



A Wish Your Heart Makes: From the Grimm Brothers' Aschenputtel to Disney's Cinderella (Disney Editions Deluxe (Film))

By Charles Solomon

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With its kind heroine who receives her just reward-and a dashing prince-with the help of her Fairy Godmother, "Cinderella" is one the most beloved fairy tales throughout the world. Although the most popular versions appeared in Charles Perrault's *Histoires ou contes du temps pass* ("Stories or Fables of Times Past") (1697) and the Grimms' "Fairy Tales" (1812), the story can be traced back to the story of Rhodopis, a Greek slave girl who marries the pharaoh of Egypt, which Strabo recorded in the first century B.C.E. In the late nineteenth century, British folklorist Marian Roalfe Cox catalogued 345 variations of the story.

For more than two thousand years, children and adults have read and watched as Cinderella endured cruel mistreatment without complaining-and met her prince before the stroke of midnight. *A Wish Your Heart Makes* will trace the history of the fairy tale, emphasizing its strong ties to Walt Disney and his studio.

Major artists who illustrated the story of Cinderella range from Aubrey Beardsley, Edward Burne-Jones, and Walter Crane, to Gustave Doré, Edmund Dulac, John B. Gruelle, and Arthur Rackham. The story has been adapted to the stage many times, including the operas *La Cenerentola* by Giacomo Rossini and *Cendrillon* by Jules Massenet, the ballet by Sergei Prokofiev, and musical adaptations by Rodgers and Hammerstein and Stephen Sondheim.

There have been scores of Cinderella films, beginning with a black and white short in 1907. But the most celebrated is Walt Disney's, one of his most beloved fairy tales-and the film that saved his studio, which had languished in the doldrums after the end of World War II. Years later, when a lunch guest asked Disney what his favorite piece of animation done at his studio, he replied, "I think it would be when Cinderella got her ball gown."

The book will conclude with the making of the 2015 live-action film *Cinderella* directed by Kenneth Branagh, including interviews with Branagh, Cate Blanchett, Helena Bonham-Carter, Anthony Caron-Delion, Patrick Doyle, Dante Ferretti, Derek Jacobi, Lilly James, Aline Brosh McKenna, and Chris Weitz.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Charles Solomon is an internationally respected critic and historian of animation. He has written on the subject for *The New York Times*, *TV Guide*, *Newsweek*, *Rolling Stone*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Modern Maturity*, *Film Comment*, and *The Hollywood Reporter*. His books include *Tale As Old As Time: The Art and Making of Beauty and the Beast*; *Disney Lost and Found*, *The Prince of Egypt: A New Vision in Animation*, *The Disney That Never Was*, and *Enchanted Drawings: The History of Animation*, which was a *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year, and the first film book to be nominated for a National Book Critics' Circle Award.

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