

THE THREE PRINCE CHARMINGS

by Edith Weiss

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STORY OF THE PLAY

Meet the Prince Charmings of Cinderella, Rapunzel, and Snow White. Steve, a freelance narrator, is telling a story when he is interrupted by two dueling princes: Prince Charming Hair and Prince Charming Smile. After Steve gets them to stop fighting, he narrates the story of Charming Hair and Cinderella. Steve gets a bit carried away at times, but they get to the traditional happy ending.

This reminds Prince Charming Smile that he does not have a lady fair. When he meets Rapunzel, "imprisoned" by the wicked witch Imaboil and the New Age witch Esmepus, he falls deeply into shallow love. He's determined to rescue Rapunzel and win her as his wife. But she doesn't want the prince, so Steve conjures up a sleeping Snow White. The final happy ever after happens to Steve, who, because of his honor, courageousness and kindness, is crowned Prince Charming All Round. Performance time: about an hour.

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

(14 characters or 3 men, 3 women, 1 flexible with doubling.)

Scene 1: Cinderella

STEVE: the Narrator, a cheerful, problem solver.

PRINCE CHARMING HAIR: easily prone to whining.

PRINCE CHARMING SMILE: easily prone to anger.

QUEEN: Prince Charming Hair's mother, rather overbearing.

JOHNSON: Hairdresser to the royals, very proper.

MAGDELENA: A lady from the kingdom of Yoursovania.

HILDEGARDE: A lady from the kingdom of Yoursovania.

CINDERELLA: Level-headed, sweet.

Scene 2: Rapunzel

STEVE

RAPUNZEL: Bratty, bored teenager.

ESMEPUS: A New Age witch.

IMABOIL: A more traditional mean witch.

MIASMA: A nasty witch.

WURZEL: A mean witch.

PRINCE CHARMING SMILE

Scene 3: Snow White

STEVE

SNOW WHITE: A practical and peaceful maiden.

PRINCE CHARMING SMILE

PRINCE CHARMING HAIR

RAPUNZEL

ESMEPUS

IMABOIL

DOUBLING CAST *(The role of Steve is not doubled.)*

Prince Charming Hair – Witch Wurzel

Prince Charming Smile – Johnson

Cinderella – Rapunzel

Queen – Imaboil

Magdalena – Esmepus

Hildegard – Miasma – Snow White

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PROP LIST

2 swords
Steve's walking stick with bag attached on top
Comb for Johnson
Calling cards
Tray of food
Two signs for Witches
Stick horse
Long, detachable braid for Rapunzel
Rapunzel items: hair brush, quilt, teddy bear, etc.
Apple for Snow White

SET DRESSING

Throne
French door with curtain
Buffet table with food
Tower
Glass coffin

SUGGESTED SONG LIST

(Music is optional. Copies of original songs () available after cast scripts are ordered. E-mail the publisher at info@histage.com.)*

Music: Wagner's "Ride of the Valkyries"
Song: "Rapier Song"*
Song: "The Habanera," from Bizet's "Carmen"
Music: Brahms' "Hungarian Dance #5"
Music: "Shepherd's Song" from Giordano's Andrea Chenier
Music: Scary, as from Humperdinck's "Hansel and Gretel"
Song: "Witches' Rendezvous"*
Music: "Ride of the Valkyries"
Song: "The Rescue Song"*
Music: Beethoven's 9th, "Ode to Joy"
Song: "Habanera" Reprise*

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(AT RISE: STEVE ENTERS.)

STEVE: Hi folks! I'm Steve. I'm an itinerant narrator. That means I travel around looking for narration jobs. There's not a lot of demand for freelance narration so I'm like really grateful for this job today. Okay ready? Okay. Once upon a time, in a far-off land ... I love starting a tale like that ... 'cause I can do it a lot of different ways. I can be scary: "Once upon a time ... muah ha ha ha!" Or Mother Goosey: "Once upon a time" Or very dramatic: "ONCE UPON A TIME!" See? It changes everything, just by the way I tell it! I just think it's so cool. So today we'll go sincere and simple, and I'll act out all the parts. Once upon a time, in a far-off land, there was a prince named Prince Charming. (*Acting.*) Hello, I'm Prince Charming. I live by a code of honor, and courage. (*Offstage clashing of swords and yelling: Rogue! Ruffian! Renegade!*) Whoa. What's this?

(MUSIC: Wagner's "Ride of the Valkyries." PRINCE CHARMING SMILE and PRINCE CHARMING HAIR ENTER, sword fighting. STEVE hides.)

SMILE: Liar!

HAIR: Phony!

SMILE: Parry, parry, lunge, lunge! Aha!

HAIR: And thrust. Aha!

(PRINCES strain against each other's swords.)

STEVE: Uh ... guys?

SMILE: Fraud!

HAIR: Finagler!

STEVE: I'm trying to tell a story here!

SMILE: Prestidigitator!

STEVE: Whoa! Big word!

SMILE: Strike!

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HAIR: Counter strike!

(Swords at an impasse.)

STEVE: Hey, guys, I'm trying to narrate here.

SMILE: *(Striking.)* Ha! Aha!

HAIR: Aha! Ha! Aha!

STEVE: Excuse me! I'm trying to tell a story here –

HAIR: Aha! Aha!

SMILE: Aha, aha, aha! I have more aha's than you!

HAIR: No one has more aha's than me! Aha, aha, aha, aha!

STEVE: Can you fight somewhere else? *(To audience.)* As you see, being a narrator can be a real challenge.

SMILE: Halt! Sir, did you just challenge me to a duel?

STEVE: No!

SMILE: Never let it be said I lack the courage to accept a challenge! En garde!

STEVE: Wait! *(SMILE and STEVE duel; Steve very badly with his walking stick.)* No! Wait! Whoa!

SMILE: Strike! Lunge!

STEVE: Somebody could get hurt here!

SMILE: Parry, parry, thrust!

STEVE: No! No parrying, no thrusting! I don't want to fight with you!

HAIR: *(To SMILE.)* Aha! It is me he wishes to fight!

STEVE: No!

HAIR: I, too, have courage! *(To SMILE.)* More courage than you, you imposter!

SMILE: Never! *(HAIR and SMILE square off to duel.)*

STEVE: Why are you guys fighting? And what does courage have to do –

HAIR: Silence! No one has more courage than I! And I'll prove it! *(To STEVE.)* En garde!

STEVE: No!

HAIR: Lunge and parry!

STEVE: Stop lunging! What parrying! I don't even know what that means!

SMILE: *(Urging STEVE to fight.)* Lunge, thrust, parry!

End of Freeview

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