

and suffering beguilingly. I wasn't meant for fancy places. I have you and my other animal friends.

BONES

I'm actually it. As you may have noticed by Druzella's latest cloak, Harvey the deer is no longer with us, and Lucifur met the mouse family on the stairs.

CINDERELLA

Oh no! Well, I guess it's just you and me, then. But I have my half blanket and most of a book. I'll get by somehow.

COOK (Offstage)

That must be a record. From Enabler to Masochist in a single day!

CINDERELLA

That voice. I know it! But it sounds different.

COOK (Offstage)

Empowered? Coquettish? Sibilant. Certain.

CINDERELLA

I ... Think so?

COOK (Offstage)

Well, that's because I've changed. I've remembered who I am. I am a Fairy Godmother and I am very, very done with it.

CINDERELLA

Cook, is that you? That's marvelous! You remembered?

COOK

I did! I sat down and had a think and a cocktail or (mumbles the number), and I remembered what I am the best at!

CINDERELLA

What?

COOK

(emerges through the audience)

Being me! Oh, I was really good at my job. Helping others was a calling, until I gave a few princesses what they really wanted. And then they didn't want it. And then the complaints rolled in, and then my contract got so narrow a hummingbird couldn't have sipped from it if it was a straw. And then there were improvement plans and demotions

and I went on the run. And Tremayne seemed so eager to help me. Too eager. I should have known she was trouble.

CINDERELLA

Trouble, Trouble, Trouble.

CINDERELLA

Asking all those questions, "What would you do if you found a princess in distress?" I told her I'm duty bound to help. Then she pulled out a little bell, and suddenly I have no backstory and they're all calling me cook! Now that I remember who I am, I want to retire, but I have to find someone to take my place. There have to be twelve Fairy Godmothers in the world at all times. I'm in a bit of a pickle, and the clock is ticking. Enough about me though. What is this princess in training looking for? A groom?

CINDERELLA

I'm not against marriage but it's not on my immediate bucket list.

BONES

Of course she doesn't want to get married. She wants to stay here doing everything for everyone all the time! Eking out minutes of free time between aggressively looking after people who don't appreciate her, while looking for validation from people who don't even know she exists!

CINDERELLA

Not really selling that one either, Bones.

BONES

Well then, what do you want?

CINDERELLA

I... don't know.

FAIRY GODMOTHER

That isn't a constructive reply. I need to tie up my loose ends. I have flights booked in business class to Lithuania with my new friend...

(someone in the audience)

So let's hurry this up, shall we?

CINDERELLA

Well. I guess I do like being useful. Helping people, but on my terms. In ways that will actually help. I also want adventure in distant lands, with a merry band of friends.

FAIRY GODMOTHER

Tall order, but I'm mulling an idea. Let's go vanquish the evil stepmother.

BONES

And her big dumb cat! He's got most of my right wing.

CINDERELLA

Stepmother isn't really evil. She's just - grouchy.

BONES

Cin, I found this checklist list in her handbag.

Bones hands Cinderella a slip of paper.

CINDERELLA

Things to do. Look fabulous for the ball. Marry off the girl, and send the other one outside forever. Kill the Fairy Godmother. Turn the 3rd Girl into the new Cook. Feed cat. I'm the third girl, aren't I?

FAIRY GODMOTHER

It's a safe assumption.

CINDERELLA

Let's go to the ball. What happens next? Do you magic a dress out of thin air? Make a carriage out of a pumpkin?

FAIRY GODMOTHER

What sorts of fumes are you exposed to down in the basement? No. There is a dress rack in my 18-wheeler. Your carriage is Clallam Transit while it's still free. But you will need to meet me at midnight, or my final shift will be my Final Shift. Get my meaning?

CINDERELLA

I do, and I will be there. Let's go to the ball! No heels.

They exit, arguing about who is an autumn, who's a spring, who's fabulous.

ACT II, SCENE 3