

SYNOPSIS



Act I

The day dawns... Lost in the memory of her mother dead a year ago, Cinderella polishes the shoes of her father, whom she cherishes with tender love, despite his weakness. The story tells indeed that this melancholic man is submitted to the authority of his new wife. The cruel stepmother and her daughters Genoveffa and Anastasia arrive. Cinderella endures their bullying, until the cruel stepmother enters with an invitation: the King organises a great Ball at the Court to wed his son. Enraptured by the idea of being introduced to the Prince, Genoveffa and Anastasia leave the stage, followed by their mother. Left alone, Cinderella expresses her sadness that she cannot go to the ball, but finds solace in the company of two elves sent by the Fairy. At this moment, her father appears. In his presence, Cinderella recalls the happy days of the past. But once her stepmother and stepsisters come back, her father is thrown out, making this fleeting moment of happiness disappear. Cinderella suffers further humiliation while the Fairy and sylphs appear to the sound of music. This dream is interrupted by the arrival of the dress-makers and dancing master, coming to prepare Genoveffa and Anastasia for the ball. They are now ready to leave and, while Cinderella is left alone with sad reality, her father reappears. Like in a dream, the father figure and the Prince unify. Then, in this magic moment, comes a quartet composed of Cinderella, her father, her mother and the Prince. And that is when the Fairy asks the spirits of Summer, Spring, Fall and Winter to combine their talents to allow Cinderella to attend the Ball. But before leaving, the Fairy instructs her to come back at midnight.

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Act II

Celebrations are in full swing at the Palace, but the Prince remains pensive and aloof despite the efforts of the Surintendant des Plaisirs. Suddenly, a beautiful and mysterious music resounds and Cinderella appears. Bewitched by this charming stranger, the Prince leads her into a dreamlike waltz. They dance as if there is no one else in the world when the clock strikes midnight. Cinderella comes back to reality. She recalls the Fairy's instructions and flees the ball, leaving the Prince totally distraught but with one of her slippers.

Act III

The Prince decides to travel the world to find the one who touched his heart. Unfortunately, she is found neither in Spain nor in the East. Pursuing his search, he stops at Genoveffa and Anastasia's home. The story tells that the ugly sisters try desperately to put on the famous slipper until Cinderella shows the missing one. Then, right in front of the stepmother and the two sisters, full of jealousy and confusion, the Prince takes Cinderella on a long love journey.