

Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella

Synopsis

Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella is a fresh, modern take on the classic fairy tale, filled with heart, humor, and a timeless message of kindness and self-empowerment.

In a magical kingdom, a young woman named Ella lives under the oppressive rule of her cruel stepmother, Madame, and her self-centered stepsisters, Charlotte and Gabrielle. Despite her challenging circumstances, Ella remains kind, hopeful, and idealistic. She dreams of a better life not only for herself but also for the downtrodden villagers in her kingdom.

Prince Topher, the kingdom's young and reluctant ruler, is feeling lost and unfulfilled as he navigates his responsibilities. Manipulated by his scheming advisor, Sebastian, he is unaware of the struggles of his people. When he decides to hold a royal ball to find a bride and connect with his subjects, Ella, with the help of her fairy godmother-in-disguise, Marie, transforms into a vision of beauty and confidence to attend the ball.

At the ball, Ella challenges Topher to see the world differently and take responsibility for his kingdom. Meanwhile, a budding romance blossoms between Gabrielle and Jean-Michel, a passionate revolutionary determined to bring justice to the oppressed.

With wit, courage, and a magical spark, Ella inspires Topher to reclaim his throne and make positive changes for his people. In the end, love, kindness, and courage prevail as Ella and Topher unite to create a brighter future for the kingdom.

Character Descriptions

ELLA

Though no one notices her beneath her rags and quiet demeanor, she is opinionated, charismatic, passionate, beautiful, and funny. Idealistic and hopeful, she courageously challenges the prince to change the policies in his kingdom—and helps him discover who he truly is. Always her late father's daughter, she is determined to see the good in everyone despite her hardships and suffering. We see her blossom into a confident woman.

TOPHER

A misguided and lost prince who longs to do something important with his life. Though brave and heroic, he feels lonely and unfulfilled. Charming but NOT a stereotypical ladies' man, he is thoughtful, appealing, and innocent—with an unforced goofy streak. Moral, genuine, and kind hearted, he is at a crossroads and must take control of his kingdom and his future.

JEAN-MICHEL

A feisty, passionate peasant determined to make a change for the starving class. Impetuous, a firebrand, but lacks authority and isn't taken seriously as a revolutionary. Has a crush on Gabrielle, though their courtship is forbidden because they are from different social classes.

GABRIELLE

Ella's stepsister and daughter of Madame. Encouraged by her mother and sister to value material wealth and social status, she unenthusiastically joins them in their abrasive behavior. Quietly passionate, empathetic, and witty, she is drawn to Ella and Jean-Michel. Ironically aware that she doesn't fit in.

CHARLOTTE

Ella's stepsister and daughter of Madame. Brash, self-centered, materialistic, snooty, loud, sassy, and bratty, she has a ridiculously high but unfounded opinion of herself. She never passes up an opportunity to be the center of attention.

MARIE

A friend to Ella and the town's resident crazy lady and beggar woman, Marie is actually a fairy godmother in disguise. Wise, warm, otherworldly, and charming, Marie rewards Ella for her kindness by making her dreams a possibility.

MADAME

Ella's selfish stepmother. The epitome of vanity and fashion. A ravenous social climber who values wealth, status, and material possessions above all else. Unapologetically dismissive and sometimes cruel, Madame schemes her way up the social ladder.

SEBASTIAN

The kingdom's Lord Chancellor. Though he is Topher's trusted advisor, he is devious and selfish. Using propaganda and dishonesty, he keeps Topher isolated and in the dark about his kingdom. Sebastian rules without regard for the lower class, or anyone other than himself—and truly believes he deserves to rule the kingdom.

LORD PINKLETON

The Lord Chancellor's right-hand man. Announces royal balls, banquets, and even the weather to the villagers.

ENSEMBLE

Giant, Footman, Coachman, Townspeople, Courtiers, Nobles, Ball Guests, Cinderella's Animal Friends, Revolutionaries, Palace Servants, Forest Creatures, Heralds, Town Criers, Page Boys, and a Magic Ensemble.