

Cinderella That would be lovely. I always liked that dress.

Josephine But I've just remembered - yesterday I spilt curry down the front, (*with a big smile at Deidre*) Its ruined,

Deidre Never mind. You've plenty more in your wardrobe. The only trouble is the wardrobe's locked and the key is lost. (*Sisters smile and giggle*)

Buttons What about that one over the clothes horse,. That's one of yours.

Cinderella Oh, Josephine may I have it?

Josephine (*Pause*) If you wish, (*Goes to clothes horse and takes it off appearing to tear it*) Oh dear,, I'd forgotten - it's torn, And if the dress is torn you can't wear it (*throwing it back on the clothes horse*) - and if you can't wear it you can't go to the ball - and so you - won't - be - needing - this - ticket. (*Tearing ticket into small pieces on each of the above six words. Throws pieces in air, Cinders runs off crying*)

Buttons That's not fair. You promised Cinderella could go. And you know what happens to people who don't keep their promises?

Sisters No, what?

Buttons They become members of Parliament, (*Sisters snort*)

Josephine (*Glare*) Have an early night Cinders.,

Deidre (*Glare*) Don't bother to wait up for us.

(*Exit Josephine and Deidre right, working "Aren't we adorable" routine. Pause. Cinderella walks slowly to left end of table, Buttons looking rather uncomfortable does the same at right end, They sit on the table together*)

Buttons You're upset aren't you.

Cinderella (*Trying not to cry*) Yes Buttons, I am.

Buttons I don't blame you. They've gone to the ball and you haven't. Will you miss it? (*Cinderella tearfully nods*) Never mind, sometimes the biggest celebrities find themselves missing the ball. Even Wayne Rooney sometimes misses the ball. And it's never his fault. I did my best Cinders. I just don't know how you put up with those two.

Cinderella They're my step-sisters Buttons. I try to love them, but they never love me in return.

Buttons I think a lot about you Cinders,

Cinderella I know you do. (*Pause, Buttons has taken an orange out of his pocket and is holding it*)

Buttons Isn't that a lovely orange?

Cinderella Yes, it is Buttons, I've never seen a nicer looking orange.

Buttons It belongs to me, Now when something belongs to you - and you think a lot about someone else - you offer to share things, don't you?

Cinderella Well?

Buttons Well, I like you a lot. Would you like some of my orange?

Cinderella Oh, how lovely Buttons, (*She takes orange giving Buttons a kiss on the cheek, Buttons is dizzy and overcome, falls away off table. Cinderella quickly peels part of orange and begins to suck it,*) Oh, what a juicy one.

Buttons (*Hand to cheek*) I like juicy ones. (*Rising*) Cinderella - can I ask you something?

Cinderella Yes Buttons. (*Still engrossed in orange*)

Buttons Do you like me?

Cinderella Of course I do,

Buttons Do you like me a right lot?

Cinderella Yes,

Buttons Do you like me a right, right lot?

Cinderella (*Laughing*) A right, right, right lot. (*They ad lib in turn adding extra "right" each time*)

Buttons (*Plucking up courage*) Do you love - (*Is going to say "me" but she looks at him and his courage fails*) - anybody?

Cinderella Yes I love someone very special, He's tall, handsome and has a wonderful smile, He can be very firm - but at times, oh so gentle, (*Buttons reacts to all these thinking she is referring to him*) I love him.

Buttons It's only natural, But I say Cinderella, we've known each other for a long time. Why haven't you told me all this before?

Cinderella How could I? I met him in the forest for the first time only two days ago.

Buttons You met him in the forest only two days ago?

Buttons You're a bit too sad to play "Let's pretend" aren't you?

Cinderella Yes, Buttons. I really did want to go to the ball,.

Buttons Can I do anything else to help?

Cinderella No, I'd rather be left alone.

Buttons Alright - well I'll just go and finish my orange. *(He exits left, Cinderella goes to fireplace, kneels and begins to set the fire., Enter Fairy Godmother, right, still in cloak she wore in the forest,. She stands and looks at Cinderella who does not see her)*

Fairy Good evening my child.

Cinderella Who's that? *(Turns, still kneeling)* Why - you're the old lady I met in the forest.

Fairy That is so. You seem unhappy Cinderella.

Cinderella My father and sisters have gone to the ball. How I wish I could go.

Fairy *(Discarding cloak to flash effect and revealing herself and Fairy Godmother)*
And so you shall Cinderella, You shall go to the Ball.

Cinderella *(Rising)* But how? Who are you?

Fairy I am your Fairy Godmother, *(Crosses to table)* Bring me the largest and fattest pumpkin you can find,

Cinderella I don't understand.

Fairy Do as I say. *(Cinderella fetches pumpkin from offstage and places it on table)*
Over there you will find a cage with mice within, Bring the cage to me.
(Cinderella does so) Ere long my magic will transform this pumpkin, these mice to become your coach, Cinderella, to take you to the Ball. Silver horseshoes, glittering pony harness for the coach, crystal slippers and a beautiful ball gown for you, All these will be fashioned in fairyland, For one night you will be a princess.

Cinderella I find this hard to believe,

Fairy Wish, Cinderella, and it shall be so.

Cinderella I wish - oh how I wish - I could go to the ball,

(Solo number first Fairy then Cinderella "Wishing will make it so" or () similar. Cinderella turns and finishes with back to audience near the wings left, Fairy comes down right as lights fade to blackout during which Cinderella exits left, Tabs or front cloth brought in part way upstage to allow ballet to take place,. Miniature fairy forge is set up right.

Buttons *(Off-stage) I know where - (Chanted)*

Deidre *You can get - (Chanted)*

Buttons *(Off-stage) You can get - (Chanted)*

Deidre *A bottle of whisky (Chanted)*

Buttons *(Off-stage) A bottle of whisky (Chanted)*

Deidre *For twenty pence - (Deliberately)*

Buttons *(Running on stage from right) Where's that then?*

Josephine *Caught you. Give us our ten pounds back.*

Hardup *Come on Buttons. (Hardup and Buttons are chased round and offstage right by Deidre and Josephine to play off music, Straight waltz music restarts () for entrance left of Prince, Dandini, Cinderella and all guests except () Hardup, Buttons,, Sisters, Snatchem, and Grabbem. Prince and Cinderella start dancing together and ensemble follow suit.)*

Dandini *(Not dancing, going to foot of stairs to announce) May it please your Highness the second half of the Ball has now begun, Although midnight is near, the dancing will continue 'till dawn, (All continue dancing. Prince and Cinderella now dance on spot.)*

Prince *I trust my dear that you are enjoying this evening as much as I am.*

Cinderella *So much so that I wish it would go on forever.*

Prince *My love for you will last for ever, As for the dance - you heard what Dandini said - it is still only midnight - (Clock begins to chime the preliminaries)*

Cinderella *(Stops, dismayed) Midnight - already - I must go.*

Prince *(Holding her hand) Not yet. You must stay.*

Cinderella *I cannot. You do not understand.*

Prince *I only understand this. I love you with all my heart.*

Cinderella *And I you. But I must go. (Cinderella escapes from Prince's hold and dashes up the staircase, As she runs to behind the clock, the clock strikes first note of the twelve, Transformation takes place from ball dress to rags by doubling with girl behind clock. Girl in rags behind clock exits left, Cinderella remains behind clock, All dancing stops)*

Prince *(Facing upstage) Stop her.*

Dandini *(Running up staircase)* Too late, Sire, she is gone.

Prince Dandini, after her. *(Dandini exits left)* Surely I cannot have lost her once more.

Dandini *(Re-enters left)* The Princess is nowhere to be found.

Prince But what about her coach?

Dandini That also has disappeared. The Princess has simply vanished into thin air.
(Noticing slipper on stair which girl in rags has placed near clock)

Prince Gone without a trace.

Dandini Not quite, Sire, behold a crystal slipper. *(Brings it down to Prince)* This must belong to the Princess.

Prince *(Taking slipper)* A crystal slipper. Her slipper. In her hurry to leave she must have lost it on the stairs, The only proof I have that Princess Crystal was here or that I ever held her in my arms,

(Big vocal build-up to finale comprising short reprise of duet, Prince leads () this number in but is then overcome, and ensemble take it to the finish)