

Our Story:

Cinderella Synopsis

This story of Cinderella is different from the one you may know. There is no wicked stepmother, no kind fairy godmother, no pumpkin, no mice, and no glass slipper! But there are two silly stepsisters, a handsome prince, a royal wedding, and of course, the sweet, caring, and patient Cinderella herself. So, sit back and listen to the story. What is the same and what is different from the story you know?

Our story begins not with, "Once upon a time," but with a dream...we meet all the people who take part in this tale. Each talks in their sleep, telling us the most secret desire of their heart. Then the story begins...

There was once a girl named Angelina, but no one ever called her by that beautiful name. Her mother had died and now she lived with her foolish, greedy stepfather and his two vain and selfish daughters. They treated Angelina like a servant and punished her despite her patience and gentleness. Angelina's stepsisters were named Clorinda and Tisbe, and even though Angelina always used their proper names and never called them anything unkind, they always called her "Cinderella," because she was often covered with cinders and ashes from the fireplace she cleaned. Their Father allowed his daughters to treat Angelina this way because he was selfish and greedy too. With Angelina to do all the chores, he did not need to hire a servant or do any work! The Father's greatest ambition was to get a prince to marry Clorinda or Tisbe so that he could be rich.

One day a beggar came to the door. Clorinda and Tisbe laughed at Angelina, who kindly offered the poor man a little food. Their disdain soon became excitement when Alidoro, the royal Prince's tutor arrived. What they did not know was that the beggar they had mistreated was Alidoro in disguise.



Alidoro announced, "Prince Ramiro is old enough to be married and is searching the Kingdom for a wife." The selfish sisters just knew that the prince would choose one of them to be his wife and began to squabble for Alidoro's attention. Their greedy father, Don Magnifico, interrupted his daughters and reminded them that it did not matter which of them the prince chose—if he married either of them, they would all be rich. Angelina looked on, feeling rather sorry for the prince.

Unfortunately, Prince Ramiro was not very excited about getting married. He did not like all the fuss and had not met anyone in the least bit interesting! He complained to his servant Dandini. Dandini thought that it would be fun to be the Prince and have lots of pretty girls want to marry him because he was rich. So Dandini and Ramiro decided to switch places. Dandini would pretend to be the Prince, and the Prince would pretend to be Dandini. As the pretend Prince, Dandini could date as many girls as he liked. As Dandini, the Prince could watch out for the girl of his dreams without anyone knowing his true identity.

Prince Ramiro and Dandini were required to visit all the marriageable girls of the kingdom and invite them to a huge ball where the Prince would choose the woman he would marry. So, Prince Ramiro and Dandini arrived at the selfish sisters' house, each pretending to be the other. Clorinda and Tisbe fell all over themselves trying to make Dandini like them—all because they thought he was the Prince. They behaved so foolishly that Dandini did not want to invite them to the ball. (He was quickly learning that "the grass isn't always greener on the other side." Being the Prince was not so much fun after all!) Meanwhile, Angelina and the Prince, unseen by the others, met. Angelina thinks that the Prince was a servant—and also that he was the nicest person she had ever met. The Prince, in turn, thinks that Angelina was the sweetest girl in the world. They fell in love.

Suddenly, Alidoro arrived with the official invitation to the Prince's Royal Ball. He asked Don Magnifico and his *three* daughters to come to the palace. Don Magnifico lied and said that he had only two daughters—the third, Angelina, was dead. Clorinda, Tisbe and Don Magnifico left with the royal party. Wise Alidoro returned to find Angelina sad and alone. He reminded her of his very first visit as the beggar, when she gave him food and offered him shelter even though she thought he was only a poor beggar. Because of her compassion and goodness, he decided to send her to the party. Alidoro arranged a beautiful gown so she can appear at the ball. To go with her new dress, he gave her a pair of lovely bracelets.

At the party, the stepsisters were at it again—and they were driving Dandini crazy! Dandini told them, "I can only marry one of you—I will make my choice,



and the other of you can marry my good servant here.” (Of course, Dandini’s “servant” is the Prince in disguise!) These two greedy, self-centered sisters were disgusted at the thought of marrying a mere servant. As they were all fighting, a mysterious and beautiful stranger arrived. The entire party stopped to wonder about the pretty girl. The two sisters were outraged and jealous. Dandini was intrigued. Even the Prince found this new woman fascinating. He does not know why, but she seems familiar to him.

The Prince began to talk to the stranger alone. He felt so comfortable with her that he poured out his heart to her. Angelina, for that is, of course, who the mysterious stranger was, remembered Ramiro as the wonderful man she met earlier. Angelina was very wise and told the prince that it isn’t money that makes a marriage work, it is love and honesty.

Angelina wanted Ramiro to love her for herself, not because he thought she was a rich noblewoman, so she gave him one of the two bracelets that Alidoro gave her and told him to seek her out. Then she ran away.



As the party ended, a huge storm blew in. When Don Magnifico and the whiny sisters arrived home, they found Angelina at home by the fire, calmly doing her chores. Clorinda and Tisbe were terribly upset at the way the evening turned out. Dandini unexpectedly arrived with the Prince, who pulled out Angelina’s bracelet and presented it to her, confessing his true identity—and his love.

Then he asked Angelina to be his wife. The sisters and Don Magnifico were confused and angry. Angelina, surprised and delighted, accepted the Prince’s proposal right away. Angelina was so happy that she forgave her family for their cruelty, and they all lived happily ever after.

Angelina’s story proves that the best way to live is by treating others as you would have them treat you. Because Angelina lived by this “Golden Rule,” she, and everyone around her, benefited.

