

# 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\*

### THE THREE PRINCE CHARMINGS

*(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!

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STEVE: But I don't know anything about sword fighting! I'm just Steve the itinerant narrator!

SMILE: A narrator? I'm fighting Steve the narrator? There's no honor in that! I'm so ashamed!

HAIR: I fought him too! I'm more ashamed than you are! Look how low my head is hanging!

SMILE: My head is also hanging in shame! Look, my head is hanging lower than yours!

HAIR: Mine's lower! *(Both PRINCES have lowered their heads till they are close to the ground.)*

SMILE: Mine is!

STEVE: Hey! What's so shameful about fighting with me?

SMILE: It was an unequal battle. You, a narrator who doesn't know how to sword fight, fighting with me. That makes me a bully, and I'm not a bully!

HAIR: I'm less of a bully than you are!

SMILE: Nobody is less –

*(THEY reach for their swords)*

STEVE: No! This constant competing with each other has got to stop! Somebody could get hurt!

SMILE: He's right.

HAIR: I know he's right.

SMILE: But I said it first.

HAIR: I was thinking it!

SMILE: I thought it before you!

*(THEY reach for their swords)*

STEVE: No swords!

SMILE AND HAIR: Fisticuffs!

STEVE: STOP! *(Walks between THEM, gets the punches.)*  
Oh!

SMILE: You punched an innocent bystander!

HAIR: You did first!

SMILE: That's absurd! A Prince Charming would never hit a narrator!

HAIR: I am Prince Charming! Stop stealing my name!

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