

ELLA

ELLA - a mysterious girl, fair and beautiful, with a dark past. MRS. WOLFE - Ella's stepmother. LUCY and SUZIE - Ella's stepsisters. MISS. GRACIE - Ella's Companion Witch, short and jolly. MR. MOON - The Huntsman. PRINCE CHARMING - Crown Prince of Royal City. PRINCE CASPER - Prince Charming's younger brother. KING JAMES - father of Prince Charming and Prince Casper.

FADE IN

INT. ELLA'S HOME

Ella scrubs the floors. Lucy kicks the bucket of water. Ella controls her anger. Lucy taunts Ella and Suzie joins her sister. Ella secretly hopes that they would leave as soon as possible.

LUCY

(laughing)

Look who is not invited to the ball. It is Cinder-Ellaaaaaaa!

LUCY

(pouts)

What happened, Cinderella? Are you sad? Why?

SUZIE

That is because, Cinder-Ella does not have money to buy a fancy dress to wear for the ball!

LUCY

(giggles with Suzie)

Is that so?! If you worked hard, then we would give you money to buy some good ribbons to stitch for your dress!

MRS. WOLFE

Girls? Come to the door soon. We are getting late for the ball!

SUZIE

What about Cinderella? Are we not going to take her too? She could be of help around the castle!

MRS. WOLFE

Oh, dear! We do not want our evening to be ruined now, do we, Suzie?

MRS. WOLFE

And, Cinderella? I want the house to be perfect, when we are home, do you understand?!

ELLA

Yes... Mother...

INT. ELLA'S HOME - CONTINUOUS ACTION

Ella's stepmother and stepsisters leave for the ball. After the sound of the clicketing chariot fades, Ella runs to the closet and opens the door to let Gracie out.

ELLA

Sorry that you had to wait so long!

GRACIE

(almost dropping her wand)

Thank you for letting me out soon! Five minutes more and the odour would have killed me!

ELLA

Odour? Which Odour?

GRACIE

The one in the closet!

ELLA

I just cleaned it today morning!

GRACIE

Your skills are getting rusty, Ella.

ELLA

Ha! Ha! Ha! Very funny. You love poking fun at my daily predicament, do you not?

GRACIE

(stops laughing and waves her wand)

Anyway, your gown and shoes for the ball is ready. And, Ta-da!

SLOW PEDESTAL SHOT

INT. ELLA'S HOME - CONTINUOUS ACTION

Ella's rags falls off and the glow transforms to a blue ball gown. Her feet slip into glass slippers. Her hair curls to form pretty ringlets. She transforms into a beautiful princess.

ELLA

This is beautiful! The sky-blue colour gives a wonderful glow!

GRACIE

Yes, it does! And all it needs...

ELLA

...is a kiss of moonlight. Yes, I remember.

GRACIE

Good girl. And, leave...

ELLA

...before the clock strikes midnight. Noted!

GRACIE

Perfect!

ELLA

And, do you know what you are supposed to do?

GRACIE

Yes. Meet me at the rendezvous that we have decided upon, after your dance at the ball.

ELLA

Yes, I will...

GRACIE

Is everything alright?

ELLA

(takes a deep breath)

Today, is the day it all ends!

GRACIE

Yes, now go and finish what you started!

ELLA

Yes!

MATCH CUT TO

INT. THE BALLROOM AT THE CASTLE OF THE ROYAL CITY

Ella takes a deep breath and enters the ballroom. Everyone's eyes are on her. She walks in as a handsome man approaches her

PRINCE CHARMING

What is the name of this charming young lady?

ELLA

Shouldn't you ask me for a dance first?

PRINCE CHARMING

With pleasure!

INT. THE BALLROOM AT THE CASTLE OF THE ROYAL CITY - CONTINUOUS ACTION

Ella and Prince Charming sweep the floor with their breath-taking dance. Time passes and the Prince falls for Ella. They hesitate, but kiss when the clock strikes twelve. A shocked Ella leaves the ballroom and runs into the woods. The prince runs after her.

PRINCE CHARMING

Where are you going? I do not know your name, yet!

INT. THE WOODS OUTSIDE ROYAL CITY

Ella runs through the trees and Prince Charming follows her. She stops when she reaches a clearing with Prince Charming stopped behind her. The moonlight bathes her in a strange glow as she turns around and looks at the Prince.

PRINCE CHARMING

We did not finish our dance, yet. Is everything alright?

ELLA

Yes.

PRINCE CHARMING

What is going on?

ELLA

My name is Ella.

PRINCE CHARMING

Okay... that is a beautiful name.

ELLA

Yes, it is. And I want you to remember it.

PRINCE CHARMING

What is going on?

TRUCKING AROUND THE CLEARING

EXT. THE WOODS OUTSIDE ROYAL CITY - CONTINUOUS ACTION

Ella begins to transform as the glowing dress melts within her skin. Sharp quills grow on her back and her teeth elongate into fangs. Her fingers morph into threatening jaws. She grows to become double his size. With a roar she attacks him.

PRINCE CHARMING

No, no, no, no, noooooooooo!

EXT. THE WOODS OUTSIDE ROYAL CITY - CONTINUOUS ACTION

She eats and kills him, ending with his heart. She stands up and transforms back to normal. She looks at another castle, which is abandoned and on the other side of the woods as opposed to the Royal City, in the distance. She smiles and walks towards the direction of the castle.

ELLA

(talking loudly to herself)

I hope Gracie has done her job.

EXT. THE ABANDONED CASTLE

Ella walks behind the castle which is the shortcut to the North Tower. Just by the door of the tower, she meets Gracie.

GRACIE

Is it done?

ELLA

Yes, what about you?

GRACIE

It was tricky, but it was done. I managed to cast a spell on Prince Charming's younger brother, Prince Casper, so he believes that he has to rescue a princess who has been asleep for over a hundred years in this castle.

ELLA

Perfect! One down, one more to go. Now, all I need is one more kiss!

GRACIE

Ella, be safe!

INT. NORTH TOWER OF THE ABANDONED CASTLE

Ella climbs up the tower through the creepers and enters the room through the broken window. She tiptoes and covers herself with more creepers to show that she has been asleep for many years. She hears the galloping of a horse and closes her eyes. A sound of a door opening and climbing up the footsteps is heard.

PRINCE CASPER

(opens the door and walks towards Ella)

Oh, my fair lady, I have come to rescue you. You look so beautiful and I have fallen in love with your beauty.

INT. NORTH TOWER OF THE ABANDONED CASTLE - CONTINUOUS ACTION

Prince Casper leans in and kisses Ella. She smiles as he lifts his head. She opens her eyes, smiles at him and gets up.

PRINCE CASPER

How do you feel, my love?

ELLA

Like, I have never felt more alive!

INT. NORTH TOWER OF THE ABANDONED CASTLE - CONTINUOUS ACTION

She slowly transforms into a beast and kills him too. He screams in horror as she feasts on his heart. She can hear a cacophony of running hooves becoming louder. She smiles and climbs down to the front door of the castle as the army arrives with King James of the Royal City leading them.

ELLA

Today is your last day. Today you will pay for your sins. Today, you will face your death at my hands.

KING JAMES

This is a very big mistake that you have made. You have killed my
sons and will face the consequences!

ELLA

Not before you face yours!

KING JAMES

(gently)

Why are you doing this?

ELLA

(tearing up)

You know why!

FADE TO BLACK

FADE IN

EXT. THE WOODS OUTSIDE ROYAL CITY - FLASHBACK

Ella is a 9 years old happy girl. She is walking on a path that leads to her grandmother's house and humming her favourite song. She is wearing a bright red hood and carrying fresh fruits and cookies for her grandmother. She reaches the house and rings the bell.

ELLA

Hello Grandma, it is me Ella. I have bought you your favourite
fruits and favourite cookies!

ELLA

Grandma, are you home?

ELLA

Hello, is anybody home?

GRANDMOTHER

Oh, Ella dear! I am sorry for keeping you waiting outside here for so long. I hope it was not too much time. The woods can be quite dangerous!

ELLA

Do not worry, Grandma. I am a strong girl. I can take care of myself.

GRANDMOTHER

That you are, my Pumpkin! Come on in, dear. I have prepared a surprise for you!

INT. ELLA'S GRANDMOTHER'S COTTAGE

Ella removes her coat and hangs it behind the door. She gives the basket to her grandmother.

GRANDMOTHER

Oh! What do we have here? Fruits and cookies! And they smell good. Why don't you go upstairs? I have kept a surprise for you in the dining room!

(Ella runs up the staircase. The grandmother follows her. Ella runs to the dining rooms)

ELLA

What is the... surprise...

INT. THE DINING ROOM OF ELLA'S GRANDMOTHER'S COTTAGE

She sees her grandmother dead on the floor, with her heart eaten. She turns behind to see her 'grandmother' turn into a scary man with claws and fur.

ELLA

P-please l-leave m-me a-alone!

MR. MOON

Mr. Moon will take little girl! King James sends his regards!

ELLA

Nooooooooooooo!

INT. THE DINING ROOM OF ELLA'S GRANDMOTHER'S COTTAGE

Ella tries to run but the werewolf catches her. She struggles to let go of him and succeeds but not before he bites her. She escapes to the woods and lives alone as a struggling werewolf till Gracie finds her and cares for her. She vows to kill her father, who she learns is responsible for her grandmother's death.

INT. FRONT DOOR OF THE ABANDONED CASTLE - PRESENT DAY

ELLA

I am sorry!

SLOW MOTION SHOT

INT. FRONT DOOR OF THE ABANDONED CASTLE - CONTINUOUS ACTION

Ella flips out a knife and stabs the king, before he can do anything. King James looks in shock as he clutches onto his wounds. His guards are about to attack her, when he orders them to stand down. They oblige. Ella turned around to find Cassie was nowhere in sight. King James talks to Ella and coughs blood at the same time.

SLOW MOTION SHOT ENDS

KING JAMES

Your 'grandmother' did not tell you... the... whole story. She did not tell you... that... she was once... once... the queen. That she... attempted to kill her... step daughter by poisoning her... with a cursed poisoned apple. That... a Prince saved her life and... they had a happy marriage... That she... cursed... our first... daughter... to death... if... if... if I die when... I... am king... and the... other way around... That the day she died... She was going to kill... our daughter... Our Cassie... But... but... the day her heart was eaten by the werewolf... who... who... bit you... and Cassie became your... your... companion... the curse was shared... by... by... you two... till... one of you... kills me...

ELLA

No... No... NOOOOOOOO! I don't believe you! Wh-What did you do?!

KING JAMES

You see, I knew everything. I knew everything. And I have been waiting for this moment... this... moment... You took on the curse... when you stabbed me... you saved my daughter... by taking her place... Thank you...!

INT. FRONT DOOR OF THE ABANDONED CASTLE - CONTINUOUS ACTION

A cut appears on Ella's abdomen as she collapses to the ground and the light leaves her eyes.

FADES TO BLACK

FADES IN

INT. FRONT DOOR OF THE ABANDONED CASTLE - AFTER FIVE YEARS

King James is buried and a new monarch now rules the kingdom. There are no curses and internal wars. All is peaceful within the castle as the new monarch enjoys the blissful afternoon with the family.

INTERCUT

INT. FRONT DOOR OF THE ABANDONED CASTLE - AFTER FIVE YEARS -
CONTINUOUS ACTION

A hooded figure watches the monarch from a distance. The figure is covered in a black hood. Except that, the only thing that cannot be hidden are a pair of glass slippers and a whiff of a sky-blue gown.

FADE OUT