

MADAME - THE WICKED STEP-MOTHER

MADAME

Cinderella! Help me with my parcels this instant!
(ELLA goes to the man carrying the parcels) No
... no ... no. Cinderella, lazy step-daughter, help
me with MY package! **(she takes a tiny box off
MADAME)** Careful! Careful! No-one knows the
extreme torture I am subject to. Charlotte,
Gabrielle - daughters come!

CHARLOTTE

We are exhausted being as beautiful as we look.

MADAME

Cinderella, idle girl, help your step-sisters with
their shrewd purchases. Into the house, daughters
we need to get ready for the ball - not
you Cinderella. **(exits)**

GABRIELLE

Madame isn't always terrible. Sometimes she
sleeps. **(SHE enters the house)**

MADAME

(MADAME comes out of the house) Cinderella. Get in
here and clean up the kitchen.

ELLA

I've just finished it.

MADAME

Then prepare the dinner.

ELLA

It's on the stove.

MADAME

Then the beds must ...

ELLA

Beds are turned down and your bed clothing is all laid out.

MADAME

Well. **(she notices the book)** Where'd you get that book?

ELLA

Jean-Michael just gave it to me.

MADAME

So nice that people just give you gifts. Still Daddy's little girl **(see the coat hanging by the door)** And what's this doing here?

ELLA

That's my father's coat.

MADAME

It's rags.

ELLA

It's all I have to remember him by.

MADAME

(SHE rips the coat and throws it away) It's rags now. Leave it there. **(they go into the house - there's a knock on the door)** Who can that be at this hour? I need to get rid of this imbecile. **(another bang on the door)** What brand of idiot would ... **(she opens the door)** Why, Sebastian, what an unexpected delight.

SEBASTIAN

Madame, I have but a moment. I invite you to hang upon my every word.

MADAME

Invitation accepted.

SEBASTIAN

Tonight's ball shall be in mask. The prince will be in the white mask. What colour mask will your daughter Gabrielle be wearing?

MADAME

Why, pink.

SEBASTIAN

If the daughter is anything like the mother, I think the pink mask and the white mask should meet and fall in love.

MADAME

Are you implying what I am inferring?

SEBASTIAN

Your daughter is all part of my master plan.

MADAME

You are brilliant.

SEBASTIAN

You are perceptive. I shall see you at the ball. Together we shall make this so.

MADAME

Come daughters, come! Oh Gabrielle, my Gabrielle, just look at you. You too Charlotte, but really look at Gabrielle! What are you doing here Cinderella?