

Cinderella I can soon gather more (*and gives them to Fairy*)

Fairy You are indeed good and kind, Cinderella.

Cinderella You know my name?

Fairy I do,. I also know that sometimes you are treated harshly. It will not always be so. Erelong you will be repaid for the kindness you have shown me today. (*She exits right as fairy music fades*)
(*Begin quiet incidental music for Cinderella*) ()

Cinderella How strange that dear old lady should know me and be interested in my future,
But I must give thought for today and gather more sticks before I return home.
(*Exit left gathering sticks. Cut quiet incidental music*)

(*Noise off-stage right of people approaching. Play on Ensemble right () as Prince's entourage. They are Lords and Ladies of the Court (maybe some servants) dressed in period riding and rambling clothes*)

Girl/Boy 1 Where is the Prince? And Dandini?

Girl/Boy 2 Here they are.

All Hooray! (*Enter Prince and Dandini left as ensemble surround them*) ()

Prince I hope you are all enjoying your tour through the forest.

Ensemble Yes, very much (*ad lib*)

Prince It is truly a wonderful part of my kingdom,

(*Big production number. Prince, Dandini and ensemble with theme () of beautiful day, All remain on stage at end of number*)

Girl/Boy 3 Lunch is served in yonder clearing (*pointing left*) Will you honour us by leading the way, your highness?

Prince In a few moments, First I desire a word with my Equerry Dandini. Away with you all, (*They all exit left quickly to last few bars of last number, leaving Prince and Dandini alone on stage*) ()

Dandini At your service, sire. What is your command?

Prince I command nothing. All I crave is a little peace and quiet., With you Dandini I can relax and forget for a few moments that I am a Prince, If only I could forget for more than a few moments, But I always must be the Prince, And how I wish sometimes that I were not.

Dandini (*Half aside and jokingly*) How I wish sometimes that I were.

Prince *(Turning in, and idea suddenly strikes him)* What would you say if I told you that you should be the Prince?

Dandini *(Turning in)* How could that be, your Highness?

Prince It can be if I say it will be. Dandini, we shall exchange identities. For twenty-four hours you shall be the Prince, *(Gives Dandini Prince's hat which is distinctive)*

Dandini But what about you, your Highness? *(hesitantly giving Prince his own hat)*

Prince I shall merely be Dandini - the Prince's Equerry. *(With a flourish and bow to Dandini and placing hat on head after bow)*

Dandini I shall enjoy being a Prince., *(Settling Prince's hat on his, Dandini's, head)*

Prince And I shall enjoy not being a Prince. And now, don't you think you'd better rejoin the others, Dandini - I beg your pardon, your Royal Highness!

Dandini Very well - Dandini *(Starts to exit left, then stops)* What if someone realises I'm not you but me?

Prince Look them straight in the eye, put on your best royal manner and tell them you are the prince - they'll believe you.

Dandini You think so?

Prince Of course. But to be honest with you, I'm more concerned that the people accept me as Dandini. *(Dandini turns to exit left and almost bumps into Cinderella who enters left with basket of sticks)*

Cinderella Forgive me, good sir.

Dandini *(Calling after her)* The fault was mine.

(Cinderella has crossed upstage right to continue gathering sticks. She does not hear the following conversation, Dandini moves as if to cross to her when Prince stops him He is also taken with the girl)

Prince *(To Dandini)* Yes, your Highness?

Dandini Do you see what I see? *(indicating the girl who is picking up sticks and slowly moving downstage)*

Prince |I do indeed your Highness, But may I remind you that someone in your exalted position could never enter into conversation with a complete stranger,

Dandini But -

Prince It is time you rejoined the party.