

Doug & Cindy

by

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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

ESTABLISHING: SPLIT-LEVEL THATCHED-ROOF COTTAGE

SUPER: THE SUBURBS OF PARIS / 1514 A.D.

INT. LIVING ROOM

DECOR: MEDIEVAL RANCH-HOUSE. THERE'S A STAIRCASE LEADING TO BEDROOMS, A HALL ON ONE SIDE GOING TO THE KITCHEN, A CLOSET BY THE FRONT DOOR, A STOVE FOR HEATING.

MINDY (O.S.)

NO-O-O-O-O-O-O-O.....!!!!!!

CINDY (MID-30'S) ENTERS FROM THE HALL, DRESSED IN MEDIEVAL YUP-PIE. MINDY (15) FOLLOWS, DRESSED IN MEDIEVAL GRUNGE.

MINDY (CONT'D)

You can't ground me for Prom Night!

CINDY

You knew the rule and you broke it.

MINDY

What, is this about me driving the pumpkin?! There was a dragon!

CINDY

You're only making it worse for yourself.

MINDY

You guys weren't home -- I took the pumpkin and went for help! I coulda been eaten!

CINDY

Francine L'affron was in the market today and said Marcie spent the afternoon watching your comedy routines.

MINDY

Fine, so I drove the stupid pumpkin. How else am I supposed to get to Marcie's, she's on the other side of the moat!

CINDY

That's not actually the issue.

MINDY

No, actually the issue is me having a life. When you were young, you just took orders -- "Cinderella do this, Cinderella do that, sleep in the fireplace, dress in rags."

CINDY

Whereas you do whatever your boyfriend tells you, sleeping in the fireplace would be a step up 'cause you haven't made your bed since puberty, and you dress in rags.

MINDY

Rags?! Rags?! This is a statement!

CINDY

The statement being "I wear rags."

MINDY

I know what's behind this -- you feel threatened 'cause I've got a career.

CINDY

Mindy, there's never been a female Court Jester.

MINDY

There's never been a female anything! Name one decent job a woman can get in this kingdom!

CINDY

(THINKS) Queen?

MINDY

(HEARS SOMETHING) Dad!

THE DOOR OPENS AND DOUG ENTERS. HE'S IN HIS 40'S, HANDSOME, BUT ALWAYS A BIT OVERWHELMED.

MINDY (CONT'D)

Dad, you gotta say if I can go to the prom and please don't waffle back and forth and avoid making a decision.

DOUG

I won't. (THINKS) Well, I might...

CINDY AND MINDY TURN TO EACH OTHER AND SMILE RUEFULLY ABOUT DOUG -- THEN, REMEMBERING THEY'RE MAD, TURN AWAY.

DOUG (CONT'D)

Look, there's a lot on my mind. Your Uncle ---

MINDY

You wanta see what I'm wearing? It's really great, stay right there...

SHE RUNS OFF. DOUG LOOKS AT CINDY.

CINDY

She plays you like a lute. So, Marty problems?

DOUG

Things seemed to be going so well -- last month he sold six donkeys and a used mule.

CINDY

(MUTTERS) Uh-oh.

DOUG

Turns out he faked the invoices, pocketed the commissions -- does he think I'm completely oblivious?

CINDY

(AVOIDING THE QUESTION) Are you gonna fire him?

DOUG

Dad would just chop off his head.

CINDY

That's your father's solution to everything.

DOUG

Well, in fairness, it works. But Marty's my little brother. I'm supposed to take care of him.

CINDY

He plays you like a lute.

DOUG LOOKS GLUM; CINDY PUTS HER ARMS AROUND HIM.

CINDY (CONT'D)

I love lutes.

THEY KISS. KNOCK AT THE DOOR, CINDY OPENS IT; A MAN (PIERRE) IS THERE WITH A NOTEPAD AND A QUILL.

PIERRE

Pierre Longchamps, Gaston Town Crier,
any comment on King Lance's latest
marriage?

CINDY

One reason we moved out of the palace
fifteen years ago was so we wouldn't
have to talk to the parchments.

SHE TRIES TO CLOSE THE DOOR BUT HE PUSHES BACK.

PIERRE

Wait, I'm not a hack -- "Eight o'clock
and all's well"? That's mine.

DOUG

I like that!

PIERRE

(SEES HIM) Prince! I ---

SUDDENLY THERE'S A LOUD "MOO!" AND PIERRE LEAPS INTO THE HOUSE. BEHIND HIM IS A COW.

PIERRE (CONT'D)

What the hell -- that cow came outta
nowhere!

DOUG

(WINCES) Marian.

PIERRE

Cinderella's fairy godmother?

CINDY

(TO PIERRE; SWEET SMILE) Excuse us...

SHE CLOSES THE DOOR AND PULLS DOUG ASIDE.

CINDY (CONT'D)

Don't say anything, we don't want
Marian's name cried around town.

DOUG

He can't prove it's magic -- it's just
a cow.

CINDY

Wearing pants.

SHE OPENS THE DOOR; PIERRE'S LOOKING AT THE COW, WHO IS,
INDEED, WEARING PANTS.

CINDY (CONT'D)

Listen, Pierre, there's no story here.
Lots of cows wear pants, the farmers
think it makes them more attractive.

PIERRE

I hope you mean to other cows. Say,
your godmother's been in trouble
before -- didn't she turn the Mayor
into cheese?

DOUG

It was yogurt.

CINDY SHOOTS DOUG A GLARE.

PIERRE

Tell you what, I'll bury the bovine
for an exclusive.

(MORE)

PIERRE (CONT'D)

(TO DOUG) Word on the cobblestone is your donkey dealership's failing -- are you just waiting around for the King to die?

CINDY

(PUSHES HIM OUT AGAIN) Okay, that's it. (TO COW) Kill!

MOO! SHE CLOSES THE DOOR.

MINDY (O.S.)

(FROM UPSTAIRS) I'm almost ready!

DOUG

I think I'll go out for lunch.

CINDY

Doug, modern marriage is a partnership. This is the Sixteenth Century -- Mindy needs to see that we both love her, by both of us making her miserable.

DOUG

I'm sorry. It's just...

CINDY

Would you like me to fire Marty?

DOUG

Could you? Y'see, Dad's got a point, it'd be much easier to kill him. And frankly, I think Marty'd prefer it.

CINDY

Your family is really screwed up.

MINDY (O.S.)

Ta-da!

SHE'S ON THE STAIRS IN HER PROM OUTFIT, STILL GRUNGE BUT MORE REVEALING.

DOUG

Oh my lord...

MINDY

Hot, huh?

CINDY

Mindel Charming, you are not going out
of this house like that.

MINDY'S ABOUT TO ANSWER BUT STOPS, HEARING SOMETHING. SHE AND CINDY TURN TO SEE DOUG... SNIFFLING.

DOUG

She looks so lovely...

MARIAN ENTERS. SHE'S IN HER 60'S AND ALMOST AS CRANKY AS SHE IS BEFUDDLED.

MARIAN

Has anyone seen my --- (RE: MINDY)

Oh, what a horrible gown! Would you
like me to fix it?

MINDY

Sure, Fairy Godmother, and you can
also make my sex life disappear.

DOUG

(TO CINDY) She has a sex life?

MARIAN

(TO MINDY) Listen, brat, you wanta
get wanded?

MINDY

Ooo, I'm trembling.

SHE STOMPS OFF INTO THE HALL.

MARIAN

Why that little...

CINDY

No! Marian ---

MARIAN STOMPS AFTER MINDY -- AND WALKS RIGHT INTO THE WALL.
CINDY AND DOUG RUSH TO HER.

MARIAN

(WOOZY) Boy that wall is solid.

CINDY

You really can't count on walking
through things any more.

MARIAN

Tell me about it. My magic hasn't
really worked right since "The
Change".

DOUG

I'm going to lunch.

HE EXITS.

MINDY (O.S.)

I hate everything!

MARIAN

Face it, the kid was a mistake.

CINDY

She's a natural expression of our
love.

MARIAN

No, that would be him buying you sexy underwear -- having a kid is being held hostage for twenty years. She better watch out or I'll turn her into a chicken too.

CINDY

Too? Did you change someone recently?

MARIAN

Jean-Paul at the bakery. (MAD)
Claimed that was sourdough...

CINDY

And you're sure he turned into a chicken.

MARIAN

It's what I was shooting for. (TESTY)
Y'know, there's such a thing as reality and it's not easy breaking it.
(REMEMBERING SPELL) "Hated fraud, prepare right now, to see yourself become a chicken."

CINDY

Wouldn't a better rhyme for "now" be "cow"?

MARIAN

Yeah, cow. Isn't that what I said?

CINDY

(SIGHS) I think I have another errand.

MARIAN

You run yourself ragged for this family. Mindy and her horrible hormones, Doug and his damn donkeys... If you don't live happily ever after, what does my life mean?

CINDY

Marian, what a thing to say -- you have your own life. You should get out more. Date.

MARIAN

I would, but it's so hard to meet a well-adjusted fairy.

DISSOLVE TO:

ESTABLISHING - "DOUG'S AAA DONKEYS" - A LITTLE LATER

THE VILLAGE DEALERSHIP HAS A LOT FULL OF MODELS.

INT. "DOUG'S AAA DONKEYS"

MARTY (MID-30'S; THINKS HE'S CHARMING, IS ACTUALLY SLEAZY)
PITCHES A DONKEY TO AN ATTRACTIVE YOUNG WOMAN.

MARTY

Honey, would Marty Charming lie to you? We're desperate. We gotta make room for the 1515's. (MOVES CLOSE)
We need you...

SHE MOVES AWAY WARILY.

MARTY (CONT'D)

... your business. C'mon, where you gonna find prices like this in the tri-province area?

(MORE)

MARTY (CONT'D)

This baby's got all the extras...

(PATS BRIDLE) ... genuine leather-like exterior, four-on-the-floor, voice-activated commands -- "Whoa, boy!"

(CLOSE AGAIN; "SEXY") Go, girl...

WOMAN

Y'know, I kinda like the mule...

MARTY

Donkey.

WOMAN

... but you make me sick.

SHE WALKS OUT.

MARTY

Wait'll you hit thirty, you'll be back begging!

AS SHE EXITS, CINDY ENTERS.

MARTY (CONT'D)

(ENTHUSIASTICALLY INSINCERE) Cindy!

I'm so happy you're here! I was just closing a deal! Hello!

CINDY

Do you realize you lied twice before hello?

MARTY

You cut me to the quick.

CINDY

You have an oversensitive quick.

MARTY

C'mon, I don't wanta get into it with you. I got an alimony check due Friday.

CINDY

Which one?

MARTY

Okay, three checks. Those blood-sucking leeches -- and I mean that in the most respectful way -- they won't let me breathe. (MOVES AROUND DRAMATICALLY) I'm choking on greed! (RE: CINDY'S LOOK) What?

CINDY

Did you hop?

MARTY

Hop? I didn't hop.

CINDY

I think you hopped.

MARTY

I haven't hopped or croaked or eaten a fly for forty-six days, I swear on my father's grave.

CINDY

The King's alive.

MARTY

He's got a grave! It's picked out and everything!

(MORE)

MARTY (CONT'D)

The point is, I went to and graduated from a monarchy-approved twelve-step program for people changed into animals by witches and I'd appreciate it if you'd stop calling me a backslider every time my feet leave the ground.

CINDY

I apologize. Let's move on to embezzlement.

MARTY

(FURIOUS) Cinderella... (PITIABLE)
Do you have any idea what it's like being Prince Charming's brother?

CINDY

(MUTTERS) It's a lot of pressure.

MARTY

(OBLIVIOUS) It's a lot of pressure. All my life I'm competing with tall, dark, gonna-be-King-someday.

CINDY

(MUTTERS) Competing and losing.

MARTY

(OBLIVIOUS) Competing -- and losing! I know I got this job out of guilt, but Doug deserves the guilt!

CINDY

Why?

MARTY

Because I'm not Prince Charming and nobody ever lets me forget it!

CINDY

Marty, we're gonna have to let you go. Can I offer you some money? (TAKES OUT COIN-PURSE) How about twenty...

MARTY

I don't want your damn charity. Twenty-five?

CINDY SMILES AND GIVES HIM COINS AS WE...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM

DOUG OPENS THE DOOR FOR KING LANCE (A VERY VIRILE 60).

DOUG

Dad! What are you doing here?

LANCE

Can't a man visit his own son?

DOUG

It's a weekday, shouldn't you be ruling?

LANCE

Nah, Kingdom pretty much runs itself, I'm just there to give people someone to worship as a god. What are you doing here? Avoiding work?

DOUG

Um...

LANCE

("REALIZING") Under the weather, no doubt. Damn plague -- I think I'll have it banished. Hah! Listen, son, whenever you're home alone and in the mood, just lemme know and I can send over a wench...

DOUG

Dad...

LANCE

Doug, you've been married to the same woman for twenty years -- that's just sick. Now Cindy's a great girl. But she's not the only girl.

DOUG

What do you want me to do, divorce her?

LANCE

No! Kill her and marry someone else!

DOUG

There's no talking to you.

LANCE

It's traditional in our family! The women expect it, they look forward to it! I tell you, practically from the day we were married Claudia would say "Just kill me. Kill me now."

DOUG

My generation's different. We're faithful to our wives, we share parenting, we respect each other.

LANCE

No, that's good, but just consider killing her, okay?

CINDY ENTERS.

LANCE (CONT'D)

(INSTANTLY SWITCHES GEARS)

Cinderella! Are you under a spell? You look younger every day!

CINDY

Or maybe you're getting glaucoma.

LANCE

(LAUGHS) That's good... (BLINKS NERVOUSLY, CHECKING; THEN) So, out and about, eh? Wives today, ya gotta love 'em.

DOUG

Dad, Cindy's very busy. She's President of the Neighborhood Watch.

LANCE

Is that damn dragon in the trash again?

CINDY

Yes, and we'd appreciate a knight when you can spare one -- this "Dragon-Off" spray is useless.

DOUG

And she's on the hospital board,
raising money for the new, ultra-
modern Leech Ward.

LANCE

Hey, I'm all for medical advances but
if I want the blood drained from my
body I'll just look at Priscilla
without makeup.

CINDY

New wife?

LANCE

Old mistress. But she's twenty-two,
whaddya expect. No, the wife's fine,
still got a year or two left in her
unless she starts tinkling the
harpsichord teacher.

CINDY

So you marry these unbelievable
floozyes then kill them when they
start playing around while all the
time you're playing around with other
floozyes.

LANCE

It's good to be King.

MOO!

CINDY

Oh, honey, could you put Jean-Paul in the garage till Marian can change him back?

DOUG

Sure.

HE EXITS.

LANCE

So Cindy, with all this stuff you do, you must get pretty tired. If you ever want to stop by the castle, y'know, just to relax... (GRINS)

CINDY

Your Majesty, I'm flattered. No, not "flattered", what's the word... repulsed.

LANCE

(LAUGHS) Okay okay. (TAKES OUT PURSE) Look, before he comes back, what can I give you?

CINDY

No. No more.

LANCE

How much did he lose last year?

CINDY

It's not important. I'm very proud of what Doug's accomplished. It took courage to leave the castle and make his own way in the world.

LANCE

Yes, the way I see it, you can spend a lot of time developing social skills, learning how to deal with the world and its complexities, or you can just chop heads.

CINDY

Life must be so simple when you're superficial.

LANCE

I dunno, I never think about it.

MINDY (O.S.)

(DOPEY VOICE) Hey hey hey!

CINDY AND LANCE LOOK UP; MINDY'S ON THE STAIRCASE, DRESSED AS A JESTER.

MINDY (CONT'D)

I'm Mindy the Mirthful, here with a buncha yocks from a buncha socks!

SHE HOLDS UP A PAIR OF SOCKS AND PUTS ONE ON EACH HAND. THEY HAVE CRUDELY PAINTED FACES.

MINDY (CONT'D)

(MAN SOCK) Hiya honey, howzabout we make some hay? (WOMAN SOCK) Only when you gimme equal pay! (MAN) What?!

THE WOMAN SOCK BASHES THE MAN OVER THE HEAD.

MINDY (CONT'D)

(MAN) Why'dja hit me? (WOMAN) Would you rather have a kiss? (MAN) You betcha, sweet-feet!

(MORE)

MINDY (CONT'D)

(WOMAN) Well, I'd rather not be sold
as chattel! (MAN) What?!

SHE BASHES HIM AGAIN THEN LOOKS HOPEFULLY AT LANCE. HE STARES, FLABBERGASTED... THEN BREAKS INTO WILD APPLAUSE.

LANCE

Brilliant! (TO CINDY) That girl is a
genius!

MINDY

Thanks, Grampa. So do you think I can
be Court Jester?

LANCE

Uh, that'd be great but, y'know, we
currently have a jester.

MINDY'S CRUSHED.

LANCE (CONT'D)

But hey, if he dies, boy will we need
a new one!

MINDY

And that'll be me?

LANCE

(OBVIOUSLY-FAKE COUGHING SPASM)

Ohmahgosh! Cindy, can I get some
lemonade, or fruit juice, or gin?

CINDY

Excuse us, Mindy.

CINDY AND LANCE HEAD TO THE KITCHEN AS MARIAN WALKS DOWN THE STAIRS. SHE SEES MINDY AND STICKS UP HER NOSE, IGNORING HER.

MINDY

What?

MARIAN

We're in the middle of a fight,
remember?

MINDY

Oh no no, you were fighting with Mom.

MARIAN

I was?

MINDY

Sure, you got mad when she wouldn't
let me go to the Prom. You were gonna
cast a spell on her.

MARIAN

I don't think I'd cast a spell on my
own god-child.

MINDY

Sure you would! Helping girls go to
balls, it's what you do!

MARIAN

Well, I suppose I could just, uh...

MINDY

Make her do anything I ask.

MARIAN

Um, yeah. (TAKES OUT WAND) So.
"Cinderella, right away, do the things
that Mindy... say."

SHE WAVES THE WAND; CLOTHING FALLS FROM ABOVE.

MINDY

Is the spell usually accompanied by a
rain of girdles?

MARIAN

(BEAT) "Cinderella, here we go, to
Mindy you just can't say no!"

SHE WAVES THE WAND; WE HEAR A WHOOMP! MINDY LOOKS OUT THE
WINDOW.

MINDY

The Claudettes' house is on fire.

MARIAN

That's not good. "Fire at the next-
door neighbors', cease right now and
stop your labors."

POOF! SHE DISAPPEARS.

MINDY

Marian? Fairy Godmother?

MARIAN (O.S.)

Mindy?

MINDY

Marian! Where are you?

MARIAN (O.S.)

I'm not sure. But it's uncomfortable.

MINDY, LOOKING AROUND, TURNS TO THE STOVE.

MINDY

Oh crap.

MARIAN (O.S.)

I'm inside the stove?

MINDY

You are the stove.

ON STOVE: MARIAN'S FACE HAS BLENDED WITH THE STOVE-FRONT.

MARIAN

Oh crap.

CINDY AND LANCE HURRY IN.

CINDY

The Claudettes are on fire! (SEES)

Marian?!

THE DOOR OPENS AND DOUG ENTERS WITH JEAN-PAUL, THE EX-COW.

DOUG

Honey, Jean-Paul changed back.

CINDY

Thank god something's gone right.

DOUG

Um, well...

JEAN-PAUL

I have hooves.

HE HOLDS OUT HIS ARMS, WHICH HAVE HOOVES AT THE END. CINDY PUTS HER HEAD IN HER HANDS AS WE HEAR...

MARIAN (O.S.)

Oh crap.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWOESTABLISHING - "DOUG'S AAA DONKEYS" - LATERINT. "DOUG'S AAA DONKEYS"

DOUG ADDRESSES A RAGTAG GROUP OF FOUR SALESPEOPLE.

DOUG

So... to sum up... This brave band shall not, will not... (STRUGGLES) ... shall not... give in to despair. As long as there is breath in our bodies, nobility in our hearts and belief in our just cause, by the grace of God we will prevail!

BEAT.

WOMAN

So we should sell more donkeys?

DOUG

(DEFLATED) Yes. Sell more donkeys.

That is all.

THEY LOOK AROUND AWKWARDLY, THEN "DISPERSE" (THERE ISN'T ANYWHERE TO GO). MARTY GOES TO DOUG.

MARTY

Great speech, bro, we are so psyched!

DOUG

I'm going to lunch.

MARTY

Again? (QUICKLY) Yes, good thinking, bro. Don't wanta be around all the time, there's such a thing as too much inspiration.

DOUG SMILES THINLY AND EXITS. MOMENTS LATER, A MAN ENTERS.

MARTY (CONT'D)

(URGENT WHISPER, TO SALESPEOPLE)

Customer! Assume your donkey!

EACH SALESPERSON RUNS NEXT TO AN ANIMAL; THE CUSTOMER IS UNDERSTANDABLY UNNERVED. MARTY RUSHES TOWARDS HIM THEN STOPS AT THE LAST SECOND AND WALKS THE LAST FEW FEET IN AN UNCONVINCING "CASUAL" STROLL.

MARTY (CONT'D)

Hi-i-i-i, I'm Marty Charming. Here at Triple-A, buying a donkey is no gamble, you bet your ass!

MAN

(STARES, THEN) Did you just hop?

MARTY

(COLD FURY) No. People don't hop.

THE MAN IS TAKEN ABACK; THEN A HAND IS ON HIS SHOULDER, STOPPING HIM -- IT'S CINDY, WHO TAKES OVER.

CINDY

Hello, I'm Cinderella Charming, can I show you something in a mid-size Donkster? Sorry, I don't name 'em. Now this little fella just lives to lighten your load. He's surprisingly roomy yet economical -- five bales a kilometer city, three in the provinces. He's good-tempered though he sometimes stalls in the winter, but don't we all...

MAN

(BEAT) The Cinderella?

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. "DOUG'S AAA DONKEYS" - A LITTLE LATER

CINDY COUNTS COINS AS MARTY COMES OVER.

CINDY

He hired you back already.

MARTY

Duh. So, you just made four sales in an hour -- what happened to Doug standing on his own two feet?

CINDY

Generally, he does. I just don't want him to fall.

MARTY

But no one cares if I fall, in the gutter.

CINDY

Forgive me, Marty, but... you're used to it.

MARTY

You are a piece-a work.

CINDY

(HANDS HIM PURSE) Tell Doug you sold 'em.

MARTY

Listen, you can't tell me what to ---

(REALIZES; SWITCHES GEARS) Okay.

SHE STARTS OUT.

MARTY (CONT'D)

You're going?

CINDY

Yeah, the baker's got hooves and my
godmother's a stove.

MARTY

(MUTTERS AS SHE LEAVES) She's
insane...

HE NOTICES SOMETHING, MAKES SURE NO ONE'S WATCHING, THEN HIS
TONGUE ZOOMS OUT, SNAGS A FLY, AND ZOOMS BACK.

MARTY (CONT'D)

(CHEWING) ... completely insane.

DISSOLVE TO:

ESTABLISHING - DOUG AND CINDY'S HOUSE

INT. LIVING ROOM

MINDY TALKS TO MARIAN/THE STOVE.

MINDY

Are you insane? Why should I help
you?

MARIAN

Because I'll tell Cindy if you don't.

MINDY

Tell her what, that you tried to put a
spell on her? Anyway, I know what
happened to the baker so don't try
anything. (TO SELF) I can't believe
I'm blackmailing a stove.

MACE (O.S.)

Mindy! Move it!

MINDY

(JOYFUL) Mace!

SHE RUSHES TO THE DOOR AND OPENS IT; MACE IS A SCRUFFY TEEN WITH ATTITUDE, NOT UNLIKE MINDY.

MACE

C'mon, we're going. Didja get the pumpkin?

MINDY

The prom isn't till tonight.

MACE

I got like ultra bored.

MARIAN

You better not leave without telling your mother.

MACE

(NOTICES MARIAN) What the hell --- ?

MINDY

Mace, you remember my Fairy Godmother.

MACE

(TO STOVE) How's it hangin'.

MARIAN

Hard to tell. Would you mind getting my Spell Book? It's on the mantle...

MINDY

Don't get anything! She's safer in there.

MARIAN

Listen, brat, you let me out or ---

THE STOVE SHAKES. OBJECTS START SHOOTING ACROSS THE ROOM.

MACE

(HIDES BEHIND MINDY) Yaahhh!!!

MARIAN

(FREAKED) Oh crap!!!

MACE, DUCKING OBJECTS, GRABS THE SPELL BOOK AND BRINGS IT TO THE STOVE.

MARIAN (CONT'D)

Page six! That's got the stoppers!

OW!!!

THE STOVE IS STRUCK BY A LAMP. MACE FRANTICALLY OPENS THE BOOK; MARIAN STRAINS TO READ.

MARIAN (CONT'D)

"This is not exactly fun -- all you spells become undone!"

A FLASH OF LIGHT. MARIAN STANDS BY MACE AND MINDY, OBSERVING THE ROOM IN SHAMBLES.

MINDY

I am not cleaning this up. (TO MARIAN) It's all your fault and I'm telling Mom!

MARIAN

That's it.

SHE REACHES IN HER DRESS, PULLS OUT HER WAND AND THRUSTS IT AT MINDY. POOF! MINDY FREEZES.

MARIAN (CONT'D)

Yes! That's all I ask, just a moment's peace. A moment, a week, a few years...

MACE

Um, Fairy Godmother, like, is she, y'know, dead?

MARIAN

Frozen. Cindy's gonna be ticked. How the hell do you un-freeze? I need the appendix.

SHE HURRIES OUT. MACE IS ALONE WITH THE FROZEN MINDY. HE WALKS AROUND HER A LITTLE.

MACE

Hm.

HE REACHES A HAND OUT... AND TICKLES HER. NOTHING. HE TURNS AWAY... THEN ZOOMS IN CLOSE AND MAKES A NOISE.

MACE (CONT'D)

Aah!

NOTHING. HE SMILES, REACHES OUT, AND STARTS TO UNDO HER SHIRT.

THE DOOR OPENS AND CINDY ENTERS, TO SEE MACE STANDING A FEW FEET FROM MINDY, WHISTLING INNOCENTLY.

MACE (CONT'D)

Hello, Mrs. Charming. I just came over to greet Mindel and confirm that all was cool for tonight.

CINDY

Mindy would appear to be under a spell.

MACE

Oh, really! I thought perhaps she was just concentrating.

CINDY REGARDS HIM DUBIOUSLY AS MARIAN HURRIES IN WITH A BOOK.

MARIAN

Oh, Cindy, don't worry, this is nothing, I'll fix it...

SHE SPITS ON HER WAND.

MACE

Euu!

MARIAN THRUSTS THE WAND AT MINDY, WHO UN-FREEZES, GLARES AT MACE, THEN BUTTONS HER SHIRT.

CINDY

Marian, I'll talk to you later.

Mindy, I'll talk to you sooner. Mace,
goodbye.

MACE

Uh, okay, Mrs. Charming. Should I
come around seven?

CINDY

I'm sorry, Mindy won't be going to the
prom.

MINDY

Oh yeah? Nobody tells me what to do!

MACE

Be ready at seven or forget it.

MINDY

(DREAMY) Yes, Mace.

HE EXITS.

CINDY

All right, young lady, I ---

SHE STOPS; MINDY'S FROZEN AGAIN (IN DOPEY "DREAMY" POSITION).

MARIAN

Oh, it didn't take...

SHE FLIPS RAPIDLY THROUGH HER BOOK; THE DOOR OPENS.

LANCE

Knock-knock!

MARIAN

Your Majesty!

LANCE ENTERS WITH AN OBVIOUS BIMBO.

LANCE

Cindy, Marian, say hello to Gwendolyn.
She's a serf.

GWENDOLYN

(TO MARIAN) Cinderella, it is an
honor to meet you, ma'am.

MARIAN

Oh, well, I'm not, um...

CINDY CLEARS HER THROAT.

GWENDOLYN

(REALIZES) I am so mortified. I
mean, I read the story when I was a
little girl so I assumed ---

CINDY

No apology necessary. And, of course,
that wasn't one.

LANCE

What's with Mindy?

CINDY

She's under a spell and Marian can't
break it.

LANCE

Oh, that's easy...

HE LEANS IN AND KISSES HER; MINDY AWAKES.

MINDY

Oh! Grampa! (MORTIFIED) I haven't
been so humiliated for two weeks!

(REALIZES, TO LANCE) I can show you
more of the act!

SHE RUNS UPSTAIRS.

MARIAN

Why didn't I think of kissing? It
worked with that girl Sleeping, uh...
oh, she was a real beauty but I never
remember her last name...

SHE WANDERS OFF.

GWENDOLYN

Lancey-poo, the way you woke her up
was so sweet!

LANCE

You do the same thing.

GWENDOLYN

I do?

LANCE

Sure. There's a little part of me
that sometimes sleeps till you kiss
it.

GWENDOLYN

(DELIGHTED) You're disgusting!

CINDY

(TO LANCE) Can we talk in private?

LANCE

(TO GWENDOLYN) Go stand in the
corner.

GWENDOLYN

Okay!

SHE DOES.

CINDY

She can hear us.

LANCE

No, nothing registers unless it's in
her direct line of vision.

GWENDOLYN

(TO WALL) Hello Mr. Spider!

CINDY

Why did you bring your bimbo?

LANCE

You got something against peasants?

CINDY

Used to be one, remember?

LANCE

(LOOKING) Mm, can't wait to ride that
serf.

CINDY

And does your visit to our humble home
have a purpose, your Majesty?

LANCE

Just wanted to tell you I transferred
a bunch of gold into the Triple-A
account.

CINDY

Lance...

LANCE

He's not just your husband, he's my son. It wasn't easy for Doug, growing up in luxury, getting everything he wanted. Sometimes he needs a boost.

CINDY

He needs to succeed on his own.

LANCE

Too bad. I saved the dealership again.

CINDY

Actually, I did. This afternoon.

LANCE SMILES; CINDY SMILES BACK.

MINDY (O.S.)

Hey hey hey!

ON THE STAIRS, IN HER JESTER OUTFIT, MINDY THROWS HER ARMS WIDE WITH A GOOFY SMILE.

LANCE

And that's my cue. (GRABS GWENDOLYN)

We gotta go. (TO MINDY) Lookin' good, Mindela!

AND THEY'RE GONE; MINDY DEFLATES.

MINDY

I don't think Grampa likes my act.

CINDY

He knows it's evolving.

MINDY WALKS TO THE BOTTOM OF THE STAIRS AND SITS, DEFEATED.

MINDY

You win.

CINDY

What?

MINDY

I won't go to the prom.

A BEAT, THEN CINDY SITS NEXT TO HER.

CINDY

I'm sorry things aren't working
between us.

MINDY

You always try to control me.

CINDY

That's probably true. Maybe I pay too
much attention 'cause my stepmother
didn't pay any.

MINDY

Well, she was evil.

CINDY

She was a jerk. But I don't think she
knew how to be a parent. Or a wife.
Whenever she looked at me, she saw her
husband's first love and that
couldn't've been too pleasant.

MINDY

Geez you're reasonable.

CINDY

Did I mention I hated her? But it's
funny -- as you get older, it seems
like people aren't good or evil.

(BEAT) Go to the prom.

MINDY'S SILENT, AFRAID TO BREAK THE SPELL.

CINDY (CONT'D)

I can't control you. You're getting
too old. I just want you to do...
everything I want you to.

SHE SMILES; MINDY SMILES BACK.

MINDY

Do you think I should wear your dress
to the prom?

CINDY LOOKS AT HER, SURPRISED, THEN GETS UP, OPENS THE CLOSET,
AND TAKES OUT THE CINDERELLA DRESS, A FANTASIA OF WHITE AND
SILVER.

CINDY

This old thing?

MINDY

It's not exactly Now, but it's kind of
beautiful.

CINDY

Marian made it.

MINDY

I've heard.

CINDY

There're some slippers...

MINDY

I'll pass. I mean, I guess it's romantic and everything but all I see is stepping the wrong way and having shards of broken glass rip my flesh.

CINDY

When you put it that way, it sounds less romantic.

MINDY

How come you never wear them?

CINDY

My feet swelled during pregnancy.

MINDY

Which means if Dad were looking for someone now to fit the slippers...

CINDY

Wouldn't be me. But your father's pretty much over his foot fetish. And I'm not so impressed by Princes.

MINDY

But you're with one.

CINDY

I got lucky -- turns out he was a really nice guy. You better change, Mace'll be here. I can't wait till he sees you.

MINDY

(SMILES) He'll freak.

SHE KISSES CINDY AND HURRIES UP THE STAIRS. THE DOOR OPENS AND DOUG ENTERS, BEAMING.

DOUG

I am so psyched! (KISSES HER) So,
just relaxing?

CINDY CONSIDERS TELLING HIM EVERYTHING... AND DOESN'T.

CINDY

Yes. Mindy's getting dressed.

DOUG

For the Prom? (CINDY NODS) So you're
the evil stepmother and the fairy
godmother.

CINDY

I never thought of it that way.

DOUG

It's the Cinderella story. It just
keeps happening. But you made it end
better.

CINDY

(MELTS) Doug, you're an amazing guy.

(THEN) How was work?

DOUG

Well, I know you're skeptical of my
motivational speeches but I gave one
today and Marty made four sales!

CINDY

I'm so glad.

MINDY (O.S.)

Ahem!

THEY TURN TO SEE MINDY AT THE TOP OF THE STAIRS. IN THE CINDERELLA DRESS, SHE'S IMPOSSIBLY LOVELY, MATURE AND GRACEFUL. DOUG AND CINDY TEAR UP.

MINDY SMILES AT HER PARENTS THEN WALKS SLOWLY DOWN THE STAIRS, A VISION OF YOUTHFUL ELEGANCE. AND THEN...

MINDY (CONT'D)

This is so bitchin'!

CINDY

Just what we were thinking.

DOUG

That brings back such memories.

MINDY

I gotta go to the can.

SHE HURRIES OFF.

DOUG

Is it just me or are young people less romantic these days?

KNOCK-KNOCK. DOUG OPENS THE DOOR FOR MACE, WHO'S DRESSED FORMALLY AND ACTUALLY LOOKS HANDSOME.

MACE

Hello, Mr. and Mrs. Charming.

MINDY COMES BACK. DOUG AND CINDY PUT THEIR ARMS AROUND EACH OTHER AS THEY WATCH MACE AND MINDY STARE AT EACH OTHER -- COULD THIS BE THE SAME TRUE LOVE AS THEIRS?

MACE/MINDY

Bitchin'!

MINDY BUSSES DOUG AND CINDY, TAKES MACE'S HAND AND THEY HEAD FOR THE DOOR... THEN MINDY STOPS AND TURNS.

MINDY

Can we...

CINDY

Take the pumpkin.

MINDY SMILES AND THEY'RE OUT THE DOOR. DOUG AND CINDY STARE AT THE DOOR FOR A MOMENT.

DOUG

You know, everyone always said we'd live happily ever after. But I never thought about what ever after was.

CINDY

It's now. After the ball is over and the slippers are in the closet and it's just two people trying to make a life.

DOUG

(SMILES) The first moment I saw you.

CINDY

The first moment I saw you.

DOUG

You were a great dancer.

CINDY

But a klutzy runner.

DOUG

Lucky for me.

HE HOLDS OUT HIS ARMS; SHE JOINS HIM, AND THEY DANCE.

THEN A CLOCK STRIKES. THEY STOP, LISTENING; IT ENDS AT SEVEN.

DOUG (CONT'D)

It's early.

CINDY SMILES, TAKES HIS HAND AND LEADS HIM UP THE STAIRS. AS THEY REACH THE TOP, SHE KICKS OFF HER SHOES. THEY HEAD OFF AND THE CAMERA CLOSES IN ON THE ONE ORDINARY SHOE, AS WE...

FADE OUT.

THE END