

TISBE: Cenerentola! You are as much fun as a codfish! You are mad at Mama for eating a biscotti?

CENERENTOLA: *(Returning to the stage:)* She was eating it on the Terrace! And that's just the beginning, Tisbe. After that, she will be eating pizza in the sitting room and then spaghetti in bed! Before you know it, our fine villa will be overrun with rodents living high and mighty off of our crumbs! Is that what you want? To live with rats?

CLORINDA: It would be more exciting than sitting home every day scrubbing the villa!

TISBE: Mother would like to give a ball!

CENERENTOLA: Out of the question! Think of the work! The chaos! The mess!

CLORINDA: Think of the gowns—

CENERENTOLA: A waste of ducats—

TISBE: —dashing noblemen—

CENERENTOLA: Who are gold seekers—

CLORINDA: Fine foods—

CENERENTOLA: To be chopped and stirred and breaded and baked!

TISBE: Imagine the goodwill created by having all the townspeople invited to our home!

CENERENTOLA: And then they will gossip about us. Criticize our tapestries, disapprove of the ragu—

CLORINDA: You are—IMPOSSIBLE!

CENERENTOLA: SENSIBLE!

TISBE: ISH-KABIBBLE!

CLORDINA AND CENERENTOLA: *What?*

TISBE: I just wanted to add to the conversation.

(Magnifica enters – stunned. She starts to speak but cannot.)

CENERENTOLA: Yes? You wish to say something?

(Magnifica nods her head as she gasps for air.)

CLORINDA: Speak, Mama!

MAGNIFICA: The Prince...the Prince...

TISBE: What about the Prince?

MAGNIFICA: The Prince –

(Ramiro and Dandini enter.)

DANDINI: – has arrived! Trumpets please!

(A trumpet sound is heard or coaxed from the audience.)

Bene!

CLORINDA AND TISBE: *(Giggling and hugging each other:)*
Ohhh! The Prince!

(Magnifica curtsies and steps forward to greet them.)

MAGNIFICA: Welcome, Your Highness. To what do I owe this immensely surprising, overwhelming honor?

DANDINI: I was enjoying a lovely ride in the countryside when I spotted this lovely villa and I said to myself, "Dandini!" No! That's not right. I said to my *servant*, "Dandini! We must make the acquaintance of the family who lives here!"

RAMIRO: Actually, we were lost.

(He produces a map.)

CLORINDA AND TISBE: Oh! How wonderful!