

THE TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS OF FAIRY TALE COURT

By Christina Hamlett

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STORY OF THE PLAY

Fairy tales don't automatically have happy endings, as this day in court proves. Well-known fairy tale characters as Cinderella, Jack (of beanstalk fame), the three pigs, and others plead their cases before a judge who gives some sage answers to well-known problems.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Judge Minerva: Presiding authority.

Bailiff Benny: Assists the Judge.

Cindy: A plaintiff with a problem.

Ms. Landon: Attorney for Cindy.

Hortense: Godmother with Dream Comes True, Inc.

Mr. Slickers: Attorney for Hortense.

Prince Egbert: A courtroom spectator.

Jack Trimble: An earnest plaintiff.

Mr. Mulholland: A crafty defendant.

Lenora Pepperdine: A plaintiff seeking suitable housing.

Fred: A partner in Hog Construction, Ltd.

Ed: Another partner.

Ted: Another partner.

Prince Larry: A plaintiff with a passion for ponds.

Winona Witch Hazel: The defendant.

Time: The present, a Monday morning.

See end of script for additional production notes.

SCENE 1

(AT RISE: ALL are present and seated except BENNY and MINERVA who enter shortly after curtain rises.)

BENNY: *(Entering first from SR, followed by MINERVA.)* All rise! *(ALL stand.)* Fairy Tale District Court is now in session. Judge Minerva presiding.

MINERVA: *(Sits down; the others remain standing.)* All present, please raise your right hand. *(THEY do.)* Do you solemnly swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth in pursuit of happy endings for all?

ALL: We do.

MINERVA: Be seated. *THEY all sit, as SHE addresses BENNY.)* First case, Bailiff?

BENNY: *(Reviewing file.)* Miss Cinderella, plaintiff, versus Dreams Come True, Inc., defendant.

MINERVA: Counsel, please step forward and present clients.

(CINDY, MS. LANDON, HORTENSE, and SLICKERS come from audience to take opposing sides at the two podiums.)

LANDON: Ms. Landon representing Miss Cinderella, plaintiff.

SLICKERS: J. J. Slickers representing Hortense Goodbody, an employee of Dreams Come True, Inc., defendant.

MINERVA: Your claim, Ms. Landon?

LANDON: My client is seeking damages in the form of a new car, a new dress, and new shoes from the defendant for false promises made on the evening of August 24th.

MINERVA: That's an unusual settlement. Would you please elaborate?

LANDON: *(Urging CINDY to tell her story.)* Cindy?

CINDY: Well, on the night of August 24th, I was sitting around in the cinders feeling sorry for myself because my stepmother and stepsisters had gone off to a dance at the palace and left me behind. All of a sudden,

CINDY: *(Cont'd. Indicating HORTENSE.)* this person over here appeared from out of nowhere and promised me the moon!

SLICKERS: Objection, your honor. No such claim was ever made by my client.

MINERVA: Miss Cinderella, if you'll kindly stick to the specifics.

CINDY: Well, as I was saying, this woman introduced herself as my fairy godmother and said she'd help me out.

MINERVA: Did she offer proof of this association?

CINDY: She had a business card, as well as a contract.

LANDON: Exhibit A, your honor. She represents Dreams Come True, Inc., a private corporation.

MINERVA: Go on with your testimony.

CINDY: Anyway, she promised me a new ball gown, dancing shoes, and reliable transportation.

MINERVA: And did she deliver these goods as promised?

SLICKERS: *(Before CINDY can respond.)* Our contract is crystal clear, your honor. Miss Cinderella was warned of the midnight clause.

MINERVA: The midnight clause?

CINDY: There I was, having the time of my life and right at the stroke of twelve, my dress turned into this old rag, my Turbo Z turned into a pumpkin, and the chauffeur turned into this creepy little lizard that I haven't seen since!

HORTENSE: If I could say a word, your honor? The young woman disregarded the warning by not returning home at the appointed hour. In spite of that, I did think it was generous of me to allow her to keep one of the slippers as a souvenir of her evening.

MINERVA: Is that a customary practice of your employer, Miss Goodbody?

HORTENSE: Well, not exactly. Dreams Come True, Inc. is quite explicit about what belongs to whom. We're a non-profit corporation, you know. We have to account for everything.

MINERVA: And you admit you let her keep something that wasn't hers, is that true? *(Reaches under desk and pulls out glass shoe.)* Exhibit B, one glass dancing shoe?

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CINDY: *(Vexed.)* Have you ever tried dancing in one of those, your honor? Crunch, crunch, crunch, and every second you're scared some ox is going to step on your toes!

EGBERT: *(Waving HIS hand from back of courtroom.)*
Excuse me, your honor?

BENNY: Rise and be recognized.

EGBERT: *(Rising.)* Prince Egbert of Muplemavia. If I could approach the bench and examine Exhibit B?

MINERVA: This is most unusual. Does counsel have any objections?

LANDON: Fine with me.

SLICKERS: No objections.

(EGBERT comes forward, looks at shoe, suddenly withdraws a matching slipper from his tunic.)

MINERVA: What this? A second slipper?

EGBERT: Ever since that fateful night, your honor, I've searched high and low for the lovely owner of this shoe of glass. When the clock struck midnight, she fled from the palace. *(Sigh)* This shoe is all I had left of her ... until today.

CINDY: *(Approaching HIM in amazement.)* Your Highness?

EGBERT: *(Thrilled to see HER.)* Cindy ... is it really you?

(THEY embrace.)

HORTENSE: Dreams Come True always delivers, your honor. I knew that what the plaintiff really wanted was to find her one, true love. In my own small way, I wanted to help her out.

SLICKERS: If the opposition has no objection, it would seem that a happily ever after has just been settled here.

MINERVA: And what about the new car and the new dress, not to mention more practical shoes than these?

CINDY: *(Happily.)* Oh, I have everything I could possibly want, your honor!

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MINERVA: In that case, *(Pounds gavel once.)* case dismissed. *(The FOUR return to their seats.)* Next!

BENNY: Jack Trimble versus Mr. Mulholland on a charge of erroneous claims.

MINERVA: Do plaintiff and defendant have counsel present?

(JACK and MULHOLLAND rise.)

JACK: I choose to represent myself, your honor.

MULHOLLAND: Same here.

BENNY: Step forward and present your respective cases.

(THEY take opposite sides at podiums.)

JACK: My name is Jack Trimble, your honor. Three days ago, my mother sent me to town to sell our only cow, Flossie. On the way, I ran into Mr. Mulholland here, who offered me some magic lima beans in exchange for Flossie.

MINERVA: Magic lima beans? Have you brought them with you?

JACK: Right here, your honor.

(Takes them out of pocket and goes up to hand them to HER; HE then returns to podium.)

MINERVA: They look like ordinary lima beans to me.

JACK: That's what I said. But he was most insistent that they'd change my life.

MINERVA: And did Mr. Mulholland have a contract to support his claims?

MULHOLLAND: I'm an honest man, your honor. Anyone can see that.

MINERVA: And what did you claim these magic lima beans could do?

MULHOLLAND: *(Shrugs.)* Uh ... I don't know. I never exactly tried them out before.

MINERVA: Never exactly tried them out? What does that mean?

MULHOLLAND: Some guy gave 'em to me for five dollars. He was sort of vague about what they could do, but he gave this great pitch.

JACK: No doubt the same pitch Mr. Mulholland gave me.

MINERVA: And how did your mother react to news of this exchange, Mr. Trimble?

JACK: She was really upset, your honor. She grabbed them and started to throw them out the window. I immediately grabbed all but one of them back and set out to find Mr. Mulholland. I thought he should return my original property, Flossie.

MINERVA: All but one of them you say?

MULHOLLAND: Which is exactly why he's not entitled to a full refund, your honor. Part of the original property is missing.

JACK: Oh, it's not missing at all. You see, your honor, it grew into this huge, thick vine right in the middle of my mother's flower garden. It goes so high up into the sky, you can't even see the very top leaves!

MINERVA: Have you attempted to climb this vine, Mr. Trimble, and see where it goes?

JACK: Well, frankly, your honor, if I do that, I think it's only fair that Mr. Mulholland accompany me. If it's dangerous up there, it's only right that he be a part of it. After all, he got me into this.

MINERVA: Does that sound fair to you, Mr. Mulholland?

MULHOLLAND: What if it doesn't?

MINERVA: Then you'll take back the remaining lima beans and return the Trimble's their cow.

MULHOLLAND: (*Scratches his head.*) What about that vine? Is it mine or his?

MINERVA: I'm afraid the vine has grown out of my jurisdiction. He can't very well return it, so his only choice is to keep it in his yard.

JACK: Do you feel like an adventure or not? We might even meet a giant or two!

End of Freeview

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