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Cinderella Or The Little Glass Slipper

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The moment the clock strikes midnight, the beautiful ball gown turns to rags, the coach becomes a pumpkin, and a single, delicate glass slipper is left behind on the palace steps. Few images in literature are as instantly recognizable as the glass slipper, the central artifact of the timeless fairy tale, **Cinderella Or The Little Glass Slipper**. While stories of a mistreated maiden marrying a prince exist across countless cultures, the version penned by Charles Perrault in 1697, with its specific magical elements and titular glass footwear, has become the defining standard for the Western world. This article explores the rich history, profound symbolism, and enduring legacy of Perrault's masterpiece.

The Historical Tapestry of Cinderella

Contrary to popular belief, the story of Cinderella did not originate with Walt Disney or even Charles Perrault. The earliest recorded variant dates back to 1st century BC Greece, where the geographer Strabo wrote about the Greek courtesan Rhodopis. In this ancient version, an eagle steals one of Rhodopis's rose-gold slippers and drops it in the lap of the Pharaoh of Egypt. Struck by the beauty of the slipper, the Pharaoh searches Egypt for the woman who can wear it, and upon finding her, marries her. This foundational story lacks the fairy godmother and the evil stepfamily, but the core concept of a lost shoe leading to a royal marriage is clearly established.

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