FAIREST OF THEM ALL

An original screenplay by

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EXT. ENGLISH COUNTRYSIDE - DAY

Late 14th Century.

A gorgeous summer morning with birds singing and flying over the green fields. A narrow river runs through the forest to the west just beyond the trees.

In a quiet, open area, three young princesses sit on a large blanket and enjoy a morning picnic:

SNOW WHITE (24), fair porcelain skin with ruby lips, CINDERELLA (21), petite with an athletic figure, and PRINCESS AURORA (A.K.A. "SLEEPING BEAUTY") (26), radiant with locks of blond hair cascading down her shoulders.

THREE FEMALE SERVANTS tend to them and prepare food.

SNOW
What a perfect day, is it not?

CINDERELLA
It is still early.

SNOW
Do not be so grim, Cindy.

Cinderella opens one of the baskets and begins removing the wrapped contents.

CINDERELLA
Sir John told me a storm is coming.

A plump Servant approaches Cinderella.

SERVANT #1
Please, m'lady. No need for you to do that.

She politely takes the basket away from Cinderella.

CINDERELLA
I prefer tables and chairs to these common surroundings.

SNOW
This is more pleasant than the damp halls of our castles. Don't you agree, Aurora? Aurora?

Princess Aurora, who’s been staring at the passing clouds, finally wakes from her daydream.

PRINCESS AURORA
Hmm? Oh, yes. Of course.
SNOW
Something troubling you?

PRINCESS AURORA
Forgive me. ’Tis nothing.

CINDERELLA
(calls to a servant)
You sure I cannot be of any help?

SERVANT #2
No, m’lady. Thank you.

Snow grabs a RED APPLE from the large display of food on the blanket, and peels off the skin with a small knife.

SNOW
Well?

Princess Aurora takes a deep breath and sighs.

PRINCESS AURORA
(to the servants)
Leave us.

The Servants excuse themselves, and head towards a nearby trail.

PRINCESS AURORA (CONT’D)
It’s just, Richard’s been...I mean, lately he is...

FLASHBACK

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

In one of the royal chambers of a great castle, Princess Aurora stands near the open window. Her hands grab the arms of PRINCE RICHARD (28), tall, very handsome.

PRINCESS AURORA
I love you.

PRINCE RICHARD
As do I, Aurora.

PRINCESS AURORA
Let us lie down.

PRINCE RICHARD
Not now, my sweet. My head is spinning about the journey tomorrow. I’m not a diplomat.
PRINCESS AURORA
I am sure I can put your mind at ease.

She kisses his neck, but he resists. She stops, frowning at him.

PRINCE RICHARD
Forgive me.

Princess Aurora looks away from him. He gently turns her head to face him. The Prince then kisses her on the cheek and leaves. The door closes.

BACK TO SCENE

CINDERELLA
He is a prince. Their work is never done.

SNOW
Richard returns tomorrow, yes?

PRINCESS AURORA
I wish that meant something to me. Never have I wanted to return to my hundred-year slumber as I do now.

CINDERELLA
Do not say such awful things.

Snow cuts the apple into slices and enjoys a piece. She places the remaining slices on the blanket next to her.

PRINCESS AURORA
Even when we are together, I still feel alone. Not since our wedding day have I felt his warm embrace.

SNOW
Was that not three years ago?

CINDERELLA
Two years, eleven months and five days, to be sure.

The other two give Cinderella a quizzical look.

SNOW
(to Aurora)
How have you kept yourself entertained?
PRINCESS AURORA
I have found educating the mind to be quite fulfilling.

SNOW
That is not what I meant.

CINDERELLA
What do you mean?

Snow smirks, raising an eyebrow at Princess Aurora.

PRINCESS AURORA
I dare not say.

SNOW
You must.

Princess Aurora's eyes well with tears. Her lips tremble.

SNOW (CONT'D)
It's okay. Do not worry so. What is it?

FLASHBACK

INT. SIR GARETH’S CHAMBERS - NIGHT

SIR GARETH (30), makes passionate love to Princess Aurora. They are lost in pure ecstasy, sweating and panting.

BACK TO SCENE

SNOW
Oh my.

CINDERELLA
One of the king’s guards? Why?

Snow turns to her with a look that says, "Are you kidding?"

PRINCESS AURORA
God forgive me. But Sir Gareth makes me feel like a woman once again.

CINDERELLA
You are married. How could--?
AURORA
What I have is not a marriage.
There is no love, no pleasure.

CINDERELLA
Then speak to him of this.

AURORA
My words are lost to Richard's ears.

CINDERELLA
What would your father, the king, say of such deceitful actions? You could lose your crown, or worse.

SNOW
Cindy--

AURORA
How dare you speak to me this way.

CINDERELLA
Are we all not royalty? I may speak as freely as either of you.

AURORA
I have royal blood running through my veins. You, dear sister, merely married into your kingdom.

Cinderella grabs Snow’s knife and jumps to her feet.

CINDERELLA
You witch!

Princess Aurora stands, fists clenched. Snow joins her.

SNOW
Cindy. Wait.

AURORA
(to Cinderella)
Are you looking to fight me, princess? Careful. No fairy godmothers to save you here.

SNOW
Stop it! Both of you. Cindy, it is not your place to judge Aurora.

CINDERELLA
How can you defend her?
SNOW
She is my friend, as you are.

CINDERELLA
But--

SNOW
But, nothing. We make our own choices.

Snow holds out her hand. Cinderella hands her the knife.

CINDERELLA
My apologies.

SNOW
No need. I will say this, Aurora. You never cease to amaze me.

AURORA
Nor I, myself, lately.

SNOW
Is there no hope for you and Richard?

AURORA
I know it must end with Gareth. God willing, when Richard returns tomorrow, we can perhaps--

They hear a faint SPLASH from the nearby river. The three women sneak over towards the river’s edge.

EXT. RIVER - DAY

Through the bushes, they find Prince Richard and a very muscular YOUNG MAN standing knee-deep in the calm, shallow water. BOTH ARE NAKED. They soon embrace in a passionate KISS.

The three women’s jaws drop in shock and amazement. Princess Aurora’s eyes widen in disbelief.

CINDERELLA
Charming.

Princess Aurora FAINTS, falling to the ground.

FADE OUT.