

*The
Loddon
Players*



CINDERELLA



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Prologue

(Front of Tabs, LFX - spot light, begin in soft blue to evoke midnight magic, then swell to warm gold as the verse ends. Enter - Fairy godmother (FG) SFX - Underlay magical music

FG ***(She waves her wand)***

Behold I am Fairy Snow Drop, winter's whisper in the night,

With frosted wings and silver laughter, I bring your wishes to light

Wings aglitter, moonbeams gleam, I whisk you off to Cinderella's dream. From hearthside dust to ballroom glow, prepare for magic let wonder flow.

Gossamer wings and stardust bright, I bring the promise of one enchanted night. Though ashes cloak her silent plea, this fairy's spell will set her free.

Sparkling wand and secrets told, A rags-to-riches tale soon will unfold. Watch as hope takes flight in time, And Cinderella's heart begins to shine.

Winds of wonder, moon bells chime, Our panto dawns at last, it's time! From cindered gloom to ballroom glow, with wand in hand, we'll set hearts aglow.

(She waves her wand and curtains open)

Act 1 Scene 1 - The Village Green

(Curtain up on lively street scene, people at stalls and talking to each other, children playing)

(Song / Dance ends. Three village girls stand away from the rest)

Girl 1 ***(Excited, looking at her phone as she scrolls through)*** Hold on, did that just drop on X?

Girl 2 It did. And get this, Prince Charming's officially looking for a wife.

Girl 3 Seriously? Are you sure you're reading that right?

Girl 2 ***(Snatches the phone and scrolls)*** Trust me, here's the proof. ***(Finding the page)*** Now where is it....here it is, ***(Reading from the phone)*** "King Rupert will be sending invites to all the fair maidens in the land for a grand ball this is to celebrate the twenty first birthday of Prince Charming, an insider at the palace is reported to have said that King Rupert is keen for Prince Charming to seek a Bride", then it goes on about who will be attending etc.

Girl 1 ***(Pointing)*** Look someone's coming it could be him.

(Girls preen themselves bow their heads and fall into low curtsies)

(Enter - Buttons)

Buttons ***(To Girls)*** Hello everybody

Girls Your Royal Highness.

Buttons Hello girls.

(Girls look up)

Girls ***(Disappointed)*** Oh, it's you.

Buttons Charming.

Girl 1 You wish.

Girl 2 You couldn't hold a candle to him.

Girl 3 Not in a million years.

(The girls exit and chorus exit)

Buttons ***(Buttons sighs)*** I never seem to have any luck with the girls ***(Buttons turns to the audience)*** and you lot are letting me down. Yesterday, when I came onstage, I got a rousing "Hello, Buttons!" that made my day. Fancy cheering me up like that again? ***(Audience shouts "Yes!")*** Brilliant! I'll slip offstage for a moment, then burst back on and you give me that grand welcome. Ready? ***(Buttons exits... then immediately returns)*** that was splendid, you can all be in my gang. Every time I come on and shout "Hiya gang" will you shout "Hello, Buttons!"? Shall we give it a go ***(Audience repeats)*** Fantastic! Still feels a touch flat perhaps you're comatose from too much Christmas chocolate. Do you like chocolate? ***(Audience shouts "Yes!")*** Me too! My absolute favourite is, Chocolate Buttons! Who wants some? ***(Buttons hands out bags of Chocolate Buttons)***

(Enter - Velcro and Zip)

Velcro What are you doing out here Buttons?

Zip He's probably daydreaming about Cinderella

Velcro If daydreaming were a sport, he'd have a gold medal

Buttons **(To Velcro and Zip)** Alright, you two, time to meet the audience **(to audience)** Everyone, these are my brothers, Zip and Velcro!

Zip Hello everybody we are the fly brothers, and we work at Hardup manor, Fly's have worked at Hardup manor for generations, I am the chauffer.

Velcro And I am the Gardener.

Buttons And I'm....

Zip The dogsbody

Buttons Dogsbody? No, no—I'm a... well, okay fine. You caught me. I'm the dogsbody.

Velcro And I bet you don't even get paid do you?

Buttons Of course they pay me! Only an idiot would work for nothing

Zip So how much do they pay you?

Buttons Oh. About **(Thinks, as reckoning up and counts on his fingers)**

Velcro Well?

Buttons **(Looks to the ground)** Nothing

Zip Ha! I rest my case.

Buttons Wait; I get board and lodgings!

Velcro Ooh, posh. Do you at least have a proper room?

Buttons Of course... well, not exactly. I... erm... sleep in the airing cupboard

Zip/Velcro **(Both shake their heads)**

Salmonella **(Off stage)** Zip, where are you I want to go to Norwich, and I want to go NOW.

Zip Coming Salmonella, **(To Velcro and Buttons)** I'll see you two later.

Buttons Any way I'm....

Listeria **(Off stage)** Velcro, where are you I want some fresh flowers for my bedroom, and I want them NOW.

Velcro Coming Listeria, **(To Buttons)** I'll see you later

Buttons **(To audience)** Ah, peace at last! I'm the Valet, polishing boots by dawn, dodging the Baroness by dusk. Those angelic voices earlier... Salmonella and Listeria, lazy daughters of our delightfully wicked Baroness **(He shudders)**, Now I suppose you are all thinking why do you stay here? One name: Cinderella. Since her father, the Baron, was lost at sea, she's been the family scullery maid, jealousy's their excuse, cruelty's their game. Have you met Cinderella yet? No? Here's a secret, swear you won't tell, I think she's smart, kind and downright lovely, but mum's the word, especially to Cinderella, she must never know.

(Enter - Cinderella)

Cinderella What must I never know, Buttons?

Buttons **(Panics)** Ah!! That...that...that it's Thursday! **(Or whatever day it is)**

Cinderella, I know it's Thursday, Buttons.

Buttons I thought it was a secret.

Cinderella Sometimes Buttons, you're strange.

Buttons **(Besotted)** Thanks, Cinderella, best compliment I've had all week.

Cinderella, **(Excited)** Have you heard?

Buttons Heard what?

Cinderella **(Bursting with excitement)** Prince Charming is on the hunt for his perfect bride, and tonight the King is hosting the grandest ball, its' all-over social media I can hardly keep still, isn't it absolutely electrifying?"

Buttons **(Flat)** Hardly

Cinderella **(Insistent)** But it is!

Buttons **(Shrugs)** You really ought to get out more.

Cinderella **(Teasing)** Surely even you feel a bit of excitement?

Buttons **(Smiling)** My heart's set on my friends, not royal balls.

Cinderella **(Surprised)** You've got friends?

Buttons Of course I've got friends. **(Gesturing to the audience)** They have just arrived, and there they are! Everyone, meet the girl I've been telling you about.

Cinderella **(Timidly addressing the audience)** Hello, everyone. What a crowd! You must be something of a star, Buttons.

Buttons Not really, they're here to see the Pantomime.

SONG - Panto is for everyone - Mama G

Cinderella **(To Buttons)** Well you appear to have a lot of new friends, I never seem to meet any new friends.

Buttons I'm sure this lot **(Indicates audience)** will be your friends **(To audience)** you will, won't you?
(Audience – Yes) Perhaps tonight's ball will be the very place to meet someone interesting.

Cinderella **(Sighing, downcast)** A ball feels like a fairy tale, Buttons. Why would they invite me? And even if they did, my sisters would ensure I never set foot in the palace.

Buttons You should stand up to them.

Cinderella I would, if it weren't for one tiny detail, they're bigger than me...especially around the hips.

Buttons **(Heroically)** That's not the point, you've got to be brave, you've got to stand up tall, stick out your chest and say in a loud and commanding voice...

Listeria **(Offstage)** Buttons

Buttons **(Panics)** I'm off.

(Buttons exits)

Cinderella Buttons! What happened to being brave and standing tall and...

Salmonella **(Offstage)** Cinderella!

Cinderella Never mind.

(Cinderella exits, SFX - Here Come's the Girls. Enter - Salmonella and Listeria, laden with designer clothes bags)

Both **(Shouting)** Cinderella!

Salmonella It's no good, I can't shout anymore, my voice is going hoarse.

Listeria Well it'll match the rest of your face then.

(Salmonella and Listeria put down bags, they see audience)

Salmonella Good evening peasants and welcome to the classy part of the panto

Listeria Let us introduce ourselves, especially to any unattached men in the audience, my name is Listeria.

Salmonella And I'm Salmonella, at your service.

Listeria Trust me, she's been "serviced" more than the Rolls Royce. We're the kingdom's top beauties **(Audience, oh yes, we are etc!)**, unlike Cinderella the urchin, fit only for chores. Mothers two blunders marrying that oaf and adopting his worthless daughter.

Salmonella Not only are we beautiful, but we are also sisters.

Listeria Yes, we have been sisters for, all our lives.

Salmonella Yes, all our lives

Listeria Come here and stand next to me Salmonella **(To audience)** No your eyes are not deceiving you we are **(Pause)**

Both Identical twin sisters

Salmonella Yes people can not tell us apart, watch this **(They both walk around the stage, then she says to Listeria)** Which one are you?

Listeria **(Looks confused)** I don't know, because we are identical twin sisters.

Salmonella **(Looking out into the audience)** Lets see who we have out here. **(They both look out)** Oh dear, oh dear, oh dear, they are even uglier and scruffier than the last audience **(Audience Boo- To audience)** pack it in with the bargain-basement booing!

Listeria Who let you rabble in here, front of house, obviously. Honestly, isn't there a IQ filter on the door? Look at you... you look like the 'before' picture in a makeover show.

Salmonella Look at him down there, he's a step up from last night **(Points to a member of audience)** I'd let him stir my tea any day **(To audience member)** If you start to feel ill during the show and you're bound to, I've seen the script, then call for me, I'm medically trained, and I'll come and kiss it better. **(Does hand sign to say "call me")**

Listeria Well, Salmonella, did your little shopping spree turn up anything classy or is Poundland out of stock again?

Salmonella Actually I went to the Coop for a refund on a Winebox.

Listeria Really, was it corked?

Salmonella No, it said on the side "Once opened will last for 6 weeks.

Listeria And?

Salmonella It was empty after 3 days.

Listeria Mind you dear that's a very nice dress you are wearing today.

Salmonella Thank you, a nice man in the village runs up it for me.

Listeria Don't you mean runs it up for you?

Salmonella You stick to your lines, and I'll stick to mine!

(At this point the 3 girls walk past giggling)

Listeria Hey you lot what are you giggling about?

(The Girls stop)

Girl 1 Haven't you seen social media today.

Listeria No, why?

Girl 2 Let me show you ***(She takes a phone across to the sisters)*** Here, look, read this ***(She points to the page)***

Salmonella ***(Grabs the phone and reads aloud)*** "King Rupert will be sending invites to all the fair maidens in the land for a grand ball this is to celebrate the twenty first birthday of Prince Charming an insider at the palace is reported to have said that King Rupert is keen for Prince Charming to seek a Bride", Blimey Listeria I could become a princess!

Girl 3 Not if he see's me first!

Salmonella Why you cheeky... Fancy a knuckle sandwich? ***(She throws up her fists like a prize fighter, the girls squealing and make a fast exit)***

Listeria She does have a point dear, I mean you are no looker are you!

Salmonella Why, you, I'll have you know that whenever men see me, they turn to jelly.

Listeria I can see why you remind them of jelly; you have wobbly bits in places that most girls don't even have places!

Salmonella I'll have you know I was once told I had an hourglass figure.

Listeria Yes, ***(Looking Salmonella up and down)*** but most of the sand has gone to the bottom!

Salmonella Lets' not fall out, after all we are sisters.

Song - Sisters - Bette Midler & Linda Ronstadt

Listeria **(Rubbing their hands with glee)** Lets get back to the Manor to hatch our master plan to charm the socks off the prince!

Salmonella I think I will go into Norwich to pick a stunning ball gown to win the Princess heart.

Listeria It will be more of a stun gun you will need to do that!

Salmonella Just think the prince may fall in love with me and we will become one of the great romances of all time, like Burton and Taylor, Romeo and Juliet, Posh and Becks, Mills and Boon, Marks and Spencer

Listeria More like Elephant and Castle!

Salmonella How dare you, why if I was your husband, I'd poison your drink

Listeria And if I was your husband, I would drink it

(Enter - The Baroness)

Baroness There you are, have you seen social media today?

Listeria You're referring to the fancy shindig where the prince swipes left or right on eligible ladies?

Baroness Correct. How I see it, either of you would make a perfect bride you're easily the most beautiful young ladies here!

Sisters **(Embarrassed)** Oh Mum!

Baroness Look, we can't dawdle here, let's hurry back to the Manor and see if your invitations have arrived.

Salmonella Ok Mum, come on Listeria let's go **(As they exit, they bump into Buttons who is coming the other way)**

Buttons **(To audience)** Hiya gang

Salmonella We have been looking for you or the Kitchen maid.

Buttons The Kitchen maids name is.....

Baroness **(Walking across and poking Buttons in the chest)** Her name is irrelevant.

Buttons **(Correcting)** No it's not it is Cinderella.

Baroness I know her name you fool; she's just the kitchen maid, and where have you been?

Buttons I've just taken Listeria's shoes to the shoe shop for repair.

Baroness Cobblers

Buttons **(Indignant)** Oh yes, I have

Baroness You bumbling buffoon, we posh people say cobblers! You took Listerias shoes to the cobblers. Have you finished all your chores?

Buttons What chores?

Baroness I'll have a gin and tonic.

Buttons **(Aside to audience)** Don't worry, there's better jokes in Act Two **(Pause)** Allegedly.

Baroness Buttons I want you to go back to the Hall and make sure the girl's baths are drawn.

Listeria Our beds are turned down.

Both And our dinners are on the table!

Buttons **(Shouts as he exits)** Right! Your drawers are down, your beds are on the table, and your dinners are in the bath...got it!

(The sisters and Baroness follow him, Salmonella is shouting)

Salmonella No you fool, come back.

Act 1 Scene 2 - Front of Tabs

(Enter - Buttons)

Buttons *(To audience)* Hiya gang....Phew, I am glad I got away from them three, that was the two sisters I was telling you about and the other one was my mistress, The Baroness, well when I say mistress *(Flustered)* I don't mean that she you know.....I don't mean that we, blimey, I mean there is no hanky panky going on, what I mean is I work for her.

(Enter - Cinderella crying)

Buttons What's the matter Cinderella *(He comforts her)*

Cinderella Oh dear buttons they never stop, they do nothing at all, I do all the work and then I have to serve them the best food, I don't get anything apart from the scraps.

Buttons *(Brightly)* Think of those scraps as magic ingredients your 'leftover soup' could outshine any royal banquet. I'd choose a bowl of your humble soup over their fancy feast any time. When they are nasty to me, I do something that makes me happy.

Cinderella What's that?

Buttons I clean the toilets.

Cinderella How does that make you happy?

Buttons I use the ugly sister's toothbrushes!

Cinderella *(Softly)* Buttons, you always know just what to say. I'm beginning to think you're the only one who truly cares about me, and the mice.

Buttons No, Cinderella you're mistaken. Everyone in the village adores you. Your warmth and kindness have won every heart there. *(To audience)* You agree, don't you? *(Audience – Yes)*

Cinderella *(To Buttons)* In a world gone bonkers, you're my one steady rock *(She gives him a peck on the cheek - to Audience)* What would I do without Buttons?

Buttons Your dress would fall off!

Cinderella Buttons, sometimes you say the funniest things. *(Softly)* Buttons, you're simply wonderful.

Button **(Blushing)** Cinderella, you know I'd do anything for you... bake you a pie, fight off the mice. If you needed me, I'd come running. In fact, I'd come stomping, trudging, marching, and....

SONG – I'd walk 500 miles

Act 1 Scene 3 - The Drawing Room

(Cinderella is on her knee's sweeping the floor with a dustpan and brush and singing, Enter - Buttons, Velcro and Zip)

Buttons **(To audience)** Hiya gang

Zip We thought we could hear you singing Cinderella.

Velcro I'm at a loss to understand how you stay so light-hearted, after everything they put you through here.

Cinderella Father taught me that there is always someone worse off than you and that you should try and be happy as much as you can.

Buttons Honestly, Cinderella, I don't know how you put up with all this. What keeps you so happy?

Cinderella When I want to cheer myself up, I try and think of nice things.

Buttons What kinds of things do you think about?

Cinderella A cosy cottage, dancing under the stars, Rain drops on roses, whiskers on kittens....

SONG – My Favourite things (From sound of music)

Salmonella **(Shouting as the music fades)** Servant girl! Where are you hiding now?

Buttons **(To Zip and Velcro)** Quick, we need to be off, we don't want to be caught in the house.

(Buttons, zip and Velcro exit, Cinderella Starts to sweep the floor)

Salmonella **(Offstage)** Servant girl! I know you're lurking; I can smell the laziness! **(Enter - The two sisters, carrying shopping Bags) – (Picks on same man in audience)** Are you still here I don't usually

chase men, but for you I'd break into a full sprint—ready, steady... go! **(She goes to run off stage into audience, Listeria pulls her back)**

Listeria Not so fast dear, you can chase him later.

Salmonella **(Salmonella scoops up the dustpan that Cinderella is using, smirks, and flings the mess back across the floor)** There, much more lived-in **(Turns to audience with exaggerated innocence)** What? I'm helping!

Cinderella **(Snatches the dustpan Back – annoyed)** Well...thank you?

Salmonella Hold on, **(She sniffs the air)** there's a hint of cocoa wafting around. Cinderella, have you been sneaking into my secret chocolate stash again?"

Cinderella No of course not, I don't know where your secret supply is.

Listeria It's in her bedroom, third wardrobe along, hidden underneath a pile of dirty socks and underwear there is a false bottom in the wardrobe's wooden panelling, this swings free. **(Realises what she is saying)** whoops.

Salmonella So that's where my chocolates went. No wonder you've been, shall we say, unusually... well-rounded lately.

Listeria You're so rude, No manners.

Salmonella No I am not, I am well mannered and cultured.

Listeria Cultured!!! I have seen more culture in a Muller yoghurt! Anyway at least I look after my looks, you are only as old as you look

Salmonella You could never be as old as you look

(Cinderella starts to creep off, Salmonella spots her and pulls her back by her hair)

Salmonella You need to be taught to know your place, servant!

Listeria Yes, you haven't been doing enough around the house, you're lazy.

Salmonella So Mother has made a list of all the things that need doing before you go to bed **(The sisters put down their bags and Salmonella produces a long scroll)**

Cinderella **(Looking at it)** Oh Dear!

Salmonella **(To Cinderella)** And who said you can stop sweeping the floor?

Listeria Yes, and when you have finished sweeping you can mop the floor.

(The Sisters advance on Cinderella and drive her around the stage)

Salmonella Then mop this hall.

Listeria And don't forget to mop the walls.

Salmonella Then wash the dishes.

Listeria And wash the Cat.

Salmonella And don't forget to wash my hat!

Listeria Make the beds.

Salmonella Make the tea.

Listeria Then go out in the garden and prune the tree.

Salmonella And polish the doors!

Listeria Wash all my socks!

Salmonella Oil all the locks!

Listeria Peel the carrots!

Salmonella Feed the parrots!

Listeria Hoover the halls!

Salmonella Iron my smalls!

(Cinderella goes to leave, the sisters pull her back)

Salmonella Then clean my dress.

Listeria Bandage my thumb.

Salmonella Clean this mess.

Listeria And wipe my.....

Cinderella ***(Interrupting)*** Stop, I cannot possibly do all of this in one day!

Salmonella Oh yes you can, and you will ***(She turns the scroll over)*** Because when you have finished that lot, we want you to bake us a cake.

Listeria And then grill us a steak!

Salmonella Collect lots of twigs!

Listeria And muck out the pigs!

Salmonella Sweep the front path!

Listeria Scrub out my bath!

Salmonella Beat all the mats!

Listeria Neuter the cats!

Cinderella Is that It?

Salmonella No just two more things, fill the lamps with oil.

Listeria And then, prick my boil!

(Cinderella burst out crying and exits)

Salmonella She is so touchy. ***(To audience)*** what do you think to Cinderella, isn't she lazy! ***(Audience - oh no she isn't etc)***

Listeria Honestly, I wouldn't be surprised if it's tinged with a bit of envy, you know.

Salmonella Envy!

Listeria Yes, she is envious of our looks, our intelligence, breeding and our telepathic powers.

Salmonella Let's give this lot ***(Points to audience)*** a demonstration of our telepathic powers.

Listeria Yes lets.

Salmonella Go on then cover your eye's up with something ***(Listeria puts her hands over her eye's)*** no, not your hand they may think you are cheating.

Listeria ***(She looks through the shopping bags and pulls out a large pair of knickers)*** will these do?

Salmonella Yes ***(Listeria puts them over her head)*** I'm going to hold up my fingers and Listeria will tell me how many I am holding up.

(SFX - Fanfare - Salmonella looks off stage)

Salmonella ***(To Listeria)*** Quick dear get your knickers off it's Dandini.

Listeria But we haven't been introduced, isn't that a bit forward.

Salmonella No you fool, the ones on your head.

Listeria Oh ***(She takes them off)***

(Enter - Buttons, Dandini and Baroness)

Buttons ***(To audience)*** Hiya gang

Baroness **(Talking to Dandini)** So it's just little ol' me and my two dazzling daughters at home, and let's be honest what's a royal ball without a splash of glamour? I'm sure His Majesty would leap at the chance to have them there. So that will be three invites we need in total.

Buttons Excuse me, haven't we missed someone rather important?

Baroness No. Three invites, just enough for us, the dazzling trio.

Buttons You're forgetting Cinderella!

Dandini Cinderella, who's she?

Baroness Just our kitchen maid. The prince won't waste a glance on her.

Salomnella She just scrubs floors

Listeria And we just scrub up nicely **(She does a twirl)**

Buttons Then Cinderella is missing out. She deserves that invite.

Baroness No she doesn't

Buttons **(Encourages the audience)** Oh yes, she should **(Audience - oh no she isn't etc)**

Dandini The King's orders were crystal clear every unmarried maiden in the kingdom is to attend. So, that makes four invites needed. **(He hands four to the Baroness. Buttons swiftly snatch's one)**

Buttons I'll make sure Cinderella gets her invite right away **(He rushes off)**

Dandini Duty calls, I've a kingdom's worth of visits left to make. Until the ball, Baroness. **(He exits)**

Salmonella Mother, surely, we're not seriously letting Cinderella go to the ball?

Listeria She'll bring shame upon the family name! We'll be the laughing stock!

Baroness I know my little cherubs **(Calls sweetly but with venom)** Cinderella.

(Enter - Cinderella, she is wearing a different dress)

Cinderella Yes Stepmother?

Baroness **(Surprised)** And what are you wearing?

Cinderella **(With quiet pride)** This gown for the ball is all my own work each night after my chores I've stitched my hopes into every seam. Isn't it splendid? I was just finishing it, when you called.

Baroness Well Girls what do you think?

(Salmonella and Listeria circle Cinderella) - SFX - Dramatic music

(As the following takes place Cinderella protests and tries to fight back)

Salmonella **(Snarling, snatches the skirt)** Well, well what have we here? A train so pathetic it barely drags! **(She rips a jagged chunk from the hem)**

Listeria **(Cackling, tearing at a sleeve)** Let's see how you dance when you have just one sleeve can't have you outshining me! **(She yanks viciously, a sleeve tears away)**

Salmonella And you can't have a dress with one sleeve can you **(She yanks the second sleeve away)**

Listeria **(Brandishing the torn sleeve)** Oh, Cinderella, your precious gown is nothing but tatters now!

(They work in cruel tandem, tearing panel after panel)

Baroness **(With final flourish, holds up a lone fragment)** There your fairy-tale ends here. Now off to scrub floors, you wretch!

(They toss the remnants at Cinderella's feet, she bursts into tears and rushes out, they all laugh)

LFX - Black out

Act 1 Scene 4 - Front of Tabs

(Enter - Velcro)

Velcro If only I could think of a way to make a bit of cash... I'm scraping the barrel with my last fiver and let's face it I'll never strike it rich pruning petunias at the palace.

(Enter Zip)

Zip There you are, I've been looking everywhere for you.

Velcro Why?

Zip Are you intelligent?

Velcro Me intelligent? I was the teacher's pet; she used to keep me in a cage at the back of the class!

Zip Well if you can answer a simple question, you could win £5.

Velcro That sounds good, how?

Zip Well I'll bet you £5 that you can't tell me what three times three equals.

Velcro *(To audience)* Here we go easy money *(To Zip)* that's easy, I know that.

Zip Now are you sure you know that?

Velcro Corse I do!

Zip Well you put your money down here *(Velcro places his money on the stage and Zip lays his on top)* so what is the answer?

Velcro Ok, three times three is nine *(He bends down to pick up the money)*

Zip No so fast.

Velcro What?

Zip You are wrong, three times three is ten.

Velcro What are you talking about it's nine!

Zip Ok, I'll prove that three time three is ten, lend me your hat (**He takes Zip hat**) We need another hat (**To Musical Director**) Have you got a hat I can borrow (**The MD passes him a hat**)

Velcro How are you going to prove three time three is ten with three hats?

Zip Well let me show you (**He puts the three hats on the floor in a line and points to them in turn from left to right as he counts**) One, Two, Three (**He now points to the centre hat as he continues**) four, five (**As he counts five he picks up the hat on the left, followed by the other two as he counts**) six, seven (**He should now have all three hats in his hand, which he then drops as he counts**) eight, nine ten. There you are three times three is **ten** (**He picks up the money and exits, making sure to hand the MD his hat back**)

Velcro What a con, I've lost a fiver now, what am I going to do?

(Enter Buttons)

Buttons **(To audience)** Hiya gang.... Now what are you moaning about, I can hear you right down at Bridge stores!

Velcro Nothing, how would you like to earn some money?

Buttons Earn some money, that sounds good, what with the cost of living rising, do you realise food has gone up three pound a bottle!

Velcro All you have to do is get a math's question correct.

Buttons Is it a hard one?

Velcro Well I'll tell you what, I'll tell you what its is before you put your money down, what is three times three?

Buttons That's the question, what is three time three?

Velcro That is correct

Buttons Well that's easy.

Velcro Well put your money down then.

Buttons Ok (***Velcro lays his £5 down and Buttons lays his on top***)

Velcro Right then, three time three is ten.

Buttons What, it isn't.

Velcro It's ten

Buttons Ten!

Velcro Yep ten

Buttons And how do you make that out?

Velcro Well let me show you, MD can I borrow your hat please (***The MD hands across his hat, Zip puts the three hats on the floor in a line and points to them in turn from left to right as he counts***) One, Two, ***Three (He now points to the centre hat as he continues)*** four, five (***As he counts five he picks up the hat on the left, followed by the other two as he counts***) six, seven (***He should now have all three hats in his hand, which he then drops as he counts***) eight, nine ten. There you are three times three is ten (***He picks up the money and goes to exit***)

Buttons Not so fast, you counted wrong.

Velcro Counted wrong!

Buttons Yep, three times three is eleven.

Velcro Eleven!! if you can prove that I'll eat all three hats.

Buttons Ok, watch this (***He puts the three hats on the floor in a line and points from left to right as they count***) One, Two, ***Three (He points to the third hat again and count's)*** four, ***five (He pick's up the hat on the left as he count's)*** six (***then he pick's up the other two as he count's***) seven, eight (***Now he drop's the hats***) nine, ten and eleven (***He takes the money and hands the hats to Velcro***) There you go, how would you like these boiled or fried!

(They Exit)

Act 1 Scene 5 - The Forest

(Fairy - DANCE, at the end of the dance Fairy Godmother enters)

- FG *(To the fairies)* Off you go now, my sparkly sprites, go dance and play among the trees. Be sure to keep your wings out of the brambles! *(She turns to the audience)* Hello everyone! I didn't see you there. I'm Fairy Snow Drop, Cinderella's very own Fairy Godmother. I've been peeking in from the clouds these past few days, and goodness me things have been rather grim for our dear Cinders. With that ghastly Stepmother and those two dreadful sisters, it's clear she could use a touch of magic *(To audience)* Tell me, should I lend her a helping wand? *(Encourages audience to shout ""Yes!"")* Splendid! That's just what I needed to hear. No time like the present then and speak of the pumpkin, here she comes! *(FG quickly transforms into an old lady, crouching low and gathering sticks with dramatic effort.)* Let's see how well I pull off a stoop and a cough.
- (Cinderella enters carrying a basket of sticks, perhaps singing "My favourite things")*
- Cinderella *(To audience)* Aw, bless, what a sweet old dear. *(She crosses to the disguised Fairy Godmother)* Let me help you with those. *(She stoops gracefully and picks up a stick)* There you go one less twig to worry about.
- FG *(Placing the stick in her basket)* Thank you, my child. That's very kind.
- Cinderella *(Looks into her basket then at FG's basket)* I'll tell you what why you don't have these as well *(She puts the sticks from her basket into the old ladies)*
- FG *(Fumbling for her purse)* I don't have much to give you, my dear
- Cinderella Please. Put that away. Your need is greater than mine.
- FG *(Softly)* But won't you get in trouble?
- Cinderella *(With a wry smile)* Most likely. But trouble's a regular guest at my house. No, go on, take them.
- FG *(Warmly)* You're very kind... and believe me child your kindness will not go unrewarded.
- Cinderella Kindness should never come with a price tag.
- FG *(She gently places a hand on Cinderella's shoulder)* There are treasures far richer than coin my dear, like true happiness, and love that's pure and everlasting. And I have a feeling both are coming your way.
- Cinderella *(Softly)* Do you really think so?

FG **(Fairy Godmother begins to exit, with a twinkle in her voice)** Oh, I know so Cinderella, you see, even goodness needs a little nudge now and then. **(She gives a wave)** Thank you, my sweet

Cinderella **(Startled)** Wait how did you know my name? **(She chases after FG and exits)**

(Enter Dandini and Charming jogging)

Charming I am out of breath can we rest.

Dandini But you have only jogged from that tree **(They stop)**

Charming Jogging? Me? Please I'm a prince! We're designed for grand entrances, ceremonial waving, and having our profiles minted onto coins. As for exercise, it sounds terribly strenuous. Honestly, I've never seen the point of forests either. Trees, mud, and fresh air it's all far too rustic. I don't quite see the point of anything, really.

Dandini Cheer up Charming, I've invited some lovely ladies to the ball tonight.

Charming Oh no not yours and fathers' idea of a lovely lady!

Dandini Look I've got a short list here that the King and I have drawn up.

Charming I've spent years meeting princesses, each more polished and proper than the last. Yet, none spoke to me of everyday joys or frustrations, I want a wife who's not tangled in courtly protocol but grounded in life's simple rhythms. A girl who's truly special beautiful, bright, a bundle of laughs, generous of heart **(Pause)** and most importantly, someone who likes me for me, not because I happen to be born with a title and a crown collection.

Dandini Well you are not going to find anyone like that around here!

Charming It's hopeless, really. I don't believe I'll ever meet someone who sees me not the crown, not the title... just the man beneath all the pageantry. Love, whatever that it seems reserved for storybooks. Out here, no one looks beyond the silks and medals.

Dandini You're courting authenticity, not alliances. That's bold, sire.

Charming Love isn't an arrangement inked on parchment. It's found in honest glances and unguarded moments. I seek a heart, not a pedigree.

Dandini Look you are just feeling sorry for yourself.

Charming I'm not just sulking, it's the truth! They're only interested in me because I'm royalty. Not who I am, but what I represent. Well, I'll show you. I'll prove it, once and for all.

Dandini How exactly are you planning to prove that?

Charming Simple, we swap cloaks and crowns. You take my princely garb, and I take your... less royal ensemble.

Dandini **(Aside to audience)** Yes, swapping clothes. Because that's never gone wrong in a fairy tale **(To Prince, Grinning)** Alright then let's do it. **(They swiftly exchange cloaks and hats)**

Charming Perfect. Now, all we do is wait.

Dandini For what?

(Enter the three girls)

Charming **(Gesturing flamboyantly toward the girls)** Ah, the radiant trio! Good day, ladies how goes the sparkle and sass?

Girl 1 **(Eyeing him)** Who are you?

Charming Me? Oh, I'm merely a humble servant to the great and noble Prince Charming. **(He gestures dramatically toward Dandini)** There he is basking in princely glory!

Girl 2 Prince Charming you say.

Charming **(Nodding earnestly)** Indeed! The one and only. Right over there.

Girl 3 Come on, girls, let's go find out if he's as charming as they say! **(They rush past Charming, practically knocking him aside as they make a beeline for Dandini.)**

Girl 1 **(To Dandini)** So Prince Charming, what brings you here??

Dandini Nothing out of the ordinary just taking a leisurely stroll with my servant. One must occasionally stretch one's legs, even if one was born to recline on velvet cushions.

(Enter - Salmonella and Listeria)

Salmonella Look men at six O'clock.

Listeria I'm not waiting until six O'clock I want them now.

Salmonella **(To the girls)** Oi, you lot, who's this dashing, diamond-polished gentleman you've found? He looks like he stepped straight out of a royal portrait!

Girl 2 It's Prince Charming

Listeria It's Prince Charming dear!

Girl 3 Oh, honestly go find your own Prince, will you? Why not take the servant instead? **(She flicks her hand dismissively and points to Charming)** He's right over there.

Listeria Servant, I don't think so, not with our breeding **(They push the girls aside)** Now then Prince Charming this is your lucky day.

Dandini **(Looking frightened)** It is?

Salmonella Oh, it absolutely is! And don't act so surprised we clocked your flustered face the moment we sashayed in. Admit it, pulling two glimmering glories like us is the stuff of legends, or at least a very lucky raffle.

Girl 1 Hey, leave him alone, we saw him first.

Listeria **(Looking scary)** Now you three, take a hike. Go pester the servant over there. **(She jerks her chin towards Charming, menacingly)** If you know what's good for you

Girl 2 Fine by me, he's hardly a prize anyway. **(The three girls slink away)**

Salmonella Now then, where were we? Oh yes halfway to mischief! **(She snatches one arm, Listeria grabs the other, and together they hoist him up)** Come along, Listeria let's find somewhere cosy to have a charming little, chat.

Dandini **(Shouting to Charming)** Oi! Help me, you glorified hatstand! Madam, unhand me that's my personal space! What happened to boundaries? What happened to respect?

(They exit)

(Enter - Cinderella)

Charming Good day fair maiden, Pray, what brings you here today?

Cinderella I'm gathering kindling for the Manor's fire, clearly not something you've encountered before.

Charming No, not really, I don't get out a lot.

Cinderella So what do you do?

Charming I work at the palace.

Cinderella That's sounds exciting

Charming It's not really.

Cinderella It's got to be more exciting than what I do.

Charming **(Aside to audience)** Goodness me she's breathtaking. I don't think I've ever seen beauty quite like hers.

Cinderella **(Aside to audience, warmly)** Isn't he rather handsome? Honestly, he's got that kind sort of face you trust straight away. **(To Charming)** Look I am very so sorry, but I must get on and collect more sticks or there will be trouble when I get home.

Charming I could help you, then you will get finished quicker.

Cinderella, You'll help me?

Charming Yes **(He picks up a stick and puts it into her basket)** look here's one to start with

Cinderella Ok, I'll show you the best place to go, come on follow me **(They exit)**

(Enter - Salmonella and Listeria)

Salmonella Come along now, Prince time to stop hiding. We'll find you soon enough.

Listeria Don't be shy, your royal rascalness!

Salmonella **(Alerted, whispering)** Shh! I think someone's coming—quick, hide! **(They duck out of sight)**

(Enter – Buttons, Salmonella and Listeria jump out at him)

Buttons ***(To audience)*** Hiya gang

Salmonella ***(Triumphant)*** Aha! Gotcha! ***(Pause, recognising Button)*** Oh, it's you.

Buttons ***(Perplexed)*** Who were you expecting? The Tooth Fairy?

Listeria ***(A little dreamy)*** Prince Charming, actually

Salmonella ***(Dreamy)*** When he smiles, wildflowers bloom, birds burst into song... and I do a little fainty swoon ***(She swoons extravagantly and tumbles entirely out of sight - She staggers back on, clutching twigs, leaves in her hair)*** So anyway, as I was saying — when he smiles...

Buttons ***(Interrupting)*** I'm fed-up hearing prince this, prince that, what has he got that I haven't?

Listeria Looks, charm, wit, humour...

Salmonella Personality, a high IQ and a massive....

Buttons ***(Interrupting)*** Alright!

Salmonella Palace... ***(She looks around)*** Can we not stay here long; this reminds me of my bedroom, full of ghosties and ghoulies

Listeria I haven't seen any ghosties in there, but I've seen plenty of....

Buttons ***(Interrupting)*** That's enough, if imaginary ghosts are all you've got to worry about, you'll be fine

Salmonella Lets get out of here

Buttons Oooh, first should we sing a little song, to stop ourselves from feeling scared?

Salmonella Do we have to?

Buttons Yes, it's in the script.

Listeria I suppose it may help.

Buttons After four! One, two, three, four.

(As they sing "Give A Little Whistle" Enter - a ghost behind them.)

ALL ***(Singing)*** When you get in trouble and you don't know right from wrong, give a little ...

Listeria turns to see ghost and scream loudly where the word "whistle" should go)

Listeria Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaarrggggggggghhhh! ***(She runs off stage)***

(Ghost exits sharply)

Buttons What was that?! It's supposed to be "give a little whistle" not "give a little aaaarrgggghh!"

Salmonella I don't know! But I'm scared now!

Buttons ***(Looking around)*** Where's Listeria?

Buttons Is there something behind us boys and girls? ***(Audience - Yes! Behind you)***

(Ghost goes to the left, the duo looks to the right) There's nothing there. Are you sure?

(Audience - Yes! Behind you, Ghost goes to the right, the duo looks to the left. Nothing there)

Salmonella Ooooo! Keep singing! Two, three, four ...

(Enter - Ghost)

All ***(Singing)*** Take the straight and narrow path and if you start to slide, give a little ...

(Buttons turns to see the ghost and scream loudly where the word "whistle" should go)

Buttons Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaarrrrrrggggghhhhhh!

(Buttons run off. Ghost heads directly behind Salmonella)

(Salmonella turns to see Buttons has gone)

Salmonella Buttons?! Oh dear, he's gone! Is there something behind me boys and girls? ***(Audience - Yes! Behind you, Ghost goes to the left, she looks to the right)*** There's nothing there. Are you sure? ***(Audience - Yes! Behind you, Ghost goes to the right, she looks to the left.)*** I know. I'll sing again. Singing makes everything all right. Two, three, four ... ***(The ghost taps her on the shoulder,***

she turns slowly) when you get in trouble and you don't know right from wrong, give a little ...Aaaarggggghhhh!

Ghost Eee!!!!

(Ghost runs off. (SR) Salmonella runs off. (SL)

(LFX – Lights out)

Act 1 Scene 6 – Further in the forest

(Same scene as before, perhaps we some slight amends and addition of the Tiddley tree)

(Enter Buttons, Listeria and Salmonella)

Buttons Hiya gang

Salmonella I'm glad we got away from the ghosts!

Listeria **(Fanning herself)** Buttons do you have a drink with you? It's thirsty work chasing a Prince and running from ghosts?

Buttons **(Looking at Listeria)** Blimey you look all hot and sweaty

Salmonella **(Correcting)** Mother always says that horses sweat, men perspire, and ladies merely glow...

Buttons Well you are glowing like a pig! The Tiddley tree might have a drink

Salmonella The whatley tree?

Buttons The Tiddley tree, it's a magic tree. If you are thirsty just ask the tree and it will give you a drink

Listeria I don't believe that.

Buttons Let me show you **(He stands in front of the tree)** "Tiddley tree, Tiddley tree have you a nice drink for me" **(The tree hands her a bottle of water)** There see it's easy, just stand in front of the tree and say "Tiddley tree, Tiddley tree have you a nice drink for me"

Listeria So I just stand here **(She stands in front of the tree)**

Buttons That's right, now say "Tiddley tree, Tiddley tree have you a nice drink for me".

Listeria Tiddley tree, Tiddley tree have you a nice drink for me (**Water squirts out from the tree**) That's not a drink, that's a bath, I'm all wet now!

Buttons Come here; you must be doing it wrong (**He stands in front of the tree**) "Tiddley tree, Tiddley tree have you a nice drink for me" (**The tree hands him a bottle of water**)

Salmonella Come over here, Listeria, I'll prove it's working now. (**She steps confidently in front of the tree**) "Tiddley tree, Tiddley tree, do you have a lovely drink for me?" (**A sudden spray of water shoots out from the tree.**) Ugh, this is awful! Your tree's a menace it just keeps drenching us!

Buttons You must me saying the words wrong, let me show you (**He stands in front of the tree**) "Tiddley tree, Tiddley tree have you a nice piece of fruit for me" (**The tree hands him an orange**)

Listeria You said something different that time.

Buttons Of course, it gives you what you ask for, I asked for a piece of fruit, and it gave me an orange.

Listeria Perhaps that is what I'm doing wrong, I should ask for something different (**She stands in front of the tree**) Tiddley tree, Tiddley tree have you a nice cup of tea for me". (**The tree holds out a cup of tea, but as she goes to take it, it throws it into his face**) I don't think this tree likes me!

Salmonella You've done it wrong, I'm going to ask for fruit like Buttons did.

Listeria Good idea

Salmonella But if it soaks me, I'll chop it down (**She stands in front of the tree**) Now listen carefully tree, "Tiddley tree, Tiddley tree have you a nice piece of fruit for me". (**A lot of fruit falls onto her head, she falls to the ground**)

Listeria Oh no! It answered a little too enthusiastically.

Salmonella (**From the floor, dazed and covered in fruit**) I asked for a piece of fruit, not the entire greengrocers!

Buttons (**Cheerfully**) Looks like the tree's got taste! It knows how to pick a right pair!

Salmonella (**Getting to her feet, covered in fruit**) Buttons, you've really gone and done it now!

(She snatches up an orange and hurls it at him. He yelps and bolts offstage, Listeria joins in, they chase Buttons off)

Act 1 Scene 7 - Front of Tabs

(Dandini bursts in, panting, his outfit rumpled)

Dandini Phew, I thought I'd never shake those two off!

(Enter - Charming)

Charming Dandini, you look like you've wrestled a bramble bush and lost. What on earth happened?

Dandini Those women are completely unhinged; I barely escaped with my dignity intact. Can we please return to the Palace? With its towering stone walls, I might feel safe again.

Charming Let's go. But I hope this little adventure has taught you something, my life isn't all ballrooms and banquets, you know.

Dandini You're right. Speaking of which, how was your afternoon?

Charming Unforgettable. I met the most beautiful girl in the entire kingdom.

Dandini In the forest? Seriously?

Charming That's right, she was gathering firewood. And Dandini... what a girl! Her hair was like a golden waterfall, shimmering in the sunlight, and her smile, so bright, so warm, it could outshine the sun itself. We spent the whole afternoon together, and I think I've fallen in love.

Dandini Really?

Charming Yes

Dandini *(He gets his notepad out)* Splendid! I'm adding her to my list' what was her name again.

Charming *(Putting a hand to his chin and thinks)* Her name?

Dandini *(Tapping the page impatiently)* Yes, this mystery maiden's name.

Charming *(Shrugging, embarrassed)* I... forgot to ask.

Dandini, You forgot to ask, you fool, have you made plans to meet her again?

Charming *(Hanging his head)* No

Dandini, Do you have any notion where she might live?

Charming *(Shoulders slumping)* I haven't the foggiest. What am I to do? I'll likely never set eyes on her again.

Dandini *(Aside to audience)* This is why I handle the admin. Left to him, we'd be marrying mystery women weekly *(To Prince)* Come on, chin up! It's not the end of the world. I'll always help, you know you can always count on me.

(SONG – Count on me – Bruno Mars)

Charming Thank you Dandini, come on let's journey homeward and see what the evening has in store for us.

(They Exit)

Act 1 Scene 8 - room

(Can be the same set as the Drawing room with a dressing table set at the back with a small stool, Listeria is sitting putting her make up on, Salmonella is standing next to her)

Salmonella I am so excited about the ball.

Listeria Oh yes, I adore balls.

Salmonella Yes, the King holds one of his balls every year.

Listeria He does, doesn't he?

Salmonella Yes, he is known for holding the biggest balls around.

Listeria **(Starts to brush her hair and looking into the mirror)** Do you think I have got fly away hair?

Salmonella No dear, It's still on your head.

Listeria You know looking at you I have just realised that you're not as pretty as me.

Salmonella Really, I am much prettier than you'll ever be,

Listeria I don't think so. You've got a face that would make an onion cry

Salmonella I'll have you know, I don't have stretch marks like some people.

Listeria They're not stretch marks, you cabbage! They're laughter lines.

Salmonella Nothing is that funny

Listeria How dare you, I've something of a head turner

Salmonella More like a stomach turner

Listeria Really? Let me look how beautiful I am **(She looks into the mirror, there is the SFX - breaking glass)**, oh that will have to do!!

(Enter - Buttons carry two large jars of face cream marked "Industrial strength")

Buttons **(To audience)** Hiya gang

Salmonella You took your time Buttons.

Buttons Blimey I went as quick as I could, these are the only two jars' Boots had.

Listeria You know I need to get to Lawnes, for my treatments, I was there ten hours yesterday

Buttons **(Aside to audience)** And that was just to get a quote

Salmonella Excuse me Buttons, we are natural beauties

Buttons **(Aside to audience)** If the nature in question is a swamp

Salmonella **(Salmonella takes one jar and opens it, Buttons gives the other jar to Listeria who also opens it)** Buttons look at my shoes they are filthy, clean them for me now, **(Buttons bends down to clean the shoes, Salmonella goes to smell the cream)** what a lovely smell, now what is that? **(She goes to smell again, buttons stands up and knocks the cream into her face, she stumbles backwards into Listeria, who is also smelling the cream and saying, "I am not sure sister dear it may be...." Listeria also puts her face into the cream they both scream, enter Baroness)**

Baroness What is all this noise **(She see's the sisters)** and what have you two been up to

Salmonella **(Pointing to Buttons)** It was him, he did it.

Listeria Yes, he did it on purpose, now look at us.

Baroness **(Grabs hold of Buttons)** Now you stand right there young man, **(Speaking to sisters)** come here you two and stand next to him, and do not let him leave **(Buttons has a sister either side holding him)** Baroness exits and returns with two plates on which she puts the face cream, she then hands a plate to each sister, right you two after three hit him with the cream, One, Two, Three **(As this sisters swing Button ducks and the sister hit each other)**

Sisters Oh Mum!

Baroness **(She grabs hold of buttons)** Right stand here, you two stand in front of him **(She hands them the plates again loaded with cream)** here have a plate each, right I am going to stand behind him to stop him ducking this time when I count to there hit him, Ok?

Sisters Ok Mum

Baroness One, two, three, **(Just as they swing Buttons Bends his knees and both pies hit Baroness in the face)**, Argh, you silly girls and for you Buttocks....

Buttons **(As he runs off)** It's Buttons

Baroness **(Wiping custard from her cheek, gives chase)** Come here you....

Salmonella **(Looks Listeria up and down)** Well, after all of that, we are still fabulous, untouchable, unstoppable, and scandalously sexy.

SONG – I'm to sexy for my shirt

CURTAIN – INTERVAL

Act 2 Scene 1 - The Kitchen

FG The stars are winking, the moon's aglow, it's time for dreams to steal the show!
No more soot, no more sighs, tonight Cinderella will dance beneath the skies!
A flick of wand, a swirl of light, a coach appears, a wondrous sight
Glass slippers gleam, her gown's sublime she'll have them swooning at evening's chime
The prince awaits with yearning eyes, Spellbound by her gentle sighs.
Tick-tock, tick-tock, the clocks in play but midnight's rules won't spoil her day!
For Stepsisters' sneers shall fade away, and kindness wins this fateful day.

(Open Curtain)

Dance – Mice

(SFX – Rain storm)

(Enter Cinderella, the mice exit)

Cinderella ***(She leans on her broom, dejected)*** The world outside is shrouded in grey, and my hopes feel just as colourless. Oh, for a single ray of sunshine to chase this gloom away, but somewhere beyond this relentless rain, I sense a whisper of sunlight waiting to break free. ***(She starts to sweep)***

SONG – Rainy days and Mondays

(There is a knock at the door, she opens the door)

FG I saw the warm glow of your hearth in the night. Might you spare an old woman a place to rest and a little comfort from the cold and the rain?

Cinderella Please, come in and warm yourself by the fire you're most welcome.

FG Your kindness is as warming as the fire itself. Thank you, dear heart. ***(Cinderella helps her to a chair)*** And you? Will you not sit and rest a while?

Cinderella No thank you I am far too busy.

FG I sense you are upset?

Cinderella I am fine it is nothing really.

FG It doesn't look like nothing to me, what's wrong?

Cinderella Well it's silly really, but it is the Royal ball tonight and everybody has gone and left me here on my own.

FG Well why didn't you go to?

Cinderella No I couldn't, I only have these old rags I am dressed in, and the Palace is miles away, I would never get there on time now, even if I wanted to

FG **(Aside to audience)** I can't do this anymore **(She stands up and throws of her old cloak)** I am your fairy godmother, and I have been watching you, and you my dear deserve to go to the ball.

Cinderella **(Shocked)** My fairy godmother?

FG Yes everyone has a Fairy Godmother, but you only find out about them when you are in trouble,

Cinderella Really?

FG Yes, and I am here to put everything right for you, well my dear what can I do for you?

Cinderella, I suppose you couldn't peel some potatoes for me?

FG I could, but that is not very exciting, is it? What would you really like?

Cinderella To go to the Ball, but that is never going to happen....

FG Yes, that's more like it, now lets' get to work **(She claps her hands, and Three fairies enter)** now Cinderella do you have a pumpkin any where, I need to create your mode of transport.

Cinderella **(Looks confused)** Yes, there are some in the garden.

FG Excellent could you go and fetch one for me, the biggest you can find **(Cinderella exits)** right you three we need to create some magic in this kitchen to help with what we have got to do to night.

DANCE - Fairies

(As they dance the AFX - light gets brighter and brighter)

FG That is excellent, I feel there is plenty of magic in the air now.

(Enter - Cinderella with a pumpkin)

FG Good, put it down over there, right now for a dress, use your imagination and think about how you want to appear at the ball, think hard.

TRANSFORMATION into Ball gown.

Cinderella Looking at herself, how wonderful.

FG ***(To Fairy 1)*** could you fetch us a pair of mice? ***(Fairy 1 exits. Fairy 2 and Fairy 3 together roll the pumpkin just offstage. Fairy 1 returns, cradling two mice in her hands, she shows them to FG)*** They're perfect place them right beside the pumpkin ***(Fairy 1 scampers off again, raising her wand)*** Everyone, stand back! ***(LFX - A brilliant flash fills the stage, SFX - the thunder of hooves echoes. When the light fades, a sleek, electric carriage gleams centre stage...gesturing grandly)*** Behold, Cinderella your transport awaits! All three hundred and thirty horsepower. It comes with an in-ride concierge, AI for custom playlists, real-time mirror selfies, and a countdown to midnight. And best of all, this silent, fully electric, zero-emissions carriage makes your journey guilt-free.

Cinderella How lovely, who knew saving the kingdom's forests could look so chic? This zero-emissions ride is fit for any fairy-tale princess. Thank you ***(She hugs FG, and enters carriage)***

FG ***(With urgency)*** Now, away with you yet heed this final decree, when midnight's bell tolls, every enchantment unravels. Be gone from the ball before that last stroke, or your splendid coach and silken gown will fade too ordinary once more. ***(AS CURTAIN CLOSES)*** Remember be back by midnight

Act 2 Scene 2 - Front of Tabs

(Enter Salmonella and Listeria)

Salmonella ***(To Listeria)*** How do you like my new dress, people tell me I have a good taste in clothes

Listeria I've seen a salad dressed better

Salmonella The salesman told me it matched my eyes perfectly

Listeria They were pulling your leg, the colour is not a bit like bloodshot

Salmonella ***(Sweeping her gaze across the audience)*** Hey Listeria, that heart-breaker in the front row is still there ***(she gives a flirty wave)*** I'm not imagining things but he's grinning straight at me,

Listeria ***(With a dismissive snort)*** That's not a grin it's a sneer, mark my words.

Salmonella Really, you can count every pearly white from here

Listeria Well at least he has got some, not like your last boyfriend! What ever happened to him?

Salmonella He died on a roller coaster at Great Yarmouth pleasure beach, it was tragic, nearly as tragic as this script, all I have to remember him by is one photograph **(Pause)** plus a key ring, mouse mat and a mug! I hear you have a new boyfriend.

Listeria **(Coyly)** Yes.

Salmonella Is he nice?

Listeria Yes, but he's a bit slow. He hasn't kissed me yet, but he's steamed up my glasses once or twice!

Salmonella Perhaps he's shy?

Listeria He is. Last night he said he'd like to kiss me on the sly, I said I'd rather he kissed me on the lips, it's his birthday soon but I don't know what to get him. What do you give a man who has everything?

Salmonella Encouragement!

Listeria Salmonella, it's a shame these men don't just drop into our laps, we could then save our energy for other things!!

SONG / Dance - It's raining men.

Salmonella **(Glancing at her watch)** Listeria, look at the time! We're going to be late for the ball. Come on we'd better hurry, or we might miss our chance to snatch the prince! **(She makes a hand gesture to the man "call me")**

Act 2 Scene 3 - The Ball Room

(Scene Opens to Dance, Girl 1 is standing to one side, The King and Queen stand at the back watching, The Dance ends, Prince Charming and Dandini enter – SFX – Low ballroom music)

Herald Lord and Lady Lennington of Langley, and their daughter Leona **(The three enter, Leona (Girl 2), runs over to Girl 1 start talking)**

Girl 1 Isn't this exciting.

Girl 2 It is

Girl 1 Have you seen him yet? **(They carry on talking)**

Charming Here we go Dandini, I feel like a prize bull at the weekly farmers market, just waiting for the best cow.

Dandini Sire!

Charming No Dandini. You know what I mean.

Herald Baron and Baroness Heard of Hardley and their daughter **Henrietta (The three enter, Henrietta (Girl 3) who runs over to the other two and they start talking)**

Girl 3 Hello you two, well is he here?

Girl 1 Yes, he is over there **(She points to Charming)**

Girl 3 He doesn't look anything like his Facebook profile picture does he!

Girl 2 No he looks better **(They all giggle)**

Dandini **(To Charming)** Do you want to go for a mingle?

Charming No thanks I went earlier!

Dandini How about a dance then?

Charming Sorry, Dandini I never dance with other men! Oh balls, balls, balls!

Dandini **(Shocked)** I'm Sorry!

Charming I can't stand these events. The only reason I agreed to come was to please my father he wants me to find a wife.

Dandini But look around! The girls here tonight are all charming in their own way. You could have your pick of the lot.

Charming That's just it, Dandini. None of them compared to the girl I met earlier. She was different, she liked me for who I am, even though she thought I just worked at the palace.

(The King and Queen Walk across to the prince)

Queen ***(To Charming)*** You look awfully glum, dear.

King He's been like that ever since he returned this afternoon.

Queen What's troubling you, son?

Charming It's the girl I met in the forest.

King ***(Looks around)*** Wait is she here?

Charming No, and that's the problem. She's not.

Queen Oh my you're in love with her, aren't you?

Charming I am. And now I've got this ache in my heart because I may never see her again.

King ***(Panic)*** Pain in your Heart ***(In a panic to Dandini)*** quick fetch the royal physician

Queen Not that kind of pain, you old fool. It's the kind that comes from losing someone you love deeply.

King But look around! This ballroom is filled with the most beautiful maidens in the kingdom and you're pining for a servant girl?

Queen It's never that simple. Love doesn't care about titles or status; it chooses for you.

(The Baroness and sisters are announced)

Herald The Baroness Grizzly and her two daughters, Salmonella and Listeria. ***(To sisters)*** You know this is not a Halloween party....erm ladies

Salmonella How dare you

Listeria We are here to win the heart of the prince

Herald **(Holding his hand out)** Tickets please

Salmonella I don't need a ticket, my face is my ticket

Herald And I have been given strict orders to punch all tickets

(The sisters look shocked, they produce their tickets and the herald punches them)

Dandini **(Talking to Charming)** Blimey Sire. Its those two girls from earlier, I'm off **(He exits in a hurry)**

Queen **(Looking at the sisters and talking to the King)** Are you sure you just invited the fair maidens of the land!

(The King and Queen walks to the Baroness)

King How lovely to see you here tonight Baroness with you two gorgeous daughters.

Queen Baroness they are looking **(She thinks)** radiant tonight.

Baroness Thank you your majesty.

Queen I am sorry to hear about your Husband, is there any news about his ship?

Baroness No, oh well life goes on, where is the prince tonight, not hiding, I hope?

King He is over there **(He points to Charming)**

Baroness **(To sisters)** Right he is over there, go and get him and may the best girl win.

(The sisters start to walk across to Charming)

Listeria **(Sniffing dramatically):** What in the name of Eau de Sewer is that smell?

Salmonella **(Proudly)** My new perfume, Channel Number Five. Seventy quid a bottle.

Listeria Seventy pound?! What's it called?

Salomella **(With a flourish)** “Perhaps.”

Listeria At that price, it ought to be called “Definitely”!

Salmonella **(Spotting Charming)** Listeria, look! Isn’t that the servant from earlier?

Listeria It is my dear **(Talking to Charming)** I say my man can you tell us where the prince is?

Charming Look ladies I need to let you into a little secret.

Salmonella **(Hopeful)** What like, the prince has been lusting after us and is waiting in his chambers for us to arrive?

Charming **(Looking disgusted)** No, I am Prince Charming

Salmonella **(Hitting him on the arm)** Oh don't toy with us, where is he?

Charming No really, I am the prince.

(The page walks across with a tray of drinks)

Page Your Highness, may I tempt you with another??

Charming No thank you.

Salmonella **(Looks at Listeria)** Blimey, Listeria... that’s the prince himself!

Listeria **(Straightening her posture, over-eager)** Oh hello Princy dear, we are.....

(Enter - Cinderella, she looks nervous, Prince Charming see's her)

Charming **(To the sisters, politely)** Pardon me, ladies **(He crosses the room toward Cinderella, captivated.)**
Good evening

Salmonella **(Elbows Listeria)** Bravo, Listeria, look at the chaos you’ve caused!

Listeria **(Innocently):** Me? I only wanted to make a good impression!

Cinderella **(Softly, surprised)** Hello... I didn't expect to see you here.

(Enter - Dandini)

Dandini **(To Charming, cautiously)** Have they gone?

Charming Who?

Dandini You know who, the Grizzly sisters.

Charming Don't worry, you're safe now. I told them I'm the real Prince, so they won't be chasing you anymore. Anyway, let me introduce you to the girl I met in the forest.

Cinderella **(In shock)** You're the Prince?

Charming Yes, I have a little confession to make.

Dandini **(Starts to creep off)** I'll let you explain this one **(At this point the Salmonella shouts at Dandini)**

Salmonella Well, hello handsome! Fancy bumping into you here, **(To Listeria)** Look, darling it's that charming young man we lost earlier. Come on, let's go have a word.

(Dandini bolts, the sisters hot on his heels.)

Cinderella **(Confused)** Wait, you don't work here then?

Charming **(Smiling)** No, I'm Prince Charming.

Cinderella You are?

Charming I am. And I'm truly sorry for the disguise, I'll explain everything, I promise. **(Offering his hand)** May I have this dance?

Cinderella **(Smiling)** I'd love that.

(SFX – Ballroom music – Cinderella and Prince dance)

(Enter - Sisters)

Listeria **(To Salmonella)** He moved fast Salmonella!

Salmonella He did, darling! Oh well, we'll just have to keep our eyes peeled for him. **(Spots the Prince)** Ooh, look it's the prince again! **(Calling out)** Yoo-hoo, Princey! Fancy a twirl with yours truly?

Listeria And me too, sugarplum!

Charming **(To Cinderella)** My lady, with all this bustle we'll never catch a quiet moment. Will you slip away with me to the moonlit gardens?

Cinderella Yes, I would like that

SONG – Rule the world – Take That

(At the end of the song they exit)

Salmonella **(To Listeria)** Did that girl seem oddly familiar to you?

Listeria She did

(The Baroness walks across to the ugly sisters)

Baroness **(To sisters)** Where's the Prince gone? Don't tell me you've let him slip away?

Salmonella No, no he wandered off into the garden, with some other girl.

Listeria And she looked oddly familiar...

Baroness Familiar!!

Salmonella Yes! I'm certain I've seen her before; I just can't put my finger on it.

Baroness Never mind that, grab some champagne and corner the prince when he returns!

(The page approaches them with a tray of food)

Page Fancy a nibble ladies?

Salmonella That's a bit forward!

Page No I meant a vol-au-vent! (**Offers tray with exaggerated flourish**)

Listeria We do not, you culinary creep

Page Nuts then?

Listeria That's not very nice.

Page No! I mean actual nuts peanuts, cashews, the crunchy kind!

Salmonella Cashews?

Listeria Bless you

(The page looks confused and walks off)

Baroness I don't think you two are taking this seriously.

Salmonella We are Mum, but sometime us girls just want to have fun.

SONG/ DANCE - Girls wanna have fun (perhaps the three other girls could join in)

(At the end of the song, they all wander off and talk - Enter Charming and Cinderella)

Charming I'm so glad we've crossed paths again I was worried I'd never see you. I was wondering would you like to join me for a picnic tomorrow?

Cinderella ***(Delighted)*** A picnic? That sounds wonderful.

(The Kings walks across)

King Charming! It's nearly midnight the fireworks are about to begin! Come on, let's head outside and catch the show. ***(Turning to the ballroom)*** Everyone! To the gardens! The Royal fireworks await! ***(The guests start to leave)***

(SFX - The clock starts to strike midnight)

Cinderella Oh no I must go! I really must!

Charming Wait! I don't even know your name! **(He reaches for her hand she slips away and dashes offstage. He chases, then returns moments later, breathless and heartbroken)** She's gone, the girl of my dreams has vanished, and all I have left is this. **(Holds up the glass slipper reverently)**

(Enter - Dandini and The Queen)

Dandini Come on, Sire you've got to see the **(Stops, noticing Charming's expression)** Wait, what's wrong with you? **(Looks around)** And where's the mystery girl?

Charming **(Disheartened)** She's gone!

Queen Gone, what do you mean gone?

Charming She ran off! She was the one! The girl I want to spend forever with!

Dandini Well, have you tried Facebook? Tweet her? Send a carrier pigeon? **(Aside to audience)** Honestly, he's got the emotional range of a damp sponge.

Charming **(Depressed)** I don't even know her name, Dandini! All I've got is this blasted glass slipper, I'll never see her again.

Queen Come now, darling that's no way to talk! True love's path is never a straight line. You can't throw in the towel at the first bump in the road!

Dandini **(Thinking aloud)** Well that's it then.

Charming What's it?

Dandini You've got her glass slipper, haven't you?

Charming Yes

Dandini Then we go door to door, every house in the kingdom until we find the foot that fits!

Queen Brilliant, Dandini! Absolutely brilliant!

Charming It is?

Queen It is! Now off you go, both of you you'll need to start at first light! (**Grandly**) Destiny waits for no man (**Pause**) or shoe!

Act 2 Scene 4 - Front of Tabs

(Enter - Buttons, Velcro and Zip)

Buttons **(To audience)** Hiya gang.... **(To Zip and Velcro)** Did you catch those three barging in last night? They sounded like a troupe of tap-dancing elephants banging and shouting like mad! We're in for a long day.

Velcro Tell me about it. I've already plotted our escape route slink in, grab our tasks, and bolt before they notice us.

Zip Lucky you two! You didn't have to chauffeur them home from the ball. All they did was moan about Prince Charming and that mystery girl. The Baroness went ballistic kept yapping about her "two precious cherubs" and how the prince missed his one shot at true love.

Buttons It's all-over social media this morning, turns out the mystery girl bolted at midnight, leaving the prince so lovesick he's traipsing from cottage to Palace with a single glass slipper. He's trying it on every maiden in the kingdom, and apparently, he's not exactly chipper about the results.

Velcro Not chipper? Ha! If I had his fortune, I'd be lounging in silk pyjamas, sipping champagne, not chasing lost footwear.

Zip Yep, I agree with you Velcro.

Buttons But would you?

Velcro **(Thinking)** Well, I suppose while money can't buy happiness, it certainly lets you choose your own form of misery **(Velcro and Zip laugh)**

Buttons But we are happy, aren't we?

Zip Yes, we are, we have each other **(He puts his arms around his brothers)** and our health, what else do we need.

Buttons **(To audience)** Are you happy? **(Audience - yes)** great let's have a song then.

SONG - If you are happy and you know it - Audience participation.

(At the end of the song we hear SFX - a bell/buzzer)

Buttons Here we go, the Baroness is awake, and she'll be wanting her tea and toast in bed, I'd better be off
(He exits)

Zip I suppose I'd better be off to; I need to give the car a good valet.

Velcro Yes and I've got the Roses to prune.

(Zip and Velcro exit)

Act 2 Scene 5 - The Drawing Room

(Listeria is on stage in her dressing gown, she look's worse for wear from the previous night, enter Salmonella dressed in a dressing gown, hair in curlers, face mask on)

Salmonella Hello, Listeria, you look a bit rough.

Listeria I don't look rough!

Salmonella Oh yes you do. ***(To audience)*** doesn't she? ***(Audience oh yes, she does etc)*** Late night, wasn't it?

Listeria Don't mention last night to me, now where's the Alka-Seltzer? ***(Looks in mirror)*** Ohhh, Salmonella, look at me. Do you know, when I was young, I was second to none, well-groomed and handsome.

Salmonella Yes, now look at you. 2nd hand, not-too-well and gruesome. You remind me of the sea.

Listeria Do you mean rough on top but smooth and calm underneath.

Salmonella No, you make me sick.

Listeria ***(She looks into the mirror and makes a few funny faces)*** I think I'm going to have my face lifted.

Salmonella When they see what's underneath they'll drop it again quickly. Any way who was that girl at the ball last night that the prince was talking to.

Listeria I've never seen her before, but she did look familiar.

Salmonella Wasn't she a bit... unfortunate in the face department?

Listeria Yes very village fête. All bunting, no sparkle.

Salmonella She was the only one the prince danced with all night!

Listeria Well, either he felt sorry for her... or she slipped something sinister into his goblet.

Salmonella Or maybe she's got a spell, a charm, or a very persuasive fairy godmother.

Listeria Mind you it didn't turn out to bad for me.

Salmonella It didn't?

Listeria Well I had my bottom pinched ten times and got six disgusting suggestions, and that was just from **(Pick on man in the audience)**

Salmonella Well I had a young man ask me to go home with him and see his stamp collection.

Listeria What did you say?

Salmonella I said, Philately will get you nowhere!

(Enter Baroness and Buttons)

Buttons **(To audience)** Hiya gang

Baroness **(To the sisters)** Did either of you recognise that girl, the one who bolted at midnight like a startled squirrel?

Salmonella No, but we felt she looked familiar.

Listeria Yes, she did, but we just can't place her.

Baroness Well, she certainly pinned down the prince's attention. I've just had a WhatsApp message from Linda Lennington, the Prince is touring the Kingdom with a glass slipper that was dropped by the girl last night, slipping it onto every foot until it declares its true owner. **(Determined)** and when he gets here it is going to fit one of you two. By sunset, one of you will be marrying the prince.

Salmonella One of us?

Baroness But first, I must keep that little interloper busy for a few hours. **(Shouting)** Umbrella! Umbrella! Where on earth is my favourite diversion when I most need her?

Buttons You mean Cinderella.

Baroness **(Annoyed)** Does it matter, Cinderella, umbrella, what's the difference

Buttons Wait until it rains, you'll find out.

Baroness **(Angry)** Less of you lip Buttocks.

Buttons It's Buttons

Baroness Ok, less of your lip BUTTONS

(Enter Cinderella)

Baroness There you are, now dear I want you to clean out this cupboard **(She takes her to a cupboard)**

Cinderella It seems very dark and dirty in there.

Baroness **(She pushes Cinderella into the cupboard)** Enjoy your immersive cleaning experience! **(She slams the door, cackling.)** That should keep her scrubbing until the prince wraps up his grand slipper safari, and Buttons, not a whisper out of you, cross me, and you and your darling brothers will be looking for a job faster than you can say 'servant's quarters.

(SFX – Doorbell)

Baroness Go on Bullocks go and answer It.

Buttons It's, never mind **(He exits to answer the door and reappears)** It's Prince Charming and his Valet Dandini **(They both enter, the slipper is on a cushion held by Dandini)**

Dandini **(With a grand bow, holding the slipper aloft)** We seek the young lady who fled the ball last night, leaving this glass slipper in her wake. The maiden whose foot it fits shall win Prince Charming's hand in marriage. Does such a damsel live here?"

Baroness I believe it is one of my daughters.

(Salmonella and Listeria fight to be first)

Salmonella This glass slipper is unquestionably mine, hand it over! ***(Salmonella snatches the slipper and jam-packs her foot inside)***

Dandini That doesn't fit you.

Salmonella It's a bit tight

Baroness Try it with the tongue out

Salmonella ***(Sticking tongue out)*** No, it's still too tight! Hold on, Listeria, darling, undo this confounded stocking! ***(Listeria kneels, tugs at the impossibly long stocking until she vanishes off stage (SR). Moments later Listeria emerges (SL) still pulling the stocking, eventually it comes off and Salmonella shoves the slipper on.)*** There a perfectly snug fit

Charming ***(He looks at her foot)*** That does not fit you, look your foot is hanging over the end, get it off, you are wasting my time.

Baroness Very well, let my other daughter, dear Listeria, have a try.

(Listeria is sitting down on a chair she has a fake leg and foot hidden underneath her dress, Dandini approaches and places the slipper on the fake leg, it fits)

Listeria It fits, it fits...

Salmonella Look Mum it fits.

Dandini ***(Checks the fit)*** It does fit your majesty.

Charming ***(Disappointed)*** Then it shall be you that I marry.

Buttons ***(Moves forward and pulls the leg off)*** Not so fast, look it's a fake leg!

Charming Madam, you have deceived me, are there any other ladies in this household?

Baroness No, just these two.

(A banging is heard from the cupboard and Cinderella is heard shouting)

Cinderella Help, let me out, Help.

Charming What was that sound?

Baroness Just our little mice scurrying about. Now, I'm sure you two should be on your way. **(She gently steers Charming and Dandini toward the door)**

Dandini But I'm certain I left four invitations right here!

Baroness Dandini, you must be mistaken.

Charming Are you absolutely sure there is no one else here?

Baroness Absolutely

Buttons **(To the audience)** Someone else went to the ball last night, right? **(Encourage shouts of "Yes!")** So, who was it? **(Encourage shouts of "Cinderella!")** And where did she disappear to? **(Encourage shouts of "In the cupboard!", Buttons dashes off, flings open the cupboard door, and pulls Cinderella out)**

Charming It's the girl from the forest, Cinderella. What a perfectly enchanting name.

Dandini **(Stepping forward with the slipper on a cushion)** Here you are, Cinderella. Why don't you see if these fits? **(As he extends the slipper, the Baroness snatches it and hurls it offstage—SFX - Sound of breaking glass)**

Baroness **(Looking triumphant)** There! Now we'll never know if it fit her perfect little foot.

Cinderella **(Producing the matching slipper from her gown)** but stepmother dear I still have this one!

Baroness **(Cursing under her breath)** Blast! You'll never marry without my say-so, and I refuse to agree.

(Enter - The Baron followed by Zip and Velcro)

Baron But, my dear, you already have my blessing.

Cinderella **(Flying into his arms)** Father! **(She hugs him tightly)**

Baroness **(Feigning surprise)** Henry, my love, you're back? When did you return, we thought you had been lost at sea?

Baron Just in time, judging by what I've heard from Velcro and Zip.

Salmonella **(Insincere)** Papa, we're overjoyed to see you home safe!

Listeria **(Insincere)** Yes, Mother and I were just talking yesterday about how much I....

Baron **(Interrupting firmly)** That's enough. I've heard every single detail of your antics and I'm utterly appalled. All of you straight to my study. We'll settle this properly in a moment.

(Dejected all three exit)

Baron Your Majesty, you have my full blessing to ask for my daughter's hand in marriage.

Buttons **(Looking puzzled)** Hold on doesn't he want the rest of her?

Charming Thank you, Baron. **(He kneels before Cinderella)** Cinderella, will you do me the honour of becoming my wife?

Cinderella I will! **(They embrace. She steps over to Buttons)** Buttons, how can I ever thank you for being such a steadfast friend?

Charming **(Smiling at Buttons)** I have a proposal. Buttons, how would you like to join us at the palace as our chief footman?

Buttons I don't know!

Cinderella, Please Buttons say yes!

Velcro / Zip Go on say yes you fool.

Buttons **(To audience)** What do you think, should I say yes? **(They shout yes, he thinks)** Ok, I will.

Cinderella **(Hugs Buttons)** That's great news.

Buttons **(To the audience)** And that's exactly how any proper fairy tale wraps up love triumphant and a grand royal wedding! Now, let's be off and don our finest finery for the big celebration.

Charming *(To audience)* And you are all invited

(LFX - Lights dim, spotlight centre stage. Enter - FG)

FG *(Spoken with a flourish)* Wings aglitter, hearts alight, we close our tale this panto night.

With carriage wheels and golden gleam, remember always to chase your dream.

Thank you all for laughter bright, Farewell, dear friends, and to all, good night!

FINALE

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