

Zolushka

The Russian Cinderella

A new musical

Music by

Steven W Rodgers

Lyrics by

Wendy Christopher

Translated & adapted by

Antonina Rodgers

Based on the play *Zolushka* by Yevgeny Shvarts

Musical arrangements and additional lyrics
by Steven W Rodgers

Cast of Characters

7m,7w + extras

Stepmother

Zolushka, her stepdaughter

King of the Fairy Tale Kingdom

The Prince, his son

Anna & Sara , the stepmother's spoiled daughters

Fairy Godmother

Mistress of Ballroom Dancing

The Forest Keeper, Zolushka's father

The Page, Assistant to the Fairy Godmother

Pumpkin Carriage

Coachman , Magician, Royal Assistants, Horses, Guards, Townspeople

Musical Numbers

ACT ONE

1. OVERTURE / PRELUDE.....Orchestra
2. FAIRYTALE LANDCompany
3. WISHING.....Zolushka
4. MEN OF HIGHER QUALITY.....Stepmother and Stepdaughters
5. JUST A GARDEN PUMPKIN.....Pumpkin
6. MISTRESS BALLET.....Orchestra
7. KEEPING UP WITH ROYALTY.....Stepmother, Stepdaughters and Company
8. COME AND JOIN THE BALL.....Company
9. LAND OF OUR DREAMS.....Prince and Zolushka
10. ZOLUSHKA SHUFFLE..... Orchestra
11. THE ESCAPE.....Zolushka, Prince, Pumpkin, Coachman

ACT TWO

12. ENTR'ACTE.....Orchestra
13. ALL FOR LOVEPrince
14. WE'RE GONNA FIND HER..... King, Soldiers, and Townspeople
15. ALL FOR LOVE (reprise).....Zolushka & The Prince
16. MEN OF HIGHER QUALITY (reprise)Stepmother & Stepdaughters
17. IF THE SHOE FITS.....King, Stepmother & Townspeople
18. NOT GOING TO BE EASY...Mistress of Ballroom Dancing, Stepdaughters & Townspeople
19. HAPPY EVER AFTER (reprise of *We're Gonna Find Her*).....Company

Act I

[Overture/prelude]

Overture. As music continues, a spotlight comes up on the Page, an innocent young man of about 14, who is carrying a magic wand. He walks to center stage and addresses the audience as music underscores)

Page

Zolushka is a fairy tale that was born a long time ago, and has been living ever since. We have turned the tale into a musical, simple enough to be understood even by adults. Well . . . let's begin.

(He moves his magic wand grandly through the air. The orchestra, which has been playing beautifully until this moment, suddenly degenerates into an embarrassing Cacophony)

Oh, Gosh. That's really embarrassing.

(He signals musicians offstage)

Orchestra, could we try that again, please?

(Music resumes, as the page conducts, and as music crescendos, the music sounds Even worse this time. The Page is devastated).

I'm sorry. I'm not a magician. I'm just learning, but I believe if we all put our hearts into it, anything is possible.

(With determination, he moves his wand decisively. The orchestra swells, the lights come up full, and the entire cast suddenly emerges from every corner, singing "Fairy Tale Land").

[Song: Fairy Tale Land]

Company

HEAR THE TRUMPETS SOUND
IN THE LAND OF STORIES
IN A LAND WHERE EVERYTHING
IS FILLED WITH LAUGHTER, TEARS AND GLORIES

WHERE YOU MEET US ALL
WICKED WITCH AND PRINCESS
AND OUR STORIES
ALWAYS END IN HAPPINESS
WE'VE GOT THE GOOD, THE BAD

King

AND DON'T FORGET THE UGLY

Company

IF YOU WANT GIANTS THIS IS WHERE YOU'LL FIND 'EM

Company (Cont)

AND THE FAIR PRINCESSES
HAVE THEIR DARING PRINCES RIGHT BEHIND 'EM
ALL THE GOOD GUYS WIN
AND THE BAD GUY LOSES
AND THE HANDSOME HERO
CAN WIN ANY GIRL THAT HE CHOOSES
WELCOME TO A WORLD WHERE EVERYTHING IS PEACHY

WHERE ALL WISHES COME TRUE
FAIRY TALES, OLD AND NEW
SONGS, MUSIC AND MAGIC, GOOD TIMES AND BAD
HAPPY AND SAD

ONCE UPON A TIME, SO THE STORY GOES
IS THE WAY THE BEST ONES ALWAYS START
AS EVERYBODY KNOWS

STEP INTO OUR WORLD
COME AND JOIN THE LAUGHTER
FOLLOW US UNTIL WE ALL MEET HAPPY EVER AFTER
IN THE END YOU KNOW THAT EVIL ALWAYS FAILS
STEP INTO OUR FAIRY TALE!

(The King approaches a sign that reads ENTRANCE TO THE FAIRY TALE KINGDOM. Two guards are polishing the bronze letters without haste. The King has a very troubled look. His crown sits sideways on his head)

King

Greetings, guards of the Fairy Tale Kingdom!

Guards

Long live your majesty!

King

What?

Guards

Long live your majesty!

King

Why would I want to live long? Hasn't a king got enough problems as it is?! You must be crazy!

Guards

Not at all, your majesty.

King

What, now you're arguing with the King, too? What extraordinary rudeness. If I say you're crazy, you're crazy! Now then, there is a holiday at the palace. What can be more majestic than a holiday which will bring joy to the people? Hey, wait a minute!--what the--! Why isn't the gate open? How are the people supposed to get in? Ever think of that?

Second Guard

Mmmmm.....not really, your majesty.

King (*Throws his crown on the ground.*)

O.K., that's it! I'm leaving. The heck with everything! I'm going to join a monastery. You can live as you wish. I have no desire to be King when my own guards don't know enough even to open the gate when there's such an important event! And, on top of everything else, you're both wearing the sourest faces in the entire kingdom!

First Guard

But, your majesty, our faces aren't sour.

King

What, then?

First Guard

They're dreamlike.

King

Liar!

First Guard

It's true! I swear it!

King

What are you dreaming about?

Second Guard

About all the wonderful miracles that are certain to happen tonight at the ball!

First Guard

So you see, your majesty, that's what we are thinking about!

Second Guard

Yeah! You're reprimanding us for nothing!

King

Oh, all right, all right, we'll have it your way. Give me back my crown--I'll stay on the throne. If you were King, you'd grumble even more, perhaps. So . . .you say there are going to be miracles?

First Guard

Of course. Are you a Fairy Tale King? You are. Do we live in a Fairy Tale Kingdom? We do.

Second Guard

And has my right ear been itching since this morning? It has. And that always means that something touching, delicate, and captivating is going to happen.

King *(laughing)*

What pleasure. O.K., O.K., enough polishing already! Open the gate--it's pretty enough as it is! Does everything seem to be in order? What do you say, guards? You're not going to be ashamed to show it to the guests, are you? Well, good-bye, guards. Be polite, mind your manners! Say "Welcome" to everybody, and make sure you don't get drunk!

First Guard

Your majesty! How could you say such a thing!?! We are sensible people.

Second Guard

Yeah, we only drink on the weekdays when there's nothing special going on!

First Guard

But today something's definitely going to happen, and we want to be sober enough to enjoy it!

Second Guard

Good-bye, your majesty!

First Guard

Run along, your majesty!

Guards

Don't worry, your majesty!

(The King runs off down the road, followed by the musicians, playing a merry tune as the guards resume drinking. The king approaches Zolushka's house. Zolushka is gardening. The king approaches a large man looking through his binoculars.)

King

Hello, Mr. Forest Keeper.

Forest Keeper *(startled)*

What? Oh! Uh . . . Hello, your majesty.

King

You know, Mr. Forest Keeper, I've been meaning to ask you something ---why have you been so nervous and jumpy lately? You haven't seen a ferocious beast wandering about the forest, have you?

Forest Keeper

Oh, no, your majesty. I would have killed the beast at once!

King

Mmm. . . Well, then, maybe we've got some robbers?

Forest Keeper

No way, sir! I would have thrown them out immediately!

King

Well then . . . An evil magician who's out to get you!

Forest Keeper

No, your majesty. I would have known how to deal with that!

King

Well then what in heaven's name has brought you to this miserable, melancholy state?

Forest Keeper

My wife, your majesty.

King

Oh?

Forest Keeper

Yes. You see, in the forest, I am a courageous warrior--the finest example of strength and valor! But . . . At home, I am extraordinarily weak and, quite frankly, a bit of a coward.

King

You're kidding!

Forest Keeper

I swear! You see, I had the misfortune of marrying a very stern woman. They have me tied around their little fingers. By "they", your majesty, I mean my wife, and her two daughters by a previous marriage. For three days now they have been preparing themselves for the royal ball. They have run us ragged. By "us" your majesty, I mean me and my own poor little daughter, Zolushka.

King

(Throwing down his crown)

Well, that does it! I'm leaving. To heck with everything, dang it! I'm leaving for the monastery, if this is the kind of heart-breaking stories that are possible in my kingdom. Shame on you!

Forest Keeper

But, sir, don't hurry to blame me! My wife is a . . . *Special* woman. Her sister, who was exactly like her, by the way, was eaten by an ogre, who immediately got poisoned, and died right there on the spot! So you see now what venomous characters are in that family. And *you're* the one who gets upset!

King

All right, all right, give me back my crown. Have it your way--I'll stay on the throne. I'll tell you what, Mr. Forest Keeper. Why don't you just forget your troubles for a while and come to the ball. Bring your daughter, too!

Forest Keeper

Bring Zolushka? But how can I, sir? She's just a little girl!
(*Zolushka sighs*)

King

As you wish, but remember that today such wonderful festivities are in store for us that it is sure to make you forget all your grief and misery! Good-bye!
(*The King and Forest Keeper exit*)

[Song: Wishing]

Zolushka

SO THIS IS MY DESTINY
HIDING IN SHADOWS WHERE NO ONE CAN SEE
SCRUBBING FLOORS ON HANDS AND KNEES

TRYING OH SO HARD TO PLEASE
AND DREAMING OF THE DAY
FORTUNE SMILES ON ME
I SPEND MY DAYS BELOW THE STAIRS
WISHING AND WONDERING IF ANYONE CARES.
GUESS I SHOULD KNOW MY PLACE
ACCEPT MY FATE WITH ALL GOOD GRACE
OR CAN YOU CHANGE THE WAYS OF THE WORLD

WITH YOUR WISHES AND PRAYERS?
WHO WIPES AWAY MY TEARS?
WHEN I AM CRYING, WHO HEARS?
THOUGH MY DREAMS ARE DEAD AND GONE
I MUST BE STRONG AND KEEP SILENT IF I'M TO GO ON
FOR WHO KNOWS WHAT TOMORROW BRINGS?
I'LL MAKE THE BEST OF THINGS

THIS LITTLE UGLY DUCKLING
WHO DREAMS SHE'LL TURN INTO A SWAN.

Zolushka (Cont)

It's nice that my stepmother and my stepsisters were invited to the ball. The Prince may even dance with them! They'll like that, I'm sure. They are going to eat ice cream, too—they love ice cream almost as much as I do....but that's all right. Maybe... some day I will be able to join them instead of just standing under the palace windows, admiring the festivities from a distance!

(The Stepmother enters, holding her hands in the air.)

Oh, Stepmother! You startled me!

Stepmother

Zolushka, Zolushka, what a bad girl you are! I take care of you better than my own daughters. I don't reprimand them sometimes for weeks on end and I care enough about you to lecture you from morning till night. Then why are you so ungrateful to me? You want to run away to the palace park tonight, don't you?

Zolushka

Only when everyone leaves, Stepmother, because then nobody'll need me.

Stepmother

Follow me.

(Zolushka follows her upstairs and they enter the living room where Anna and Sara are sitting with their hands up in the air just like their mother. The Forest Keeper is standing at the window, holding a big stick, and sighing.)

Stepmother

We are sitting here completely helpless, waiting until the magic liquid dries--the liquid that turns our nails into rose petals--and you, my dear ones? You frolic and enjoy yourselves. Zolushka is talking to herself and her daddy has got a big stick and was trying to escape with it into the forest.

Forest Keeper

Well, I wanted to fight a crazy bear!

Stepmother

Whatever for?!!

Forest Keeper

To get a break from housework, dear.

Stepmother

I might have known! Here I am working like a dog, running around, worrying, petitioning, making demands of the royalty . . . Thanks to me we sit on court benches!

Anna

And in the theatre we sit in the director's seats.

Stepmother

Soldiers salute us!

Sara

And soon they'll write down our names into the velvet book of the first Beauties of the Royal Court!

Stepmother

And who do you think turned our fingernails into rose petals? The Royal Manicurist, at whose door ladies with impressive titles wait for weeks for an audience with her.

Sara

And yet it was she who comes to *our* house!--personal visits by the Royal Manicurist herself!

Anna

So, once again, we're the envy of the neighborhood!

Stepmother

And just yesterday, the royal chef sent some sumptuous smoked pheasant as a gift.

Forest Keeper

I bring you all the pheasant you can eat from the woods.

Stepmother

As usual, you're missing the point entirely.

Anna

Daddy's always missing the point!

Stepmother

You see, my dear, it isn't the pheasant itself that's important--it's the fact that people in high places step all over themselves to see that we get it. And where is your gratitude?

Anna

Yeah, like my nose is itching, but I can't scratch it!

(Zolushka obediently starts toward her)

No, no, Zolushka--go away, or I'll bite you!

Zolushka

But why, Anna?

Anna

Because it didn't come into your head to help me on your own!

Zolushka

But I didn't know

Sara

Sister, I think what Anna is saying is . . . you are so plain-looking that you need to make up for it by showing a little more sensitivity.

(They all laugh.)

Anna

Yes, and you're so clumsy that you should compensate for it by being a better servant.

(They laugh again. Zolushka sighs.)

Sara

Don't you dare sigh, or I might get upset before the ball.

Zolushka

All right, sisters, I'll try to be cheerful.

Stepmother

Well, let's just see if you have the right to be so cheerful. Are our dresses for the ball ready? The ones I ordered you to sew in seven nights?

Zolushka

Yes, Stepmother.

(She opens the screen, revealing three beautiful dresses. She is pleased, but her look turns to sadness when she sees them eyeing the dresses suspiciously, coldly, gloomily)

Sisters! Stepmother! Why are you looking at them so crossly? I sewed your dresses for you. They are festive, joyful dresses. They're exactly what you asked for.

Stepmother

Quiet! We have thought about what you have done and now we are going to discuss it.

(They talk in serious, sinister whispers.)

Zolushka--we have decided that . . . we have no grounds to reject your work. Help us get dressed.

Anna

Oh, I'm so excited!

Stepmother

But remember, girls, only one of you can win the prince's heart.

Sara

Well, I've got the looks, it's plain to see!

Anna

But you've got no brains--that's where I'll win the day!

Stepmother

May the best girl win . . . fight fair . . . don't fail me!

Sara

And let the *loser* find someone who has money, at any rate.

Stepmother

Yes, wealth means more than personality. Remember, girls: Always aim for men of higher quality!

[Song: Men of Higher Quality]

Stepmother

YOU MUST MAKE A GOOD IMPRESSION AT THE BALL
SO YOU'LL NEED SOME LESSONS IN DECORUM

Anna

BUT MOM, WE'RE PRETTY AS WE ARE

Anna and Sara

ANYONE WHO DISAGREES, WE'LL IGNORE 'EM

Stepmother

WEALTHY MEN LOVE A LADY
WITH POISE AND CLASS AND THAT JE NAIS SE QUOIS,
YOU'LL BE JUDGED ON WHAT THE PEOPLE THINK YOU ARE!
STOMACH IN, CHEST OUT!

Sara

OW!

Stepmother

LOOK DOWN YOUR NOSE!
ALWAYS WALK AS IF YOU'RE KNEES ARE TIED TOGETHER

Anna

WE'LL LOOK SO DUMB

Sara

IT'S UNDIGNIFIED!

Stepmother

DO YOU THINK HE'S GONNA WANT SOMEONE TO
TALK ABOUT THE WEATHER?
THE PRINCE WILL WANT TO FIND A LADY
WHO MOVES WITH GRACE

Anna and Sara

THEN THAT'S WHAT WE WILL DO

Stepmother

IF YOU REALLY WANT THE PRINCE TO DANCE WITH YOU.

Anna and Sara

OH, WE DO! WE DO!

Stepmother

IF YOU DO EVERYTHING I TELL YOU TO DO
THE PRINCE WILL CROSS A CROWDED ROOM FOR YOU

Anna and Sara

WE MUST SHINE BRIGHTER THAN THE BRIGHTEST STAR
TO SHOW THEM ALL JUST HOW REFINED WE ARE!

Stepmother

KEEP YOUR VOICE HIGH PITCHED
AND GIGGLE LIKE A GIRL
EVEN IF YOU THINK THAT HE'S NOT FUNNY

Anna

OLD MEN BORE ME!

Sara

THE YOUNG ARE IMMATURE!

Stepmother

THEN GRIT YOUR TEETH AND THINK ABOUT THEIR MONEY.
SOCIAL STATUS IS IMPORTANT

Anna and Sara

AND WEALTH MEANS MORE THAN PERSONALITY

Stepmother

ALWAYS AIM FOR MEN OF HIGHER QUALITY.

Stepmother and girls

WE MUST ALWAYS AIM FOR MEN OF HIGHER QUALITY!

Stepmother

Oh, Zolushka, I almost forgot. You wanted to go to the palace and stand under the window, didn't you? And listen to the festivities?

Zolushka (*Eagerly*)

Oh, Stepmother, may I?

Stepmother

Of course, my dear! But before you go, I want you to clean up the mess in the house.

Zolushka

I'll do that right away, Stepmother!

Stepmother

. . . . And wash the windows, and polish the floor . . .

Anna

. . . whitewash the kitchen walls . . .

Sara

. . . weed the garden. . .

Stepmother

. . . plant seven rose bushes under the bedroom window, know thy true self, compose a sonnet, and grind enough coffee for the next two weeks.

Zolushka

But . . . I won't be able to manage all that in a month, Stepmother!

Stepmother

Well then--I'd suggest you get started!

(They run off to the ball, leaving Zolushka, who sadly begins her chores.

Music plays and a strange light grows brighter and brighter. Suddenly, the Fairy Godmother appears, accompanied by a young Page)

Godmother

Hello, Zolushka.

Zolushka

Fairy Godmother! Dear Fairy Godmother! You always appear so suddenly!

Godmother

I know! Isn't it great!?

Zolushka

I think it's wonderful! I love miracles so much!

Godmother

That shows you have good taste, my girl. But there haven't really been any miracles--yet! It's just that we Fairy Godmothers are so extremely light that we walk on air or through solid objects as easily as you people blush or become pale. Now then, down to business: today you have been insulted, humiliated and ridiculed . . .

(She looks at Page)

Page

(Consulting clipboard)
24 times.

Godmother

And of those 24 times, you have been deserving of such abuse . . .

Page

Not once.

Godmother

Today, you have deserved praise

Page

333 times.

Godmother

And they actually praised you . . .

Page

Not a single time.

Godmother

I hate this old forester's wife, your evil Stepmother, and her daughters, too. I would have punished them all a long time ago, but they've got connections in such high places. Anyway, that's enough about them. Do you want to go to the ball?

Zolushka

Yes, Godmother, but . . .

Godmother

Don't argue, don't argue--not another word!

Zolushka

You make it sound easy ... but I have so much work to do, that....

Godmother

Don't you fret, my dear! I'll take care of everything!

Zolushka

What about my.... .?

Godmother

Don't argue! You'll go to the ball in a carriage with four horses, and in a beautiful dress! Now, then, here is my magic wand. Very modest, without any decorations--just a diamond star and a golden handle.

Godmother (Cont)

(She takes the wand. Mysterious music plays.)

Now I'll work wonders. I just adore doing that. To begin with, I'll get to work on that pumpkin over there.

(She rotates the wand, and a beautiful pumpkin carriage appears.)

Zolushka

What a beautiful carriage!

Pumpkin Carriage (curtseying)

Merci beaucoup.

(The Godmother works her wand again, music sounds, and four beautiful horses and a coachman appear.)

Godmother

And now for the final touch! You need a new dress!

(She waves her wand, and the page, who has stepped offstage, re-enters, presenting her with a beautiful dress.)

Zolushka

I'll just go into the drawing room and put it on right away!

(She exits, the lights fade on all except the Pumpkin Carriage.)

[Song: Just a Garden Pumpkin]**Pumpkin**

I WAS JUST A GARDEN PUMPKIN
SITTING THERE IN THE DARK BY MYSELF
SOON TO BE A JACK-O'-LANTERN
ALL CARVED UP ON SOMEBODY'S SHELF
AND THEN A STRANGE THING HAPPENED:
A FLASH OF LIGHT, AND I STARTED TO GROW
NOW SUDDENLY I'VE BECOME A NOBLE CARRIAGE
AND THAT'S ALL I EVER WANTED FROM LIFE

WHAT A WONDROUS PLACE THIS WORLD IS
THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS FOR ME TO LEARN
NOW THAT I'M A NOBLE CARRIAGE
I FIND I HAVE NO DESIRE TO RETURN
TO THAT LOWLY PLACE IN THE GARDEN
THAT I CAME FROM ONLY MOMENTS AGO
THOUGH NOW IT SEEMS I'VE BEEN LIKE THIS FOREVER
IF I COULD ONLY STAY....THIS WAY.

(Zolushka re-enters wearing her dress)

Godmother

Ah! Only one time in a hundred years you might encounter such beautiful workmanship. This is a happy, comforting dress--a dress that will bring you luck. Do you like your new dress?

(Zolushka kisses her)

Very well then, let's go. However, wait a moment, here's another little test.

(To the Page)

What do think about my goddaughter, boy?

Page

I wouldn't dare say anything out loud. But from now on, during the day I will think about her silently, and during the night, in my sleep, I will talk about her so sadly that even the friendly ghost on the roof will cry bitter tears.

Godmother

Wonderful! The boy has fallen in love. Don't look at him so sadly, Zolushka. It's good for boys to fall hopelessly in love. Then they start writing poetry, and I adore it! Let's go!

(They take a few steps.)

Page

Wait, please!

(The Godmother looks at him, surprised.)

I am not a magician. I'm still learning. But . . . forgive me, I dared to make something for you.

(He holds out glass slippers)

These crystal slippers, clear and pure as tears will bring you happiness because that is what I wish for you with all my heart. Take them, please!

(Zolushka takes them shyly.)

Godmother

What a touching and noble thing to do. Put them on, Zolushka, and thank him.

Zolushka

Thank you so much! I will never forget how kind you were to me.

Godmother

And now, my dear, remember something--something very important--you must come home by 12 o'clock. At exactly midnight, your new dress will turn to rags, the horses will turn back into mice . . .

(horses neigh offstage)

... the Coachman into a rat . . .

Coachman

Dang it!

Godmother

And the carriage into a pumpkin.

Pumpkin Carriage

Oh dear, oh dear, oh dear!

Zolushka

Thank you so much, Godmother. I will remember it very well.

Godmother

Bye, then.

Zolushka

Good-bye!

(Zolushka is now at the palace. As she walks through the corridors, a procession of Royal Assistants passes her, holding signs that read: "Clear your throat", "Soon the King himself will talk to you", "Smile" and "Around the corner you'll see the royal family!". Two children enter, one holding a mirror, the other holding a sign saying "Don't forget to fix your hair!")

Zolushka

I have the feeling something wonderful is about to happen!

(On the steps, she sees the King, who excitedly rushes towards her)

King

Hello, our mysterious, lovely, unknown visitor! No, no, don't curtsy on the steps, it is too dangerous. How do you do? I'm glad that you could come.

Zolushka

How do you do, your majesty! I'm also very glad I came. I like it here very much.

King *(laughing)*

What joy! She speaks sincerely!

Zolushka

Certainly, your majesty!

King

Yes, I'm glad you are here! *Old* friends are certainly wonderful, but nothing surprises them. But *you!*--well, you're new! No one knows what *you're* going to do!

Zolushka

Thank you, your majesty!

King

Being the king of a wonder kingdom, I know you are on the threshold of amazing fairy tale events!

Zolushka

Really?

King

My king's word of honor!

(The Prince enters. Zolushka blushes)

Prince! Hey, Prince! Son! Look who came to visit us! Do you recognize her?

(The Prince nods)

Who is it?

Prince

A mysterious and beautiful stranger!

King

Absolutely correct!

(To Zolushka)

Can you believe how clever he is?

(To the Prince)

Son! Why are you so pale? Have you finished your milk? Have you eaten your roll? You haven't been standing in a draft, have you? Why are you so quiet?

Prince

Oh, sir, I'm quiet because . . . because I can't talk!

King

Oh, don't believe him, miss--that's not true at all. Despite his years, he talks, and how!--speeches, compliments, poems . . . Would you like to hear him give a speech or something?

Zolushka

Oh, yes, I'd like that very much!

King

Sincerely! Keep that in mind, son--she speaks sincerely! Hey, I know what. Why don't you recite a poem, son . . . or at least say something clever? Go on, don't be shy!

Prince *(shyly)*

The, uh . . . the weather is wonderful today, isn't it?

Zolushka

Yes, Prince. Today's weather is . . . wonderful!

Prince

I hope you didn't get too tired during your ride.

Zolushka

No, Prince. I rested on the way, thank you.

[Instrumental: Mistress Ballet]

(They see a woman approaching them, dancing. She bows, then jumps very high)

King

Ah, allow me to introduce my Mistress of Ballroom Dancing. Do you understand ballet language?

Zolushka

I'm afraid I don't.

King

On solemn occasions, the Mistress uses only her art as a means of self-expression. I will translate her conversation for you.

(She bows low and begins to dance)

Today, she was walking through the palace, feeling a little sad, for some reason. But evening came and granted her an unexpected stroke of luck when she suddenly saw a hideous four-eyed creature that....

(she repeats some steps)

....what? Oh, no, sorry...she saw a gorgeous lady that had never before graced us with her presence. Where did she come from? Who could she be? She asked herself. Not even the fat cows grazing in the meadow are as graceful . . .

(She repeats some steps)

Oh, excuse me--not even the angels themselves are as graceful and delicate as our most graceful guest. She is glad.

(She jumps high)

So glad.

(She dances more energetically)

Extremely glad.

(She really out-does herself this time)

O.K., O.K., we get the idea!

(She stops dancing and the music ends. She bows low. In another part of the ballroom, The stepmother is writing in a large book. The Stepdaughters run up to her excitedly)

Anna

Mom, write down "Prince looked in my direction three times, smiled one time, sighed one time. Total: five times!"

Sara

And speaking to me, the King said "Very glad to see you" one time, "Ha, ha, ha" one time, and, "Hey, I wonder where that draft is coming from," one time. Total: three times.

(Stepmother excitedly writes all this down.)

Anna

What a ball! Eight signs of attention from their royal highnesses!

Stepmother

Rest assured now that I will make them write my daughters' names into the velvet book of the first beauties of the royal court.

Forest Keeper

Why do you need all these notes?

Stepmother

Look who's spoiling our fun, as usual!

Anna

Daddy's always grumbling.

Stepmother

Maybe if you'd have helped instead of complaining all the time, we'd be wealthy by now!

[Song: Keeping up with Royalty]

Stepmother

KEEPING UP WITH ROYALTY'S SUCH A BIND

Sara

IF YOU GET LEFT BEHIND YOU FALL FROM GRACE

Anna

YOU CAN BEAT SOCIETY AT THE GAME

Stepmother and girls

AS LONG AS YOU SCREAM YOUR NAME AND SHOW YOUR FACE

Stepmother *(to Forest Keeper)*

WHILE I'M BEING SEEN, DEAR
 WITH THE WELL-TO-DO
 WHERE THE HECK ARE YOU?
 I'VE WORKED SO HARD AND
 ALL THIS TIME WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN, DEAR?
 DO I HAVE TO DO IT ALL ON MY OWN?
 NOW THAT MY GIRLS HAVE GROWN, THE TIME IS RIGHT
 WE MUST FIND THEM SUITORS WITH LOTS OF CASH
 IF THEY'VE GOT PANACHE THEIR FUTURE IS BRIGHT

Sara

IF WEALTH AND STATUS ISN'T IN-BRED

Sara (Cont)

YOU HAVE TO MARRY IT INSTEAD

Stepmother

THAT'S THE THING TO DO, DEAR
THOUGH IT'S PLAIN TO SEE
IT DIDN'T WORK FOR ME

(To Forest Keeper)

'CAUSE I'VE GOT *YOU*, DEAR

Anna

MOMMY DIDN'T MARRY QUALITY

Stepmother

RUNNING AROUND AND PUTTING MYSELF ABOUT
ALL OF THE TIME WITHOUT MUCH HELP FROM YOU
YOU SPEND YOUR TIME COMPLAINING
AND STARING OFF INTO SPACE
TAKE THAT LOOK OFF YOUR FACE
AND FIND SOMETHING TO DO!

(In the musical interlude, the daughters run around, trying to get the attention of eligible men, posing, shouting "yoo hoo," etc.)

Party Goers

SEE HOW THEY SNIFF OUT ALL THE RICH GUYS
THE SMELL OF HONEY DRAWS THE FLIES
SEE THEM CHASING MONEY
FLIRTING WITH THE BEST
BUT NO ONE IS IMPRESSED
IT'S NOT ATTRACTIVE
WHEN THEY DO IT, IT JUST LOOKS FUNNY

Company

BUT KEEPING UP WITH ROYALTY'S SUCH A BIND
IF YOU GET LEFT BEHIND YOU FALL FROM GRACE
YOU CAN BEAT SOCIETY AT THE GAME
AS LONG AS YOU SCREAM YOUR NAME AND SHOW YOUR FACE!

(Fanfares. Guests form rows. Enter the King, Zolushka, and the Mistress of Ballroom Dancing. Guests bow)

King

Ladies and Gentlemen: let me introduce to you a girl that hasn't visited us before—a girl who is fabulously dressed, wonderfully beautiful, extraordinarily sincere, and mysteriously modest!

(Guests bow low, Zolushka curtsies, covering her face with a mask. Stepmother steps closer.)

Stepmother

Oh, your majesty, I know this girl! I swear I do. She is--

King

Wait! There is a law that forbids us to reveal the name of any guest who wishes to remain anonymous.

Zolushka

Oh, your majesty, I am not ashamed of my name. Not at all. Please speak, madam.

Stepmother

All right, now, listen everyone! You are all going to be shocked now. This girl is

(Zolushka starts to lower her mask)

... she is a goddess of beauty, that's who she is!

(Zolushka stops. Raises mask again)

King *(laughing)*

Quite a colorful compliment! Merci!

Stepmother

Oh, respectable goddess . . .

Zolushka

Let me assure you, madam, you are mistaken. My name is much simpler than that, and you know me much better than it seems to you.

Stepmother

No, no, you are a goddess. I am sure of that!

Zolushka

All I am sure of is that I'm happy to see you all. That is how happy I am today.

(approaches Forest Keeper)

Don't *you* recognize me?

Forest Keeper

I don't dare.

[Song: Come and Join the Ball]

Guests

COME AND JOIN THE BALL, MY DEAR

COME AND MEET US ALL, MY DEAR

WE'RE ALL HAVING SO MUCH FUN

Guests (Cont)

HAPPY SMILING FACES HERE
 DROPPING AIRS AND GRACES DEAR
 THAT'S HOW THINGS SHOULD BE DONE
 COME JOIN THE LAUGHTER
 AND THEN AFTER
 WHEN WE'VE DROPPED NAMES
 WE'LL PLAY SILLY GAMES
 'CAUSE THIS KING KNOWS HOW TO MAKE PARTIES SWING
 WHO IS SHE WITH HIS MAJESTY?
 HAVE YOU EVER SEEN HER BEFORE?
 WHERE IS SHE FROM?
 SHE JUST HAS TO BE SOMEONE WHO'S VERY IMPORTANT
 SOMEONE FAMOUS, MAYBE ROYALTY
 QUITE A MYSTERY IS SHE! DOES ANYONE KNOW WHO SHE IS?

(A music interlude as the guests dance, underscoring the following dialogue):

Prince

I know what you are thinking of me.

Zolushka

No, Prince, I hope you don't.

Prince

I know, unfortunately, you are thinking: what a silly and clumsy guy!

Zolushka

Oh, thank goodness you didn't guess what I was really thinking!

All

WON'T YOU COME AND DANCE MY DEAR
 COME AND FEEL THE ROMANCE HERE
 THIS WILL BE A NIGHT OF WONDER
 ALL THE STARS ARE BRIGHT FOR YOU
 SO YOUR WISHES MIGHT COME TRUE
 IT'S A WONDERFUL SPELL WE'RE UNDER
 AND I FEEL WONDERFUL
 MARVELOUS, WHAT A BLAST
 EVERY HAPPY HOUR SEEMS TO FLY PAST
 JOIN IN THE FUN
 FOR THE NIGHT'S JUST BEGUN
 FRIVOLITY, JOLLITY
 SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE
 TONIGHT!

WHO IS SHE?
 WITH HIS MAJESTY?
 HAVE YOU EVER
 SEEN HER BEFORE?
 WHERE IS SHE FROM?
 SHE JUST HAS TO BE
 SOMEONE WHO'S
 VERY IMPORTANT.
 SOMEONE FAMOUS
 MAYBE ROYALTY
 QUITE A MYSTERY IS SHE
 DOES ANYONE KNOW
 WHO SHE IS?
 WELL, SHE'S A STAR TONIGHT!

King

Let's play! Let's play a game! Hey, magician! You grant the first wish! Do something unusual. . . something kind and miraculous for everyone here, with no exceptions!

Magician

Oh, that's extremely easy, your majesty!

(The light changes, and music plays. Zolushka and Prince are on a boat on a peaceful lake)

Prince

Don't be afraid.

Zolushka

I'm not afraid at all. I was expecting wonders this evening and here they are. But where are we?

Prince

The King asked the kind magician to do something miraculous for everyone. So you and I are now on a magical lake in a Dream Land.

Zolushka

And where are the others?

Prince

Everyone is somewhere that makes them happy. This magic Dream Land is huge. But we are not here for long. A person can remain here for only three minutes and 42 seconds, and not a moment longer.

Zolushka

Really? What a pity.

Prince *(Sighing)*

Yes.

Zolushka

Are you sad?

Prince

I don't know. Can I ask you a question?

Zolushka

Certainly. Please, do!

Prince

One of my . . . friends . . . he is also a Prince. Actually, he's also quite brave and witty--He also met a girl at the Ball that he liked so much that he is totally confused. What would you advise him to do?

Zolushka

Probably . . . probably he just imagined that he liked that girl so much?

Prince

No, he knows for sure that nothing like it ever happened to him before or will ever happen again. Don't be angry.

Zolushka

How can I be angry? My life was quite sad until tonight. Is it all right that I am saying these things? And now I am very, very happy. Is it all right I said that?

[Song: Land of Our Dreams]**Zolushka**

SO WHAT HAPPENS NOW, IN THIS LAND OF OUR DREAMS?

Prince

EVERY WISH THAT WE'VE YEARNED FOR
WILL SUDDENLY BE GRANTED
IF IT'S AS FULL OF MAGIC AS IT SEEMS

Zolushka

SHALL WE MAKE SOME WISHES?
LISTEN HARD TO OUR HEARTS?

Prince

DO WE DARE HAVE THE COURAGE
TO REACH OUT FOR THE MOON
WHEN DEEP INSIDE THE SOUL IS WHERE THE MAGIC STARTS?

Zolushka

DREAMS, LIKE DEW DROPS, WHEN THE RAIN STOPS

Both

RUN DOWN THE LEAVES AND QUENCH THE EARTH
YOU CAN'T PUT A PRICE ON WHAT THEY'RE WORTH
ALL YOUR HEART CAN HOLD
CAN'T BE BOUGHT WITH GOLD
TAKE A JOURNEY THROUGH YOUR MIND
SEE WHAT RICHES YOU CAN FIND

ALL THESE GENTLE DAYDREAMS
THAT WE HOLD IN OUR HANDS
FILL OUR HEARTS WITH A GLOW
THAT WILL LINGER IN THE MEMORY

Prince

EVEN IF WE'VE BUILT OUR DREAMS ON SHIFTING SANDS

Both

DREAMS LIKE RAIN, GLOWS
BRIGHT AS RAINBOWS
CAUGHT IN A SHAFT OF APRIL SUN
AND THOUGH THEY FAD AWAY, THEY'RE NEVER GONE

Royal Assistant

Your time is up. Your time is up. Finish your conversation. Finish your conversation.
(The lights come up on the ballroom again.)

King *(Shaking the magician's hand)*

Thank you! How splendid! The tropical paradise was just what I needed!

Stepmother

What wonderful boutiques!

Anna

What perfumes!

Sara

What hair salons!

Forest Keeper

It was so peaceful and quiet there!

Mistress of Ballroom Dancing

My ballet was the talk of the town!
(Music starts up again, and the guests dance.)

Prince

Are we back from the magic land yet?

Zolushka *(laughing)*

I'm not sure. What do *you* think?

Prince

I'm not sure, either!

Zolushka

You know, I've had days when I was so tired that all I wanted to do was sleep and dream, but now, I'm so happy that all I want to do is dance and dance.

Magician

(Signaling the musicians, who play a lively tune)

Dance? As you wish!

[Instrumental: The Dance]

(Guests dance a crazy dance, then lights fade)

Zolushka

Prince, now that we know each other better, can you guess what I'm thinking?

Prince

I think you're wondering what it would be like to . . . to have some ice cream right now!

Zolushka

I'm ashamed to admit it, Prince, but you're right.

(The Prince runs away excitedly.)

So, happiness, that's how you have finally come to me. You've come as unexpectedly as my Fairy Godmother.

(The waltz ends. She looks around for a clock.)

I wonder what time it is.

Royal Assistant

It is now exactly 10:40, palace time.

Zolushka

A whole hour! Surely my happiness might not leave me even when he sees that I'm just a poor girl. But what if . . . no! I won't even think about it! My Fairy Godmother told me to stop being afraid of what could go wrong and start being excited about what could go right!

Page *(entering)*

Dear Zolushka, I must tell you some sad news. Don't be upset but the King ordered all the clocks to be changed back one hour. He wanted all the guests to dance at the ball a little longer.

Zolushka

Oh, no! So I have almost no time at all!

Page

Almost none. I beg of you, don't be sad. I'm not a magician, I'm just learning, but it seems to me that everything *might* end well.

(Exits)

Zolushka

So, that's all, then.

(Prince enters, and Royal Assistants follow with table and chairs, which they set up)

Prince

This is the best ice cream in the world! I've chosen it myself.

(Zolushka is crying)

What's wrong?

Zolushka

Thank you, Prince. Thank you, dear Prince--for everything: for being so polite, so tender, so caring and kind. But--I wish I'd never met you at all!

Prince

Why are you saying something so sad?

Zolushka

Because it's time for me to go!

Prince

No, I can't let you go! Believe, me, I can't! I . . . I have thought everything through. After having our ice cream, I was going to tell you straight out that I love you! Oh, my goodness?! What am I saying?! Just...just please, don't go!

Zolushka

I must!

Prince

Wait! Oh, I'm not as silly as I may seem to you. It's only because I like you too much. You can't get angry with a person for that!

[Song: The Escape]**Prince**

STOP! NO, WAIT! WHY DO YOU HAVE TO GO?

Zolushka

PLEASE, DEAR PRINCE! THERE'S SO MUCH YOU DON'T KNOW!
I MUST LEAVE BEFORE I SHATTER ALL YOUR DREAMS
FOR I AM NOT EVERYTHING THAT I SEEM.

Prince

WHAT WENT WRONG, WHAT MADE HER RUN AWAY?
SHE JUST UP AND LEFT, WHAT DID I SAY?

Zolushka

I WISH OUR WORLDS WEREN'T SO FAR APART
ALL I CAN OFFER HIM IS MY HEART!

Pumpkin Carriage

IT'S TIME TO SPLIT, THE HOUR'S GETTING LATE

Zolushka

OH WHAT TO DO, I'VE LOST MY SHOE,
I CAN'T KEEP UP, OH WAIT!

Coachman

SISTER LEAVE IT, THERE'S NO TIME TO STOP
LOOKS LIKE FOR NOW, YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO HOP

Zolushka

WOULD THE PINCE REJECT ME IF HE KNEW?

Coachman

A GIRL WHOSE FRIENDS ARE RODENTS?
WOULDN'T YOU?

Pumpkin Carriage

AND THEN, TO GET HOME, IT'S A PUMPKIN YOU GRAB
WHEN MOST ARE CONTENT TO JUST TAKE A CAB

Prince

IT'S ALL MY FAULT, WHERE DID SHE GO? WHAT DID I SAY?

Zolushka

WHAT DID THE PRINCE THINK OF ME WHEN I RAN AWAY?

Pumpkin Carriage

IN OUR DREAMS TONIGHT WILL GO ON AND ON

Coachman

BUT NONE OF US ARE DREAMING ANYMORE

Pumpkin Carriage

NOW WE'LL GO BACK TO THE DULL LIVES WE HAD BEFORE

Zolushka

AND I WILL GO BACK TO SWEEPING THE FLOOR.

Prince and Zolushka

DID I FIND LOVE JUST TO SEE IT DISAPPEAR?

All

LOOKS LIKE OUR WISHES END HERE!

END OF ACT I

Act II

(The Prince is standing on the balcony, pensive and sad. The King enters.)

King

My boy, what happened? Are you sick? I knew it!

Prince

No, father. I'm absolutely healthy.

King

Tsk, tsk, tsk. It's not nice to deceive your elders. The royal chef told me you ordered 40 servings of ice cream! You've had too much. What a shame! You haven't done that since you were six years old. Of course, your stomach froze rock solid and it took us 3 days to thaw it out again.

Prince

I haven't touched the ice cream, father.

King

What do you mean you haven't touched it? Oh! I see. You haven't! Well, what in the world happened to you, then? Son?

[Song: All For Love]

Prince

CAN YOU FEEL THE MOMENT
WHEN YOU CHANGE FROM BOY TO MAN?
COULD IT BE THAT FATEFUL DAY
WHEN SOMEONE TAKES YOUR BREATH AWAY?
AND NOW IT'S FINALLY HAPPENED
SHOULD I USE MY HEAD OR MY HEART?
SMITTEN BY A PRETTY STRANGER
I'LL BRAVE ANY DANGER

BUT WILL I KNOW WHAT I FIGHT FOR--
LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT, OR
CHILDISH FANTASY?
DOES THIS MEAN THAT I'VE CHANGED?

AM I OLDER AND WISER?
WHEN I LOOK IN HER EYES, I'M
LOST FOR WORDS
THIS ISN'T EASY

IF YOU CLIMB A MOUNTAIN
SLAY A DRAGON, CROSS A SEA

Prince (Cont)

FOR HER LOVE AND HERS ALONE
THEN DOES IT MEAN THAT YOU ARE GROWN?

BRAVING ALL YOUR DEMONS
FIGHTING ALL YOUR DARKEST FEARS
THOUGH THE THUNDER ROLLS ABOVE

I'D FACE IT ALL FOR LOVE
SO IF I WEAR MY HEART ON MY SLEEVE
IS IT SAFE TO BELIEVE
MY DREAMS MIGHT STILL COME TRUE?

(The Prince sees Zolushka in his dreams)

AND THERE YOU ARE
WITH THE FACE OF AN ANGEL
CAN'T HELP THINKING IT'S STRANGE HOW
LOVE CAN FIND THE CHILD IN YOU.

(As he approaches her, she disappears, leaving her shoe, which he lovingly picks up)

IF MY WORDS ARE TANGLED
IF I'M CLUMSY, GIVE ME A CHANCE
I ONCE KNEW WHAT TO SAY AND DO
BUT NOT TONIGHT, I'M OVERWHELMED BY YOU!

[Song ends]

Prince

Yes, Father -- I fell in love.

(The King sinks into a chair)

Yes, I fell in love with our mysterious, wonderful, kind, simple and honest stranger. But she ran away so fast that this crystal shoe slipped off her foot on the staircase.

King

You fell in love? Ah ha!! I knew it! Uh . . . or, well, no, actually, I didn't know anything of the sort.

(Throws his crown on the ground)

O.K., that's it. I'm leaving! The heck with everything! To the monastery! You can live as you wish! Why hasn't anyone reported to me that you have grown up already?

Prince

Oh, father, I just sang a whole song to you about it.

King

Really? You mean that--that little . . . thing? Oh, that's right, you did! O.K., O.K., have it your way--I'll stay on the throne. So--my boy has fallen in love! What joy!

Prince

No, father, it's all very sad.

King

Nonsense.

Prince

It's true, she doesn't love me.

King

Ridiculous! What's there not to love? Besides, if she wasn't in love with you, why did she refuse to stay to dinner? Answer me that! She obviously lost her appetite over you. Now then--let's go look for her!

Prince (*Exiting*)

You're right, father--I'll go at once.

King

In the meantime, I'll enlist the help of every soldier and able-bodied townsman in my entire realm!

(*Shouting*)

Guards of the fairy tale kingdom!! Do you hear me?

Guard One (*Offstage*)

We are coming, your majesty!

(*Guards enter*)

Guard Two

Yes, your majesty?

King

Has a girl wearing only one shoe left our kingdom?

Guard One

How many shoes did you say she was wearing?

King

One. Only one.

Guard Two

Was she blonde or brunette?

King

Brunette! Brunette!

How old is she?
Guard One

I don't know, 16, 17, I suppose.
King

Pretty?
Guard Two

Very much so.
King

All right, we understand.
Both Guards
(Pause)

Well?
King

Guard One
No, your majesty, she hasn't left. Nobody has left. Not a single solitary soul.

Guard Two
Yeah, that's right. Not even a fly has flown out of here, your majesty.

King
Then why have you been questioning me in such details?!

Guard One
Uh . . . curiosity?

King
Idiots! You are to let no one out! Understand? Lock the gates! Understand?
O.K., everything is fine. She is in our kingdom, so we'll find her! You know how efficient I am! Gather 'round, please, ladies and gentlemen!
(Townspeople begin to gather)

Do you all know what love is?
(They sigh)

My only son and heir to the throne has fallen in love. And seriously.
(They sigh again)

And then a strange thing occurred. As soon as he started talking to her seriously, she ran away.

Guard One
These things happen.

King

Well, obviously these things happen! Now you all know what you have to do! Let me have that shoe! Mark my words, my son will be married before the week is out!

[Song: We're Gonna Find Her]**King**

WELL DON'T JUST STAND THERE,
'CAUSE THIS IS AN EMERGENCY
IT'S A MATTER OF HONOR!

Townspeople

SHE'LL COME BACK, JUST WAIT AND SEE
DON'T FRET, YOUR MAJESTY
WE'LL DO OUR BEST TO FIND HER
WE'LL DO OUR BEST . . .
TO FIND HER!

Let's advertise!

SAY THE PRINCE WOULD LIKE A WIFE
A GIRL WITH JUST ONE SHOE

King

THAT'S THE WORST IDEA YOU'VE EVER HAD!
THEY'LL THINK THE PRINCE HAS GONE QUITE MAD!

Townspeople

I KNOW, LET'S HIT THE STORES, THEN WE CANNOT LOSE
SEE WHICH GIRLS ARE HOPPING THEN SAY "HEY, MA'AM--
ARE YOU SHOPPING FOR SHOES?"
IF SHE IS HOPPING SHE JUST MIGHT BE SHOPPING FOR SHOES!!

King

STOP WASTING ALL THIS TIME--THIS IS AN EMERGENCY
WE HAVE GOT TO FIND HER

Townspeople

IF SHE HAS NO MEMORY OF
THE PRINCE'S WORDS OF LOVE
IT'S OUR DUTY TO REMIND HER.
WE MUST FIND HER . .
SO WE CAN REMIND HER!

(The music continues, underscoring the dialogue)

King

Now then, what can we do? We must look for her! The Mistress of Ballroom dancing and I know her personally. We will ride back and forth and look through our binoculars. And you'll

King (Cont)

try to catch her with the help of this crystal shoe. I ask you all to do the following: Catch all the girls that you see and try the slipper on them. The girl whose foot the slipper fits will be the prince's bride.

Townspeople

LOST HEART AND LOST HER SHOE
 WONDER IF SHE EVEN KNEW
 WHAT SHE LEFT BEHIND HER
 THIS COULD BE DISASTROUS
 SO NOW IT'S UP TO US
 AND WE'RE GONNA FIND HER!
 WE KNOW WE ARE GONNA FIND HER!
 WE'RE GONNA FIND THAT GIRL!

(Townspeople run off as lights fade. Lights come up on a very sad Zolushka)

[Song: All For Love (reprise)]**Zolushka**

LIKE EACH TINY SNOWFLAKE
 WAS IT JUST TOO PERFECT TO LAST?
 THOUGH I FOUND YOUR LOVE, IT SEEMS
 LAST NIGHT LIVES ONLY IN MY DREAMS

Prince

MY LIFE'S WITHOUT A PURPOSE
 TILL THE DAY I FIND YOU AGAIN
 I HAVE NOTHING LEFT TO GIVE YOU
 FOR MY HEART WENT WITH YOU

Both

BUT YOU ARE WORTH THIS PAIN THAT I GO THROUGH
 SOMEHOW I KNOW -- YOU
 CAN'T BE FAR AWAY
 YOU'RE THE FIRST AND THE LAST
 THERE WILL NEVER BE ANOTHER

Prince

IF I SEARCH THE WORLD OVER
 THERE'S A CHANCE I'LL FIND YOU SOMEDAY

Zolushka

MY HEART BELONGS TO YOU NOW

Prince

WHAT CAN I DO BUT FOLLOW MY HEART?

Both

AND IF WISHES DO COME TRUE
PERHAPS MY HEART WILL LEAD ME STRAIGHT TO YOU.

(The song is over. She stops suddenly, horrified. She covers her face as the Prince enters.)

Prince

Have I frightened you? Don't be afraid. I'm not a robber, not an evil person. I'm just an unhappy prince. I've been wandering around the forest since sunrise and haven't found peace from my misfortune. Could you help me?

(She turns away)

Tell me, who was singing just now in the forest, not far away? Have you met anyone?

(She shakes her head)

I have to find a girl and ask her why she had to run away and hurt me like she did. No, no, don't go, stay! Show me your face.

(She shakes her head)

There is something very familiar about your hands, in the way you lower your head . . . and your long, beautiful hair . . . were you at the ball yesterday? If it was you, please don't leave me anymore. If an evil magician cast a spell on you, I'll kill him! If you are a poor girl without any title, I'll only be glad. If you don't love me, then I'll perform heroic feats and you will love me, eventually. Say one word at least. No, no, it *is* you. I feel it *must* be you!

(He steps toward her, but she disappears into the woods).

Zolushka

I saw the Prince! What has happened to me? I don't know what I didn't tell him the truth! I wanted to see him so much but as soon as I saw him I started to tremble as if I'd seen a wolf. Oh, how simple everything was yesterday and how strange it is today!

(blackout. Lights up on Stepmother and Stepdaughter)

[Reprise: Men of Higher Quality]**Stepmother**

I THINK LAST NIGHT WAS A RUNAWAY SUCCESS
MY DEARS, I THOUGHT THAT I WOULD BURST WITH PRIDE

Sara

HE SMILED AT ME

Anna

WELL, HE SAID 'HELLO' TO ME

Stepmother

AS LONG AS I'M THE MOTHER OF THE PRINCE'S BRIDE
ONE OF YOU HAS WON HIM OVER

Sara

AW, TOO BAD, SIS

Anna

HA! YEAH, TOO BAD FOR *YOU!*

Sara

I'M PRETTIER!

Anna

WELL, I'M SMARTER!

Stepmother

GIRLS! THAT WILL DO!

Anna

WHEN I TALKED WITH HIM I REALLY MADE HIM LAUGH

Sara

WITH A FACE LIKE YOURS, I'M NOT SURPRISED
I ENRAPTURED HIM, IT'S A QUALITY I HAVE

Anna

HOW POLITE, HE KEPT HIS BOREDOM WELL DISGUISED

Sara

MOMMY, WAS IT ME OR ANNA?

Anna and Sara

YEAH, MOM, IF YOU WERE IN THE PRINCE'S SHOES
HOW WOULD YOU KNOW JUST WHICH ONE OF US TO CHOOSE?
WE'RE BOTH SO BEAUTIFUL AND SO REFINED
HOWEVER CAN THE PRINCE MAKE UP HIS MIND?

Stepmother

WHEN HE DECIDES WHICH ONE OF YOU TO WED
MAYBE HE'LL GIVE THE LOSER CASH INSTEAD

Anna and Sara

IS THAT WHAT HE SAID?

Stepmother

No.

Anna and Sara

Oh.

Sara

WE BOTH TOOK NOTE OF EVERYTHING YOU SAID

Anna

WE ONLY JUDGED THE MEN BY THEIR MONEY

Sara

WE BATTED OUR EYES AND GIGGLED AT THEIR JOKES

Anna and Sara

EVEN WHEN WE THOUGHT THEY WEREN'T TOO FUNNY
IT WAS OUR NIGHT TO BAG A HUSBAND
AND WEALTH MEANS MORE THAN PERSONALITY
WE ONLY AIMED FOR MEN OF HIGHER QUALITY!

(Song ends and Zolushka enters)

Stepmother

Where have you wandered all this time, bad girl? Follow the example of my daughters. They sit at home all the time doing absolutely nothing and fate rewards them for it. In fact, I wouldn't be surprised if the prince is going to marry one of the girls in this very room!

Zolushka *(Blushing)*

But . . . how *could* he, Stepmother?

Stepmother

How do you dare doubt it, Miss Utterly Worthless?

Zolushka

Oh, I'm sorry, mother, but I thought you were talking about *me*.

(They look at each other and burst into laughter)

Stepmother

I forgive you, you self-admiring girl, because I'm in a good mood today.

Anna

Hey, Sara, let's go stand by the fence.

Sara

O.K. Yeah, some important person may walk by and we can yell "hello"

Stepmother

A splendid idea! Follow us, Zolushka, and I'll think of what to order you to do.

(They exit the house and are taken by surprise as soldiers and townspeople run past them. Suddenly a soldier sees them and shouts "Girls!". They scream as the soldiers rush back and approach them)

Guard One *(Saluting)*

I beg your pardon, ma'am. Everyone knows that it's impolite to point at ladies, and even less polite to yell at them.

Stepmother

I know that, soldier. So why did you do it?

Guard Two

We're trying to find the prince's bride, madam.

(The ladies gasp)

You won't believe me madam, how many girls we have passed today, and how many more girls we have scared to death, but orders are orders. Could your daughters try on this shoe for me?

Stepmother

Exactly what size is it?

Guard Two

I'm sure I don't know that, ma'am, but the one the shoe fits will be the prince's bride.

Stepmother

Soldier, call the King! The slipper fits one of my daughters perfectly!

Guard One

But madam--!

Stepmother

Call the King. I will be very grateful to you. Do you understand me? Very! I will shower you with gold!

Guard Two

Well, thank you very much for that, but how can we call the King without even trying it on?

Stepmother

I have vodka. Two kegs. Did you hear?

Guard One

Did I ever!--and it's not that we aren't very grateful, but orders are orders.

Stepmother

Oh, for heaven's sake, give me the shoe!

Stepmother (Cont)

(She tries it on Anna, who moans. She tries it on Sara, who grunts)
Does this come in any other sizes?

Guard Two

No, madam.

Stepmother

(She tries it again, but in vain)
There's only one thing left to do. Zolushka!

Zolushka

Yes, mother?

Stepmother

Zolushka, I have quarreled with you sometimes, but you shouldn't get your feelings hurt, my girl. I have always wanted only what was best for you. So pay me back now for all I've done for you. You can do everything. Your hands are blessed. Put this shoe on Anna.

Sara

Hey!

Zolushka

But mother, I . . .

Stepmother

I beg of you, my little one, my darling, my most beloved daughter.
(Zolushka can't resist her tender words. She approaches Anna and carefully, miraculously, she manages to put the slipper on Anna's foot)

Stepmother

It's done! Finished! Congratulations, Anna! Oops! I mean, your royal highness! It's done! Sara, don't be sad! I will find a husband for you as well. Soldiers! Why are you standing there with your mouths open? Yell "hooray" to the royal bride!

Guards

(With no enthusiasm)
Hooray.

Stepmother

Call the King!
(The royal trumpeter blows a very lackluster horn and townspeople begin to gather)

[Song: If the Shoe Fits]

Stepmother

SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS THROUGHOUT THE LAND
MY BABY'S WON THE PRINCE'S HAND

Anna

NOW WE'LL BE UP WHERE WE SHOULD BE
WITH THE CREAM OF SOCIETY!

Townspeople

IF WEALTH AND STATUS ISN'T INBRED
YOU SIMPLY MARRY IT INSTEAD

Stepmother

THAT'S THE THING TO DO, DEAR,
AND NOW, THANKS TO THE SHOE
IT'S CLEARLY WORKED FOR YOU

Sara

BUT NOT FOR ME, MOM!

Anna

I'LL INVITE YOU TO THE PALACE!

Townspeople

KEEPING UP WITH ROYALTY'S SUCH A BIND
IF YOU GET LEFT BEHIND YOU FALL FROM GRACE
YOU CAN BEAT SOCIETY AT THE GAME
AS LONG AS YOU SCREAM YOUR NAME
AND SHOW YOUR FACE!

(The King runs up excitedly, followed by the Mistress of Ballroom Dancing)

King

I HEARD THE TRUMPET, DOES IT MEAN
THAT YOU HAVE FOUND THE FUTURE QUEEN?
PLEASE LET ME THROUGH NOW I MUST SEE
MY KINGDOM'S NEW PRINCESS-TO-BE . . .

Where is she, the little darling? Where is she, my daughter?

Stepmother

There she is, your majesty!

(Pointing at Anna triumphantly)

King (*Confused*)

Where?

Stepmother

Right *here*, your majesty!

King

Nonsense.

Stepmother

But . . . but your majesty, look at her *feet*, your majesty.

King

Why would I look at her *feet*? I can see from her *face* it's not her.

Stepmother

But the crystal shoe *fit*, your majesty.

King

So what? It's still not her--that much I know.

Stepmother

OH NO, YOU DON'T, YOUR MAJESTY
THE SHOE'S A PERFECT FIT , IT'S PLAIN TO SEE!
A SOVEREIGN'S WORD IS GOLD
AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT WE'VE ALL BEEN TOLD.
IF THE SHOE FITS, SHE'LL WEAR IT!

King

HOW CAN I EVER BEAR IT?
WHAT POSSESSED ME TO HAVE MADE SUCH A VOW
I HAVE A STRANGE FEELING I'LL REGRET IT NOW!

Townspeople

THOUGH THE KING IS REALLY GOOD AND KIND,
IT'S CLEAR TO SEE THAT HE HAS LOST HIS MIND!
THERE MUST BE OVER A HUNDRED GIRLS WHO
COULD EASILY SLIP THEIR FOOT INSIDE OF THAT SHOE!

King

PLEASE, DEAR LADY, DON'T DO THIS TO ME
SHE'S NOT THE ONE, IT'S PLAIN TO SEE
THIS GIRL IS BLONDE AND NOT SO TALL
SHE'S NOT THE SAME GIRL AT ALL!

Stepmother

YOU CAN'T BACK OUT, YOUR MAJESTY
DON'T GROVEL! WHERE'S YOUR DIGNITY?
THE DEED IS DONE, WE ALL HAVE SEEN
THE SHOE HAS FIT THE FUTURE QUEEN
IS HER FOOT THE PERFECT SIZE?

Anna (*Moaning in pain*)

Sort of.

Stepmother

SO SHE'S THE PRINCESS UNLESS YOU WERE TELLING LIES.

Townspeople

FACE THE FACTS, THE SEARCH IS OVER, THE SHOE FITS
THERE'S NOTHING LEFT TO DO BUT CALL IT QUITS!

King

HOW COULD THINGS HAVE TURNED OUT SO BAD
I HAVE A FEELING I'VE BEEN HAD!

Townspeople

NOW THAT THE KING IS UP AGAINST THE WALL
THE MONASTERY'S NOT SUCH A BAD IDEA . . .
AFTER ALL!

Stepmother

No, your majesty--the deal is final. Where is that husband of mine?

(Forest Keeper enters)

Oh, there you are. Your daughter is going to marry the Prince!

Forest Keeper

Zolushka?

Stepmother

Zolushka? No!!! *This* daughter! What are you standing there like a stump for? Yell "hooray!"

King

Aw, darn it. What an unpleasant turn of events this is. What is there for us to do now, Mistress of Ballroom Dancing?

Mistress of Ballroom Dancing

Why, to dance, of course!

(She approaches Anna)

Allow me, my dear, to teach you some basic ballet steps. You'll need to learn ballet if you're to marry the Prince.

(Anna reluctantly gets up to dance)

[Song: Not Going to Be Easy]

Mistress of Ballroom Dancing

FOLLOW ME
AND WE'LL SEE
JUST WHAT YOU ARE MADE OF
DON'T BE SHY
HAVE A TRY
DON'T BE AFRAID

Anna

IS THIS RIGHT?

Mistress of Ballroom Dancing

NO, NOT QUITE
I CAN SEE
THIS IS NOT GOING TO BE EASY.
WATCH ME NOW
THIS IS HOW
YOU SHOULD DO A PL'IE
OH DEAR!
NO DEAR!
BEND FROM THE KNEE!
THIS WILL NOT BE QUITE SO EASY I FEAR
NEVER MIND, FOR I LIKE A CHALLENGE DEAR
DON'T MAKE
EACH STEP YOU TAKE
SO LOUD AND HEAVY

Anna

JUST WAIT TILL I'M A ROYAL BRIDE
DANCING WILL BE BANNED, IT'S SO POINTLESS AND DUMB!
AND IF THAT'S UNFAIR
I DON'T CARE!

Townspeople

WATCH HER JUMP!
WHAT A LUMP!
DANCES LIKE A ROCK!

Townspeople

POOR PRINCE!
WON'T HE WINCE!
BOUND TO GET A SHOCK!

Mistress of Ballroom Dancing

NOT LIKE THAT!
 BOTH FEET FLAT!
 OH DEAR ME
 THIS IS NOT GOING TO BE EASY

Townspeople

ELEGANCE, WHEN YOU DANCE
 THAT'S WHAT REALLY COUNTS
 STEPPING LIGHT
 LEFT AND RIGHT

Mistress of Ballroom Dancing

NO DEAR, THAT'S A FLOUNCE!
 NO ONE SAID THAT THIS WOULD BE EASY I KNOW

All

TRY AND SMILE, RELAX AND JUST TAKE IT SLOW
 LIGHT, THINK LIGHT, LIGHT AS A FEATHER

Sara

FAT CHANCE
 YOU DANCE
 JUST LIKE A HEIFER!

Anna (*Shrieking*)

Momma!!!!

Mistress of Ballroom Dancing

What's wrong with you, my beauty? Why are you limping? Look! The shoe has run away from you!

(She picks up the shoe and tries it on Anna)

But this shoe is incredibly small for you! What kind of miracle worker was able to get this shoe on your big feet?

Sara

Me, me! Try me!!

(She tries the shoe on Sara)

Mistress of Ballroom Dancing

Alas, miss, it's too small for you, too.

Stepmother

It doesn't mean a thing! It obviously didn't fit the unknown bride, either, since she lost the shoe at the palace.

Mistress of Ballroom Dancing

Yes, but you see, in her case, the shoe was a little too *big*.

King

It's all right, it's all right. These things happen, don't get upset, miss. Are there any more girls here?

Forest Keeper

There is my daughter, your majesty.

King

But you told me she was only a little girl.

Forest Keeper

That's what I thought yesterday, my sovereign.

(He brings Zolushka, who is resisting, to the King. The sisters laugh)

King

I order you not to giggle! Don't be embarrassed, poor girl. Look into my eyes.

Oh, what is this? What a familiar face you have! Have her try on the shoe immediately.

(The Mistress of Ballroom Dancing obeys)

Mistress of Ballroom Dancing

Your majesty! The shoe fits! Wait a minute, what's this?

(She takes the other shoe out of Zolushka's apron pocket)

Your majesty, look! It is she!

(The King laughs merrily and kisses Zolushka, as the ladies cry and moan)

King

Where's the Prince? Get me the Prince. Quickly! Quickly!

(The royal assistant enters)

Where's the Prince?

Royal Assistant

Your majesty, in order to rid himself of his sadness and misery, his royal highness chose to escape to a faraway land, at eleven o'clock, palace time, never again to return.

(The King cries, the ladies smile triumphantly)

Zolushka

Oh, no. It's all my fault! Why didn't I talk to him in the forest? He'll perish now, and all because of my shyness. Prince! Dear Prince! Where are you? Where are you, Prince?

Page

He is here!

(The Page enters, leading the Prince by the hand. The King laughs & the ladies cry)

I am not a magician. I am just learning. But for those I love I am capable of many wonders.

(Mysterious music plays and the Fairy Godmother enters).

Fairy Godmother

Well, Stepmother, what do you have to say to all this?

Stepmother

Well, I . . . I . . .

Fairy Godmother

It looks like the shoe's on the other foot now, doesn't it!

(To Zolushka)

King

The wedding! Quickly, quickly, to the palace for the wedding!

Prince

Wait! Zolushka hasn't even said yet if she loves me or not!

King *(To Zolushka)*

Well? Do you?

Prince

Father!

(Shyly, Zolushka approaches the Prince. They get close. Suddenly, the Fairy Godmother waves her wand; mysterious music plays and everyone freezes. She addresses the audience)

Fairy Godmother

I must confess, I don't really think it's necessary that we see them, uh . . . working things out. And so, my friends, we have attained happiness at last. The Prince and my dear goddaughter will have a little girl—an exact copy of Zolushka—and she and the page boy will fall in love. So everyone is happy, except for the wicked Stepmother. But she, as you know, was quite guilty. Connections are connections, but one must have some scruples. Someday you may be held accountable for all you've done in life, and no connections are going to make your foot small, your soul big, or your heart just.

[Song: Happy Ever After (finale)]

All

ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL
FOR ZOLUSHKA AND THE PRINCE.
AND THE PAST FORGIVEN
LET'S SHAKE HANDS AND ALL BE FRIENDS
SO WHEN THIS STORY ENDS
WE CAN GO ON LIVIN'
HAPPILY EVER AFTER

Anna

I WAS JUST A STEP AWAY FROM A LIFE OF LUXURY

Sara

THEN IT'S SNATCHED AWAY BEFORE OUR EYES!

Stepmother

DON'T EVEN GET A CONSOLATION PRIZE

Fairy Godmother

CAN'T SEE THE WONDERS AT YOUR FEET
WITH NOSES IN THE AIR
MONEY ISN'T EVERYTHING

Sara

IT IS TO US!

Company

LADIES, PLEASE DON'T DESPAIR
THE PRINCE HAS DOZENS
OF DISTANT COUSINS
TO SPARE

Stepsisters

Where? Where?

King

LONG LIVE THE PRINCE AND HIS NEW WIFE
LET'S BRING THIS TOWN TO LIFE

All

WITH THE SOUND OF PEOPLE SINGING
HAPPILY EVER AFTER

Stepmother

OH, BY THE WAY, MY CHILD
ALL THOSE THINGS WE SAID
THEY WERE ONLY MEANT IN FUN
DON'T CROSS US OFF YOUR GUEST LIST, HON

Zolushka

STEPMOTHER, NEVER FEAR, I FORGIVE YOU ALL

Company

WHO HAS THE UPPER HAND NOW?
THE OLD GIRL LOST

Company (Cont)

NOW IT'S HER TURN TO CRAWL
DIDN'T KNOW THAT ZOLUSHKA
WOULD BE THE BELLE OF THE BALL!

(The townspeople hand the Stepmother a broom which she passes onto her daughters)

King

LET'S THROW A PARTY CUZ I'M SO HAPPY I COULD CRY
IT'LL BE A RIOT

Anna

WE'LL BE HIGH SOCIETY

Sara

WE'LL LIVE IN LUXURY

Forest Keeper (spoken)

...And I'll get some peace and quiet!

Company

WE'LL LIVE HAPPY EVER AFTER
WE'LL LIVE HAPPY EVER AFTER....AFTER ALL!

END OF PLAY