

CINDERELLA

DUKE, PRINCE AND PAGE

DUKE: My prince, you are of an age to be married. After all, his majesty, the king, won't be around forever and he wants to leave knowing that you'll be loved and cared for.

PRINCE: Then let him love me and care for me and he can go in peace.

DUKE: Your highness, the king believes that it is time for you to start a family of your own.

PRINCE: And I want that very much as well. But I don't think this ball idea is a way to meet my soul mate.

DUKE: Just go. If you don't find someone nice...

PRINCE: You'll leave me alone?

DUKE: No, we'll throw another party and the kingdom over the hill. [Page enters with the royal sash and attempts to give it to the prince but the duke takes it instead] Where did you get this?

PAGE: The prince, I mean, his highness left it when he, that is...

PRINCE: [taking the sash and cutting off the Page] Am I a prisoner now? Can't I even go out?

DUKE: Your highness, as the prince you need to be protected from the people.

PRINCE: How can I hope to ever rule over the people if I'm not allowed to know them, to walk among them, to be one of them.

DUKE: Your highness, the people don't want to know you. They just want to know that you are up here, locked safely away from them.

PRINCE: I must insist on being allowed my freedom.

DUKE: Certainly, your highness. Just as soon as we find a nice little bride for you.

PRINCE: No. I cannot be a part of this whole ruse. I can't think in here. I can't breathe. (he discards the royal sash and dashes out. The duke turns and picks up the sash.)

DUKE: Your highness, come back here! The king commands that you be at the ball tonight. And that you'd better be on time!! (to Page) What do I have to do to get that man to listen to me?

PAGE: You know, technically, aren't you supposed to listen to him?

DUKE: Again with the not helping.