ONCE UPON A CONCERT

By Judy Jehn

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STORY OF THE PLAY

Where does a modern Cinderella go to find her Prince Charming? A rock concert, of course, if she has a little help from her tough Godfather.

In this modern, humorous two-act version of the classic fairy tale, Cindy R. Ella and her nasty twin stepsisters and stepmother live in Snootyville, where money is the biggest concern of its residents. Cindy's family is the richest in town, but, like the legend, Cindy is required to do all the work, including taking care of her stepsisters' horses and changing the oil in their sports cars.

Cindy only wants two things: to attend a Stagnant Rocks concert to see the star, Nick Lynx, and to spend more time with her father, who is always away on business.

After everyone has left for the concert, including the twins' ditzy boyfriends, the protesters, the cheerleaders, and other shallow residents of Snootyville, Cindy is visited by the Godfather and his assistant, Tony. They turn one of the horses into a motorcycle, and Cindy gets to see her prince, the famous Nick Lynx, in concert. But the crowd gets rowdy and Cindy, dropping her hat, escapes before the police arrive.

When Cindy's father hears about it, he decides he needs to spend more time at home with his family. And like all good fairy tale endings, the prince arrives with the hat, looking for the lovely girl of his dreams.

RUNNING TIME: One hour and half, including 15 minute intermission.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

News Team
DAVE DREARY: News anchor, serious
WENDY SQUALLS: Weather announcer
JACK JACKO: Sports reporter
GLORIA GOSSIP: Gossip columnist
HONEST AL: Commercial man
CAMERA PERSON: Also the ANNOUNCER, USHER, and EMCEE for concert

The Ellas
CINDY ELLA: Hard working, poetry-writing daughter of Henry
SABRINA ELLA: The snobby twin stepsister
DRUSILLA ELLA: The whinny twin stepsister
MAUD ELLA: Twins' mother, nasty to Cindy, enjoys being rich
HENRY ELLA: Cindy's father, always out of town working

Other VIPs:
PRINCE: Really, Nick Lynx, the rock star, also in disguise as a HIPPIE, FARMER, and PIZZA DELIVERY MAN
STAGNANT ROCKS BAND: May be any number
GODFATHER: Friend of Mr. Ella, has a voice like raw meat and a heart of gold
TONY: The Godfather's assistant, eager

The Students
REGGIE VAN HAUGHTEN: Sabrina's boyfriend, very snobbish
EDDY SNODGRASS: Drusilla's bumbling boyfriend, a nerd with a snorty laugh
BONE CRUSHER JONES: Football tackle, dumb
SHERRIE: Cheerleader, adores Bone, follows him everywhere
JULIE: another
LAURA: another
ELLIE: another
LINDA BICKER: Head of student council and leader of protest against school cafeteria
PROTESTER #1: Linda's follower, carries a sign
PROTESTER #2: another
PROTESTER #3: another
PROTESTER #4: another
LEAD RUNNER: has a few lines
CROSS COUNTRY TEAM: Boy's team, any number

(Cheerleaders, team, and protesters may be any number.)

SYNOPSIS

ACT I

Introduction	TV evening news.
Scene 1	A birthday party, same night.
Scene 2	Before the curtain, same night.
Scene 3	Open curtain, next morning.
Scene 4	That evening before the concert.

ACT II

Scene 1	The same evening at the concert.
Scene 2	Late night news, after the concert.
Scene 3	Open curtain. The next morning at the Ella's house.
Conclusion	TV evening news, four years later.

SET

TV news set is before the curtain with two small tables, chairs, phones, a large United States map on an easel for the weather report, and a picture of a junk car for the ad.

Main set is a well-to-do modern living room. SR is a table while CS is a small loveseat, two living room chairs, and a footstool. A record or CD player is upstage. SL is the door to the outside and SR is to the rest of the house. In the first act, the house is decorated for the birthday party and a punch bowl with cups is on the table.

Cindy's bedroom is represented by a small desk, chair, and phone in front of the curtain.

For the concert scene, a raised platform SL can be used for the band which includes a drum set, microphone, and amplifiers. The concert goers can sit on risers or if necessary, folding chairs.

ACT I
Before Curtain – The TV News

(AT RISE: Two news desks and weather map. The ANNOUNCER is also running the camera.)

ANNOUNCER: This is station WCIN, coming to you from Snootyville, USA, the seat of snobbery and snubbery. Now, here's Dave Dreary with the news.

DAVE DREARY: *(Very serious.)* Good evening. Once again it's time for the dreary news. *(Sighs.)* First the world news. It's bad. It's bad. Everything you don't want to think about has happened. *(Sighs. Throws paper to the floor.)* Next, on to the national news. *(Sighs.)* Nothing good here either. *(Throws paper on the floor.)* At last, the local news. *(With more interest.)* A major disturbance occurred at Snootyville High when the science teacher's rabbits escaped. Linda Bicker, the student council president, found one rabbit in her salad. She commented, "I just never ate a salad with ears before." The rabbit then ran through the lunch room and tried to attack the assistant principal, who fought back by throwing biscuits at the rabbit. *(Pause.)* He missed the rabbit, but the biscuit broke a table. This incident prompted a strike against the cafeteria. The biggest local news story is that Nick Lynx and the Stagnant Rocks will perform in concert here, tomorrow evening. *(Hear students screaming in the background.)* Everyone who is anyone will be there. But if you don't have your ticket yet, you're too late. *(Scratches head.)* Strange! I wonder why he is coming here to such a small town? Oh, well. Next, we will hear from our weather person, Ms. Wendy Squalls.

ANNOUNCER: Ms. Squalls' weather forecast is not approved by anybody.

WENDY SQUALLS: Hi, everybody. Well, how's the weather at your house? *(Snicker, snicker.)* Today there are high and low pressures everywhere, take your pick, but watch out for those big H's and L's floating over head. *(Snicker, snicker.)* Let's take a look at our map.

WENDY SQUALLS: *(Cont'd.)* You can see Mr. Sun, over here. *(Points vaguely at the map.)* But Mr. Rain is causing flooding in the South. Over on the East coast, it will be *(Whistle all the S words)* sunny by the seashore on Saturday for sure. So, dudes and dudettes, bring out the beach balls. Moving on to the North, nothing much is happening, dudes, so we'll skip it. The forecast for tonight is, 100% chance of darkness, and for tomorrow a 100% chance of light. Also, a 1% chance of sun, tornado, hurricanes, rain, thunderstorms, or blizzard in your area.

ANNOUNCER: Now a brief message.

HONEST AL: Honest Al here folks. Need a good used car? Then, come on down to Honest Al's used car lot. Folks, we have lots and lots of cars, all beauties at fantastic, unbelievable prices. Just bring us an honest face and Honest Al will put you in the car of your choice. Take this little beauty. *(Holds up a picture of a junker.)* At most places you could expect to pay $14,000. *(Holds up card with price on it.)* But not at Honest Al's. No, sirree. *(Throws card down.)* Not even $12,000. *(Throws card down.)* Not even $10,000. *(Throws another card down.)* No, neighbors, the price of this car is *(Holds up card.)* merely $9,999.99. Come on down. *(Motions for them to come in.)* Special discounts to students accompanied by parents. Remember, you can trust old Honest Al.

(Gives audience a large smile.)

ANNOUNCER: Next, onto the sports with Jack Jocko.

JACK JOCKO: Hello sports fans! How are you today? Well, I'm just sporty. Now onto the sports. What about that cross country team? The coach reports at the last meet the whole kit 'n' caboodle took a wrong turn somewhere in the woods and they haven't been seen for three days. The coach says he is still hopeful of finding them. At last the good news, the local football team is steam-rolling over the opponents, thanks in part to our great all state tackle, Bone Crusher Jones! He has made many a quarterback yell, "Mommy, Mommy".

End of Freeview

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