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Opening extract from

Cinderella (Early Reader)

Written by

Sally Gardner

Published by

Orion Children's Books

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Chapter One

Once upon a time there lived a beautiful girl called Cinderella. Cinderella was not her real name, but that was what her stepmother and stepsisters called her.



When Cinderella's mother died, her father was heartbroken. Then he met a lady with two daughters of Cinderella's age, who seemed to be just what he needed.



In no time at all they were married. Now Cinderella would have a kind stepmother to look after her, and two sweet stepsisters as well. But oh dear me, how wrong Cinderella's father was.

As soon as the wedding was over, Cinderella was moved out of her bedroom and down to the kitchen, where she was to live and work as a servant.



Cinderella's stepmother was a jealous woman with a wicked temper.



Cinderella's stepsisters, Henrietta and Georgina, were spoilt, ugly girls who took great delight in bullying Cinderella.

Their mother was determined that one of her daughters should marry a prince, so they had lessons in talking nicely, walking nicely, and smiling nicely.



She gave them whatever they wanted, but nothing made the two sisters any happier or kinder.

The more they were given, the meaner and nastier they became.



Nobody took any notice of Cinderella. She just did the housework.

