

TOWNSPEOPLE:

The Prince is giving a ball!
The Prince is giving a ball!

(The crowd scatters to spread the news. From different areas of the stage, the following lines are sung by characters in distinct groups: a family—father, mother and daughter; a group of girls; a second group of girls.)

FATHER:

Our daughter's looking dreamy-eyed.

MOTHER *(Providing the obvious explanation):*

The Prince is giving a ball.

DAUGHTER *(Dreamy-eyed):*

They say he wants to find a bride;
He may find one at the ball.

FIRST GIRL *(To SECOND GIRL):*

If only he'd propose to me.

SECOND GIRL *(To THIRD GIRL):*

I pray that he'll propose to me.

THIRD GIRL *(To herself):*

Why shouldn't he propose to me?

WOMAN:

I wish I hadn't married Sam.

WOMAN *(to daughter):*

Pull in your little diaphragm.

OLDEST SISTER *(Smugly):*

I'll wear a gown of satin jade.

YOUNGER SISTER:

And me, I'm in a pink brocade.

KID SISTER *(Putting her inconsolable chin on her two little fists):*

And me, I'm in the second grade!

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HERALD:

His Royal Highness, Christopher Rupert,

Son of Her Majesty, Queen Constantina

Charlotte Ermintrude, Gwinyvere Maisie—

(Same one as before):

Maisie?

HERALD:

—Maisie Marguerite Anne is giving a ball!

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SLOPPY GIRL:

I wish I didn't like to eat.

BAD GIRL *(à la Mae West):*

I wish I were demure and sweet.

STUDIOUS GIRL *(With spectacles):*

I wish I were a bolder girl.

GRANDMA:

I wish I were a younger girl.

KID SISTER *(Same one as before):*

I wish I were an older girl!

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HERALD:

His Royal Highness, Christopher Rupert,
Son of His Majesty, King Maximilian
Godfrey Ladislaus Leopold Sidney—

TOWNSPEOPLE:

Sidney?

HERALD:

—Sidney! Frederick John
Is giving a ball.

TOWNSPEOPLE:

The Prince is giving a ball!

The Prince is giving a ball!

The Prince is giving a ball!

(The song ends with everyone frozen in a tableau)

Music 4: CINDERELLA MARCH

(STEPMOTHER, JOY and PORTIA enter as the freeze is broken. They walk in time to the music and behind them the town comes to life in pantomime.)

The three are dressed magnificently and walk with an obvious sense of their own importance. The STEPMOTHER is rather imperious, as befits a proper stepmother, but there is no happy light in JOY and no suggestion of intelligence in PORTIA. In fact the two stepsisters have been named in direct opposition to their true demeanor, for we