

EVERYBODY'S EVER AFTER

by
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CINDERELLA (holding up a dummy prince)
and FAIRY GODMOTHER.

CINDERELLA

Why, yes, Your Highness, I will marry you and I look forward to spending the remainder of my days in relaxation and comfort! I deserve it!

GODMOTHER

And so Cinderella and her Prince, they all lived happily...ever...

AUDIENCE MEMBER

(Waving) Wait a minute, wait a minute! That's the worst ending I ever heard!

GODMOTHER

What are you talking about? It's a perfectly good ending. (Forcefully) They *all* lived happily ever...

AUDIENCE MEMBER

(Standing) No they didn't. Not everyone. Just these two.

GODMOTHER

And what's wrong with that?

CINDERELLA

Why are you interrupting my happily ever after?

AUDIENCE MEMBER

(Coming up on stage) Because even though everything is wonderful for you that doesn't mean everything is wonderful for everyone else. Think about how you used to live. Think of how hard it is for the servants in the castle. Now that you're a princess, you can change things.

CINDERELLA

What, you expect me to change the world?

AUDIENCE MEMBER

Of course not. You start with baby steps. Form a committee! Volunteer! Fund a charitable organization! Then grow and do more. Don't waste your life sitting there looking pretty!

GODMOTHER

She is pretty, isn't she.

CINDERELLA

I am, aren't I.

AUDIENCE MEMBER

You can be more than pretty!

PRINCE puts hand over MEMBER's mouth.
SHE pushes it away.

MEMBER

Hey!

CINDERELLA

I can't do anything. I'm just a princess. He's the one in charge.

PRINCE pats CINDERELLA.

AUDIENCE MEMBER

Haven't you ever heard the expression - "Ask not what your kingdom can do for you - ask what you can do for your kingdom?"

PRINCE puts hand over MEMBER's mouth.
SHE pushes it away.

CINDERELLA

That doesn't apply to me, I'm sure.

GODMOTHER

Of course it doesn't. Don't get all worked up, now. It's bad for your complexion. (To MEMBER) You're ruining everything! Do you want me to turn you into a pumpkin?

AUDIENCE MEMBER

Do what you want, do what you can. (To GODMOTHER) Listen to your heart and make things happen! Isn't that what you're always saying?

CINDERELLA

(Smiling at PRINCE) What I want is to live happily ever after!

AUDIENCE MEMBER

I think you'll find that's not enough - it gets old fast.

CINDERELLA

(Evaluating PRINCE) Hmm...maybe you're right. I could meet with the servants and hear how things could be better for them...

PRINCE shakes his head.

CINDERELLA

No? What do you mean, no?

AUDIENCE MEMBER

Are you going to let him talk to you like that?

PRINCE slaps MEMBER.

CINDERELLA

Hey! Stop it!

PRINCE slaps CINDERELLA.

CINDERELLA

You can't treat us like that!

CINDERELLA and PRINCE fight.

CINDERELLA

Take this! And this! And some of these! (Finally victorious) Listen, Charming, you might be a prince and me just a princess but that doesn't mean you can boss me around! Get ready ladies...there're going to be a few changes here from now on!

AUDIENCE MEMBER

Well done!

GODMOTHER

That's my girl! Now, *everyone* can live...

CINDERELLA, AUDIENCE MEMBER, GODMOTHER

...happily ever after!

CURTAIN