

CINDERELLA

15

Scene Three
The Throne Room
of the Royal Palace

[MUSIC NO. 04B "YOUR MAJESTY"]

(SEBASTIAN, LORD PINKLETON, and other
POLITICAL FIGURES join TOPHER in his throne
room, which has formed around him.)

LORD PINKLETON. *(Holding a piece of parchment.)*

YOUR MAJESTY,

YOUR MAJESTY,

A LIST OF THE LORDS ENTREATING THEE.

TOPHER.

A LIST OF THE LORDS ENTREATING ME WITH WHAT?

LORD PINKLETON.

A HUNDRED AND FIVE REQUESTS.

TOPHER.

THAT SEEMS A LOT.

START

SEBASTIAN. I'll take this.

(Takes parchment, then to TOPHER.)

Your Majestic Highness, in honor of your upcoming coronation we proudly proclaim your kingdom a land of plenty and bounty. May I have the imprimatur of your ring on this other announcement?

TOPHER. Oh right, sorry. What's it for?

(He stamps the papers with his ring.)

SEBASTIAN. It's complicated. Do you really want me to go into it?

JEAN-MICHEL. *(Offstage, as if outside the palace.)* Prince Topher, listen!

TOPHER. What was that?

JEAN-MICHEL. You must take responsibility for your actions!

TOPHER. Who's that yelling from the other side of the moat?

JEAN-MICHEL. The people are being treated unfairly by your government!

TOPHER. He seems upset.

SEBASTIAN. Rabble-rouser! Ignore him. I have this new law which forbids any – actually if you let me have the ring, it would save the trip.

(TOPHER tosses the ring. SEBASTIAN stamps away. TOPHER looks out the window.)

TOPHER. Shouldn't we listen to what he has to say? People were never upset with Mom and Dad. Were they?

SEBASTIAN. Your parents had the good fortune to be royalty in a time of plenty. But since their unfortunate demise, I have done my best to run this country. I've done my best to raise you in the finest schools.

JEAN-MICHEL. Hello, I'm talking here!

TOPHER. We should invite him up for a talk.

SEBASTIAN. Ignore him.

JEAN-MICHEL. I will not give up! If you won't listen, I'll shout this to the town square.

SEBASTIAN. *(Nervously.)* Shout this to the town square – perhaps it's time for a distraction.

TOPHER. What kind of distraction?

SEBASTIAN. A royal wedding.

TOPHER. Wow. And does that work?

SEBASTIAN. Like a dream every time.

TOPHER. But, who will get married?

SEBASTIAN. Well...you.

TOPHER. That's just silly. I don't know any girls. I went to an all-boys school off in the woods. And then attended an all-male university, on an island. Why did you do that to me?

SEBASTIAN. For this happy day – I am going to find you a bride – oh, happy the day!

TOPHER. This is nonsense. How will you find me a bride?

SEBASTIAN. We shall have a magnificent ball. Dancing!

TOPHER. What?

SEBASTIAN. Every eligible young woman who can afford a gown will attend. That is a wonderful selection process right there. If you can't afford a nice dress, you don't have any business marrying a prince. Now. All the guests will be in masks. You will dance with every girl. At the stroke of midnight, everyone will remove their masks and you will have found your bride.

TOPHER. That's fast.

SEBASTIAN. King and Queen on the throne. I am there to guide you through all your decisions. It's really a win-win.

TOPHER. How would any woman fall in love with me so quickly?

SEBASTIAN. A valid question, which we will answer sometime soon. Now, Lord Pinkleton. I want you to tell this to all – a pronouncement – an announcement.

[MUSIC NO. 05 "THE PRINCE IS GIVING A BALL / NOW IS THE TIME"]

(LORD PINKLETON copies down what SEBASTIAN sings.)

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS
CHRISTOPHER RUPERT

TOPHER. Please, don't say my whole name!

SEBASTIAN.

WINDEMERE VLADIMIR

TOPHER. So embarrassing.

SEBASTIAN.

KARL ALEXANDER
FRANÇOIS REGINALD
LANCELOT HERMAN –

LORD PINKLETON & LORDS. Herman?

TOPHER. Herman!

SEBASTIAN.

– GREGORY JAMES
IS GIVING A BALL!

← STOP

WILL MY LOVE COME HOME TO ME?

WILL MY LOVE COME HOME TO ME?

*(From the shadows comes SEBASTIAN,
clutching a stack of papers.)*

START



SEBASTIAN. Honestly, sire. Three nights in a row you search? And here it is, four o'clock in the morning. It's as if you are testing my good nature. The second that woman in white ran off – which we all must admit seems to imply she has a police record. The second she is gone, you don't want to dance with any of the other girls.

TOPHER. Sebastian. Are there poor people in this kingdom who have had their land taken from them?

SEBASTIAN. If there were I would tell you.

TOPHER. Do they need our help?

SEBASTIAN. Everyone donated joyfully. Ignore this talk. Where did you hear it?

TOPHER. The girl.

SEBASTIAN. I don't know that she is to be trusted. Please come back to the castle, the work is piling up.

TOPHER. No, something isn't right.

SEBASTIAN. As you say –

(Puts his hand out.)

The ring, sire.

TOPHER. Oh right, sorry. What are you stamping this time?

SEBASTIAN. Nothing, sire, hardly worth troubling your beautiful mind.

TOPHER. Let me read it.

SEBASTIAN. I should explain, before –

TOPHER. I'll read this – on my own.

SEBASTIAN. Your Future Majesty, let's go back to the palace and allow me to draw up some coverage you don't want to –

TOPHER. I'm reading this now. Thank you.

SEBASTIAN. But –

TOPHER. That will be all Sebastian, I'll ask you if I need anything explained.

(SEBASTIAN hands over the papers. TOPHER reads a bit. He sees something shocking.)

Oh...no.

(Reads more. Then stops.)

Sebastian!!

SEBASTIAN. Sire, I can explain –

TOPHER. How could you do this in my name?

SEBASTIAN. I am maintaining this life for you, without my watchful eye you should be a pauper, would you like that?

TOPHER. I want that girl, the one who talked to me. I want to talk to that girl.

SEBASTIAN. A troublemaker.

TOPHER. We're having another ball, a banquet. And she'll come to that!

SEBASTIAN. She won't show, this is lunacy!!

TOPHER. She will come! We're having a banquet tonight. And you are inviting everyone in the kingdom.

SEBASTIAN. Don't forget who you're talking to.

TOPHER. And don't you forget who you're talking to. Now we are having a banquet tonight and I am finding that girl!

SEBASTIAN. Very well, sire.

(Storms off. Then stops and turns.)

She won't come. You don't even know her name! And if she really thought you were worthy of all her high ideals, she would have stayed, wouldn't she?!

TOPHER. A banquet!!

(He exits.)

[MUSIC NO. 21 "THE PRINCE IS GIVING A BALL (REPRISE)"]

← STOP