadmore is having a dress made too.

Gouda the Mouse

Where are you going with this?

Vladimir

Don't you see? Everyone's getting ready - except Cinderella.

Tell me, what's she going to wear to the ball,
if she goes at all?

Ragusano the Mouse

You know, Vladimir is right.

Somerset Brie - Mouse Queen

If Cinderella needs a new dress, we'll have to make it.

Everyone search. Bring back whatever fabric you can find.

All Mice

(salute) Your wish is our command.

(Mice scatter and reappear shortly, each one with fabric pieces. They act out sewing the pieces together. The Castle Guards march through with boxes of all kinds.)

*Heave Ho! Guards to the docks
Supplies for the festival arriving
Lay down your sword and pick up a box
And march with your head held high
Shoulder the load and come down the road
With the colors of the castle flag flying
If all goes well, listen time will tell
Maybe Prince John will have a bride
Ah - - - Prince John will have a bride*

(Guards and villagers leave. Mr. Pops, Marcello, Cinderella and Vladimir enter. During the following dialogue in the castle, Mr. Pops is sitting with Cinderella on the bench, looking at a new book. Marcello is teaching Vladimir more of the Guard Drill.

There are no words spoken... only actions.)

Queen

Flip Top, how many crumb cakes do we have?

Flip Top

One hundred thirty-nine, Ma'am.

King

Make it one hundred forty.

Queen

Scribe, how many bushels of apples for applesauce?

Scribe

Twenty-nine.

King

Make it thirty.

Queen

And how many plates of vegetables?

King

Anna Rose? This is a Grand Ball. Who needs vegetables?

Herald

To which I heartily concur. (Blast) But there is one thing you can't have enough of, and we all know what it is.

All Castle Voices Together

Pigs in a blanket! Woohoo! (clap)

(All voices and parts reappear and are part of the finale.)

*So the summer went by
And the news of the proclamation
Spread across the land
Like sunshine across the sea
Kingdoms far and near
Responded to the invitation
On the evening of the Autumn Festival
Reserve a place for me
Ah - - - Reserve a place for me... Yeah!*

SCENE 8 - THE EVENING OF THE GRAND BALL

Narrator 12

Yes, the summer went by, but everyone knew the end of summer marks the beginning of Autumn, and this year, the Autumn Festival had captured the imagination.

Narrator 13

People talked about it in the shops, and in their houses, and when they passed each other on the streets, and though they didn't know it, in other villages down the road, and in kingdoms far away, the same thing was happening.

Narrator 14

Then one day, they all woke up on a bright morning, with just a little hint of fall in the air, and everyone knew without being told... this is the day... the day of the Autumn Festival, and the excitement was unbelievable.

(Takes place in front of the curtain.)

Flip Top

Hey, King? What's happening in Marble Plaza?

King

Just thinking.

Flip Top

Thinking? This is no time to think. This is a time to act... greet people... dance... and eat. Did you know, in the castle kitchen there are hundreds of crumb cakes, thousands of dishes of apple sauce, and millions of "hogs under the covers?"

King

Hogs under the covers?

Flip Top

You know... pigs in a blanket.

(softer) Shall I add a "Woohoo?"

King

Flip Top, it's not food I'm wondering about. It's whether this whole idea's gonna work or not.

Flip Top

Still got pain on your brain cause the prince got no bride by his side? Listen, it's not really my line, but I got good news.

King

What is it?

Flip Top

Think. Somewhere in this wide world there must be a wonderful girl just right for your son... just one... but that's all he needs, right?

King

Yeah?

Flip Top

And you've invited every girl for miles around to come to the Festival tonight.

King

Yeah?

Flip Top

So... if you only need one, and they're all coming, then that one girl is going to be here.

King

Flip Top, you're right! Whoever she is, she'll be here tonight! I better go and get ready. Thank you, Flip Top. Thank you.

(The king runs off.)

Flip Top

Sure can do.... sure can dooooo.

(Flip Top falls down and rolls under the curtain. Scene switches to Greadmore Manor - the curtain opens and the Mouse Gang enters the dining area with the dress they made and a nice box to put it in.)

Somerset Brie - Mouse Queen

Okay, quiet everyone, quiet. Nona, Renata and Elsa just left for the ball. I want to congratulate you. As a result of your hard work, we have a wonderful dress for Cinderella. Look! (She holds the dress up. The mice answer with oohs and ahhs.) Now, we'll put the dress in this box, find Cinderella, bring her here... and watch when she opens the box.

Mouse Gang

(Good plan!) (All right!) (Let's go!)

Somerset Brie - Mouse Queen

Remember, quietly.

(The Mouse Gang leaves to find Cinderella. Madame Greadmore, Renata and Elsa return unexpectedly.)

Renata

Oh, Mother, how could you? We were right on time, and now look at us...

Elsa

Late... double-late... and triple-late... because you forgot your handbag.

Madame Greadmore

I'm sorry, girls. In the excitement, it slipped my mind. I must have left it under the table.

Renata

A whole summer of preparation, and now we're late because of a handbag under the table.

Elsa

What's this?

Renata

That box wasn't there when we left.

Elsa

What's in it? (She opens the box.)
It's a dress! (She lifts it out.)

Renata

It's beautiful. Do you suppose it's Cinderella's?

Madame Greadmore

I didn't think she was going, but it must be hers.

Who else could it belong to?

Elsa

Mother, if Cinderella wears this, she'll outshine us all.

Renata

Wait. I recognize some of the fabric. Isn't this a piece of the same pattern you're wearing?

Elsa

It is. Well, of all the sneaky little cheats. Cinderella didn't even ask if she could take those scraps.

Renata

It's not fair to have that dress show up at the ball.

Elsa

No, it isn't.

Renata

Mother, what are you going to do?

Madame Greadmore

Girls, girls... I'm surprised at you. This is a beautiful dress, and it's definitely going to the ball... in my bag.

(She stuffs the dress into her handbag. The girls laugh. Elsa throws a rose into the box, closes the lid, and they all leave. As soon as they are gone, a mouse peeks in, looks around, and motions the rest of the Mouse Gang to enter. They are leading Cinderella by the hand. She has her eyes closed.)

Somerset Brie - Mouse Queen

That's good. Keep your eyes closed and keep coming.
Don't look yet.

(They lead her to the box on the table. All gather around so they can see her expression.)

Okay, open your eyes... now!

Cinderella

You made me a box. It's very pretty.

Would you like me to open it?

Somerset Brie - Mouse Queen

Yes, but before you do, we would like to say something.

Mimolette the Mouse

Cinderella, we know how much time you spend serving others, and how busy you are.

Chontaleno the Mouse

And we wanted to do something nice for you.

Bonchester the Mouse

So we worked together, and we hope you'll like our gift.

Cinderella

Thank you for your thoughtfulness. Shall I open it now?

Somerset Brie - Mouse Queen

Yes, now.

(Cinderella opens the box.)

Cinderella

A rose? It smells nice.

Brinza the Mouse

A rose? Isn't anything else in the box?

Cinderella

I don't see anything else.

Somerset Brie - Mouse Queen

Where's the dress?

Cinderella

Dress?

Somerset Brie - Mouse Queen

Cinderella, we made you a beautiful dress. And it's gone.
(Vladimir enters.) Vladimir, where have you been?

Vladimir

In the castle, scouting it out before Cinderella gets there.
Wow, you should see what the place looks like.

Somerset Brie - Mouse Queen

You haven't seen Cinderella's dress, have you?

Vladimir

Isn't it in the box?

Cheshire the Mouse

It was, a few minutes ago, but it's gone.

Vladimir

Did anyone come into the house?

Somerset Brie - Mouse Queen

I don't think so. Madame Greadmore and her daughters left a
half hour ago.

Vladimir

A half hour? Are you sure? I just saw them crossing the park.

Crescenza the Mouse

I think I know what happened. I think they forgot something
and came back. And then they saw the box... and... you can
guess the rest.

The Mouse Gang

(The Mouse Gang is heartbroken.) (How did this happen?)
(It was so beautiful.)

Cinderella

I'm sorry. I wish I could have seen it.

Wellington the Mouse

Everyone hide! Someone's at the door.

Governess Duvanne

Hello, is anyone home?

Cinderella

I'm here. Governess Duvanne, I thought you'd be
at the Grand Ball with your niece.

Governess Duvanne

May I come in?

Cinderella

Sure. Is there something I can do for you?

Governess Duvanne

No, precious one. Sit down. This is my chance to do
something for you.

Cinderella

What do you mean?

Governess Duvanne

Cinderella, look at me. Are you good at believing things?
Things that seem like they couldn't possibly be true?

Cinderella

Maybe. I don't know. What is it?

Governess Duvanne

Well, first, my real name is not Governess Duvanne.

Cinderella

It isn't?

Governess Duvanne

No. And I don't have a niece either.

Cinderella

You don't? But... you ordered her a dress.

Governess Duvanne

I ordered it for you.

Cinderella

For me?

Governess Duvanne

Yes, it's here in this package. And it's beautiful. I had it
made so you could go to the ball tonight.

Cinderella

Thank you. I don't know what to say.

(The Mouse Gang reappears, having overheard the conversation,
and they are all overjoyed.)

Governess Duvanne

I see you have friends.

Cinderella

This is the Mouse Gang.

Governess Duvanne

Well, your friends ought to hear this too. You see, there's
more. Your name ... is not really Cinderella.

Cinderella

It isn't?

Governess Duvanne

No. You were born into a royal family many miles from here,
to a wonderful dad and mom, and they named you
"Marrise of Windswept Hollow."

Cinderella

Marrise of Windswept Hollow? I don't understand.

Governess Duvanne

When you were very young, your royal home was attacked by
warriors from the west, and in the battle, your parents lost their
lives. At the last minute, you were sent away with a box of
money to friends in another kingdom.

Cinderella

How do you know these things?

Governess Duvanne

Because... I was your nurse, and I helped rescue you and send
you away. But, sadly, I entrusted you and the box to the
wrong servant, and instead of delivering you to the friends we
intended, he took you to a distant relative of his, who spent the
money, and then raised you as a servant girl.

Cinderella

This is all kind of overwhelming. I mean, are you sure it's
me? Could it be someone else somewhere?

Governess Duvanne

I know it's you because of the box.

Cinderella

This box?

Governess Duvanne

No. The one by the fire. Would you bring it to me?

(Two mice bring the box and set it on the table.)

This is the box we sent you away with. I remember it. All the
money's gone, of course. Madame Greadmore spent it. But
what she didn't know is the box has a hidden compartment.
And what I'm hoping... yes, here it is, all untouched.... your
mother's jewelry.

Cinderella

It's beautiful, and what are these?

They look like shoes made out of crystal.

Governess Duvanne

Your mother wore them on her wedding day. I imagine they
would fit you now. And here's the certificate.... the official
announcement of your birth. Do you see the name?

Marrise

Marrise of Windswept Hollow.

Governess Duvanne

Marisse... look at me... do you believe me now?

Marisse

I guess so. I don't know what to say.

Governess Duvanne

Marisse, there is so little time, and there's one more thing you must know. The friends of your family, to whom we intended to send you, were named King John and Queen Anna Rose.

Marisse

You mean?

Governess Duvanne

Yes. All these years I've hoped to find you, and I never guessed you were growing up right under the shadow of the Castle on the Hill.

Marisse

What shall I do?

Governess Duvanne

Take this beautiful dress, put it on, add the jewelry that was your mother's, and wear the shoes she wore on her wedding day. Then when you arrive at the Castle, tell King John and Queen Anna Rose that you are Marisse of Windswept Hollow.

They will recognize your name, and will welcome you.

Marisse

How shall I ever thank you?

Governess Duvanne

Marisse, you have no idea how much it means to find you. I must leave now. Time is running short.

Marisse

You're not coming?

Governess Duvanne

My part of the story has reached it's happy ending. But your part, Marisse, your story is just beginning. Leave behind your name and your place. Take your new name, and go to the place where you truly belong.

Marisse

Thank you. Thank you so much. (They embrace, and then Governess Duvanne leaves.)

Somerset Brie - Mouse Queen

Marisse of Windswept Hollow... what a pretty name! Marisse?

Marisse

Yes?

Somerset Brie - Mouse Queen

Are you listening?

Marisse

Oh, Somerset, I'm kind of in a daze.

Somerset Brie - Mouse Queen

Marisse, look at me. She said time is short. You must forget your name and place, and accept your new name, and find where you truly belong. Are you willing to do that?

Marisse

(pause) Yes... I am.

Somerset Brie - Mouse Queen

Then come... I'll help you get ready, all right?

(The Mouse Queen leads Marisse offstage. The other mice follow. The curtain closes.)

Narrator 15

So it was on the night of the Autumn Festival, the night everyone had looked forward to for weeks, the night everyone had dreamed and planned for, on that night... something else had happened... something completely unexpected. Somewhere down in the valley, a girl whose heart had always been true found out at last the truth about who she was.

Narrator 16

You can imagine how she felt. It's not that her heart wasn't ready. Her heart had been pure and free, just like a child, all along. It's just that so many years of doing things someone else's way, had dimmed the horizon. And now the sun had come up so quickly, it was almost too bright to look at. But her good friends, the mice, were there to keep her steady, and the Mouse Queen helped her get ready for the Ball.

Narrator 17

If you had stood outside the castle on that moonlit night in autumn, you would have watched a girl walking silently up the path leading to the castle steps. She was wearing a beautiful dress which was a gift, and jewelry which had once been her mother's, and shoes which shone like crystal in the moonlight. But most important of all, in her heart she carried the wonder of a new name.

Narrator 18

The interesting thing is, no one in the castle had any idea all this had happened. They were in their own world, busy with their own thoughts and ideas, and they were dancing the night away to the music of Mr. Pops.

SCENE 9 - DANCING IN THE CASTLE

(The curtain opens in the middle of the song. Mr. Pops is leading everyone in a group dance. The choreography may be traditional, but it doesn't have to be. It could, for example, have hints of ballroom dancing mixed with line dancing, and at times even look a little unusual. The King and Queen watch from one side. Nona, Elsa and Renata are watching from the other side. Some guards are standing at attention around the edges while others, if needed, may be part of the dance.)

Song 7 - The Way Stuff Goes (Reprise)

*And oh, doesn't it make your mind
kind of go split-fancy
over the hill, start dancing*

You could be one of the happiest people of all

*And oh, doesn't it make your feet go
rumble-a-toe-tapping*

don't want to be caught napping

You can sing it winter, spring, summer and fall

winter, spring, summer and fall - hey!

winter, spring, summer and fall...

(All dancers fall down.)

Mr. Pops

Ah, time for a little rest, hey?

King

Anna Rose, I don't see anyone who looks like a match for our son.

Queen Anna Rose

I know what you mean. We'll have to keep watching.

Mr. Pops

(walking over to Nona, Renata and Elsa)

Would you like to join in our dance?

Madame Greadmore

You call that a dance? Not in my book.

Renata

I'll save my dancing for the prince, thank you.

Elsa

Me too. The big fish, or nothing at all.

Mr. Pops

Okay, but you're missing out on the fun.

Renata

(as Mr. Pops is walking away)
Did he say fun? I wouldn't dance with
Mr. Pops if they gave me half the castle.

Elsa

You got that right. Hey, I have a name for him...
"Book Brain with a Cane."

(Renata and Madame Greadmore laugh.)

Marcello

Mr. Pops, why don't you let me take over while you go find
Prince John. People will soon begin wondering where he is,
and whether he's going to show up at all.

Mr. Pops

Perhaps you're right. I'll look around for him.

Marcello

Okay, everyone at the ready. Strike up the band!

(can be sung or spoken... dancers answer each line)

*The spinning wheel goes round - "Yeah"
The wagon wheel goes round - "Yeah"
The hands on the clock go round - "Yeah"
I'll tell you what I've found - "You tell us"
A bunch of stuff goes round and round
"We already knew that."*

*So this is what we found
A bunch of stuff goes round and round
A bunch of stuff goes back and forth
A bunch of stuff goes up and down
It isn't hard to show - and we think
Everyone should know
That's the way - that's the way
That's the way stuff goes
Round and round, back and forth
A bunch of stuff goes up__ (yeah) and__ (yo)...*

(The song stops unexpectedly. Marisse arrives at the Castle
and walks in. The dancers move back to the edges of the dance
floor, and all eyes turn to look at Marisse. The Queen is
standing near the door. The King is somewhere else on stage.
A deep silence fills the room.)

Marisse

Hello. Am I too late for the Grand Ball?

Queen Anna Rose

No. You've arrived at a wonderful time.

Come in. May I ask your name?

Marisse

My name is Marisse... Marisse of Windswept Hollow.

Queen Anna Rose

Marisse? What a pretty... Did you say...

Marisse of Windswept Hollow?

Marisse

Yes.

Queen Anna Rose

Would you wait here? (calling to the King)

John, would you come here for a moment?

King John

Yes, Anna Rose, what can I... (he looks at Marisse)

Queen Anna Rose

There's someone I'd like you to meet. She just arrived.

King John

Welcome to the Castle on the Hill.

Marisse

Thank you.

Queen Anna Rose

And John, her name is Marisse... of Windswept Hollow.

King John

Marisse of... Windswept Hollow?

Marisse

Yes.

King John

Marisse, my name is King John. This is my wife, Queen Anna
Rose. And over there, just coming in, is our son.

Would you like to meet him?

Marisse

Yes, thank you.

Queen Anna Rose

You may walk over and introduce yourself.

(Marisse walks slowly across the floor. Prince John comes
from the other side. He looks at her without saying anything.)

Song 8 - Something More

Prince John

*I've waited all my life for a moment just like this
But I didn't know what I was waiting for*

Marisse

*There was a dream in me I thought could never be
But that's a dream and this is something more*

Prince John

Where is love planted and how does it grow

Marisse

Or is it something that no one can know

Prince John and Marisse

Is it something no one can know

Prince John

Will you dance with me?

(Marisse curtsies. They dance while the Queen sings.)

Queen Anna Rose

*You thought she wasn't here and then before your eyes
The missing one comes knocking at the door*

King John

He comes into the room and there to his surprise

She walks to him across the ballroom floor

Queen Anna Rose

If love is a river then where does it flow

King John

Or is it something that no one can know

King John and Queen Anna Rose

Is it something no one can know

Prince John

There's a place I want to show you, high on the castle wall.

You can look down across the whole village.

It's right over here. Come.

Marisse

What a beautiful scene. And such a clear, moonlit night.

Prince John

I haven't even asked your name yet.

Marisse

My name is Marisse... Marisse of Windswept Hollow.

Prince John

That's a very beautiful name.

Marisse

Thank you. What's your name?

Prince John

Nothing unusual. Just John.

Marisse

Prince John?

Prince John

Yes.

Marisse

I've never met a prince before.

Prince John

And I've never met a princess. Where are you from?

Marisse

A long, long way from here.

Prince John

You are real, right? I mean, you're not going to suddenly disappear, are you?

Marisse

No, I'm not going to disappear.

Prince John

*I've waited all my life for a moment just like this
But I didn't know what I was waiting for*

Marisse

*There was a dream in me I thought could never be
But that's a dream and this is something more*

Marisse

Do you see how the moonlight plays with the shadows? It almost looks like people walking through the gardens.

Prince John

Where?

Marisse

Down there. See?

Prince John

(He looks for a moment.)

Those are not shadows. Those are warriors.

The castle is being attacked.

Marisse

What?

Prince John

Marisse, promise you'll do as I say. Find the safest place you can find, and don't let anyone know where you are until this is over? Do you promise?

Marisse

Yes, I promise.

Warriors (charging in)

(We want Marisse!) (We want Marisse!)

(Gasps from the startled crowd as they back up to the edges of the stage.)

Head Warrior (yelling)

Don't anyone move! Give us Marisse and we're gone!

King

This is treachery... attacking in a time of peace.

Head Warrior

Give us Marisse!

Prince John

(charging in) Castle Guards to Arms!

Song 9 - A Story to Tell (Reprise)

Left... March... 1... 2...

Right... Thrust... Block... Thrust

Lend your hand to a cause that's just...

Ah___ Ah___

Close... Now regroup...

1... 2... 3... 4...

Mark your spot and hold to the line...

Attack___ Ah___

Step to the left... Jump... Thrust...

Close... Now regroup... Hey

March... March... March and then

Thrust... Block... Thrust again...

Ah___ Ah___

Ah___ Ah___

1... 2... 3... 4...

Hold the shield, raise the sword

*Enemies fear whenever they hear
the sound we make -*

the sound of the trumpet

and the earth that shakes beneath

We are the warriors defending

the Castle on the Hill

Mighty warriors of Prince John

Mighty warriors of Prince John

Mighty warriors - mighty warriors

of Prince John

Prince

Guards, chase them out of the land. Go!

(The Guards run offstage and down the aisle.

One guard finds something and returns.)

King

Is everyone safe? Is everyone accounted for?

Queen

(pause) May I ask... where is Marisse?

Antonio the Guard

Look, I found something. It's a glass shoe.

Prince

A glass shoe? This is one of the shoes Marisse was wearing!

King

Where did you find this?

Antonio the Guard

On one of the side paths leading away from the castle.

Queen

Oh, John. That means....

Prince

The warriors may have found her.

(to Antonio) Come, we're going after them.

King

(to all the guests)

The ball is over. Everyone look for Marisse.

(All exit the stage as though looking or calling for Marisse.

The curtain closes.)

Narrator 19

It was a dark moment in the Castle on the Hill. The joy and wonder of the Autumn Festival had given way to treachery and then to loss. The girl whose name the King and Queen had

recognized... she was gone. The one the Prince knew to be his bride... she had disappeared into the night.

Narrator 20

The thoughts of everyone were with Marisse. Had she been captured and taken away? The warriors fled on horses, and the prince and guards chased them into the western mountains, but they returned in the early morning hours with sad faces... no one had seen the girl.

Narrator 21

If they had known what had happened, their hearts would have been at peace, for Marisse, promising to find a safe place, went running down a back stairway in the castle, and stepping through a door, discovered she was alone in one of the castle gardens. When the door closed and latched behind her, making it impossible to get back in, she realized there was still one safe place where no one would know who she was. That place was Greadmore Manor.

Narrator 22

When Nona, Renata and Elsa returned home after the ball, Cinderella was there, playing the part of a servant girl and listening to their stories. But no one knew where Marisse was, and back in the castle, preparations were being made for war.

SCENE 10 - PREPARING FOR WAR

(This scene takes place in front of the curtain.)

King

Have all the letters been written?

Scribe

Yes, one for each of our allies.

Queen

War is a terrible thing. To think yesterday was such a happy day... and now this.

King

If it was just the attack, we might have forgiven them. But it seems they got Marisse. For her, we must go.

Queen

I know.

King

Are all the messengers ready?

Marcello

Yes, sir, they are.

Scribe

Sir, your signatures.

(The King signs the letters as the dialogue continues.)

Vladimir

(peeking around corner from curtain opening)

Marcello... pssst... Marcello... over here.

Marcello

Vladimir?

Vladimir

I have an urgent message for you.

Tell Mr. Pops to meet Cinderella in the park an hour before sunset. She has information about Marisse.

Marcello

What?

Vladimir

Mr. Pops, an hour before sunset, in the park... bye.

Marcello

(to the King) Sir, where's the prince?

Herald

In the armory, with some of the guards.

Marcello

May I suggest we hold the letters until this evening?

King

Why?

Marcello

A girl in the village may have some information about Marisse.

Queen

Who is this girl?

Marcello

A servant girl named Cinderella.

Queen

Was she at the ball?

Marcello

No, I don't think so.

Scribe

If she wasn't at the ball, maybe she saw something when Marisse left

King

I hope you're right. Hold the letters until we check this out, but all other preparations must continue.

SCENE 11 - IN THE PARK AGAIN

Narrator 23

And that's the way it happened. All the armor was polished, the horses made ready, provisions assembled and packed. All afternoon they worked until the sun began going down in the west. Then, hoping against hope for some good news, Mr. Pops and Marcello made their way around the bend and into the park.

(The curtain opens. The park is empty as they enter.)

Marcello

No, I have no idea what he meant. He said Cinderella had information about Marisse. That was all.

Mr. Pops

Cinderella wasn't even at the ball.

Marcello

I know, but if she wasn't there maybe she saw something the rest of us didn't.

Mr. Pops

If so, she's a hero. No one else saw anything.

Marcello

We'll find out soon enough. Here they come.

Vladimir

Hi, Marcello. Hi, Mr. Pops.

Mr. Pops

Good evening, Vladimir. Cinderella, would you like to sit down?

Cinderella

Yes, thank you.

Mr. Pops

Your young friend, Vladimir, came to the castle today and said you had information about Marisse.

Cinderella

Yes, Mr. Pops. I sent Vladimir.

I need you to tell the prince something.

Mr. Pops

Something about Marisse?

Cinderella

Yes.

Mr. Pops

(removing disguise) Cinderella, this may surprise you, but the one you thought was Mr. Pops... is actually the prince.

Cinderella

(surprised) Prince John?

Prince

Yes. It's been a little unfair, I know, but I wanted to teach in the village without people knowing who I was.

Cinderella

Oh, I never guessed. I really thought you were a tutor.

Vladimir

That was a pretty good disguise, sir.

I've been in the castle, and I never knew.

Marcello

It was a secret known only by a few.

Prince

I'm sorry about the surprise, but if you really do know something about Marisse, and you want the prince to know, now would be the time to say it.

(Elsa's voice is heard offstage.)

Elsa

Yes, I know where she is. I saw her heading for the park. I hope she isn't talking to that ridiculous Mr. Pops.

(Nona, Renata, and Elsa enter.)

Renata

She's there on the bench. And you were right...

Mr. Pops is there too.

Elsa

That doesn't look like Mr. Pops.

Madame Greadmore

Cinderella, what are you doing talking with

Mr... are you... the prince?

Prince

Yes, I am Prince John X. And I am also Mr. Pops.

Renata

Mr. Pops is the prince??? Ohhhhh...

Elsa

And you wouldn't dance with him

if they gave you half the castle.

Renata

You called him "Book Brain with a Cane."

Renata and Elsa

Ohhhhh.....

Madame Greadmore

Girls, silence. Cinderella, come at once. We're going home.

Marcello

No one leaves yet. Cinderella claims to have some information about Marisse.

Madame Greadmore

How could she? She wasn't even at the ball.

(The King's voice is heard offstage.)

King

"Mr. Pops" is in the park now. Let's see what's going on.

(The King, Queen, Scribe and Herald enter from one side. The Mouse Gang silently comes in from the other side.)

King

Mr. Pops, we came to...

Queen

Son, what happened to your disguise?

Prince

Cinderella says she has a message for the prince.

I decided the disguise was no longer needed.

(The Queen very gently takes over the conversation.)

Queen

Child, do you know anything about Marisse?

She came to the ball, and then disappeared suddenly.

My son, Prince John, loves her. Do you know anything?

Cinderella

He... he loves her?

Queen

Yes, dear one, he does. Now... do you have anything to tell us?

Cinderella

I do. But, this might seem hard to believe.

Queen

Try us and see.

Marisse

Marisse... is me.

Prince

What did you say?

Marisse

I said... Marisse is me. I didn't know that was my real name until yesterday.

Queen

What do you mean?

Marisse

Governess Duvanne told me my real name was Marisse of Windswept Hollow, and that she had been my nurse, and that after a battle I was sent away to friends in a distant land.

Madame Greadmore

Cinderella, you're having delusions. I apologize, your majesties. I'll take her home now. Come, Cinderella, at once.

Queen

No, wait. There is a resemblance. Look me in the eyes a moment. Do you have anything to help us know that what you're saying is true?

Marisse

I have my birth certificate... and if it helps... here's the other glass shoe.

Prince

You really are Marisse, aren't you?

Marisse

Yes.

Madame Greadmore

Cinderella, I still don't know what you're talking about.

You have work to do at home. Come at once.

King

Excuse me a moment, but am I to understand that you have been raising Marisse of Windswept Hollow all these years as a servant girl?

Madame Greadmore

Come Renata. Come Elsa. Since we are not wanted around here, we're leaving.

Vladimir

Not so fast.

(Vladimir and the Mouse Gang, doing a piece of the guard drill, slowly drive Madame Greadmore toward Marcello.)

Attack___ Ah___

Step to the left... Jump... Thrust...

Close... Now regroup... Hey
March... March... March and then
Thrust... Block... Thrust again...
Madame Greadmore
Ah _____

(Marcello grabs Madame Greadmore and takes her away.
Renata and Elsa follow... moaning.)

King
(to Vladimir) Good job, young knight.
Prince
His name is Vladimir. (Vladimir bows.)

King
Looks like we have some new recruits for the Guards.
Speaking of which, I guess we can call off the war.
Scribe, would you do the honors?

Scribe
Yes, sir. Come on, Harold.

Herald
It's not Harold. It's Herald.

Scribe
Don't bother me with vowels. Come on.

Herald
(salutes) Okay, Scrubb.

Scribe
I'm not Scrubb. I'm the scribe.

Herald
Hey, don't bother me with vowels either.

Scribe
(looks at Herald, but doesn't answer... then deliberately)

Regarding the war... (BLAST)
Scribe and Herald
Foggedaboutit!

(The Queen motions the court officials away. The Mouse
Queen motions the mice away. Only Prince John and Marisse
remain on stage.)

Prince
Marisse, to think we sat on this bench so many times...

Marisse
And we never knew.

Prince
Did you really read all those books?

Marisse
I did... but I didn't realize I was borrowing
them from the prince.

Prince
My mother says when love comes, you don't always
know what to say.

Marisse
Is that how you feel now?

Prince
(taking her hands) Yes.

Marisse
Me, too.

(All motion freezes and the song begins... the prince and
Marisse leave their places to participate in various pantomimed
scenes from the play... each scene unfolds, and then stops,
those characters freezing... gradually the stage fills up with the
various play scenes... as the song ends, the prince and Marisse
are back where they were when the song began...)

Song of the Storyteller

Song 10 - Someplace, Sometime

Someplace, sometime, and who can tell
Exactly when the story comes around
Some words that rhyme, a heart that's true
A story line that touches me and you
And paints a picture bright as dawn
Paints a picture bright as dawn

And who can tell what Love will bring
When once the curtain has been opened wide
A few more lines, a song to sing
And then the word that changes everything
And makes the picture bright as day
Makes the picture bright as day

There was a girl, her heart song seemed
forgotten by the world
No place to sing, nowhere to shine
No storied past, no hills to climb
Through leaves of fall, winter's cold
Flowers of springtime, summer's haze of gold
Each and every day the same
Never even knew her name

Then autumn comes, and on its path
Bright truth forever sets her free at last
To be the one she'd always been
When days were dark, and all her dreams grew dim
And how could she who played her part
Even when it meant a broken heart
Know that in the end she'd find
Love would write the final line
Give her one last hill to climb
Someplace, someplace, sometime
Someplace, someplace... sometime

Curtain Call

The Ocean Grove Children's Show - 2007

Cinderella

Book and Music - Steve Mugglin
Some supporting names suggested by
Jen Jenkins, Director

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List of Parts

The Storyteller
Prince John X (Mr. Pops)
King John IX
 Queen Anna Rose
 Cinderella
 Madame Greadmore (Nona)
 Elsa Greadmore
 Renata Greadmore
Vladimir (mouse messenger)
Marcello (head guard)
 Governess Duvanne
 Somerset Brie (Mouse Queen)
 Flip Top
 Scribe
 Herald
 Aiyana - Voice in the Village
 Leila - Voice in the Village
Darren - Voice in the Village
 Kaelyn - Voice in the Village
Braxton - Voice in the Village
 Gwennan - Voice in the Village
Basil - Voice in the Village
 Amethyst - Voice in the Village
 Coralie - Voice in the Village
 Tameryn - Voice in the Village
 Brenna - Voice in the Village
Deveron - Voice in the Village
 Colette - Voice in the Village
 Friesla the Mouse
 Gouda the Mouse
Ragusano the Mouse
 Mimolette the Mouse
 Chontaleno the Mouse
Bonchester the Mouse
 Brinza the Mouse
 Cheshire the Mouse
 Crescenza the Mouse
Wellington the Mouse
Antonio the Guard

Groups

The Castle Guards
The Villagers
The Mouse Gang

Narrators 23**A few solo singing parts**

(Warriors from the West) 4