

Cinderella

Every Girl Wants Options

A Ten-Minute Comedy

by James Hutchison

Also available from www.jameshutchison.ca

What the Dickens! *Even Scrooge got a second chance.*

When Marty Fisher gets caught kissing his stage manager Samantha and the actor playing Scrooge shows up drunk Marty has to scramble to save the opening night production of a Christmas Carol and his engagement to his fiancée Tami.

Two Act Comedy, 6M, 3W, Multiple Sets, 120 minutes

A Christmas Carol – Two versions available -

When Scrooge's nephew Fred finds some letters Scrooge had written to his sister Fan a long time ago the past is unlocked, and Scrooge learns how his fear of poverty and pursuit of wealth have cost him a chance for love and genuine happiness.

CAST OF 10+ - Two Act Drama, 6M, 4W, Multiple Sets, 120 minutes

CAST OF 25+ - Two Act Drama, 15M, 10W, Multiple Sets, 120 minutes

Under the Mistletoe *Not every romantic evening goes as planned.*

Two couples in their late fifties, one long time friends and the other having just met, try to navigate the tricky road of love, sex and desire while spending a romantic night in the Christmas Themed Suites at the Prairie Dog Inn.

Two Act Romantic Comedy 1M, 1W or 2M, 2W Single Set, 120 minutes

Heart of Stone: A Jessica Quinn Mystery *Trusting the wrong person can be deadly.*

When Jessica Quinn uncovers the truth about her father's killer and the truth behind a woman claiming to be the long-lost daughter of her client Mary McConnell more than one person ends up dead.

Two Act Mystery, 7M, 3W, Multiple Sets, 120 minutes

Stories from Langford *Every town has its secrets.*

Six characters from Langford tell stories from their lives: stories about, jealousy, revenge, love and forgiveness.

Two Act Drama, 1M, 1W, Simple settings, 120 Minutes

Death and the Psychiatrist *Even Death Could Use a Friend*

Feeling depressed about having a job where no one likes him Death goes into therapy with Dr. Thompson in order to help him cope with his guilt.

One Act Comedy, 3M, or 2M, 1W, Single Set, 50 Minutes

Plus, other One Acts and 10 Minute Plays including The Blood of a Thousand Chickens, 500 bucks and a pack of smokes, and Elvis is Dead.

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Cinderella – Every Girl Wants Options premiered at the 17th Annual North Park Playwright Festival in San Diego, California, USA in 2019 with Dave Fremland as the Fairy Godmother and Shelly Benoit as Cinderella. The production was directed by David Fremland. The same year play was a semi finalist for the Pick of the Vine with Little Fish Theatre in San Pedro, California and was Short Listed for “Women Leading: The Play’s the Thing” with Itinerant Theatre in Lake Charles, Louisiana, USA

The Playwright

James Hutchison writes comedies, dramas, and mysteries. He also interviews other playwrights, actors, and directors about the business and creative aspects of theatre, film, and television. You can read his interviews on his blog and download his plays at www.jameshutchison.ca.

Cinderella – Every Girl Wants Options.

A Comedy in Ten Minutes

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CAST of CHARACTERS

Cinderella young, smart, and determined – dressed in rags
Fairy Godmother tubby middle-aged man in a Fairy Godmother Costume

SETTING

The mind of a male writer who is writing a traditional version of Cinderella

TIME

The Present

STORY OF THE PLAY

As a male playwright works on a traditional telling of the Cinderella story his Cinderella character challenges him and has some very different ideas about who her character is and how the story should be told.

For Toni

CINDERELLA

SCENE: A FAIRY TALE KINGDOM

Setting: The mind of a writer working on a script for Cinderella.

At Rise: Cinderella and her Fairy Godmother are talking about helping Cinderella get to the ball.

CINDERELLA

Oh, Fairy Godmother I have nothing but rags to wear to the ball. My wicked and evil stepsisters destroyed my dress. What am I to do?

GODMOTHER

Just make a wish and I'll use my magic to make all your dreams come true.

CINDERELLA

Magic?

GODMOTHER

Yes, the magic of true love.

CINDERELLA

But I don't really believe in magic, and love is mostly a chemical reaction, don't you think?

GODMOTHER

Nonsense, every girl dreams of her prince. Now stand there and I'll wave my magic wand and...

CINDERELLA

Hold on a second. You know what I'd really like?

GODMOTHER

A beautiful gown. A coach to ride in. And glass slippers.

CINDERELLA

I want an education.

GODMOTHER

An education.

CINDERELLA

Yes. You're my Fairy Godmother. Why don't you arrange for me to get an education?

GODMOTHER

There are some things even a Fairy Godmother can't do.

CINDERELLA

I'm not really that interested in being a princess. I'd rather be a doctor, or a lawyer, or an architect.

GODMOTHER

In this story Cinderella goes to the ball. Meets her prince. Falls in love. Gets married. And lives happily ever after.

CINDERELLA

I'd rather go to Cambridge.

GODMOTHER

That's all very well my dear, but in this particular day and age women aren't allowed to go to Cambridge.

CINDERELLA

So, why are you writing a play for young girls about a time when they couldn't go to university?

GODMOTHER

I can't change history.

CINDERELLA

But this is fiction. We can do whatever we want. (*She looks up into the lights and waves her hands*) Hey you! I want a story conference.

GODMOTHER

You do realize this is for grade school?

CINDERELLA

All the more reason for telling a story where women have more than an option of marriage in their future.

GODMOTHER

How about I make the Prince rather well endowed with a six pack. Would that help?

CINDERELLA

Listen, I know we only exist in the imagination of the writer, but just because he's been hired to write an adaptation of Cinderella for the stage doesn't mean he has to write the same old junk men have been writing about women for eons. The narrative needs to change. *(She looks up and shouts)* Hey you!

GODMOTHER

Would you like your Prince to be blond, or brunette, or do you like red heads?

CINDERELLA

How come every time I want to take the story in a new direction you shut me down or try to distract me?

GODMOTHER

I just want you to be happy.

CINDERELLA

You're not even a Fairy Godmother, are you?

GODMOTHER

Of course, I am, my dear. What else would I be?

CINDERELLA walks up to the FAIRY GODMOTHER and pulls her wig off.

CINDERELLA

I thought so. You're him, aren't you. You're the playwright.

The FAIRY GODMOTHER grabs her wig back and puts it back on.

GODMOTHER

Alright, you caught me. I'm the writer. I always like to insert myself into my characters.

CINDERELLA

So, what does that make me?

GODMOTHER

You're just a work of fiction, that's all.

CINDERELLA

Am I? Or am I that little voice in the back of your head telling you to be a part of the solution instead of a part of the problem.

GODMOTHER

Listen I sympathize with you. I'm on your side. Really, I am. I think women deserve equal pay. I think we need more women in power. I'm not a bad guy, but I'm just one writer trying to make a living.

CINDERELLA

Do you have to make a living telling stories that do nothing more than support the current power dynamic that exists in the world? A power dynamic that oppresses women and the disadvantaged.

GODMOTHER

Look, it's the middle of the night, and I've got to get this script finished and e-mailed by noon tomorrow.

CINDERELLA

Haven't you ever thought of writing something different?

GODMOTHER

Of course, I have.

CINDERELLA

Well then do it. Make me different. When one of your male characters decides to do something different you run with it, but when one of your female characters wants to try something new you shut her down.

GODMOTHER

I don't mean to. It's just I understand the world from a male perspective. I'm not sure I know how to write women in a different way.

CINDERELLA

You write about people, don't you?

GODMOTHER

Well of course I write about people.

CINDERELLA

I've got news for ya. Women are people. If you can write about people; you can write about women.

GODMOTHER

We could always do a modern dress Cinderella. That would be innovative and different.

CINDERELLA

Modern dress doesn't make it innovative or different if the themes are still the same.

GODMOTHER

They're expecting Cinderella not a feminist manifesto like The Female Eunuch.

CINDERELLA

You can still tell the story of Cinderella, but why not tell it in a different way. We could explore the dark side of good people. Maybe, Cinderella could murder her evil stepmother and stepsisters?

GODMOTHER

Murder!

CINDERELLA

Yeah, it'd be easy. She's in charge of cooking the meals and cleaning the house, so on the night of the ball she slips some poison mushrooms into the meat pie she's been making and presto! Problem solved.

GODMOTHER

That's outrageous!

CINDERELLA

Isn't it! I'll bet people would love it. Especially little girls.

GODMOTHER

I don't know about that.

CINDERELLA

Trust me, people like antiheroes. And then Cinderella takes one of the stepsister's dresses, and she goes to the ball, and she seduces the prince, and then she marries him, and poisons him on their wedding night and becomes Queen of the Kingdom. How's that for a fairy tale?

GODMOTHER

Poisons the Prince.

CINDERELLA

Yeah, why not? We just make the Prince and his father the King evil tyrants who tax the people to death, wage ridiculous wars, and burn witches at the stake. Cinderella overthrows the tyrants. Reduces taxes. Makes sure everyone has enough to eat, and every child regardless of sex gets an education.

GODMOTHER

So, the ends justify the means. I don't think so.

CINDERELLA

She's fighting for social justice and sometimes that can get a little bloody.

GODMOTHER

She's not going to poison her stepmother, seduce the prince, and kill him on their wedding night! What is this American Horror Story?

CINDERELLA

Have you even seen the newspaper headlines over the last couple of years?

GODMOTHER

I don't want to make Cinderella a homicidal maniac.

CINDERELLA

She's not. She's just ambitious. Like Macbeth. Only nicer.

GODMOTHER

I don't know if the world is ready for that kind of Cinderella.

CINDERELLA

Why not? Or are you one of those guys who's all talk when it comes to supporting women's rights? You say you believe in equal pay, but what have you done to help make that happen? Nothing, right? So, do something. You're a writer. A teller of stories. Tell a different story.

GODMOTHER

Well...I suppose...we could make the Prince a tyrant.

CINDERELLA

There you go.

GODMOTHER

And maybe he is taxing the people to death, and maybe he's gotten his kingdom involved in a bloody war, and maybe he's making himself and his friends rich at the expense of the average peasant.

CINDERELLA

And so maybe the people want to form a constitutional monarchy and limit the powers of the King so that the country isn't subjected to the whims and fancies of a madman. (*Alternate Line: And so maybe the people want to form a republic and kick the King out of office so the country isn't subjected to the whims and fancies of a madman.*)

GODMOTHER

That might work.

CINDERELLA

And maybe Cinderella is head of the resistance?

GODMOTHER

Or maybe she could be a spy?

CINDERELLA

And so, she finds out the Prince is planning a purge so her and the resistance storm the castle on her wedding night, and they throw the Prince into the dungeon. And then they force the King to give up his power, and they hold free elections, and Cinderella becomes Prime Minister. (*Alternative Line: And then they force the King to give up power, and they hold free elections and Cinderella becomes President.*)

GODMOTHER

Is there still a Fairy Godmother?

CINDERELLA

Sure. Only this time she could be a Ninja Warrior who trains Cinderella in the art of combat and stealth.

GODMOTHER

A Ninja Warrior in Medieval Europe?

CINDERELLA

Okay I'll admit – it needs work – but come on – take a chance. Write a first draft. What have you got to lose?

GODMOTHER

What if they don't like it?

CINDERELLA

Not everyone's gonna like it.

GODMOTHER

So, instead of a story about true love it's a story about social justice and love of country.

CINDERELLA

It's about real power and real tyranny and real-life sacrifices that need to be made in order to bring about and ensure individual freedom and democracy. Isn't that more interesting than waiting around for a prince? This Cinderella takes action. This Cinderella is a revolutionary. This Cinderella is a role model for young women and boys.

GODMOTHER

Alright. I'll give it a try. How do we begin?

CINDERELLA

Why don't we open on an exciting action sequence where Cinderella – in a mask – to hide her identity – leads a small band of resistance fighters on a raid to free several peasants scheduled for execution simply because they belong to an ethnic minority.

GODMOTHER

There's going to be a lot less dancing and a lot more stage fighting in this version.

CINDERELLA

And then after we're done Cinderella, I've got some big plans for Snow White and Sleeping Beauty.

GODMOTHER

Oh really. Does it involve poison mushrooms?

CINDERELLA

No, but it might involve a guillotine or two.

GODMOTHER

Oh dear. Well, I guess it's time to join the revolution.

Curtain