



## BIG THEMES

- Classism
- Kindness
- Courage
- Optimism
- Hopefulness

# ABOUT THE PLAY

The Broadway adaptation of the classic musical features new characters, surprising twists, hilarious new parts of the story, and an unforgettable score from Rodgers and Hammerstein.

## Act I

### A Forest

Ella looks for firewood and sings about her wish for the world to be as lovely as the stories in books. (PROLOGUE)

### A Battle with the Giant

A crowd of Knights engage a Giant in battle. Topher, the Prince, saves the day and outwits the Giant. Even after such a brave act, he questions his self-worth and identity. If he does not know who he is, how can he be king? His friend, Sebastian, suggests faking it. (ME WHO AM I) A dragon appears. Topher, unfazed, slays the dragon with a slingshot.

### Outside Madame's Cottage

Sebastian and Topher meet Ella. Sebastian, referring to her as impoverished, demands she give them water to drink. Topher admonishes his assumptions and treats her with kindness. A beggar woman, Marie, appears and asks for spare change. Sebastian and Lord Pinkleton try to banish Marie, but Ella defends her. Topher orders Sebastian and Lord Pinkleton to put their swords away, commending Ella on being such a good friend. Topher wishes for a true friend himself. Upon Sebastian's suggestion, Topher tries giving a coin to Ella, but she refuses the charity. When he offers it to her as a present "in admiration for a true friend in this world," she accepts. Topher rides off.

Marie thanks Ella for saving her life and promises to return the favor. Ella comments on Topher's generosity and looks to which Marie reveals Topher is not just any man, he is to become the next king. Jean-Michel, a peasant and revolutionary, joins the women. He criticizes the unfair system in which they live and observes the very poorest are often the most generous. He plans to go to protest at the castle and invites them to join him.

### The Parade of Purchases

We hear Ella's stepmother, Madame, calling for her. She rudely orders Ella to help carry parcels for her and her daughters, Charlotte and Gabrielle. Gabrielle assures Ella Madame is not always horrible.

Jean-Michel presents Gabrielle with a book and invites her on a date to help at the soup kitchen he is organizing. Madame reminds Gabrielle they are in a different class and cannot be seen talking to a revolutionary. As she runs away upset, Jean-Michel knows he will never be good enough. Ella asks Jean-Michel if she can have the book. She is delighted to finally own something, but her happiness is interrupted by Madame's orders to complete the chores. Madame notices the book Jean-Michel has given her and Ella's father's coat on the door. She accuses her of still being daddy's little girl. Even though it is her only item to remember him by, Madame makes her use it as rags to clean the porch. Ella imagines she can be anything she wants to be. (IN MY OWN LITTLE CORNER)

## The Throne Room of the Royal Palace

There are several lords requesting Prince Topher's imprimatur, or stamp of his ring, for a variety of decisions being made around the kingdom. (YOUR MAJESTY) Just as Topher begins to question the decisions being made, Jean-Michel is heard protesting. Sebastian dismisses Jean-Michel, calling him a rabble-rouser assuring Prince Topher that he has a new law that forbids unfair treatment.

Prince Topher thinks they should invite Jean-Michel to talk. Sebastian, still thinking Jean-Michel should be ignored, suggests the distraction of a royal wedding. Prince Topher wonders how he will find a bride and Sebastian suggests a ball. Only young women who can afford a gown will attend. All guests will be masked. The Prince will dance with every girl and at midnight when all the masks are removed, he will find his bride. Prince Topher wonders how anyone can fall in love so quickly. Dismissing his fears, Sebastian tells Lord Pinkleton to make the announcement.

## A Town Square

Jean-Michel stands on a soapbox warning townspeople about the potential for Prince Topher and Sebastian to take all their land. Lord Pinkleton interrupts and announces the ball. To attend, one must have an invitation and suitable attire. The Prince will choose a woman from the ball to be his bride, which means anyone can be the queen! All the townspeople begin to wonder what kind of woman will be chosen. Ella dreams of being invited to the ball. (A PRINCE IS GIVING A BALL/NOW IS THE TIME) Marie picks up a torn invitation.

## Inside Madame's Cottage

Madame and the girls prepare for the ball. Ella runs around helping them get dressed, tightening Charlotte's corset, and doing Gabrielle's hair. When Sebastian shows up at the door to share his master plan, Madame is thrilled. He thinks Gabrielle would be a suitable match for the Prince. Not long after, Jean-Michel arrives to bring Gabrielle flowers. Madame tells him to leave and take the flowers with him. Madame lets Gabrielle know there are plans in place that do not include Jean-Michel.

## Off to the Ball

Ella imagines attending the ball when Marie shows up. (IN MY OWN LITTLE CORNER) Marie asks Ella to share her dreams, which include an invitation to the ball, a white gown, and the most beautiful grosgrain pumps. Marie suggests that her shoes be made of Venetian glass instead. But, how will she get there? Marie shows her a pumpkin and says it will turn into a golden carriage, mice will become horses, the fox a footman, and the raccoon a driver. Ella says that Marie is crazy. None of this is possible unless she is her fairy godmother. (IMPOSSIBLE) Marie rips off her rags and reveals a beautiful gown. She is Ella's godmother and although she is everyone's godmother, Ella is the only one who has shown her generosity and kindness. For this, she will make her dreams come true. Marie casts the spell that changes everything, but warns Ella that although the magic is very powerful, it will only last until midnight. (IT'S POSSIBLE)

## The Castle Ballroom

The Gavotte dance begins. (GAVOTTE) The Prince does not stay anonymous for long. After realizing the identity of the Prince, all the ladies throw themselves at him. Ella enters, she curtsies, he bows and offers his hand as if to begin the dance. She is separated from Topher as Sebastian announces that it is time to play "Ridicule." As the game continues, Madame is unknowingly paired with Ella. Ella is supposed to say something mean, but instead says something nice. Madame, not understanding, asks what she is doing. Ella says it is a game called "Kindness." After Ella explains "Kindness," it begins to spread throughout the ball. The room is filled with happiness and warmth. (WALTZ FOR A BALL) Topher is in admiration of how Ella has changed everyone and thinks she is familiar. (TEN MINUTES AGO)

## Finale Act I

The clock begins to strike midnight. Ella does not want to go, but before she does, she tells Topher he must open his eyes to what is happening in his kingdom. Peoples' land is being stolen. Shocked by her comments, he questions how she can say something so unkind. She runs away as he calls after her. Topher appears at the top of the staircase as Ella stumbles and loses one of her slippers. She regains her footing, runs back up the stairs, takes the shoe, and keeps going. Prince Topher is left calling after her for her name.

# Act II

## The Palace Steps

Topher rushes off to find Ella. He leaves a crowd of frustrated ladies, including Charlotte, behind. (THE STEPSISTER'S LAMENT)

## The Forest

The search continues after a sighting of the carriage. (A CALL TO ARMS) Just as Topher and the Knights get close, the carriage, Footman, and driver all transform into their original forms in a puff of smoke. (THE PURSUIT)

## Madame's Cottage

Ella narrowly escapes without being seen before her dress returns to rags. She dreams of her night with the prince. (HE WASTALL) Madame and her daughters return in a huff. Madame and Charlotte are disgusted by the Prince and his lack of manners. They all wonder how the mysterious girl must feel after meeting the man of her dreams. (WHEN YOU ARE DRIVING THROUGH THE MOONLIGHT) Ella seems to know a lot of details, but she assures them she is only guessing. They all get caught up in the romance, overcome Madame kisses Ella on the head, but immediately recoils. (A LOVELY NIGHT)

Charlotte and Madame retire to bed, but Gabrielle is suspicious. Ella's secret is out, but Gabrielle has one too. Jean-Michel is her own forbidden love. They both swear to keep each other's secrets and seal themselves as sisters. (A LOVELY NIGHT REPRISE)

## Another Part of the Forest

After several days of searching, Topher laments the loss of his love. (LONELINESS OF EVENING) Sebastian requests Topher's ring to continue to make decisions in his name. Topher asks for the paperwork to read on his own and discovers Sebastian's plan to take land away from the poor. He is furious. He insists on making his own decisions, one of which is to hold a banquet to try and find his lost love.

## Announcing the Banquet

An announcement is made for the banquet. (ANNOUNCING THE BANQUET) Sebastian wants to keep an eye on who attends, vowing not to give up control this time.

Madame rushes to get both girls ready for the banquet. Gabrielle devises a plan to stay home, which will allow Ella to go in her place. Instead, she will go to the soup kitchen with Jean-Michel. Jean-Michel arrives feeling optimistic for the first time in his life when he hears Ella will go to court. She might be able to convince the Prince to support the people. Not only that, Gabrielle wants him as her boyfriend. They kiss and all three are caught by Madame who is furious.

## Madame Rips the Dress

Madame tells Ella she never loved her father and only married him for his money. Madame banishes Gabrielle and leaves Ella's punishment for later. Marie appears to Ella and tells her to hurry or she will be late for the banquet. Ella feels defeated and believes the Prince will never love because of her true identity. Marie tells her to fight for her dreams. She performs a spell on her rags and they fall onto Ella turning into a beautiful gold gown. Ella is reminded that the magic ends at midnight. Marie sends Ella off with a song. (THERE IS MUSIC IN YOU)

## The Banquet

Topher is waiting for Ella when she finally arrives at the banquet created just to reunite them. She did not arrive alone. Her friends, the Prince's subjects, have come to talk to him about their concerns for the kingdom. He is afraid, but she reassures him. Topher asks Ella's name and she says to trust her as she is his only true friend. Ella introduces Jean-Michel as a man full of great ideas. He introduces the Prince to a woman named Yvonne, her baby, and a man named Sam. They were removed from their homes, a result of Sebastian's bad governance. (NOW IS THE TIME REPRISE) Sebastian and others rush in. Topher berates Sebastian for his actions. Jean-Michel demands to have their voices heard, while Sebastian counters by suggesting a beheading.

Topher calls for a vote. The people will decide their new Prime Minister and he nominates Sebastian and Jean-Michel. Everyone, rich or poor, will get one vote. (KING TOPHER) After a nudge from Ella, he invites everyone into the banquet. For the first time, Topher is filled with confidence. Ella showed him the way and now he can change the world. (DO I LOVE YOU BECAUSE YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL)

On their way into the banquet, Ella discovers the time. She panics and leaves. If Topher discovers the truth, he will not love her. She runs down the stairs, but this time takes off her glass slipper and leaves it. Topher picks it up and has a realization.

## **The Palace**

Lord Pinkleton announces a great day in the kingdom. In one month, they will hold the first free election for Prime Minister, but tomorrow, all the women in the kingdom will come to the palace and try on the slipper. Whoever the shoe fits, shall marry the prince. All the women in the kingdom come to try on the slipper. It does not fit any of them. Just when they are about to give up, Ella arrives. Topher seems to recognize her. The shoe fits and Topher realizes Ella is his lost love. (THE MINUTES AGO) He asks her to never run away again. Madame apologizes for treating her so poorly and Ella grants her forgiveness.

Topher learns her name is "Cinderella." Although it is a name she once hated, she will keep it so when anyone thinks something is impossible they will say it and know better. Topher proclaims his love for her. She asks if marriage is still on the table, he proposes, and she says "yes!"

## **The Royal Garden**

One month later, they are married and live happily ever after. (THE WEDDING)