

Cinderella-2 Christopher-1

CINDERELLA

49

Scene Two The Royal Gardens

[MUSIC NO. 15A "PLAYOFF POLKA AND UNDERScore"]

*(Immediately following. As the COUPLES
polka offstage to another part of the palace,
CHRISTOPHER strolls downstage with CINDERELLA
as the scene begins to shift. A full moon
illuminates a beautiful garden, which includes
statuary, a bench, and upstage topiary.)*

Start

CHRISTOPHER. May I ask you something?

CINDERELLA. Within reason.

CHRISTOPHER. What brought you here tonight?

CINDERELLA. Well, it's kind of a long story. My family didn't
want me to come. In fact, they don't even know I'm
here.

CHRISTOPHER. I'm glad you are.

*(The others are gradually fading upstage and
off.)*

The truth is I almost didn't come myself.

CINDERELLA. How could a prince not show up for his own
ball?

CHRISTOPHER. Don't you think it's all a little...medieval?
I guess it's no secret that my folks are anxious to marry
me off. You know - being heir to the throne and all. But
this whole thing makes me feel like some kind of a...a
prized bull or something.

CINDERELLA. *(Teasing him, playing the femme fatale.)*
Every eligible young maiden vying to be your devoted
servant, forever and forever?

CHRISTOPHER. Servants I got. What I need is...someone
I can really talk to.

(They share a look of understanding.)

(Music has concluded.)

CINDERELLA. It's beautiful out here.

CHRISTOPHER. *(Never taking his eyes off her.)* Yes, it is.

(He tries drawing close to her, but she turns away nervously.)

You're not like most girls, are you?

CINDERELLA. Not like the girls you meet, I suppose.

CHRISTOPHER. Actually, I don't meet that many girls. I lead a pretty sheltered life.

CINDERELLA. So do I.

CHRISTOPHER. Really? Every day, same old - same old?

CINDERELLA. Having no life of your own...

CHRISTOPHER. ...The same silly arguments...

CINDERELLA. ...Until you just want to run away...

CINDERELLA & CHRISTOPHER. ...And never come back!

(They laugh at having completed each other's thought.)

CHRISTOPHER. It seems like we have a lot in common.

CINDERELLA. Oh... I'm not so sure about that. After all, you don't really know me.

CHRISTOPHER. But I'd like to. And I want you to know me.

(Taking her hands.)

Look, I know we've just met and it's crazy and everything but...

(He looks deep into her eyes...then chickens out.)

Would you like to see the rest of the gardens?

CINDERELLA. I'd love to.

~~[MUSIC NO. 16 "STEPSISTERS' LAMENT"]~~

~~(An orchestral sting, and JOY peeks out from behind a topiary, unseen by CHRISTOPHER and CINDERELLA, as they stroll off romantically.)~~

~~JOY. Did you get a good look at her?~~

End

Christopher-2 Lionel

CINDERELLA

25

Start

Scene Three A A Palace Corridor

(Immediately following. CHRISTOPHER enters, followed by LIONEL.)

LIONEL. So tell me, why did you disappear again this morning after I've begged you...

CHRISTOPHER. I had a remarkable day! No one treated me like a prince. I was just a normal person.

LIONEL. You know what? Normal people? Not all they're cracked up to be. *I'm* a normal person. Doesn't that tell you anything? They're all out there wishing they could be *you*.

CHRISTOPHER. Because they don't know what it's really like.

LIONEL. Look - you're rich, you live in a gorgeous palace, you've got every woman in the kingdom throwing herself at you. Is there something I'm not getting?

CHRISTOPHER. I have no life of my own. Everything gets decided for me. You should know that better than anyone, always hanging over me like a cloud, everywhere I go, everything I do. I mean - get a life.

LIONEL. I got a life and it's you! I'm your royal steward and I'm telling you - this disappearing act has got to stop. It's too dangerous.

CHRISTOPHER. I was careful.

LIONEL. Not you - me! I can't keep lying to your mother about where you are. They got laws against that. Now what say we slip into something less comfortable.

(He helps CHRISTOPHER into a robe.)

~~[MUSIC NO. 06 "THE SWEETEST SOUNDS (REPRISE)"]~~

~~*(The scene begins to shift.)*~~

CHRISTOPHER.

~~THE MOST ENTRENCHING SIGHT OF ALL
IS YET FOR ME TO SEE~~

End