

HAPPILY EVER AFTER

One-Act Comedy Play

by
Forrest Musselman



BROOKLYN PUBLISHERS, LLC

Publishers of Contest-Winning Drama

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CHARACTERS

Wicked Witch	SHE is the host of the show and has little patience and a fiery temper.
Prince Charming	HE is more vain and selfish than charming.
Cinderella	SHE has some cleaning issues.
Prince Ansty-Pants	HE is very nervous and highly paranoid.
Sleeping Beauty	SHE just can't get over that sleeping thing.
Prince Malodorous	HE's not too quick with the wit but quick with the stench.
Rupunzel	SHE is not too happy with her Prince but loves her hair.
Prince Agitated	HE is grumpy, grumpy, grumpy.
Snow White	SHE still maintains that innocent air about her.

PRODUCTION HISTORY

Happily Ever After was first performed at the Byron Elementary School on April 7th, 2004, by the students of Studio Academy Charter High School for the Arts.

TIME

The present.

SCENE

On the set of the TV show, *Happily Ever After*.

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SETTING: An empty stage. Various colored crates sit in various places filled with props.

AT RISE: *Scary music begins to play. A WICKED WITCH arrives on a broom and circles the stage while cackling madly. SHE finally notices the audience and stops.*

WICKED WITCH: Are we on? Has the show begun? Right. Hello, and welcome to Happily Ever After, the reality game show for fairy tale characters. I'm your host, the Wicked Witch, here to lead four couples through a series of games. After all the games are complete, the couple with the most votes will get to live happily ever after. Now, let's meet our couples.

(PRINCE CHARMING and CINDERELLA enter from opposite sides of the stage and strike a pose.)

CHARMING: My name is Prince Charming. I am currently going out with. . .

CINDERELLA: Cinderella. Pleased to be here. It really is charming on how we met.

CHARMING: It started when I'd thrown this huge ball. All the ladies were there, including this beautiful woman in a stunning dress.

CINDERELLA: I had designed and sewed it myself, by hand. He came up to me and asked me to dance.

CHARMING: We danced so well together. The waltz, the foxtrot, the macaraina. Before I knew it, the clock was striking twelve.

CINDERELLA: I remembered I had to get home before my evil step-sisters would, so I ran out of there as quickly as I could. Unfortunately, or maybe it was fortunate, I left. . .

CHARMING: A perfect size six shoe made out of glass.

CINDERELLA: I had made it myself out of some sand in the backyard.

CHARMING: Being the perfect gentleman that I am, I knew that I had to return this shoe to her. However, no one knew who she was or where she lived, so I had to go to every house in the Kingdom to try to find her.

CINDERELLA: He finally found me on the third day. I was polishing the kitchen floor. The stepsisters were all a flutter. They thought Charming was coming to see them. Little did they know.

CHARMING: I had the stepsisters try on the shoe. It didn't fit them at all. I had given up hope. But then I saw this raggedy woman dusting the vacuum cleaner. I asked her to try on the shoe and what do you know. . .

CINDERELLA: It fit. And he asked me to marry him. And I said yes, of course. I mean, look at him. He's gorgeous.

CHARMING: I'm gorgeous. So we got married and life has been pretty good except. . .

CINDERELLA: Except he's too perfect, you know?

CHARMING: I admit I'm perfect, but she has this thing with cleaning.

CINDERELLA: He spends hours staring into the mirror and whispering to himself. Hey there. Looking good.

CHARMING: I'm not allowed to sit on the good furniture because I'll crumple the fabric.

CINDERELLA: He corrects my grammar.

CHARMING: She washes the dishes while I'm still eating off of them.

CINDERELLA: I just want to live happily ever after.

CHARMING: Happily ever after.

WICKED WITCH: And you may get your chance today. Now let's meet our next couple.

(PRINCE ANTSY-PANTS and SLEEPING BEAUTY enter from opposite sides of stage.)

ANTSY: Hi, I'm Prince Antsy-Pants. I'm a little nervous about being here. I'm a little scared of being in front of a lot of people. Maybe you should go first.

BEAUTY: Sure, I'm Sleeping Beauty. I once lived happily ever after. You may remember the dashing young prince who saved me from the sleeping spell I was under. Yeah, well, that isn't him.

ANTSY: Please don't put me on the spot. It makes me nervous. Look, they're all looking at me. Stop looking at me!

BEAUTY: See, after the other prince decided to leave me after a few weeks.

ANTSY: Yeah, yeah, tell them why. Put yourself on the spot. See how it feels.

BEAUTY: It seems there are some side effects to this sleeping spell I was under. Sometimes, without warning, it kicks back in again and I fall asleep. The only way to wake me up again is if someone kisses me.

ANTSY: I'm not real fond of kissing. Too many germs. And we all know girl germs are the worst.

BEAUTY: Whatever. One day I had another sleeping attack on the way to the market and fell asleep on the road. That's when he came along.

ANTSY: To be honest, I was just trying to roll her off the road. Someone might hit her and get hurt. I accidentally slipped and fell face first into her head. She woke up.

BEAUTY: I guess you could say we hit it off. He kept asking if he was bleeding anywhere.

ANTSY: My lip really hurt.

BEAUTY: We've been watching out for each other ever since.

WICKED WITCH: And we'll be watching you two today to see if you can win the contest. Now, if you two could stand over there, I'll just call out the next couple.

ANTSY: Would it be all right if I stood over there? I'm not fond of this particular location.

WICKED WITCH: If you'd like.

ANTSY: *(HE moves.)* Actually, this spot doesn't work for me either. I can feel a draft. Can anyone else feel a draft?

WICKED WITCH: Stand over there then.

ANTSY: *(HE goes elsewhere.)* Actually, this spot will work. It's nice and shiny.

CINDERELLA: I just cleaned it.

ANTSY: It's nice. I like it. Clean. Yeah. Clean.

WICKED WITCH: Our next couple is Prince Malodorous and Rupunzel.

(THEY enter together from stage left. EVERYONE on stage reacts to PRINCE M.'s entrance by covering their noses and making various disgusted sounds.)

RUPUNZEL: See, I told you that you should have taken a bath before you came on the show.

MALODOROUS: It's not that bad.

RUPUNZEL: Sure, if we were standing in a barn.

MALODOROUS: Besides I couldn't take a bath this morning because you were too busy standing in front of the mirror combing your precious hair.

RUPUNZEL: Just remember it was this hair that saved my life.

MALODOROUS: If I have to hear that story one more time. . .

RUPUNZEL: Could you go stand over there, please?

MALODOROUS: Excuse me?

RUPUNZEL: Over there. I need some fresh air.

MALODOROUS: I shall move with pleasure.

RUPUNZEL: Believe me, the pleasure is all mine.

MALODOROUS: Oh, yeah. Well, I. . .

RUPUNZEL: You what?

MALODOROUS: I. . . I can't think of anything right now. But I will, mark my words.

RUPUNZEL: As you can see, we aren't very happy, but we'd really like to be. We're hoping this show will help.

WICKED WITCH: We hope so, too. Now let's meet our next couple. I'm sorry I don't have their names. Who is it?

(PRINCE AGITATED and SNOW WHITE enter from stage right. The WITCH screams.)

YOU! What are YOU doing here?!

SNOW WHITE: I'm sorry. Do I know you?

WICKED WITCH: No, but you knew my sister. How dare you show your face around me.

AGITATED: I say, stand back please. You'll not come any closer.

WICKED WITCH: Ten years ago my sister tried to kill you with a poisoned apple. It would have worked if it hadn't been for those meddling dwarfs. When they figured out it was her, they chased her off a cliff, and I never saw her again. And it's all your fault.

SNOW WHITE: Wait a minute. I didn't chase her off the cliff. The dwarfs did.

WICKED WITCH: But you were the fairest of them all. My sister couldn't have that.

SNOW WHITE: Your sister was vain.

CHARMING: Is that so bad?

AGITATED: You know, I really hate people that live in the past. Get over it already.

WICKED WITCH: Who are you to tell me what to do?

AGITATED: I am Prince Agitated. I am here to win the contest so that I can live happily ever after.

SNOW WHITE: He needs it too. You should spend ten minutes with this guy. Talk about a grump!

AGITATED: Can we get on with this already? I'm not a big fan of exposition.

WICKED WITCH: Oh, we'll get on with it all right. But this isn't over, Snow White. I'll get you, my pretty. Now, the first thing we need is a score keeper. Is there anyone in the audience that knows how to keep score? *(surveys the audience and picks a child)* Good, now you stand over here by this stand. Whenever someone wins a contest, you can put a mark underneath their name. Okay? Good. Next, I need two children named Mark. *(The odds of this happening are pretty slim, but who knows! Actors can actually pick two children at random and place name tags around their necks that say "MARK.")* Good, come on up. Now our first contest is the three-legged race. Each person will have to tie one of their legs to their significant other's leg. Once this is done, you'll race from this mark to the other mark. The first one to reach this mark will be declared the winner and will receive the first point of the contest. Here are your ribbons. Now get ready.

RUPUNZEL: I'm sorry. I'm not going to play this game.

MALODOROUS: What are you talking about? How are we going to win the whole contest?

RUPUNZEL: I am not getting that close to you. I'm sorry.

MALODOROUS: Can I have a new partner?

WICKED WITCH: No, I'm afraid you can not. If your partner doesn't want to play, then you must sit out.

MALODOROUS: This is ridiculous. We'll never win now. *(Goes to sit down near ANTSY)*

ANTSY: Actually, if you could sit over there. There's a bit of a draft.

MALODOROUS: There's nothing wrong with being stinky. You forget this is fairy tale land. We have no running water.

You know how long it takes to get a bath going when there's no running water? You have to haul the water in from the well, you have to heat the water up on the stove and then you have to pour it in the tub. That's a lot of work and a lot of heavy lifting. For what? To remove a harmless stench. Please!

ANTSY: Hurry up and tie the ribbon, Beauty. We're falling behind.

BEAUTY: We're not racing at ribbon tying. Relax.

ANTSY: Not too tight. I may lose circulation in my leg. Oh, I can feel it already. My leg, it's going numb. Oh, my leg. My leg.

BEAUTY: I haven't started yet.

AGITATED: What a boring game. You would think with such a popular show as this, they would think of a more exciting game. I say, what a sham.

SNOW WHITE: It'll be fine. Hold still.

CHARMING: Why are you retying the ribbon, Cindy? You had it right the first time.

CINDERELLA: No, it wasn't. One of the loops was larger than the other one. It's better if I just start over again.

CHARMING: Of course, darling. Do what you have to.

WICKED WITCH: Are we ready? Good. On your mark. . .

CINDERELLA: Oh, it still doesn't look right. I need to redo the knot again.

WICKED WITCH: Get set. . .

CHARMING: Perhaps I should do it. I'll get it right the first time.

CINDERELLA: No, I can do it. I really can.

WICKED WITCH: Go!

(AGITATED/SNOW WHITE and ANTSY/BEAUTY are the only two couples to go. CINDERELLA and CHARMING continue to argue over the ribbon knot. Halfway across the stage, SLEEPING BEAUTY suddenly falls to floor and begins sleeping. AGITATED and SNOW WHITE cross the finish line, easily winning the game.)

SNOW WHITE: Yes, we've won! We've won!

WICKED WITCH: Curses! I mean, congratulations. Snow White and Prince Agitated have won the first game. *(to child)* You may make a mark under their names. *(to MARKS)* And you, Marks, go sit down.

AGITATED: What fun is this? We don't even have anyone good to compete against.

ANTSY: Oh dear, wake up, Sleeping Beauty. You must wake up or we'll lose the whole contest.

WICKED WITCH: You know what to do, Antsy-Pants.

ANTSY: Right now? In front of all these people? Oh, how embarrassing. Of all places for this to happen. I just hope I don't get any germs. *(Make a long and dramatic show of kissing her on the cheek.)*

SLEEPING BEAUTY: *(immediately wakes up)* What happened? Did I fall asleep again?

ANTSY: Yes, yes you did. Now we've lost the first race. And, to make matters worse, I think I pulled something in my leg when you fell down. Yes, look, look here. *(Walks with a limp)* I have a limp. Who knows what sort of damage has been done.

SLEEPING BEAUTY: Your shoe came off, that's all.

ANTSY: Oh, that's even worse. Who knows what kind of germs are on this floor.

WICKED WITCH: We need to move on to the next race, please.

CINDERELLA: There. The knot is perfect.

CHARMING: I must say it is pretty good.

WICKED WITCH: I'm sorry, folks. But the race is over.

CINDERELLA: But look at the knot.

WICKED WITCH: It's very nice, but we need to move on to the next race. This is called the apple carry. In this bucket there are a certain number of apples. Your job is to carry them, one by one, in your mouth to the other bucket. The first to fill the other bucket wins the race and will gain another point. Please discuss who will go first.

(While the couples are getting ready, the WITCH grabs one of the pails of apples, walks off to side and speaks to the child who is keeping score.)

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