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SCENE 2

**MAGNIFICA:** What a glorious day! Long, lazy hours of nothing to do! When I married the grand Signore—I thought—how nice! I keep a good house, I fashion fine pasta! But, no—Cenerentola does it all.

*(Magnifica works herself into a frenzy.)*

When I clean, she says it does not sparkle. And then she does it over. When I make the pasta, she says it is overdone—not al dente! And puts on another pot of water for more pasta! What's a grand lady to do! *Nothing I do is right! Cenerentola wants to do it all!* It's so unfair. Everyone thinks I am a wicked stepmother who works Cenerentola to the bone. Nobody believes that Cenerentola insists on sweeping the chimneys and washing the lentils one by one. *Who does that?* She makes me look like a terrible stepmother. But I, the good Lady Magnifica, am gentle, and warm and good—oh I almost weep when I think of my goodness!

*(And she may weep—a little. And then abruptly change.)*

I want to throw a ball! That would be fun, no? Especially because it is Carnevale Week! Everyone is going to balls and feasting. But Cenerentola thinks it is too expensive! Everyone in Bologna is celebrating. Except us. Don't you think it's time we celebrated also? Everyone could come and argue about who has the best lasagna recipe—I do, of course. But can I prove it? Can I make it? Can I serve it! No! Too messy, Cenerentola says! I have become a prisoner to cleanliness! But this is my home too, eh? And if I feel like giving a ball, I should give a ball! And if I feel like eating a biscotti I will eat that biscotti!

*(And from a pocket or a drawstring purse, Magnifica produces—a biscotti!)*