

Fairy Fails

written by

Matthew Bodinham

ACT 1

ACT 1 SCENE 1. INT. SUPPORT GROUP IN A COMMUNITY CENTRE. DAY.

A group of down on their luck people sit around in a circle not talking and looking bitter. The group includes JACK- an arrogant and abrasive young man, DICK- a pleasant but simple gentleman, CINDERELLA- a former beauty with the look of having recently hit hard times, and PUSS- a cat with a wary, mistrustful look in his eye. EXPO- a chirpy counsellor- walks in and takes a seat at the head of the circle.

EXPO

Sorry that I'm late, especially as I'm the one that called you all here. My name's Expo...Expo Cision.

JACK

What a tool.

EXPO

Exactly. Now, I've been doing some research on the effects of being a child celebrity, and through that research found that all the "major pantos" as you have been dubbed, have grown up to have...unremarkable lives in as adults. In fact there's almost a perfect indirect correlation between success as a child and success as an adult.

JACK

Then you must have been a real child prodigy.

EXPO

(missing the insult)

Actually quite the opposite. That's why I'm sure that this research will be ground breaking. So, who wants to introduce themselves first?

Fresh Prince of Bel Air backing starts playing it is worth noting that JACK and EXPO are not singing, and not included in EVERYONE.

EVERYONE (SUNG)

Now, this is a story all about how
Our lives got flipped-turned upside down
And we'd like to take a minute
Just sit right there
We'll tell you how we became the biggest fails since Tony Blair

DICK (SUNG)

Grew up on a farm where I was born and raised
Became the mayor of London; I was quite amazed
Got to that position with the help of my cat,
(MORE)

DICK (SUNG) (CONT'D)

Helping out the locals by getting rid of rats.
 When my cat went and died, and the rats all came back,
 Started making trouble so I got the sack.
 Just a few small rodents, and the locals got pissed
 They said 'We're kicking you out of office and you won't be
 missed'

CINDERELLA (SUNG)

I cooked and cleaned for them day after day
 But then he found my slipper, and took me away
 He gave me a kiss and then he made me his princess
 I went into palace and said, 'I might quite enjoy this'.
 First year, things got outta hand
 sleeping with women far across the land.
 Is this what being a princess is like?
 Nah, I think I'm alright
 So I left the prince, ran away, all that
 Hopefully he realised that he is a prat
 He might not realise that he was the real chump
 I'll see when I get there
 But my life's downhill, and I live in a dump!

PUSS (SUNG)

Well, I'm a cat that can talk, and my boots are fresh,
 Worked hard with my master for a life that's the best
 But he took me for granted just as soon as we got there
 I sprang with the quickness like lightning, disappeared
 I went my own way and started life anew
 But starting out is hard so I kept getting screwed
 If anything I could say my life's in a pit
 And now I'm an addict- I live for catnip!

EVERYONE (SUNG)

Now we're all in this group trying to get some advice
 We want back on top, we don't care what's the price?
 we look at the kingdom
 We wish it was ours
 To sit on the throne for the rest of our years

*The music fades out as those that were singing hold
 their final poses. EXPO looks on impressed, JACK
 looks like he's secretly impressed by trying to hide
 it.*

EXPO

That was wonderful! But just to make sure that we're all
 clear, we've got Dick Whittington, who left his small farm
 with his cat for London. After your cat chased all the rats
 out of London you became mayor, but then when your cat died,
 the rats all came back and you were chased out of office, and
 London. Is that the sum of it?

DICK

That's about right, yeah.

EXPO

Then we've got Cinderella, who's happily ever after was the exact opposite of that because your husband was a serial cheater?

CINDERELLA

Exactly.

EXPO

So you left him after a year, but the loss of his provision now means you're living in a dump?

CINDERELLA

(clearly embarrassed)

Yes, and thank you for reiterating that.

EXPO

Is the dump emotional or literal?

CINDERELLA

(embarrassed even further)

Both

EXPO

Interesting.

(turning to Puss)

And then you are Puss in Boots, and after doing all the hard work of defeating the ogre, making your owner royalty, and giving him the subsequent castle and land, he took you for granted and booted- sorry, pun not intended- you out of your home, causing you to develop a catnip addiction?

PUSS

I mean, that wasn't all in the song, but yes.

EXPO

Very fascinating!

JACK

(annoyed at not having said anything in a while)

Huh! Not that interesting! We've got 'No Wit Dick' who needed a cat to be successful, 'Cinder-no-fella' who couldn't satisfy her man, and the cat in crepes who got outsmarted by a country idiot.

PUSS

Yeah? Well if you're so much better than us, then what are you doing here? Who are you anyway?

JACK

I'm Jack

DICK

Jack who?

CINDERELLA

Wait, I know who you are, you're that boy who went up that beanstalk, aren't you? You're Jack and the Beanstalk!

JACK

Huh! More like 'Jack the HASbeen-stalk', but yeah, that was me.

DICK

How'd you end up here?

JACK

Well I had that whole thing with the giant, right? And I came back with all the gold, and then he followed me, so I killed him. I lived it large for a while there, so many people wanted to come and see the dead giant. I made a killing

(laughs at his own joke)

But then the body started rotting. Do you know how much it costs to get rid of a giants body? All of it, that's how much. And by the time I finally found someone who could do it, they managed to get rid of the body, but not so much the smell. My place reeked! I'd lost everything and I couldn't even sell the house because of how bad it smelt- no-one wanted to live in it! So with nothing left...

(clearly resentful of this fact)

I ended up here.

DICK

So you're really not that much better than the rest of us, are you?

CINDERELLA

Which begs the question, Expo, what made you bring together a group of such losers?

PUSS

And more curiously, why did you make us introduce ourselves when you clearly know who we are, since you called us all here in the first place!

EXPO

(Shrugs)

I'm a psychologist, it's my job to act like things I've already figured out are new information. As for why I called you all together, it is my belief that those who achieve greatness as children have the potential for even greater things when grown. I see it as my...duty to give you all the encouragement you need to achieve that greatness! Just think about it!

(MORE)

EXPO (CONT'D)

Dick, you may be an idiot incapable of not vocalising every stupid thought you have regardless of the consequences, but because your wealth and mayoral background you could be the President!

DICK

President? But there's always so many other candidates, how could I win?

EXPO

I believe you could trump them all, President Dick
(She salutes him and he
grins. She turns to Puss)

And Puss, you're s cat who talks AND wears little human clothes, do you know how much they'd love you on the internet?

PUSS

What's the internet?

DICK

(trying to sound
presidential)

I believe it's a small country in South America

EXPO

(unwaveringly optimistic)

See? You guys are great!

(turning to Cinderella)

And you, you think you need a man? With those looks and a bit of help from me, Cinderella could get all the Tinder-fellas!

CINDERELLA

I get the reference, but why does getting lots of guys equate to me being great?

EXPO

(Ignoring this comment and
turning to Jack)

And Jack...

JACK

Yes?

EXPO

...I dunno, maybe something in gardening!

JACK

(sarcastically)

Well that's hopeful!

EXPO

The point is, I believe in you guys, so lets go out there and see what we can do, yeah?

(MORE)

EXPO (CONT'D)

So for this week, I'd like you all to go out there and see what difference you can make to the world, okay?

Everyone filters out with general mummers of agreement to try.

LIGHTS FADE.

ACT 1 SCENE 2. EXT. OUTSIDE THE COMMUNITY CENTRE. DAY.

Jack, Dick, Puss and Cinderella are standing around after the meeting, talking about it.

JACK

Well that was something else!

DICK

(Clearly enamoured by Expo)

Wasn't she just!

JACK

And don't even get me started on her! Who does she think she is? Calling us all washed up, and telling us that we need HER to achieve greatness! I'm already great!

CINDERELLA

Is that what your mummy used to tell you? Because I've seen where you live, and it doesn't exactly scream greatness to me!

JACK

Yeah? And that coming from the girl who lives, by her own admission, in a dump!

CINDERELLA

(Somewhat empathetically)

So you know I'm talking from experience when I say that you're not all that great.

Cinderella seems sincere, and Jack is caught off-guard that Cinderella displays genuine care to him. An awkward silence emerges.

DICK

Hey, who wants to hear a joke?

(No-one says yes, but no-one stops him either)

What do you call cheese that isn't yours?

(no-one seems to know)

NACHO CHEESE!

Puss bursts out laughing like he's never heard anything funnier. Jack and Cinderella just roll their eyes and shake their heads.

PUSS

That is hilarious! Did you make it up yourself?

DICK

Yeah, I call it a "Dick Joke"

JACK

A Dick joke?

DICK

Yeah, because it's a joke, and I'm Dick

JACK

Riiiiiiiiight. Well, on that note, I better be off.

He starts walking off

CINDERELLA

Hang on a minute, I'll come with you, I'm going that way too.

She follows Jack and they walk off together starting to chat.

DICK

Puss, I find it hard to be around cats since I lost my last one, but I like you! How about you come and live with me, and you can work on my Presidential campaign with me.

PUSS

(hesitantly)

I dunno, I'm still kinda dealing with the fallout from the last time I helped a human get to a position of political and he just kicked me out!

DICK

Really? I didn't know that happened to you?

PUSS

...I literally just talked about it! It was in the meeting we JUST came out of!

DICK

Huh! I guess I was distracted...Expo's pretty cute, isn't she.

PUSS

Really, really, no.

DICK

I guess that's because you're not human. Come on, let's go back to my place and work on campaign slogans!

Dick walks off stage.

PUSS

But...I haven't even agreed to help you yet! ...Dick? Dick?

He runs of after him.

LIGHTS FADE.

ACT 1 SCENE 3. INT. EXPO'S OFFICE. NIGHT.

Expo is getting her belongings together for the end of the day. A mysterious man walks in silently, she doesn't notice. She has headphones in.

MANFORD

Well, well, well...

Expo doesn't respond, still sorting through her bag and listening to her music. Manford clears his throat (louder)

Well, well, well...

Expo still doesn't respond, she starts singing along to her music.

EXPO

(singing)

BABY, BABY, BABY, OHHH

BABY, BABY, BABY, OHHH

BABY, BABY, BABY, OHH

THOUGHT YOU'D ALWAYS BE MIIINE

MANFORD

(Shouting now)

WELL, WELL, WELL,

She carries on singing. Manford walks over and taps her on the shoulder. Expo screams.

EXPO

(ripping out her headphones)

What the hell are you doing sneaking up on me like that?

MANFORD

I was going for dark and mysteriously. Besides, I called out like 3 times, it's not my fault you've got your music too loud! How was I supposed to get your attention?

EXPO

(disgruntled)

Well you've got it now, what do you want?

MANFORD

(trying to regain his
composure and authority)

You were supposed to report to me on how the plan is going, and I have heard nothing all day, so I thought I would...check in.

EXPO

Well, it took longer than expected, but I've managed to get them together now. I even planted a few seeds.

MANFORD

Or a few...beans

He starts laughing maniacally at his own joke. Expo does not. He realises this and collects himself

Yes, well, good to hear that it's all coming together, what's the timeline?

EXPO

I'm not sure, a few of them seemed reluctant to open up, but I think I've made an impression. I definitely gave them enough to think about that I would be very surprised if they didn't return next week. The plan to get them all together is going very well.

MANFORD

And if they don't? The contingency plan?

EXPO

As we discussed.

MANFORD

(smiling widely)

Very good. And remember: don't screw this up, I don't think I need to remind you what's at stake here.

EXPO

Yes sir.

Manford seems content with these answers and leaves, nodding in agreement to what they've discussed. Expo sighs.

EXPO (CONT'D)

I hope I'm doing the right thing here...

LIGHTS FADE.

ACT 1 SCENE 4. INT. OUTSIDE DICK'S APARTMENT. DAY.

Cinderella and Jack arrive at the same time (not together). They look surprised to see each other, but not unhappy.

CINDERELLA

Let me guess, you got a random message from Dick inviting you here?

JACK

And I thought I was special
(reading from phone)
"cum her now plz. Need hlp wiv champaign. 64 Yellow Brick Lane."

(putting away phone)

I mean what is that?

CINDERELLA

And why does he need help with champaign? I never need help finishing off champaign!

JACK

(Smirking)

I think he meant "campaign".

CINDERELLA

Campaign? What cam...oh no, he's not going through with this whole president thing is he?

JACK

I don't know, and I don't care. I'm just here because I want to know how he got my number, and to make sure he gets rid of it.

They open the door to Dick's apartment. They enter and see Dick and Puss standing there looking excited.

DICK

Oh good! You both made it!

CINDERELLA

What's up? What do you need help with?

JACK

And how did you get my number?

DICK
Shhhhh, no questions, just listen.

He runs over to his stereo and hits play, the instrumental to I Just Can't Wait to Be King starts playing. Dick disappears during the intro.

JACK
Oh no...

Dick reenters now wearing a lion's costume.

DICK (SUNG)
I'm gonna be the president
So all you guys look out

JACK (SUNG)
Well, I've never seen a president
With quite so little clout

DICK (SUNG)
I'm gonna be a peaceful pres
Like no one was before
I'm brushing up on playing golf
I'm working on my...

On this line he swings an imaginary club

PUSS
FOUR!

CINDERELLA (SUNG)
Can't think of anyone I'd vote for less...

DICK (SUNG)
Oh, I just can't wait to be pres

No one saying, "you're dumb"
No one saying, "get good"
No one saying, "stop that"
No one saying, "stupid"

JACK (SUNG)
It's stupid!

DICK (SUNG)
Free to run around all day
Free to do it all my way

PUSS (SUNG)
(to Dick)
I think it's time that you and I
set ourselves apart

DICK (SUNG)

we're gunna need advice
From these guys to make a start

JACK (SUNG)

If this is where the nation land is headed
Count me out
Out of patience, out of rational
I wouldn't hang about

CINDERELLA (SUNG)

We might as well just tell him we say yes

DICK (SUNG)

Oh I just can't wait to be pres

No one wants to vote left,
No one wants to vote right,
When they vote right down the middle,
I'll be winning the fight

JACK (SUNG)

No sense!

PUSS (SUNG)

Let every voter see we're in a mess
Let's hear it from the east and from the west
We know that Dick is gunna be the best

DICK (SUNG)

Oh I just can't wait to be pres.
Oh I just can't wait to be pres.
Oh I just can't wait to be pres.

CINDERELLA

...I'm speechless

DICK

(to Puss)

I told you they would be!

PUSS

I don't think they mean it in the same way that you did.

DICK

Of course they do!

(turning to Jack and Cinderella)

You guys are in, right?

CINDERELLA
 (cautiously)
 When you say "in", what does that mean?

DICK
 That you'll vote for me!

CINDERELLA
 Well we can certainly do that

PUSS
 We also need help with the campaign: talking to locals,
 promoting our platform, handing out leaflets

DICK
 You know, kissing hands and shaking babies

JACK
 PLEASE, do not shake any babies.

CINDERELLA
 I dunno. That seems like a lot of involvement and commitment
 for something that we don't really care much about.

DICK
 I'll make it worth your while?

JACK
 You have my interest. Keep talking.

PUSS
 We'll introduce a tax exemption for all living
 legends...namely fairy tales. You'll also each be given
 government housing as part of our team.

JACK
 And a salary on-going as long as you're in office?

PUSS
 Done. We'll give you one of those fake jobs that sound
 important but clearly don't do anything.

DICK
 Like "Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth
 Affairs"

Cinderella and Jack look at each other

CINDERELLA
 Okay, we're in.

JACK
 She doesn't talk for me!

PUSS

So you're not in?

JACK

Well...I am...I just don't like other people speaking for me.

DICK

That's great! We can start right now by handing out some flyers!

CINDERELLA

(taking a flyer)

Pick Dick?

PUSS

Yeah, it's our campaign slogan; catchy, huh?

JACK

No comment.

DICK

Don't look at me, I wanted 'pang baby'

PUSS

And I told you that's not a thing!

CINDERELLA

What is a pang baby?

JACK

Is it a racial thing? It sounds like a racial thing.

PUSS

No, it's a stupid thing he made up. Basically he doesn't understand slang and can't remember any of it or when to use it, so he tried to come up with his own that could be used at any point to mean anything.

JACK

How could that possibly work?

DICK

It's easy, it's all about the intonation!

PUSS

Needless to say, we went with 'pick Dick', now come on, let's go spread the pick Dick message!

They start moving out heading for the street.

LIGHTS FADE.

ACT 1 SCENE 5. EXT. STREET. DAY.

The gang are all outside on the street trying to recruit people to vote for Dick. They are chanting the campaign slogan to get people's attention.

EVERYONE

PICK DICK! PICK DICK! PICK DICK! PICK DICK! PICK DICK! PICK DICK! PICK DICK! PICK DICK! PICK DICK! PICK DICK!

Eventually the message gets garbled and the chant starts to sound like

EVERYONE (CONT'D)

DICK PIC! DICK PIC! DICK PIC! DICK PIC! DICK PIC! DICK PIC!

PREE walks on stage, she looks EXACTLY the same as Expo in every way. Dick sees her and runs over, excited to see her. Everyone else keeps chanting

DICK

Expo!

(she doesn't respond)

Expo!

(she still doesn't respond)

EXPO!

Dick taps her on the shoulder and she turns around

PREE

Do I know you?

DICK

It's me, Dick!

PREE

I think you have me confused for someone else, but are you the reason those people are shouting about dick pics?

DICK

(confused)

Aren't you Expo? The counsellor?

PREE

(realising what happened)

Ohhhhh! No, that's my sister, I'm Pree, Pree Cision

DICK

Wow, I didn't think it was possible, but you're even more beautiful than your sister!

PREE

(flattered)

Thank you, but that's not possible

DICK

That's what I'm saying, I didn't think so either, but you are!

PREE

No, it's really not possible: we're identical twins

DICK

Well, there's a beauty about you that she lacks

PREE

Oh...well...thank you!

An awkward silence falls between them. They both feel an attraction to one another, and don't know what to say next. They're broken out of their trance by the continued chanting from everyone else.

EVERYONE

Dick pic! Dick pic! Dick pic!

DICK

Now that you mention it does sound like they're chanting about Dick pics!

PREE

Are they not supposed to be?

DICK

No, I'm running for president and that's my campaign slogan!

PREE

(confused)

Your campaign slogan is about Dick pics?

DICK

No, they're meant to be saying "pick Dick", not "Dick pic"...because that's my name

PREE

Well technically wouldn't your name be Richard?

DICK

Yeah, but no-one calls me that, and "pick Richard" doesn't sound very good!

PREE

True. Maybe you need a slogan based around your ideals. What platform are you running on?

DICK

Oh, I don't have a platform!

PREE

You don't have a platform? You can't run without a platform!

DICK

Well I'm pretty tall. I find standing on the ground usually does the trick.

PREE

No, not like a stage. A platform is what you stand for!

DICK

I stand for lots of things: to cook, to answer the door...even sometimes to go to the toilet.

PREE

(exasperated)

No! What is important to you?

DICK

Ohhh! Being president is important to me.

PREE

Yes, but WHY is that important to you? You can't run for President just because you want to be a President, what do you want to achieve?

DICK

I guess I want respect

PREE

Well that's a good start, but you don't get respect just because you're the President. In fact a lot of the time I've noticed that the people in leadership and positions of power have to work a lot harder just to get the respect they want. What are you going to do to get that respect?

DICK

...I'm not sure

PREE

That's what you need to figure out! People aren't going to vote for you if they don't know what you're going to do for them. As president, every decision that you make effects the life of every person in this country, so if they don't trust that you want good things for them, then they aren't going to vote for you!

DICK

(Confused)

Why wouldn't I want good things for them?

PREE

(smiling)

You're a good man, Dick. You can count on my support.

DICK

You're really good at this stuff, how did you get so good at it all?

PREE

I guess it comes from a desire to be very exact in everything I do. When you want exactness in every area of your life, you learn pretty quickly that the most unpredictable aspect of anything in life is people, so in my desire to control and anticipate others, I have become great at understanding people and how they work.

They both fall into another silence, but this time it feels a lot more comfortable. They are enjoying each others company and stare complacently at each other.

PUSS

(walking over)

Hey guys, I hate to break this up, but I think we should move on. We've got that radio interview in half an hour, and there are some very angry parents who were NOT a fan of our slogan.

DICK

Yeah, I'll be there now.

(to Pree)

Pree, it has been such a pleasure, thank you for your support.

PREE

Of course, I just wish I could help more!

DICK

You could! How about we meet up later, you could give me more ideas on having a parasol-

PREE

(interrupting)

-platform

DICK

You see how much I need you?

PREE

(smiling)

Here, meet this evening at this address-

(she hands him a card)

-And we can go through everything.

DICK

Thanks...I'll see you then

PUSS

Come on, Dick, we gotta go!

JACK

Yeah, if I'm going to help, I need you to actually put the effort in as well- let's go already!

DICK

I'll see you later, then!

Dick, Jack, Puss and Cinderella all filter off. Pree stands, still smiling at the memory of the departed Dick. Manford walks in behind her unnoticed

MANFORD

(sinisterly)

Well done, Expo! I knew I could count on you to get the jump done.

She turns around, startled at his presence.

EXPO

(trying to regain her composure)

I did what you wanted, and now that the trap is set, so we're done, right?

MANFORD

(laughing)

Done? Oh poor, naive Expo. We're not done. You know what I have on you, and we're not done until I say we're done.

EXPO

You're a dick.

MANFORD

No, that's your little boyfriend, and if you don't do what I say, he'll find out just how much of a dick you are!

EXPO

Wait, so am I the dick or is he?

MANFORD

No, you're the...but his name is...and you're leading...oh forget it! Just do what I say!

Manford storms off, and Expo follows him.

LIGHTS FADE.

ACT 1 SCENE 6. INT. DICK'S APARTMENT. NIGHT.

PUSS

Well that could have gone better.

JACK

Better? He just went on the radio, made wild accusations against foreigners, basically advocated for sexual assault, and made fun of a disabled person!

CINDERELLA

And what the hell is covfefe?

DICK

I know, I know...I just couldn't get her out of my head, and that meant I wasn't listening to the questions, and then I just started rabbiting on about nonsense!

JACK

Who?

CINDERELLA

He's talking about Expo

DICK

Not Expo, Pree

JACK

Who's Pree?

DICK

Expo's sister, she was at the rally earlier

JACK

There's two of them?

(shudders)

I thought one was bad enough

DICK

Bad enough? They're angels! Pree obviously the more radiant of the two!

CINDERELLA

So she just showed up at the rally? I assumed that was Expo. Pretty weird huh?

DICK

Not really, it's like Jeff Goldblum always says "love finds a way"

JACK

I think you mean "life"

DICK

Oh, sorry, Love always finds a way

Jack and Cinderella look at him like they can't quite believe anyone could be this stupid. Dick is oblivious to their looks.

PUSS

These guys are right, Dick. You need to put this girl out of your mind our you'll tank the entire campaign.

DICK

But I can't! And you're supposed to b friend! Shouldn't you be telling me to follow my heart or something?

PUSS

First and foremost I'm your campaign manager. As much as I want you to be happy, how about we follow one dream at a time, yeah?

DICK

I can't help it, I follow my heart

PUSS

(sighing)

And I follow my Dick...that didn't come out how I meant it to, what I meant to say is that I'll support you, no matter what you decide

Puss and Dick smile at each other

CINDERELLA

(to Jack)

When did those two get so close

JACK

(smirking)

Probably around the same time that we did

Cinderella frowns at him

DICK

But what should I say when I see her?

JACK

That's the easy bit,

(As he describes it, he does it on Dick)

just walk up to her, put a hand on her shoulder, look her in the eyes and say "You must be tired, because you've been running round my mind all day" and then smile at her...like this...and she'll be putty.

CINDERELLA

(scoffing)

Please tell me that's never actually worked on anyone

Jack grins knowingly and shrugs as if it has

DICK

Thanks Jack, I'll do that! Anyway, I'm off!

CINDERELLA

Now? Don't you have like, a lot of work to be doing on this campaign?

DICK

Look, if I go see her now, I'll either realise that it's a no go and I'll be able to let her go, or it will happen for me and I won't have to let her go, but we can focus on the campaign together

CINDERELLA

(cautiously)

Well...I hope it works out the way you want it to.

PUSS

I'm sure it will; go get her, champ!

DICK

What's champ? And would I get it from?

PUSS

What?

DICK

You told me I should get her champ...but I don't know what it is, or where to get it!

JACK

(bewildered but amused)

Incredible

DICK

(missing the intonation)

Thanks Jack, I'm sure it will be! See you guys later!

Dick rushes off looking excited

JACK

I mean, he's definitely getting his heartbroken, isn't he?

CINDERELLA

I hate to agree with you, Jack, but you just might be right.

PUSS

You guys are too doubtful! You didn't think he could be president either, but here you both are, helping him out.

JACK

Hey, I'm just doing that for the governmental kickbacks he's promised us.

PUSS

You say that, but if you didn't think he really had a chance of making it happen, you wouldn't be here.

CINDERELLA

You do have a point...oh, but I do hope he's okay

JACK

(putting on a mocking
girl's voice)

Well why don't you just swing a song and get your all your little woodland animals to scurry over and give him a helping hand?

CINDERELLA

(aggravated)

Right, you can do one, and Disney can do one for bastardising my story like that. For the last time, I can't talk to animals.

JACK

(still mocking but worried
he might have overstepped
the line)

ohhh, sorry

PUSS

Right, well you two might want to carry on with this mindless posturing, but there's work to be done, let's get some of this campaign stuff sorted.

CINDERELLA

How's he funding this campaign anyway?

PUSS

It's funny really, almost as soon as we announced that he was running, a mysterious, anonymous donor gave a donation that covered every cost of the campaign!

CINDERELLA

That seems a bit convenient...

PUSS

I know! Come on, let's get going!

THEY ALL WALK OFF.

ACT 1 SCENE 7. EXT. EXPO'S APARTMENT. NIGHT

Dick walks up to Expo's door holding flowers. He looks nervous.

DICK

Come on Dick, you can do this. You can do this. You can do this. Ohh but I haven't liked anyone like this for ages! What do I say? How do I communicate how I feel about her? What was that line Jack taught me? "Have you been running?"

(MORE)

DICK (CONT'D)

Because you look tired!" Was that it? Ahh well, I'll just have to go for it.

He walks up to the door, ready to knock, as he does Manford creeps up behind him unnoticed. He knocks and Expo/Pree answer.

DICK (CONT'D)

Pree, have you been runn...

EXPO

(interrupting and looking concerned)

Dick, I'm so sorry

DICK

Sorry? Sorry for what?

At that moment Manford hits Dick, knocking him unconsciously. He laughs manically. Expo looks filled with regret and guilt.

LIGHTS FADE.**END OF ACT 1.**

ACT 2**ACT 2 SCENE 1. INT. MANFORD'S LAIR. DAY.**

Manford is pacing back and forth looking frustrated. Dick is tied to a chair. Expo looks embarrassed by her involvement.

DICK

You can't do this!

MANFORD

You've been saying that all week, and I say to you again: we HAVE done this!

DICK

Okay, well you won't get away with it!

MANFORD

It's been a week, I'm pretty sure we have gotten away with it

DICK

Well...you might not continue to get away with it. My friends will show up any minute.....NOW!

He looks to door as if expecting the others to all barge in. Nothing happens

MANFORD

Will you stop trying that. Your wishful thinking won't summon them.

DICK

But it would have been really cool if they'd have burst in right then.

MANFORD

You are such an idiot
(Turning to Expo)
Why haven't they come yet?

EXPO

(shrugging)

I don't know. Maybe they don't know where he is, or they haven't realised that he's gone

MANFORD

(shouting)

WELL FIX IT!

DICK

Wow. Okay. Well I have sensitive ears, so can we please all use our indoor voices?

EXPO

(apologetically)

I'm sorry, he gets like this sometimes when he doesn't get his way

MANFORD

(still hysterical)

I DO NOT GET LI...

(getting himself under control)

I do not get like anything. I just. I need this to come together. You know, the way we discussed.

EXPO

Well I couldn't exactly do anything without making them suspicious before, could I? But they're coming for another session today, so I should be able to emerge that situation to get the plan back on track, okay?

MANFORD

I should think so. Yes, that would work well. Well done Expo, I knew I could count on you.

Manford starts laughing again. Dick looks pained like it's bothering his ears. Exposhakes her head forlornly. Manford walks off, satisfied.

DICK

You're so smart and beautiful. Why do you listen to him?

EXPO

Because I have to. He's got...something on me.

DICK

What's he got on you?

EXPO

Something terrible...I'm not sure I can tell you

DICK

You can tell me anything

EXPO

(takes a deep breath)

Well, years ago my sister died, and it was my fault. I've never been able to forgive myself for it. I couldn't do anything about it then, and I can't do anything about it now. That's the secret shame I have to bear.

DICK

But, that doesn't make any sense. I met your sister, and I'm pretty sure she was alive then!

EXPO

Don't you understand, that was me! My sister died, but to get you guys to fall for the trap I needed to pretend to be her. We needed someone to set you on the path, and then someone else to push you down it, so I did both. One as me, and one as her. That's all I have left of her, these moments, pretending I'm her, because she's gone, and it's all my fault.

She starts sobbing.

DICK

Expo, I know you, and I know that it is definitely not your fault! There is no way that you didn't do everything you could have done.

EXPO

Clearly you don't know my at all then. But Manford found out about it, and now he's threatening to tell everyone if I don't do what he says. And to make it worse I had to shut myself off emotionally. I turned my heart to steel and don't let anyone in anymore. I basically became a...a..robot!

DICK

You're not a robot, you're the most wonderful girl I've ever met!

Music starts playing. Dick stands up, revealing that while he looked tied up, he clearly could have done that at any time.

DICK (SUNG) (CONT'D)

When they say you can't love
I think you've got it wrong
They say you can't feel
With a heart made of steel
But you can't say that steel ain't strong

Well if that's who you are,
Just a meaningless star in the sky
Tell me what is the meaning
Of what I am feeling if you are the reason why

Now I may be dumb
But where I come from
Folks say they're fine
When I know that they're blue

But you don't know you the way I do

EXPO (SUNG)

You're perfect and wonderful
How I hoped you'd be.
But it's really enough,

(MORE)

EXPO (SUNG) (CONT'D)

For you to be just a human being.

And I know you'll agree
That's all we need to make all our dreams come true
If this life has an ending
I'm glad that I'm spending this short little time with you

BOTH (SUNG)

I'm so much more than what you thought before
Now that we have gotten to

DICK (SUNG)

Get to know you...

EXPO (SUNG)

You don't know you...

DICK (SUNG)

But you don't know me

BOTH (SUNG)

The way I do

They both stare lovingly into each others eyes for a while, after a little bit, Expo snaps out of it.

EXPO

I can't do this.

DICK

What do you mean you can't do this?

EXPO

This. Us. I...I need to stick to the plan...I can't have it getting out what I did. I'm sorry!

She rushes off, tears in her eyes.

DICK

(Quietly and despondently)

But....I love you.

He falls back into his chair looking miserable.

LIGHTS FADE.

ACT 2 SCENE 2. INT. COMMUNITY CENTRE. DAY.

Jack, Cinderella and Puss are sitting around the support group again. There is a conspicuously empty chair. Expo enters.

EXPO

Good morning everyone, how are we all?
 (pretending to just notice
 the empty chair and
 feigning surprise)

Oh, where's Dick?

CINDERELLA

We're not really sure, actually. He just sort
 of...disappeared.

EXPO

What? When?

CINDERELLA

(matter of factly)

Last week. He went out for a date, but by all accounts he
 never made it there. We don't really know that happened.

EXPO

You er...don't seem very concerned about all of this...

CINDERELLA

(shrugging)

Well, what can we do?

JACK

Plus, to be honest, the campaign is going so much better
 without him.

PUSS

How can you say this? He's out there somewhere, lost,
 probably talking to a lamppost or something! We need to do
 something to help him!

JACK

Look, we don't know where he is. We have now way to find him.
 And currently, we're winning this campaign. We've gone from
 dead last to a landslide. So even if I could find some way to
 figure out where he is, why would I even bother? I've made it
 very clear that I'm in this for myself, not for him, not for
 any of you; for me.

PUSS

How can you be so heartless? You KNOW he would have done this
 for you, you jerk.

EXPO

While I don't agree with the delivery, I think Puss is right.

CINDERELLA

But it's like Jack said, how are we even supposed to find
 him?

EXPO

Look at all that you guys have achieved in your individual lives. This is exactly what I've been talking to you about, you are all of you exceptional! And you can be greater than the sum of your parts! Think of all that you've done in your lives. If you combine your skills and talents, and come together as a team, I don't believe there's anything you can't do!

CINDERELLA

No offence, but I just don't believe that that's true! I mean, yes we achieved a lot when we were younger, but it's not like that actually worked out for us in later life!

EXPO

(sighs)

Look, have you seen the film about that guy with all the different personalities?

PUSS

Fight club?

EXPO

No

JACK

Inside out?

EXPO

What? No! Those are emotions not personalities, you sociopath! The one with the goat man from Narnia!

CINDERELLA

James McAvoy? Oh, you mean Split?

EXPO

Yes! Split! That's the one! Have you seen it? It's on Netflix. Anyway, the guy in that realises that just believing things about himself, they become true.

CINDERELLA

Didn't he also lock three teenage girls in a basement and then torture them?

JACK

(sounding interested)

What was the name of it again?

EXPO

(ignoring the interruption)

The point is, if we can believe in ourselves and work together, we can do anything!

I'll Make A Man Out Of You starts playing

EXPO (SUNG) (CONT'D)

Let's get down to business, to find our Dick
Are you really heroes, or a bunch of hicks?
You're the saddest bunch I ever met
But you can get back into form
Together, we'll take the world by storm

Tranquil as a forest but on fire within
Once you find your center, you are sure to win
You're a spineless, pale, pathetic lot
And you seem to have lost your way
But somehow we can save the day!

JACK (SUNG)

I never want another quest
Can't you do this thing without me?

CINDERELLA (SUNG)

Boy, was I a fool for getting close to him

PUSS (SUNG)

I'm in this to the death

EXPO (SUNG)

(to herself)

Hope they cannot see right through me

CINDERELLA (SUNG)

Now I really wish that he wasn't so dim

Be a man

EXPO (SUNG)

Be a man

EVERYONE ELSE (SUNG)

*We must be swift as the
coursing river*

Be a man

With all the force of a great
typhoon

Be a man

With all the strength of a
raging fire

EVERYONE (SUNG)

Mysterious as the dark side of the moon

EXPO (SUNG)

Dick is in deep trouble and he needs our aid
Come and help me out, guys, and he might be saved
You're all suited for this sort of thing

(MORE)

EXPO (SUNG) (CONT'D)

So suit up, go big, you're in
'Cus with you we can make this a win

EXPO (SUNG) (CONT'D)

Be a man

EVERYONE ELSE (SUNG)

*We must be swift as the
coursing river*

Be a man

With all the force of a great
typhoon

Be a man

With all the strength of a
raging fire

EVERYONE (SUNG)

Mysterious as the dark side of the moon

EXPO (SUNG)

Be a man

EVERYONE ELSE (SUNG)

*We must be swift as the
coursing river*

Be a man

With all the force of a great
typhoon

Be a man

With all the strength of a
raging fire

EVERYONE (SUNG)

Mysterious as the dark side of the moon

*The song ends, and they hold their final poses,
looking impressive for a few beats.*

PUSS

(looking at Jack and
Cinderella)

So, we're all in right

CINDERELLA

(reluctantly)

I guess he would do it for us, and we probably can do better
together than separate.

EXPO

Brilliant! What about you, Jack?

JACK

(looking at Cinderella)

Well...I guess if you're all in I can't exactly say no!

PAAAAAANG...baby!
 PUSS

CINDERELLA
 Now you're doing it?

PUSS
 What? It's contagious!

JACK
 Let me re-phrase, I'm in if that stops.

EXPO
 (trying to capture the
 momentum before they
 change their minds back)
 Perfect! I'll talk to my sister and see if she knows
 anything, I'll meet you at Dicks later!

*They all filter out with varying levels of
 enthusiasm.*

LIGHTS FADE.

ACT 2 SCENE 3. INT. DICK'S APARTMENT. EVENING.

*Jack, Cinderella and Puss are inside. Jack and
 Cinderella are sitting down. Puss is pacing back and
 forth.*

PUSS
 (anxiously)
 Where is she?

CINDERELLA
 Relax, Puss, it's not like she set a time that she was going
 to be here.

PUSS
 But it's been ages, she should be here by now!

AS if on cue, Expo enters.

EXPO
 Sorry guys, that took longer than I thought, but I managed to
 get hold of my sister, and she has a lead!

PUSS
 (jumping to the defensive)
 A lead? No, I'll never be collared, not again!

Everyone stares at Puss

JACK

Not a lead in that sense, you numpty! An investigative lead, as in, she has a clue of where Dick might be that we can follow.

PUSS

Oh. Well that's a lot better! What is it?

EXPO

Well Pree says that he rang her just before he said he was going to arrive, just to see if she wanted him to pick anything up on the way. Apparently he gave very specific instructions on what he saw and did. From what he said, it sounds like he got taken right by that old run down factory...the Grimm Bros. Incorporated one.

PUSS

I know where that is!

CINDERELLA

I think we all do, it's pretty much right in the centre of the kingdom

EXPO

Well not right in the centre. Definitely inner city, but probably not the CBD.

JACK

Right, because that clarification is necessary right now.

EXPO

Well I'm sorry, I just find it's always better to be exact!

PUSS

Holy crap guys, is this necessary? Let's just go and get our Dick out

JACK

I'm sorry, do what?

PUSS

(hearing how it sounded and
getting a bit embarrassed)

You know...like, out of the danger that he's in

CINDERELLA

(incredulous at his choice
of words)

"get our Dick out"?

(shaking her head)

Well I don't like the phrasing, but Puss is right, we need to get Dick out!

They all rush off to go and save Dick.

LIGHTS FADE.

ACT 2 SCENE 4. EXT. OUTSIDE THE FACTORY. NIGHT.

Expo, Jack, Puss, and Cinderella arrive at the street.

EXPO

Okay, this is where he went missing, everyone spread out and start looking for clues.

Everyone starts looking apart from Jack who just leans against a lamppost.

JACK

This is so dumb. I mean, if he was in real trouble it would have been on the news. And the campaign is going so much better without him around bungling it all.

PUSS

You can disregard it all you like, but we all know that if the situation was reversed, Dick would be out here looking for you.

JACK

We don't know that.

PUSS

Fine. If you don't want to help, don't.

Jack continues to lean against the lamppost on one side of that stage. Cinderella and Puss start looking on the other side of the stage, looking away from Jack. Expo, seeing the opportunity, beckons to Manford who is off-stage. He comes and drags Jack away silently while the others aren't looking.

CINDERELLA

(looking around)

Typical! I guess he took your advice, Puss

PUSS

(still searching)

What do you mean?

CINDERELLA

Jack. He's gone.

PUSS

(disappointed but not surprised)

Well, it's not like he pretended he wanted to stick around. You go look over there

(MORE)

PUSS (CONT'D)
 (he points to the other
 side of the stage)
 And see if you can find anything.

Cinderella goes to the opposite side of the stage and starts looking. Puss returns to searching his stage. They are both facing towards the audience and away from each other. Once again, Expo beckons to Manford and he comes back on and swiftly and silently drags Cinderella away.

PUSS (CONT'D)
 (starting to get
 frustrated)
 Eurgh, this is going to slowly! Have you found anyth...
 (He turns around as he's
 saying this and realises
 that Cinderella has
 disappeared)
 What the heck? Where'd she go?

EXPO
 (acting innocent)
 I dunno. Maybe she went to get Jack back? Let's keep looking shall we.

PUSS
 I dunno...something feels off about this. Let me know if you see anything suspicious, yeah?

EXPO
 Isn't that what we're doing anyway?

PUSS
 No. I mean yes. But more if someone's picking us off one by one or something crazy like that, then maybe just shout "he's behind you" or something.

EXPO
 Wow, that's a bit presumptuous

PUSS
 What do you mean?

EXPO
 Why's it got to be a he?

PUSS
 (rolling his eyes)
 Just shout okay

Puss goes back to searching for clues. Once he is occupied with that, Expo starts beckoning Manford back onto the stage.

As he creeps slowly the hope is that the audience will shout out to warn him. This happens 3 times before Manford is finally able to knock out Puss and drag him off stage. Expo follows looking regretful and guilty.

LIGHTS FADE.

ACT 2 SCENE 5. INT. MANFORD'S LAIR. NIGHT.

Jack, Puss, and Cinderella are all tied on chairs and unconscious. Dick is also tied to a chair, but he's awake.

JACK

(starting to wake up)

What...what happened? Where am I?

DICK

(chirpily)

Hi Jack! How's it going?

Cinderella and Puss now start to stir and gain consciousness

DICK (CONT'D)

Nice of you guys to join us!

JACK

Seriously, Dick, what is going on?

DICK

Well I was kidnapped, and now you're here, so I'm guessing you're rescuing me? ...no that doesn't make sense, why would you be tied up. Unless.

(getting excited)

Did you guys get captured on purpose so you could trick the bad guys into bringing you in here so that you could break us all out of here together?

JACK

Yeah. Yeah, that's definitely what happened.

PUSS

No it's not. We were looking for you Dick, and we got betrayed by that witch, Expo!

DICK

She's not a witch

JACK

Yes she is, with a capital B!

DICK

(missing Jack's point)

A B-witch? Well she might be, she's certainly bewitched me!

CINDERELLA

Oh Lord. Please tell me that you're not still obsessed with this woman

DICK

How could I not be, she's so beautiful!

JACK

No she is not.

DICK

Yes she is!

CINDERELLA

(trying to take a more
gentle approach)

Regards of how you feel about the way she looks. She's no good. She betrayed us to whoever that was that dragged us away.

DICK

That's Manford. But she's not like that really. You don't know her the way that I do. She's got so much more to offer than that. She's just being blackmailed. She thinks she's to blame for the death of her sister and Manford somehow found out about it and using it to blackmail her. He used her to bring us all together.

PUSS

This was all orchestrated? But why?

DICK

I don't know, he hasn't told me that bit. All I know is that is seems to be very important to him that we're all together, he's barely talked about anything else!

JACK

We need to prepare, get ready for when he gets here, but who knows what this psychopath wants. What could he want with us?

CINDERELLA

Maybe he's planning on eliminating all heroes so that he can get away with whatever he wants.

PUSS

Maybe he wants to consolidate power within the kingdom by rounding up everyone who potentially might become the ruler and removing them from the line of succession.

DICK

That would make sense. It at least explains why he took me first, since I am going to be the next president.

JACK

Yeah, it's probably not that. But maybe Cinderella's on to something. What else do we know? Have any other childhood heroes gone missing recently?

CINDERELLA

Well I thought it was strange that that support group wasn't attended by very many people. At first I thought that it was because they've been more successful than us, but I did some research, and it turns out we're not the only ones! Pretty much everyone has washed up since their greatness. Not only that, but over the last year or so they've been slowly dropping off the face of the world entirely. It's like they've been disappearing into clouds or something. I think that must be what this is!

DICK

This isn't a cloud though, he's a guy!

JACK

Seriously. How can anyone be this stupid? I can't believe that I got sucked into this with you.

PUSS

Well you have, so try being constructive.

CINDERELLA

Exactly, we're in this now, so we might as well see what we can do about it. Dick, what do you know about this guy?

DICK

Well, he's mysterious, and likes to laugh at his own jokes. He has no hesitations about blackmailing the most beautiful woman in the world, so he's clearly very, very evil! Oh, and he's...

Manford enters with Expo coming in behind him.

MANFORD

...standing right behind you!

Everyone turns in shock!

MANFORD (CONT'D)

(excitedly)

That was so cool! I've always wanted to be able to make a dramatic entrance like that!

Everyone stares at him dumbfoundedly.

JACK

Just tell us why you brought us all here, you sicko.

MANFORD

(getting angry)

DON'T CALL ME NAMES! And as for why I brought you here...it's all very simple really

CINDERELLA

Just as we thought. You're trying to eliminate the world of heroes slowly so that you can get away with whatever you want.

MANFORD

WRONG!you foolish girl, you could not be further from the truth! You see, when I was a lad in...

CINDERELLA

YOU were Aladdin?

JACK

What happened to you?

PUSS

Where's your carpet?

DICK

Why are you white?

Everyone stares at Dick, shocked

PUSS

Oh my God, Dick, you can't just ask people why they're white.

(turning to Manford)

That is a good question though, you don't look much like Aladdin. What happened?

MANFORD

Would you just let me finish! I'm not Aladdin. I was going to say, when I was a lad in my younger years, I just to dream about all of you. I was obsessed with your adventures. Everything you'd done, I knew about. Every story, every rumour, every shred of evidence I could find for what you guys did. I couldn't get enough of it. I wasn't just a fan. I was THE fan. I wanted to meet you all. I wanted to be friends with you. I wanted to BE you.

CINDERELLA

So what happened? Did you get blown off by someone and it disillusion you to your heroes so you swore revenge against them?

MANFORD

What? No! I just wanted to meet you, have a chance to have you in my lives. It's taken years, but I've finally got you all together, and I have one thing to say to you...

Everyone looks on edge about what's going to happen

MANFORD (CONT'D)

(taking a deep breath out
of nervousness)

...can I get your autographs? And maybe a picture?

Manford looks at them all expectantly

JACK

(after a stunned silence)

Are you taking the piss?

MANFORD

Excuse me?

JACK

Are. You. Taking. The piss?

MANFORD

What do you mean?

JACK

You did all of this, just to meet us?

MANFORD

I wanted to show how much you guys mean to me!

JACK

You're a psychopath. Do you really think that you could lure us here, into your creepy little stalker dungeon and just get what you want from us.

Manford is starting to look upset. Cinderella notices this.

CINDERELLA

(warningly)

Jack...

JACK

No, seriously? The only reason that you're doing this, is because you don't have any friends. You got obsessed with us because you didn't have any friends then, and that hasn't changed, so you kidnap us in order to have some friends of your own.

MANFORD

(starting to get angry.
Quietly)

Shut up.

CINDERELLA

(still trying to stop Jack)

Jack.

JACK

And to be honest, I'm not surprised. I mean, look at you. Why would anyone want to be friends with you? You have literally nothing to offer anyone. I mean, even if you hadn't been stalking me for years and kidnapped me...I still wouldn't be in a picture with you. You know why?

MANFORD

(anger starting to boil
over)

Stop being mean to me.

CINDERELLA

(more urgently now)

Jack!

JACK

(his face filled with
malice)

It's because you disgust me, and I couldn't bear to be in your presence that long.

Manford completely loses it and pulls a gun, pointing it right at Jack's face. Cinderella, Puss, and Dick freak out. Jack stares him down, his face filled with hate.

MANFORD

You think you're better than me? I've been used around by people like you my whole life. People who think they're bigger and better than me. Why do you think that I got so obsessed with you guys? It's because no matter how bad things got, I could always rely on the fact that there were people out there who overcame things bigger than themselves. I could never find the strength to be the hero of my own story, but the fact that you were all out there, that there were people who could be there for me, that's what got me through.

Jack starts to feel bad for what he's said. He looks guilty and regretful, and for the first time worry starts to creep across his face as he unsure what Manford is going to do.

But you turned out to be just like the rest of them. I'm sorry it had to turn out this way, you always were my favourite.

Manford goes to shoot Jack, but just before he does, Dick interrupts.

DICK

WAIT! JUST WAIT!

Manford lowers the gun slightly and looks at Dick

MANFORD

Why should I wait? You heard the thing that he's been saying to me, why shouldn't I do this.

DICK

What do you think is going to happen if you do this, Manford. Just think about it. If you let us go, we will drop the charges, and everything can go on as it was.

MANFORD

There's no coming back from this. You heard what he said, there's no way he'd happily walk away from this and not do anything. Besides, I need him to see the effect his words has, he needs to learn. I need him to feel the pain of it.

DICK

You think this is going to teach him anything. He'll be dead. Shoot me instead.

PUSS

Dick, no!

MANFORD

What good would that do?

DICK

If you shoot me, he has to live with that. You're right, he has to learn, but the only way he can learn is if he sees the drastic consequence that his words have, but also has to live the fallout from it.

EXPO

Don't do this!

PUSS

You don't have to die!

CINDERELLA

What about the campaign? What about becoming president?

DICK

(smiling sadly)

How could I claim to lay down my life for my country if I can't even do that for my friends? No. It has to be me

Dick turns serenely to face Manford

Do it. Shoot me.

MANFORD

(confused)

I guess I can see the logic behind that.

Manford points the gun at Dick, everyone starts protesting, wrestling against their restraints but unable to break free and stop it. As he points the gun at Dick, he turns to look Jack right in the eye

I hope this hurts.

As he goes to fire Expo jumps in the way at the last minute

EXPO

Nooooooooooooo....

She takes the shot, and falls to the ground.

DICK

(freaking out)

EXPO! No!

(turning to Manford)

Untie me

MANFORD

(Starting to panic)

I don't know if that's a good idea...

DICK

Untie me right now

Not thinking straight, Manford unties Dick. He immediately falls to Expo's side

DICK (CONT'D)

Expo? Expo? Talk to me.

EXPO

(slowly opening her eyes
and smiling)

I guess you were right. I am a better person than I thought

She closes her eyes one last time, dying, and then rolls offstage)

DICK

(crying silently for a few
moments)

She's dead.

MANFORD

(feeling awkward but
starting to regain his
composure)

Well, that was an unfortunate casualty, but where were we...

DICK

(slowly rising and talking
softly)

An unfortunate casualty?

MANFORD

(cautiously)

Well I certainly didn't mean for her to die...I just...

DICK

The most beautiful person in the whole world is dead. Because of you. And you brush it aside with "an unfortunate casualty"?

MANFORD

I didn't mean...

Before he can finish the sentence, Dick goes into a rage, pinning him to the ground and knocking the gun to the side. When the dust has settled Dick is sitting on top of Manford and he is unable to get up, everyone else is stunned and impressed.

PUSS

Yeah! That was so cool!

CINDERELLA

That was admittedly badass, dude.

JACK

(sounded really guilty)

I'm so sorry, Dick. I shouldn't have done it.

DICK

(tersely)

No. You shouldn't. But it's done. It's over.

Pre enters the room

PREE

Not yet it's not. We've still got a few loose ends to clear up.

DICK

(getting to his feet
excitedly)

Expo? You're alive!

He goes to hug her but she steps back and holds him at arms length.

PREE

Well yes and no.

DICK

(confused)

You're not really alive

PREE

I am alive, but I'm not Expo.

CINDERELLA

Oh, so you're Pree?

MANFORD

(still on the ground)

Wrong again, Pree never existed. Pree was just Expo pretending to be someone else so that she could lure you in. Pree died years ago, and it was Expo's fault. It's what allowed me to blackmail her into doing exactly what I wanted.

CINDERELLA

So if you're not Expo, and you're not Pree, then who are you?

PREE

I am Pree

MANFORD

(confused)

But...we made you up.

PREE

No, you just think you made me up. I actually work for the agency, we both do...we both did. We work undercover on the same case posing as one person so that we can cover more ground, had double the time, and were overlooked because everyone thought we were the one person.

PUSS

Wait. So you were two people that were pretending to be one person, that were pretending to be two people?

PREE

That's right

CINDERELLA

That's confusing. How did you manage to keep your sense of identity when you're exactly the same.

PREE

Well, technically we're not exactly the same. My sister had a habit of over-explaining what was happening, and people tell me that I have a certain tendency towards correcting people. I'm not sure I'd call it correcting people per se, but I do have a fondness for exactness.

PUSS

That's confusing. So sometimes you were Expo, and sometimes you were Pree.

PREE

Correct

PUSS

But sometimes she was Expo, and sometimes she was Pree

PREE

Right again.

PUSS

But really, you're Pree, and she was Expo. And you were different people, pretending to be the same person, pretending to be different people, is that about right?

PREE

What is so confusing about this?

DICK

Nothing is confusing. Nothing has ever been more clear to me!
 (turns to Pree and gets
 down on one knee)
 Pree, will you marry me?

*Everyone gasps with a display of emotions ranging
 from shock to happiness*

PREE

Oh Dick

(she smiles as if she is
 going to accept)

...no

DICK

(crestfallen)

What? Why not?

PREE

Because we met once. On the street. You seem really nice, but I really don't know you well enough to marry you.

DICK

Okay, how about this. Pree, will you grab a drink with me.

PREE

(smiling)

Of course I will. But first, we've got some stuff to take care of.

She picks Manford off of the floor and holds his hands behind his back as if he's cuffed.

We've been tracking this one for a long time. I can't thank you all enough for the help.

CINDERELLA

You talk about "the agency", and "we", what do you mean. Who do you work for?

PREE

I work for the H.E.A Agency. An agency committed to bringing a happy ending to all stories. We work behind the scenes bringing down people like this guy.

CINDERELLA

That makes sense. I heard that a lot of heroes have gone missing recently, it figures that you'd be on his tail.

PREE

Actually the reason they have disappeared is because they've been recruited to work for the agency. We're good at what we do, we're able to intercept most villains before the inactive their plans, so actually you were Manford's first targets.

PUSS

You've been recruiting people

JACK

So why not us?

PREE

You four were considered...incompatible. We've been watching you for a while. Due to your destructive tendencies, it was thought that it wouldn't work out. But after all the work you did here, we're willing to reconsider.

DICK

(to the gang)

What do you say guys? I think I could make a much bigger impact as a secret agent than as a president! Should we go for it?

PUSS

I like doing things for good, and I like being around you guys. I'm in.

CINDERELLA

(shrugging)

Well it's not like I've doing anything better with my life.
I'm in! Jack?

JACK

(looking forlorn)

I don't think it's for me.

PUSS

What do you mean, it's not for you?

DICK

Yeah, we're all in this together.

CINDERELLA

All of us, or none of us.

JACK

I just don't think I can do it. I lost my temper and it almost got Dick killed, and it DID get Expo killed. How can I be on the side of the good guys with that hanging over me?

Dick and Pree look at each other

DICK

I forgive you.

PREE

And I forgive you too. Manford was unstable and there's no saying that he wouldn't have killed someone himself. If Expo was here, she'd tell you the same thing. So, we forgive you, you just need to forgive yourself.

CINDERELLA

We're all learning Jack, we might as well learn together.
What do you say?

JACK

(smiling)

How can I turn down an offer like that?

He goes to join the rest of the gang. All standing around a restrained Manford.

I guess it's true what they say...never meet your heroes

DICK

Yeah, because they might just arrest you.

Everyone starts laughing and then freeze-frame finish.

LIGHTS FADE.

END OF ACT 2.