

Based on the classic tale by Charles Perrault

Cinderella

1

Once there was a kind and beautiful girl. Her father loved her.

But her mother had died.

The father married again.

Her new stepmother was cruel. And her stepsisters were nasty and mean.

The stepmother made her sleep in the attic. The stepsisters however had grand rooms and soft beds.

They made her do all the housework. At the end of the day, she would go to the fire place. She sat near the cinders. So they called her "Cinderella".

2

Now the prince of the kingdom was having a ball. He was looking for a wife. He invited all the fine young ladies to come.

The stepsisters were terribly excited.

"Cinderella, fetch my best gown."

"No, leave her. Help me. And be fast about it!"

"But you're hideous. He will want me."

"No, me."

"Would you like to come?" they said to Cinderella.

"Perhaps..."

"Ha ha. Someone grubby like you? Don't be silly."

3

The night of the ball came. The sisters climbed into the coach. They didn't even say goodbye.

Cinderella went to the fire. She was crying.

Suddenly, a strange lady appeared.

"Good evening, child," she said. "Whatever is the matter?"

"Who are you?" said Cinderella shyly.

"I am your Fairy Godmother. I am here to help you. What do you want?"

"I wish... I wish... "

"You wish you could go to the ball?"

"Yes please."

"Very well."

4

"Have you a pumpkin?"

"Why yes."

"Let me see it, please."

The Fairy Godmother tapped her wand. And the pumpkin became a beautiful coach.

"Have you any mice?"

Cinderella found some mice.

The Fairy Godmother tapped her wand. They became horses.

"Have you any lizards?"

Cinderella found some lizards.

The Fairy Godmother turned them into coachmen.

5

"But what of my clothes?"

"Ah yes, of course."

And she turned Cinderella's rags into the finest dress.

"Lovely! But the most important mark of a lady is her shoes."

And the Fairy Godmother pulled out a pair of beautiful glass slippers.

"Off you go, my dear. But do not stay a moment after midnight. Then all the magic will go and you will be as before."

Cinderella climbed into the coach. Off she went to the palace.

6

Cinderella came into the ball. All eyes turned to her.

"Who is this beautiful girl?"

"She's gorgeous!"

Word came to the prince. He saw her, and fell in love with her on the spot.

"My lady, will you dance with me?"

They danced and danced. And Cinderella fell in love with the prince too.

All was going well. But then...

7

The clock began to chime midnight.

"Oh no!" she said. "I must go..."

"Please, my lady. Stay with me..."

"I must go..."

And she ran away.

But as she went, she dropped one of her glass slippers.

The prince picked it up.

Cinderella vanished into the night.

8

The prince was madly in love. He longed to see her again.

“Sire,” he said to his father. “The princess with the glass slipper is the one I want to marry.”

“Then we must find her.” The king turned to his chancellor.

“Take this slipper. Find her.”

The chancellor went out.

He tried all the ladies of the court. It did not fit anyone.

He tried the fine ladies in the town. It did not fit.

At last, he came to Cinderella's house.

“Let me try,” said one sister. “It's sure to fit.”

But it did not.

“It's mine,” said the other. And she tried. But it did not fit.

“Madame,” said the chancellor. “Is there any other young lady here?”

9

“No one.”

“What about me?”

It was Cinderella. She was looking on from her place by the fire.

“YOU?” laughed the sisters. “Don't be silly!”

“At least let me try,” said Cinderella.

“I am commanded to let any young maid try,” said the chancellor.

He had her sit down. He put the slipper on her foot. And it fitted perfectly. Cinderella pulled out the other slipper.

The Fairy Godmother appeared. She touched Cinderella. And she was once again the fine lady of the ball.

The stepmother and the sisters begged forgiveness. And she forgave them all.

10

“My lady!”

The prince had come in. He knelt down before her.

“Will you marry me?”

Cinderella smiled.

“Of course.”

And so they were married. Cinderella became a princess.

And they all lived happily ever after.

THE END

(Adapted from the original story by Richard McRoberts)