

La Cenicientola



GIOACHINO ROSSINI

La Cenerentola

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Angelina, known as Cenerentola (Cinderella), is treated miserably by her foolish stepfather, Don Magnifico, and her vain stepsisters. Forced to work as their maid, she dreams of a better life. Then one day, the news comes that Prince Ramiro is looking for a bride, the most beautiful girl in all the land—and he's holding a ball that evening to find her.

Seeing a golden opportunity for social climbing, Magnifico and his daughters head gleefully to Ramiro's palace, leaving a heartbroken Cenerentola behind. With help from a mysterious benefactor, though, Cenerentola finds her way to the ball. Dressed to impress, she wows the assembled crowd—including the prince, who declares his love.

Cenerentola soon tires of the deception, and she offers the prince a challenge: If her can find her again—and love her for who she truly is—then she will agree to marry him. She leaves Ramiro determined to win both his bride and a fairy-tale ending.



Angelina
A young woman,
called "Cenerentola"



Ramiro
A prince



Don Magnifico
Angelina's stepfather



Tisbe and Clorinda
Angelina's stepsisters



Alidoro
A mysterious, benevolent figure



Dandini
Ramiro's valet

Angelina waits on her cruel stepsisters hand and foot. As she works, she sings a song about a king who married a poor young woman with a good heart.


ONCE UPON A TIME
THERE WAS A KING ...

BEGGAR! GET
OUT OF HERE!

CHARITY,
PLEASE.

EWWW!
GO AWAY!

There is a knock at the door, and a beggar appears. Clorinda and Tisbe are repulsed by his haggard appearance and try to send him away, but Angelina offers him food and drink.



Don Magnifico has had a dream featuring a donkey flying over a church steeple. He interprets it as a sign that his family will enjoy great riches in the future.



THAT DONKEY IS ME!

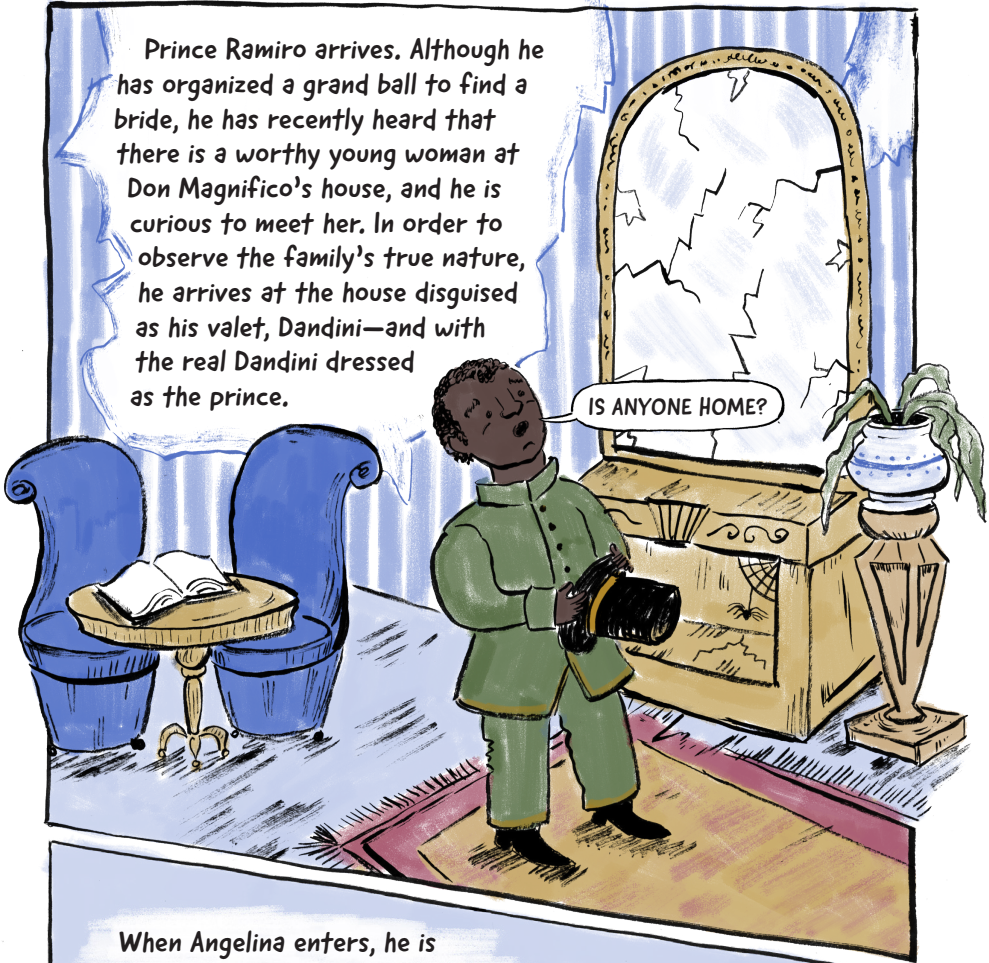


GRANDPA WILL HAVE A DOZEN BABIES TO HUG!

A LITTLE KING HERE,
A TINY KING THERE.

WHAT GLORY
FOR ME!

Prince Ramiro arrives. Although he has organized a grand ball to find a bride, he has recently heard that there is a worthy young woman at Don Magnifico's house, and he is curious to meet her. In order to observe the family's true nature, he arrives at the house disguised as his valet, Dandini—and with the real Dandini dressed as the prince.



When Angelina enters, he is instantly charmed by her kindness.

THERE'S AN INDESCRIBABLE SPARKLE IN HER EYES.

I'VE NEVER FELT THIS WAY BEFORE ...



The stepsisters, meanwhile, are getting ready for the prince's ball.



Angelina begs to be allowed to go, but Don Magnifico cruelly orders her to stay home.

Angelina is heartbroken. The beggar returns. Throwing off his tattered cloak, he reveals himself to be the angel Alidoro. As Angelina looks on in wonder, he produces a beautiful dress and wonderful jewelry for her to wear to the ball.





SHE'S AS DULL AS DISHWATER.

LADIES! YOU'LL TEAR ME IN TWO!

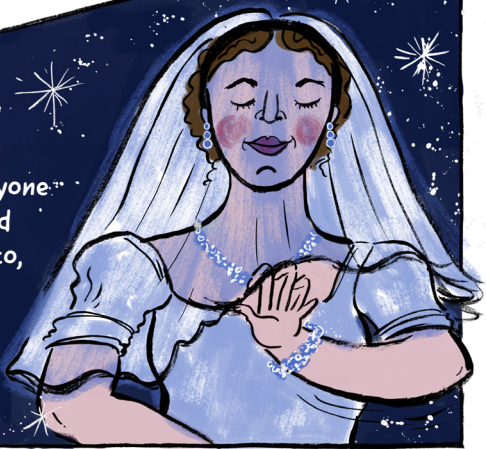
SHE KNOWS NOTHING!

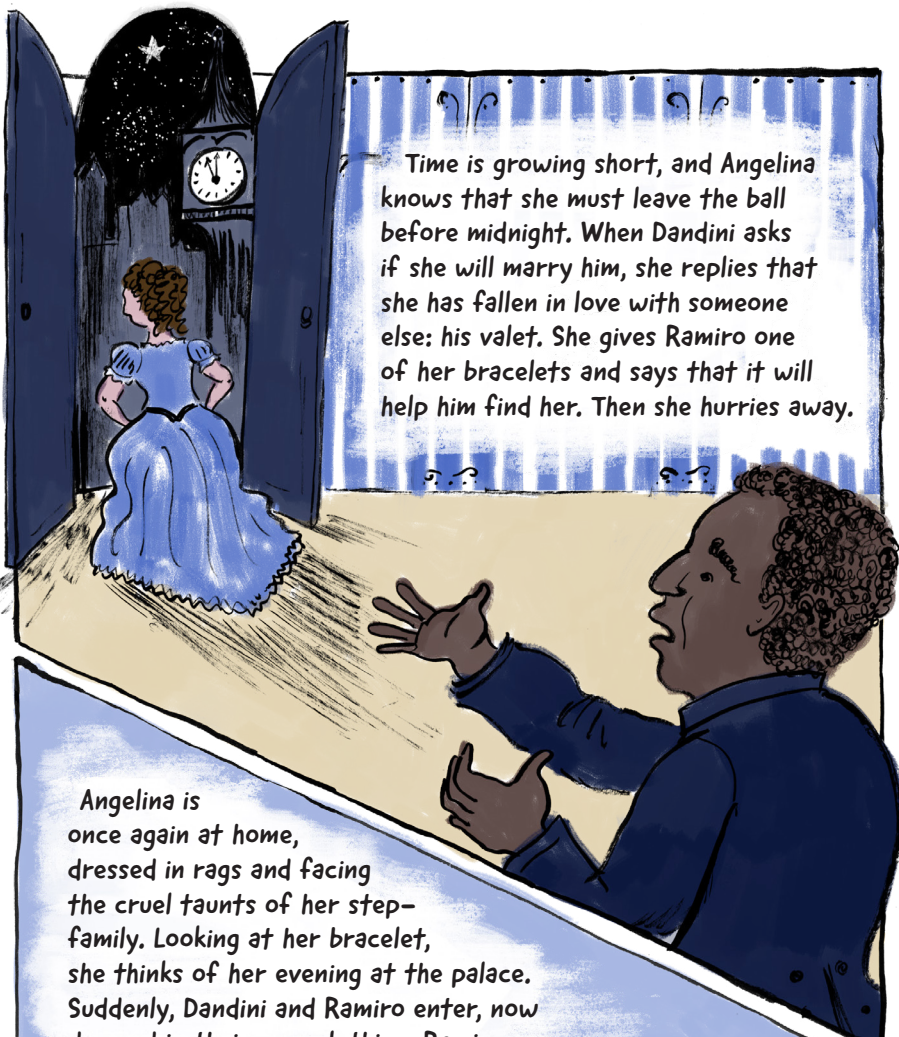
Both Clorinda and Tisbe are convinced that the prince (actually Dandini in disguise) will choose them. They flirt shamelessly with Dandini ...



... while Don Magnifico gets drunk in the palace's wine cellar.

Suddenly a radiant, unknown woman arrives at the ball. Everyone admires her elegant clothing and demeanor. Ramiro, Don Magnifico, and Clorinda and Tisbe all think she looks familiar, but none of them can place her. Of course, it's Angelina.





Time is growing short, and Angelina knows that she must leave the ball before midnight. When Dandini asks if she will marry him, she replies that she has fallen in love with someone else: his valet. She gives Ramiro one of her bracelets and says that it will help him find her. Then she hurries away.

Angelina is once again at home, dressed in rags and facing the cruel taunts of her step-family. Looking at her bracelet, she thinks of her evening at the palace. Suddenly, Dandini and Ramiro enter, now dressed in their own clothing. Ramiro instantly recognizes Angelina as the woman from the ball.



WHAT HAPPINESS.

YOU ARE THE PRINCE?



SCANDAL! HORROR!
WE CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

Ramiro, overjoyed, announces that he loves Angelina and will marry her. Don Magnifico and the stepsisters are furious. But Angelina, choosing love and kindness over hatred and spite, forgives them.



HOW MY FORTUNE HAS CHANGED!

In the palace once again, Angelina and Ramiro celebrate their marriage with a glorious wedding.