

CINDER HELL

by

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Based on the fairy tale Cinderella

by

Charles Perrault

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FADE IN:

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

MARGE (60, Bea Arthur's face), HELGA, 17, and GERTRUDE, 16, (both equally as ugly as Marge; large lips; warts) chatter excitedly, indistinctly.

CINDERELLA, 21, eats a bowl of porridge in the corner. Beautiful, despite her pale skin; raggedy clothes; calluses on the palms of her hands below her fingers; burn scars on her hands.

She also has slit marks on her wrists and a noose mark indented around her neck.

Her rat friends JAGGER and BRUTUS (gray, hideous, and abnormally large; red eyes) sit by her side, squeaking.

CINDERELLA

What's going on?

HELGA

Prince Henry is having a ball.

Cinderella perks up.

CINDERELLA

A ball? Can I go?

MARGE

Heavens, no, Cinderella. Saturday is the day you do the laundry.

CINDERELLA

But I just did the laundry yesterday.

Helga and Gertrude cackle.

CINDERELLA

Please?

GERTRUDE

Any prince who would want to dance with Cinderella should abdicate the throne!

She chortles.

Cinderella glares at her.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT (FANTASY)

A hand graces a glass of blood.

A knife SLASHES the air repeatedly.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Cinderella folds her arms and smirks.

CINDERELLA

Only the king and queen can
abdicate.

Gertrude is taken aback. She laughs heartily.

GERTRUDE

You know what I mean, Cinderella.

Cinderella grimaces.

EXT. CINDERELLA'S COTTAGE - BACK - NIGHT

SUPER: "SATURDAY"

Cinderella sits by a tree and weeps.

Engraved on the tree: "HERE LIES AURORA - WIFE, MOTHER"

BEGIN FLASHBACK.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

AURORA'S (28, beautiful) hand graces a glass of water.

Marge grins.

Aurora takes a swallow of the water. She gasps. Marge grins.

Aurora begins coughing uncontrollably. She spits out blood.

Aurora clutches her heart and passes out. Her hand loosens;
the glass rolls out, spills water, and SHATTERS.

ELLA, 15, beautiful and healthy, witnesses her mother's
death. She cowers.

Marge turns toward Ella, still grinning. Ella begins to sob.
She shields her eyes.

END FLASHBACK.

EXT. CINDERELLA'S COTTAGE - BACK - NIGHT

Cinderella flinches, shakes off the memory.

Jagger and Brutus gallop to Cinderella's side.

JAGGER

What's wrong, Ella?

CINDERELLA

Why? Why?

BRUTUS

Hags, is what they are! The whole
lot of 'em!

MONTAGE - PTSD FANTASIES

- A) Dining room - A glass of blood.
- B) Dining room - Marge grins.
- C) Kitchen - A knife SLASHES the air.
- D) Living room - Cinderella storms out of the house.
- E) Bedroom - Cinderella slits her wrists; blood gushes.
- F) Bedroom - Cinderella fits a noose around her neck.

BACK TO SCENE

CINDERELLA

Why can't I go?

Cinderella's FAIRY GODMOTHER appears. She strongly resembles Aurora, every bit as beautiful. She smiles.

FAIRY GODMOTHER

Who says you can't?

CINDERELLA

Mother?

FAIRY GODMOTHER

Close. I am your fairy godmother. You shall go to the ball, but once the clock strikes Midnight, the spell shall be broken.

CINDERELLA

What spell?

The Fairy Godmother chants ominously:

FAIRY GODMOTHER

Bibbidi. Bobbidi. Boo.

Her voice echoes. Jagger, Brutus, and a rotting pumpkin transform into a white coach and two black, ominous horses with glowing red eyes.

CINDERELLA

Jagger! Brutus! What the...?

Cinderella magically sheds her rags for a beautiful dress and a makeover. Her hair is shiny, beautiful, pulled back. The healthy glow of her skin is restored; her scars and blemishes completely disappear.

FAIRY GODMOTHER

Make the most of your time.

INT. BALL - NIGHT

Everybody dances to beautiful music. Cinderella enters the ballroom. The music ends abruptly. Everybody stops dancing and gasps in awe.

Excited chatter as she walks toward the center of the room.

PRINCE HENRY (18, deserving of the name Prince Charming) takes notice and smiles at her. She smiles back and blushes.

Spectators chuckle. Prince Henry extends his hand.

PRINCE HENRY

May I have this dance, Miss?

She returns the gesture, nods. Festivities resume.

EXT. BALL - NIGHT

Cinderella and Prince Henry tango their way outside.

PRINCE HENRY

You're a wonderful dancer.

CINDERELLA

Thank you.

BEGIN FLASHBACK.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

JAMES (30, well groomed and rugged), Aurora and Marge enjoy dinner. Marge has a deceitful smile on her face.

END FLASHBACK.

EXT. BALL - NIGHT

Cinderella's voice breaks.

CINDERELLA

My parents were amazing dancers.

BEGIN FLASHBACK.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Aurora drinks the glass of water that kills her.

END FLASHBACK.

BEGIN DIFFERENT FLASHBACK.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

James takes a swallow of water, as well.

END FLASHBACK.

EXT. BALL - NIGHT

Cinderella flinches.

PRINCE HENRY
What's wrong?

CINDERELLA
My parents--

BEGIN FLASHBACK.

MONTAGE - INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

A) Aurora drinks the glass.

B) Marge grins.

C) Fifteen-year-old Ella witnesses the killing.

D) One year later - Sixteen-year-old Ella darts her eyes toward Marge.

E) Ella glares at her.

ELLA
I saw what you did.

F) Marge glowers at her.

MARGE
I know.

G) James spits out water, foam, and blood all over the table. He clutches his heart and gags. Collapses.

JAMES
Burn in Hell.

James's voice echoes.

END FLASHBACK.

EXT. BALL - NIGHT

Cinderella begins to weep.

CINDERELLA
My parents died when I was a little
g--

DONG! The clock strikes Midnight.

Prince Henry gasps.

PRINCE HENRY
What happened?

Cinderella opens her mouth to answer--

DONG!

CINDERELLA
I have to go! Sorry!

PRINCE HENRY
Wait! Miss! What's your name?

CINDERELLA
Cinder--

DONG!

PRINCE HENRY
What?

Cinderella sprints toward the coach and takes off in a flash. DONG! DONG!

She leaves behind one of her glass slippers, the left. DONG!

INT. DINING ROOM - DAY

Marge, Gertrude, and Helga eat dinner.

MARGE
Get me a glass of orange juice!

Marge wears a disgusted look on her face and swings her glass of water in Cinderella's face.

CINDERELLA
But you have plenty of--

Marge dumps the water on Cinderella. Cinderella splashes some of it on everybody.

MARGE
Orange juice! Now!

INT. DINING ROOM - DAY (FANTASY)

Cinderella grabs the glass, ripping off Marge's arm. Blood SPLATTERS over the table and Marge's clothes.

Marge screams in horror. Helga and Gertrude panic.

INT. DINING ROOM - DAY

Cinderella grabs the glass violently and storms out.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Cinderella slams the glass onto the table with a loud BANG.

She spots a bag of rat poison in the open cupboard. She grins mischievously. She chuckles.

She inches toward the rat poison. She jerks her head to the left, toward the sharp knives. She lingers for a moment, then refocuses on the rat poison.

The cat, CAESAR, hisses at her. Cinderella shushes him.

CINDERELLA

Shh! Caesar! Hush! Shh!

Caesar persists. Cinderella turns her head toward the knives again. MEOW. HISS. SCREECHING MEOWS.

Cinderella grumbles and screams.

CUPBOARDS

Dead space. Nothing happens. Dead silence.

INT. DINING ROOM - DAY

Cinderella returns with a glass of orange juice and a large plate of meat.

CINDERELLA

Anyone up for seconds?

Cinderella hands the glass to Marge and sets the plate on the table. Marge purposely drops her fork on the floor. Marge glares at Cinderella.

MARGE

Whoops. Pick it up.

Cinderella glares back. She bends over, parallel to Marge.

BUUURRRUUU-PPP-P-P-PPP! Cinderella breaks wind.

MARGE

Why, you...

Cinderella picks up the fork and stands erect. She pounds the fork onto the table. SLAP! She backhands Marge, then punches her in the face.

CINDERELLA

Fornicate yourself!

Helga and Gertrude gasp.

Likewise, Marge punches Cinderella in the jaw; a bloody tooth shoots out of her mouth. Then her left eye, leaving a black eye.

Cinderella grabs Marge's head and slams it into her soup.

CINDERELLA

Burn in Hell.

Cinderella storms out. She SLAMS the front door.

EXT. CINDERELLA'S COTTAGE - DAY

Cinderella huffs; sighs in relief; walks away from her home. Prince Henry appears suddenly. Cinderella jumps and yelps.

PRINCE HENRY

I didn't mean to startle -- Excuse me, Miss...

Prince Henry shows her the glass slipper.

PRINCE HENRY

Could you try this on for m--

The door creaks open.

MARGE

Who's there? Your Majesty!

PRINCE HENRY

I'm looking for the fair maiden to whom this slipper belongs.

Helga and Gertrude bust the door open.

HELGA

It's mine!

GERTRUDE

No, it's mine!

Marge grins devilishly.

MARGE

No! ...It's mine.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Helga, Gertrude, and Marge chop off their toes and heels. SPLISH! SQUISH! SPLOSH! Blood everywhere.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Prince Henry holds out the glass slipper.

PRINCE HENRY

Age before beauty.

Marge forces her bloody foot into the slipper. SPLISH! It doesn't fit.

GERTRUDE

Me, next!

Gertrude forces her foot into it. SQUASH! Doesn't fit.

Jagger and Brutus observe the slipper-fitting in the corner.

JAGGER

If it doesn't fit, you must, uh...

BRUTUS

...Quit?

Jagger nods his head.

PRINCE HENRY

No luck. Who's next?

Cinderella grabs the slipper from Gertrude and heads into the kitchen. Helga goes hysterical.

HELGA

But it's my slipper! My foot fits!

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Cinderella washes all the blood and gunk off the slipper, with soap and water. Suds everywhere.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Cinderella returns with the clean slipper. She sits down and tries it on. It fits perfectly.

PRINCE HENRY

It is you! What is your name, Miss?

CINDERELLA

Ella.

Marge glowers at her.

MARGE

Cinder... Ella.

Cinderella turns toward her and glares.

CINDERELLA

My name. Is. Ella.

Cinderella storms out.

EXT. WEDDING - DAY

Cinderella and Prince Henry eye each other.

CINDERELLA

I do.

Two abnormally-large BIRDS fly toward Marge, Helga, and Gertrude; and PECK their eyes out. They all cry in horror.

INT. CINDERELLA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Cinderella's Fairy Godmother transforms into some sort of hideous witch-demon...

...Somehow uglier than Marge, Helga, and Gertrude combined.

Cinderella's stepfamily -- their eye sockets completely black, empty, and pecked out -- tremble.

The Fairy Godmother stabs Helga with her wand. Blood SPLATTERS everywhere. Deep, thick, shiny, crimson.

FAIRY GODMOTHER

Bibbidi!

The Fairy Godmother stabs Gertrude. More blood.

FAIRY GODMOTHER

Bobbidi!

The Fairy Godmother glares at Marge. Marge glares back.

FAIRY GODMOTHER

Boo!

The Fairy Godmother PLUNGES her wand into Marge's heart. Blood SPLATTERS. Marge screams in horror.

FAIRY GODMOTHER

A dream is a wish...

The Fairy Godmother inserts her fist into Marge's chest and RIPS out her heart.

FAIRY GODMOTHER

...your heart makes.

Caesar waddles into the room, aroused. He meows. The Fairy Godmother returns to her more beautiful form and smiles at the cat.

FAIRY GODMOTHER

And I haven't forgotten about you,...

The Fairy Godmother gently taps the cat with her wand. Caesar transforms back into...

FAIRY GODMOTHER

...James.

James pats himself, smiles. He walks up to the Fairy Godmother and kisses her.

FADE OUT.

THE END