

# Zolushka

## The Russian Cinderella

*Music by*  
Steven W Rodgers

*Lyrics by*  
Wendy Christopher

Arrangements and additional lyrics  
by Steven W Rodgers

Based on the Play *Zolushka*  
by Yevgeny Shvarts

translated from the Russian and adapted by  
Antonina Rodgers

# *Cast of Characters*

(4M,7W + EXTRAS)

## **The Stepmother**

**Zolushka**, her stepdaughter

## **The King of the Fairy Tale Kingdom**

**His son**, the Prince

**Anna** , a stepdaughter

**Sara**, a stepdaughter

## **Fairy Godmother**

## **Mistress of Ballroom Dancing**

**The Forest Keeper**, the Stepmother's husband

**The Page**, Assistant to the Fairy Godmother

## **Pumpkin Carriage**

# *Musical Numbers*

## ACT ONE

1. OVERTURE / PRELUDE.....Orchestra
2. FAIRYTALE LAND .....Company
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. CINDER SHUFFLE..... Orchestra
11. THE ESCAPE.....Zolushka, Prince, Pumpkin, Coachman

## ACT TWO

12. ENTR'ACTE.....Orchestra
13. ALL FOR LOVE .....Prince
14. WE'RE GONNA FIND HER..... King, Soldiers, and Townspeople
15. ALL FOR LOVE (reprise).....Zolushka and 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 (finale).....Company

## Act I

### [Overture/prelude]

*Overture plays. At the end, an instrumental version of “All For Love” plays. 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!

*(Zolushka has heard this last bit and listens in anticipation)***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?

**Zolushka (Cont)**

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.

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... just 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. Why are you then, my sunshine, so unbelievably 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*)

**Anna** (*Cont*)

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. They don't love anyone, don't think about anything, don't do anything . . . and yet they manage to live even better than some real fairies. It's kind of discouraging. But 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! Stop being afraid of what could go wrong and start being excited about what could go right. Always believe something wonderful is about to happen!

**Zolushka**

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

**Godmother**

Don't you fret, my dear! That's what Fairy Godmothers are for!

**Zolushka**

Oh, thank you, Godmother! But . . . I'm wearing such a dress, that . . .

**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.

*(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

**Pumpkin (Cont)**

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, though 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.

**King (Cont)**

*(She jumps even higher)*  
Extremely glad.

*(She jumps even higher)*  
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  
 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

**Party Goers**

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  
 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 FADE 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)*

As you wish!

**[Instrumental: The Dance]**

*(Everyone dances a crazy dance. As the music fades, all exit Except for the Prince and Zolushka).*

**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?! Don't go!

**Zolushka**

I must!

**Prince**

Wait, please! 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 PRINCE 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!

**King** (*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!

**Guard One**

How old is she?

**King**

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

**Guard Two**

Pretty?

**King**

Very much so.

**Both Guards**

All right, we understand.

*(Pause)*

**King**

Well?

**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!

*(Townspople 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 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

*(The Prince enters on the opposite side of the stage. Neither see one another)*

**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 she sees the Prince.)*

**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 can't see your face, but I think . . . I don't know why, but I think that you are a kind girl. Please, help me! I'm so sad as I've never been before in my life. I have to find a . . . I absolutely 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, 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



**Stepmother (Cont)**

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).*

**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!

*(She tries it on Anna, who moans. She tries it on Sara, who grunts)*

Do you have 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! That's all. So, now they'll know who's who in the royal palace. I will have my own rules! 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*)

Well . . . 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

**Townsppeople**

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!!!!

*(The song ends).*

**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!

**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.

**[Song: Happy Ever After (finale)]**

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.

**All**

ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL  
 FOR ZOLUSHKA AND THE PRINCE  
 AND THE PAST FORGIVEN

**All (Cont)**

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 ONE STEP AWAY  
 FROM A LIFE OF LUXURY

**Sara**

THEN IT'S SNATCHED AWAY BEFORE OUR EYES  
 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

**Anna and Sara**

IT IS TO US!

**Townpeople**

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 (To Zolushka)**

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

*(The townspeople hand the Stepmother a broom and has her sweep the floor)*

**Townspeople**

WHO HAS THE UPPER HAND NOW?  
THE OLD GIRL LOST  
NOW IT'S HER TURN TO CRAWL!  
DIDN'T KNOW THAT ZOLUSHKA  
WOULD BE THE BELLE OF THE BALL!

**King**

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

**Anna**

WE'LL BE HIGH SOCIETY

**Sara**

WE'LL LIVE IN LUXURY

*(Music pauses abruptly)*

**Forest Keeper**

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

*(The Stepmother gives him a stern look)*

*(Music resumes)*

**All**

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

***Blackout***

**END OF PLAY**