

ELLA and GABRIELLE (THE NICE STEP-SISTER)

GABRIELLE

Is there anything else you'd like to know, Ella?

ELLA

No, it sounds like a really marvelous ball. I only wish I could have been there.

GABRIELLE

How did you know all that happened at the ball earlier this evening?

ELLA

I just ... supposed it. Imagined it. Had a vision.

GABRIELLE

Interesting. **(she puts her hand behind her back)**
Quick, how many fingers?

ELLA

Two?

GABRIELLE

Three. Fascinating. Where're your visions now?

ELLA

You're being silly. You're picking on me just because I said the prince was wearing a white jacket and ...

GABRIELLE

You didn't say it ... but ... he was. Something's going on here.

ELLA

You're being absurd. More than usual. I need to finish up.

GABRIELLE

Let me help you with that. (*she takes hold of her hand*). Your hand is so callused and rough from work. Just like the hand of the woman I shook hands with this evening. The one who danced with the prince.

ELLA

I don't know what you're ...

GABRIELLE

It was you tonight. Wasn't it?

ELLA

I ...

GABRIELLE

It was you! How did you dance in those glass slippers?

ELLA

You won't tell the others, will you? Madame and Charlotte?

GABRIELLE

No. Never.

ELLA

Are you mad at me that I stole the prince from you?

GABRIELLE

I will confess a secret to you. I never loved the prince. Or even liked him. There's someone else that I want.

ELLA

How wonderful for you. Who is it?

GABRIELLE

Well, Madame hates him.

ELLA

Madame hating them doesn't narrow the field. Who is he?

GABRIELLE

If I promise to keep your secret of the prince,
can you keep my secret of my forbidden love?

ELLA

I can. And I will.

GABRIELLE

It's Jean-Michel. The firebrand.

ELLA

He's a good man. And seems angry for all the
right reasons.

GABRIELLE

He wants to change the world and make it a better
place. You gotta love a guy like that.

ELLA

You may, one day, win Jean-Michael. But I will
never win Prince Topher. If he saw who I truly
am, he would have no interest in me.

GABRIELLE

That's not true. He would love you for who you
are.

ELLA

I don't see how.

GABRIELLE

Well, if Madame ever saw me with Jean-Michael, I
shudder to think what she might do! Are you sure
you can keep my secret?

ELLA

I can. And you can keep mine. We shall have a
secret. That will make us ...

GABRIELLE

Co-conspirators.

ELLA

Friends.

GABRIELLE

Sisters.

ELLA

May we both find our loves.

GABRIELLE

And our lives.