

# CINDERELLA NIGERIANA

By Tiwatope Oluwaseyi

A play modified from the original story of Cinderella. Among other things, a Nigerian flavor has been added to it.

Feel free to produce this play in your school or children's theatre or any other place of interest. Just acknowledge the writer of the script when you are presenting it. Also, it would be appreciated if you inform us that you are using it and any observations that you may have.

You can choose the songs the actors and actresses will dance to. You can also be creative with the clothes that they wear. Most of the props are very easy to get and arrange on stage.

If you have any question, feel free to ask.

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**CINDERELLA NIGERIANA**

**The original story rewritten with a Nigerian flair**

**CHARACTERS**

1. Narrator
2. Temidire - a hardworking woman whose stepmother and stepsisters treat like a servant
3. Iya Funmi - Temidire's step mother
4. Funmi, Gbemi - Temidire's 2 step sisters
5. The Governor
6. The Governor's Wife
7. Ade - The Governor's son -
8. Mama - Fairy God Mother-
9. Ife Olaniyi - One of the governor's workers
10. Ife's assistant
11. The 5 potential wives for the governor's son (Yoruba, Igbo, Hausa/Fulani, Edo, Benue)
12. Lady - one of the female guests
13. MC - At the wedding
14. People talking in the market - 4 speaking parts
15. People talking at the eatery - 3 speaking parts
16. Man representing Temidire's father - non speaking part
17. Taiwo, Kehinde, Eghosa, Aminat, Nneka, Ada - Temidire's friends
18. Emeka, Dan Ladi, Fisayo, Osas, Richard, Jonathan - Ade's friends
19. Security men
20. One ADC
21. Drummers

**CROWD PARTS**

Mourners Dance  
 Edo Dancers with potential wife  
 Yoruba Dancers with potential wife  
 Igbo with potential wife  
 Ijo Ya Dancers - contemporary dance to a Yoruba song  
 D D Dancers - dance to the beat of drums  
*Next Step Dancers* - hip hop dancers  
 Hausa/ Fulani with potential wife  
 Benue with potential wife  
 People at the Party  
 Choir  
 Market people  
 People at the Eatery

**ACT I**

INT - THE ODEKUNLE'S SITTING ROOM - DAY

*It is a simply furnished sitting room with three chairs and a stool. TEMIDIRE is seated on one of the chairs crying. She is wearing plain clothes. There are people standing all around.*

NARRATOR

In a far-away land where people walk with two feet, sing when they are happy, dress decently, or not so decently, and eat good food, (*stage whisper*) like pounded yam and vegetable stew, there lived a young lady with her step-mother and step-sisters. Things had been quite rosy until her mother died. Her father remarried and things became tough. Her step-mother and step-sisters did not like her. If you ask me, I would say that they were jealous of the young lady. Anyway, it was a case of from frying pan to fire when this young lady's father died. Who is this young lady? Sit back and relax. You'll soon get to meet her.

*The narrator steps aside and the curtains open.*

*TAIWO, KEHINDE, and EGHOSA, friends of Temidire, are seated beside Temidire. Her other three friends, AMINAT, NNEKA, and ADA, are talking together near her. As the music plays, the MOURNERS enter. They are wearing black or grey. When everyone is on stage, a mournful song is played. The **mourners dance** to the song and then leave.*

AMINAT

Temidire, if you need me, just give me a call.

NNEKA

I will be praying for you.

ADA

Take care of yourself.

*Aminat, Nneka, and Ada stand slightly behind the other friends.*

TEMIDIRE

What is going to happen to me? My world started falling apart after my mother died. My father remarried thinking that it would be better if there was another woman in his life. I thought so too. But my stepmother and stepsisters are wicked and lazy. They don't even care about me. Now that my father's dead, I don't know what is going to happen to me.

TAIWO

Don't worry, Temidire. Everything will be alright.

KEHINDE

You are not alone. There are people who like you.

EGHOSA

We are your friends. We are here for you.

TAIWO

Your father was not a poor man. I believe he would have left a lot of money for you in his will.

TEMIDIRE

But my father didn't spend much on me when he was alive.

KEHINDE

Maybe your stepmother didn't allow him. But don't worry, your stepmother will not be able to take what is yours.

TAIWO

Before you know it, you will be out of this house.

KEHINDE

And you will be free to do whatever you like.

TEMIDIRE

But even when my father was alive, my stepmother and her daughters didn't treat me well. What will I do until I can leave this house?

EGHOSA

Just believe that things will turn out fine. If you ever need someone to talk to, we're available.

TAIWO

Yes, we're your friends.

KEHINDE

We care about you.

IYA FUNMI

Temidire! Temidire!! Temidire!!!

*She walks quickly from stage right to where Temidire is. Eghosa, Taiwo and Kehinde quickly walk away after greeting Iya Funmi, a greeting she doesn't acknowledge.*

Oya get up now. There's a lot of work to be done. Don't be lazy. You need to sweep the floor, wash the dishes, and tidy the sitting room. I'm going out now. By the time I return, you must have finished all the work.

*She turns and faces stage right.*

Funmi, Gbemi, don't keep me waiting.

*She walks off stage left.*

TEMIDIRE

Yes, ma.  
She curtsseys.

*Funmi and Gbemi come in from stage right.*

FUNMI

*She faces Temidire.*

Don't forget that you have to finish sewing my outfit. I am wearing it to a party this Saturday.

GBEMI

And remember that you have to tidy up our rooms and fix supper before we come back.

*Funmi and Gbemi walk off hurrying to catch up with their mother.*

TEMIDIRE

What can I do? I am their sister, but they treat me worse than a servant. Maybe I should run away? *(Pauses.)* But if I run away where will I go? I don't know anyone outside this city. If I try to go to my relatives in the city they will just send me back here and things will become worse. *(Pauses again.)* Hmm. Someday my change will come. I just know it.

*She hums a song and leaves.*

**ACT II Scene 1**

INT - THE ODEKUNLE'S SITTING ROOM - DAY

*Iya Funmi and her two daughters are in the sitting room. They have fashion magazines in front of them. They are talking.*

NARRATOR

Things were difficult for Temidire, but she kept believing that one day her change would come. Her friends occasionally visited her, but none of them wanted to face the wrath of Iya Funmi. A few weeks later Iya Funmi and her daughters are in the sitting room doing what they like doing best.

*The narrator steps aside and the curtains open.*

FUNMI

Have you heard that Emeka Oni is coming to town?

GBEMI

The comedian? No, when?

FUNMI

He is coming next month for Chief Ajibola's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration.

GBEMI

That's great!

IYA FUNMI

It would be nice if we could get invited to the party.

FUNMI

Yes. I love the way he talks. *(She imitates him. Her sister and mother laugh.)*

IYA FUNMI

That's my daughter. I know you have talent. You are following my footsteps.

*There is a little pause as the three of them smile.*

GBEMI

*(Facing stage left)* Temidire, get us cold drinks.

FUNMI

I really would like to meet him.

IYA FUNMI

Let's see what can be done. *(Pause.)* Let's see what we can learn about him. There's an interview with him in this magazine.

*Temidire comes into the sitting room with three drinks on a tray.*

GBEMI

You should know that we would like to take something with the drinks.

*Temidire goes and comes back with 3 packets of biscuit.*

FUNMI

Are there no cookies left?

TEMIDIRE

No, you ate the last ones yesterday.

FUNMI

We'll manage these for now, but go and bake fresh ones.

TEMIDIRE

Ok.

IYA FUNMI

Start preparing lunch. I want to eat lunch early today.

TEMIDIRE

Yes, ma.

*She curtseys. As she is about to go to the kitchen, the doorbell rings.*

IYA FUNMI

Temidire, see who is at the door.

TEMIDIRE

Yes, ma.

*She goes to the door and sees a man there dressed in a suit.*

Good afternoon sir.

IFE

Good afternoon. My name is Ife Olaniyi. I am here on behalf of the governor with four invitation cards for the people of this house.

*He shows Temidire his ID card.*

May I come in?

TEMIDIRE

Let me take them.

IFE

I am sorry, but I am under strict orders that each person must sign for his or her own invitation card which must be brought to the welcome party that His Excellency has organized for next week.

TEMIDIRE

In that case, come in.

IFE

*Ife enters and bows to the three women sitting down.*  
Good afternoon ladies.

IYA FUNMI

How may we help you?

IFE

I have an invitation card for Mrs. Irete Odekunle.

IYA FUNMI

*Iya Funmi stretches her hand to collect the IV.*

IFE

Please you will have to sign first.

IYA FUNMI

What nonsense is that? If you want to give me the invitation card, give me. If not you may go on your way.

IFE

I am sorry Ma'am, but I am under strict orders from His Excellency the governor, that I should not give out any invitation card if it is not signed for.

FUNMI

Mummy, sign the sheet of paper. It's an invitation card from the governor, the governor Mum!

IYA FUNMI

Hmmm.

*She signs the sheet of paper and collects the card.*

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FUNMI

Mummy, read the invitation card.

IFE

There's an invitation card for Miss Funmi Odekunle.

FUNMI

For me?

IFE

Yes. Please sign. *Funmi signs.* And there's another one for Miss Gbemi Odekunle.

GBEMI

Yes! *(She signs.)*

VALENTINE

The last one is for Miss Temidire Odekunle.

*Temidire doesn't move. She is surprised.*

IYA FUNMI

What???

FUNMI

Why would the governor want her to come?

GBEMI

She wouldn't know how to talk.

FUNMI

She has nothing to wear.

GBEMI

How would she get there?

IYA FUNMI

*(Stands up.)* Give me that card.

IFE

I am sorry Ma'am, but I am under strict orders.

*He faces Temidire who has by this time moved closer to him. He gives her the sheet of paper to sign. Temidire signs, collects the card, and*

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*immediately runs outside to go and hide the card somewhere. Ife waits until she returns.*

Remember, you have to come with your invitation cards. Apart from welcoming his son who has just returned after completing his masters abroad, part of the reason why this party is being organized is that the governor is looking for a wife for his son. Anyone his son likes, he will give an invitation to for another party the following week. He will then choose someone at the second party.

*He leaves.*

IYA FUNMI

Temidire where is that invitation card?

TEMIDIRE

It's for me. I won't give it to you.

IYA FUNMI

I said bring that invitation card. How are you going to go? You have no clothes to wear, and no car to take you there. So you don't need the card.

TEMIDIRE

I'll make it for the party somehow. Even if I have to walk there.

GBEMI

Ha ha ha. Walk there? Do you think they will let you in?

IYA FUNMI

Bring that card!

TEMIDIRE

I won't bring it.

*Iya Funmi gives her a dirty slap and Temidire runs out of the house.*

### **ACT III Scene 1**

INT - THE ODEKUNLES' COMPOUND - DAY

NARRATOR

It's Friday morning. Iya Funmi has gone out with her two daughters. They have new clothes for the party, but they went to do their hair

**CINDERELLA NIGERIANA**

at the salon. Temidire is at home cleaning up as usual. Iya Funmi tried several times to get the invitation card from her, but she was unsuccessful. She gave up believing that there was no way Temidire could go for the party anyway.

Unknown to her stepmother, Temidire had sewn a beautiful outfit, and had planned to get a cab after her stepmother and her stepsisters had left for the party. She had some money saved that they knew nothing about.

*The narrator steps aside and the curtains open.*

*Temidire's friends are with her standing. The twins have cloths in their hands and Eghosa has a broom. Temidire has a mop in her hand and the bucket is at one side. She is busy mopping.*

*She stops to **sing a song**. They do a simple choreography to the song. At the end of the song, the twins and Eghosa hug Temidire.*

### ACT III Scene 2

INT - THE ODEKUNLES' COMPOUND - EVENING

*Temidire is crying. The dress her stepmother spoilt is beside her.*

NARRATOR

It's Friday evening. From hope, we went to no hope. Iya Funmi saw Temidire's outfit where she hung it for the sun to warm it. Temidire had forgotten to return it to her room before her stepmother returned. Iya Funmi had taken the outfit and after dropping it on the ground had poured palm oil on it. She then stepped on it. There was no way the outfit could be worn to the party.

*There's **a dance** around Temidire.*

*Fairy God Mother enters. She is dressed in either Ankara or a lace iro and buba.*

MAMA

Omo mi, Temidire, why are you crying?

TEMIDIRE

*She is startled upon hearing the voice and she looks up.*

Who are you?

MAMA

I'm someone who cares about you. I have been so close to you, but

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in a way, not so close. So why are you crying?

TEMIDIRE

I want to go to the party taking place tonight at the governor's house. I had it all planned but my stepmother ruined the outfit I had planned to wear.

MAMA

You can still go.

TEMIDIRE

How? I have nothing to wear.

MAMA

Well, that's why I am here. If you check on the bed in your room, I believe you will see something that you can wear.

TEMIDIRE

*She looks a little doubtful.*

How would an outfit get to my room?

MAMA

Miracles do happen.

TEMIDIRE

*She rushes to her room and comes back with a fine outfit.*

How did this get here? It's beautiful. I believe it will fit me perfectly.

MAMA

Well quickly get dressed. The car that will be taking you to the party is waiting for you outside. However, remember, you must be back home before midnight. If you don't get back before midnight, the clothes and the car will disappear. Now go. Enjoy yourself while you can.

TEMIDIRE

Oh, thank you very much.

*She gives Mama a hug and then rushes out.*

**ACT III Scene 3**

INT - GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE - NIGHT

NARRATOR

Things were already underway at the governor's residence. Security was tight with the who's who in the hall. It was a colourful affair as everyone wanted to look good before the governor and his son. Many young ladies tried to get the governor's son's attention, but he ignored most of them. He moved around trying to decide who he was going to give an invitation card to. There was a lot of food, drinks and all sorts of entertainment.

*The governor and his wife are seated watching what's going on. There is a security man at the entrance. The governor's aide-de-camp is standing behind him. Some of the guests are dancing while a few are standing to one side talking. The governor's son, ADE, collects a few invitation cards from Ife's assistant. He then moves from one person to another talking or dancing. He gives Lady and one other person an invitation card.*

*Ade talks with Funmi and dances with Gbemi, and then moves on to talk to someone else shortly before Temidire enters. When he notices her, he walks over to where Temidire is and dances with her. The aide-de-camp goes to Ade and tells him that his father wants to see him. Ade excuses himself and goes to his father.*

GOVERNOR

Ade, you know that this is a very important party. You are my first son. You have graduated from the university and now you even have your masters. It's time for you to settle down. Look around carefully and pick a wife for yourself.

ADE

Yes, sir. My eyes are open.

*The **Edo dancers** come in and at the end Ade greets the maiden and then sees her off.*

*The **Hausa/Fulani dancers** come on stage. Ade greets the maiden and then sees her off.*

IFE

Good evening, Your Excellency, Madam, ladies and gentlemen. All protocols observed. We have a little entertainment for you. Enjoy all we have for you. First we have a fashion parade.

There is a fashion parade. The people walk alone, in twos or threes. They stay until everyone has come out, and then they leave together.

IFE

Next we have a presentation by D D Dancers!

The **D D Dancers** come out and do their presentation to the beat of the drums.

IFE

The last, but not the least presentation we have is the Ijo Ya Dancers.

The **Ijo Ya Dancers** come out and dance.

*The clock **strikes** eleven times.*

*Ade looks for Temidire and when he finds her, he dances with her again. While he is dancing with her, the clock **strikes** once indicating half past eleven. Temidire excuses herself, but not before Ade gives her an IV for the party coming up the following week.*

*Iya Funmi walks to Ife's assistant and bribes him to give her two invitation cards. As Ife's assistant moves away, she puts the invitation cards into her bag, smiling triumphantly.*

#### ACT III Scene 4

INT - THE ODEKUNLES' SITTING ROOM - NIGHT

NARRATOR

The welcome party ended very late. I was there until the end. I ate, drank, and danced. I also made a new friend. We'll be discussing business very soon. Anyway, it's not me you want to hear about.

Temidire left the party quite early, but she had to. Mama had told her to be back before midnight. She was able to make it back in time. Of course her stepsisters and stepmother stayed quite late, even though they didn't stay until the end. Iya Funmi was pleased with herself that she was able to get two invitation cards for her daughters, which she gave them on the way back home.

Let's see what happens when they get home.

*Temidire is wearing her nightgown with a wrapper. There is a KNOCK on the door and Temidire opens the door for her stepsisters and stepmother.*

GBEMI

I had a wonderful time. The governor's son danced with me.

FUNMI

Well, although he didn't dance with me, we had a nice discussion. I won't tell you about what. *(Pauses.)* I'm glad Mum was able to get an invitation for me.

GBEMI

I'm glad too. *(She faces her mother.)* Mum, thanks.

IYA FUNMI

You're welcome. You two just have to be at the party. One of you must catch Ade's attention. I'm looking forward to having him as a son in-law. We have to start planning what you will wear to the party and what you will say when he talks to you. Hmmm. *She leaves.*

FUNMI

It's me that Mr. Ade will fall in love with.

GBEMI

Why are you so sure? *(Pauses.)* I want him to fall in love with me. However, I noticed that he had eyes for that lady that came late. I wonder who she is.

FUNMI

I don't care. All I know is that Mr. Ade will fall in love with me.

GBEMI

Will he? See how you look. There were many women finer than you.

FUNMI

Well he took time to speak with me.

GBEMI

And he danced with me. *(Pauses and looks at Temidire)* Temidire, you missed. Sorry.

FUNMI

What business does she have with the governor's son? Anyway, I'm tired. Goodnight.

GBEMI

I'm tired too. Let's go to bed.

*Both of them leave.*

TEMIDIRE

Mr. Ade is so handsome. He has a nice voice, and he dances well. Thank God for Mama who made a way for me to go to the party when I had given up hope. *(Looking dreamy.)* Hmmmm. I still have a chance to win his heart as he has won mine. My stepsisters don't know that I was at the party and that I got an invitation too. Neither do they know that I am the mystery lady. Hmmmm. I need to go to bed. I'm tired.

*Temidire leaves with a dreamy look on her face.*

#### **ACT IV Scene 1**

INT - GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE - DAY

*At the governor's house. Ade is with six of his friends in the sitting room.*

NARRATOR

A week has passed since the party organized by the governor for his son took place. It is the morning of the second party and Ade is in one of the sitting rooms with a few friends. Several ladies had caught his fancy and he looked forward to spending more time with them that night. One of them stood out among the rest, but there was an aura of mystery around her.

Ade was a little nervous because the decision that he would be making that night was going to have a major impact on his life. Marriage can be challenging even with the one you love. I love my spouse, but occasionally we have disagreements. One thing that has helped us is that we have agreed to make our marriage work despite the challenges. *(Pauses.)* But you're not here to hear about my marriage. Let's see how Ade is feeling. He and



his friends have just finished watching a football match and they are talking about the forthcoming party.

EMEKA

Tonight's going to be another great night.

DAN LADI

Yes, oh. I had so much fun last week. There were so many fine babes at the party. I don't envy Ade having to choose one out of all of them.

FISAYO

I'm glad I'm not in your shoes. *(Pauses.)* I'm happily married and I thank God that I don't have to choose like you do.

ADE

I know. My mother says she wants a daughter-in-law and grandchildren and that I am delaying her. My father is in support because it will be easier to organize a wedding now that he is still governor. He has only one year left in office.

DAN LADI

Why did the parents of the fine babes have to come? I had my eyes on some of them, but I didn't want their parents breathing down my neck.

ADE

That's how my father wanted it. Don't worry, no parents tonight. My parents will be there for a short time and then they will leave.

DAN LADI

That's great. Now I can go after one or two of them without any fear. *(Pauses.)* What do you think of the lady from Edo State? She's beautiful. She might be your type.

ADE

She's beautiful, but I'm not sure I would like to have her as my wife. Three more high class ladies are coming tonight. They weren't able to make it last week. My father says I should still consider them.

FISAYO

But where's the place of love? You hardly know most of these women.

EMEKA

Love will come. Knowing Ade, he's not interested in any of those high class babes. He was talking with some of the others. *(Pauses.)* I don't think he considered any of the ladies he already knows.

ADE

I didn't. I already know that I don't want to marry any of them.

DAN LADI

I hope you're not interested in any of the babes I'm interested in.

FISAYO

Dan Ladi, who is the party for? Ade or you?

DAN LADI

Both of us. *(They all laugh.)* Or shouldn't I get married too?

FISAYO

You should. *(Faces Ade)* What if you can't pick someone tonight?

ADE

If I can't pick someone, then I must have a maximum of five ladies I will have to choose from within the next two months.

EMEKA

God will help you.

ADE

Amen. *(Pauses)* Guys I need to sort some things out. See you in the evening.

EMEKA

Yes o!

OSAS

I won't miss it for anything.

RICHARD

It's drinks and babes.

CINDERELLA NIGERIANA

JONATHAN

And dancing galore.

DAN LADI

Tonight's going to be a great night.

**ACT IV Scene 2**

INT - GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE - NIGHT

NARRATOR

Later on that day the best place to be in town was the governor's residence. Of course the crowd was much smaller than the previous week, and there were no chaperones. Yippee! (Pause. Cover mouth.) Sorry about that. Some of Ade's friends were planning to shop for their own babes, while others just planned to have a good time.

Ade had a big task ahead of him. There were so many ladies to choose from and he had limited time. Let's see what happens.

*At the governor's house. It's the second party. The governor and his wife are seated watching what's going on. They don't stay until the end. Most of the guests are dancing. A few of them are talking. After some time Funmi and Gbemi enter. The governor and his wife leave. Funmi and Gbemi are beautifully dressed with wild make-up. They watch for a while, and then Funmi goes to meet Ade. She bats her false eyelashes and Ade decides to ask her a question.*

ADE

Good evening, Miss.

FUNMI

Good evening, sir.

ADE

If you were the wife of the governor, what would you do?

FUNMI

If I were the wife of the governor, I would throw parties and invite the 'who is who' in town. I would travel within the country and outside the country telling people about the governor.

ADE

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That's nice.

*He leaves her and talks to Lady.*

I hope you are enjoying yourself.

LADY

I am. Thank you.

ADE

What would you do if you were the wife of the governor?

LADY

If I were the wife of the governor, I would support him in whichever way I can. I would start a business that when my husband leaves office, we will be able to continue.

ADE

Thank you.

*He leaves her and talks to Gbemi.*

Your dress is nice.

GBEMI

Thank you, sir.

ADE

Assume you are the governor's wife, what would you do?

GBEMI

I would have an NGO and use it to make a name for myself as well as help the less privileged.

ADE

That's good.

*Ade leaves her side and goes to sit down while the **Igbo people** dance. At the end of the dance, he talks with the potential bride.*

*Ade goes back to his seat while people from **Benue State** dance. At the end of the dance he talks with the potential bride.*

*Ade goes back to his seat while the **Yoruba people** dance. Temidire enters while the performance is going on. Instead of going to meet the potential bride, Ade goes to Temidire.*

ADE

You are welcome to the party.

TEMIDIRE

Thank you, sir.

ADE

You're a little late.

TEMIDIRE

I am sorry, sir. I had to sort out some things at home.

ADE

OK. I hope you were to sort it all out?

TEMIDIRE

Yes, I was. Thank you, sir.

ADE

If you became the governor's wife, what would you do?

TEMIDIRE

Hmm. I would treat the governor as a king, because as my husband he is king no matter his profession. Secondly I would be his chief supporter. If he wants me to work I will work. Whatever I need to do so that I can support him on a personal level and to help him to rule the state well, I will do. I will also pursue some of my dreams.

ADE

That's an interesting answer. Thank you.

TEMIDIRE

You're welcome, sir.

*Ade mingles with the other guests for a while sometimes talking, sometimes dancing, and then he comes back to dance with Temidire. The clock **strikes** twelve and Temidire runs off before Ade could know what was happening.*

ADE

Wait! You've not given me your number.

*He runs after her. Temidire doesn't bother to look back. One shoe falls off her foot. She pauses, but then continues to run. Ade picks up the shoe that dropped from Temidire's foot.*

*He looks at it, puts it close to his chest, and puts it in his pocket. It does not look like any shoe he has seen. He runs after her.*

### ACT V Scene 1

EXT - MARKET PLACE - DAY

NARRATOR

Story, story, story. As can be expected, during the following days there was a lot of talk about the party, but most especially the beautiful mystery lady. Ade had made up his mind that he wanted to marry the mystery lady, but no one seemed to know her. A few people that spoke with her agreed that she had said that her name was Temi, but she had not mentioned a surname or where she was staying or the type of work she was doing. There was nothing to track her down apart from her first name and her shoe. It was a mystery.

Let's hear what some of the people were saying. Story, story, story.

*At the market place. Some people are selling. Some people are buying. People are coming and going talking about the party and how the governor's son is looking for the mystery lady, the owner of the shoe he found.*

P1

Who is the mystery lady?

P2

Whoever she is, she is one lucky lady.

P3

Why does no one seem to know her?

P4

How did she get an invitation card in the first place?

P3

Maybe she was able to get it forged.

P2

But it was the governor's son that gave out the second invitation card.

P3

Someone helped him print it and someone else helped him collect it. Anything could have happened.

P2

Well, if she is found, we'll get to know who she is.

P1

I hope they find her. The journalists will then give us all the juicy news. I know their eyes and ears are open to be among the first to discover the identity of this mystery lady.

P4

Let's get going. We need to buy all the juicy tomatoes, juicy onions, juicy meat, and the juicy juice for our party.

*They all laugh and leave.*

## **ACT V Scene 2**

EXT - OPEN SPACE - DAY

(In front of the curtain)

*Drumming interlude and then Ife Olaniyi and his assistant walk in. The assistant is carrying the shoe on a cushion.*

IFE

Good afternoon, people of this prestigious state. The governor's son as some of you have already heard, has decided to marry the person whose foot can fit into the shoe, and who can provide the second one. If he doesn't find the person by the end of this week, he has promised to look for another bride. Please cooperate with us if we come to your house. Thank you.

*They leave and then the drummers stop.*

**ACT V Scene 3**

INT - EATERY - DAY

*At an eatery. People are seated round two or three tables. The focus is on the table in front. The people at the front table are dressed in semiformal outfits.*

LADY

I was happy when I got the invitation to the party last week.

P6

Who wasn't? Just getting that invitation gave me an opportunity to see the governor live and most especially his handsome son.

P7

Did you notice his junior brother? He is handsome too.

P8

I saw him, but he's too young. Besides it's the first born that gets most of his father's inheritance.

P9

You can forget about that inheritance. I believe you have heard that the governor's son is looking for the owner of the shoe that fell off a lady's foot when she was running away from the party.

P9

I heard, but I thought I had a big chance when he spoke with me and asked me what I would do if I became the wife of the governor.

LADY

Well, just to let you know, you are not the only person he asked. He asked me too.

P7

He asked me as well. Anyway, becoming governor is not an inherited position, unlike becoming king. Hmmm. I wonder who the mystery lady is.

P6

Doesn't everybody. Anyway if they don't find her maybe we'll get an invitation to another party.



P7

In your dreams. (*Pauses*) Ladies let's go. I have an appointment at the salon. The son of the Commissioner for Education is taking me to that new restaurant in town tonight.

*The others make all sorts of comments and then they all get up and leave.*

## ACT VI

INT - ODEKUNLES' SITTING ROOM - DAY

NARRATOR

The search for the owner of the shoe was hot. There were some houses that Ade didn't consider when searching for his potential bride, but he encouraged his men to be thorough. He wanted a positive response that they had found the mystery lady. He didn't like the idea of what he would have to do if he didn't find his mystery lady.

Some women managed to get their feet into the shoe, but could not provide the second leg. Most of them claimed that they had thrown it away since they couldn't use one shoe. Ife refused to accept their excuses. Some other women tried to look for a similar pair in the market, but there was always something different in the one that they had bought.

It remained just one more day for the deadline of the search. That day, the Odekunles received a visitor. Let's find out who it was.

*At the Odekunle's residence. Funmi, Gbemi, and Iya Funmi are in the sitting room talking when there is a KNOCK at the door. Temidire goes to open it. Ife Olaniyi is there with his assistant. His assistant is with the shoe on a cushion.*

TEMIDIRE

Good afternoon, sir.

IFE

Good afternoon. Ife Olaniyi is my name. I was here several weeks ago I am here on behalf of the governor. This is my assistant. May we come in?

*Temidire allows them in.*

Good afternoon ladies. I am here on behalf of the governor. He said that his son has promised to marry whoever can comfortably

CINDERELLA NIGERIANA

wear the shoe that fell off a lady's foot at the party and that can produce the second one.

IYA FUNMI

Girls, which one of you dropped your shoe?

FUNMI

I was the one.

GBEMI

No, I was the one.

FUNMI

I was the one. Let me show you.

*She sits down and Ife tries the shoe on her foot. It doesn't fit her.*

GBEMI

See, the shoe is not for you, it's for me.

*Gbemi tries it on and it's manageable, but not a perfect fit.*

IFE

I'm not sure it's yours, but if you can produce the second shoe, you've got yourself a wonderful husband.

GBEMI

Ehm. You see. I don't know what happened to the second shoe. When I got back home, I just don't know what happened to it.

IYA FUNMI

Well, you can see that you have found your mystery lady. Let's go and meet the governor now.

TEMIDIRE

Let me try the shoe on. It belongs to me.

FUNMI

Who called you into this conversation? You weren't even at the party.

TEMIDIRE

Yes, I was. You just didn't know me when you saw me. I was at both parties.

IYA FUNMI

I don't know why you like sticking your nose into something that doesn't concern you. Do you think that the governor's son would want to marry you?

IFE

She has a right to try on the shoe. I remember bringing an invitation card for her.

IYA FUNMI

She has no right to try the shoe on. I will not allow her to put her dirty feet into the shoe.

*While Iya Funmi and Ife are talking, more like Iya Funmi shouting at Ife, and his assistant trying to keep her from hitting his boss, Temidire goes out and brings the second shoe.*

TEMIDIRE

Here is the second shoe.

*Everyone freezes and looks surprised.*

IYA FUNMI

That's Gbemi's shoe. She told you it was missing. I am sure Temidire stole it.

*She tries to get the shoe from Temidire, but Temidire moves out of her reach.*

*Temidire wears the shoe she brought and it fits her perfectly. Ife then gives her the second shoe and she wears it. She then twirls around in them.*

IFE

That's great. We must go to the governor's house right away.

IYA FUNMI

Impossicant! She stole that shoe from Gbemi. How could she even have been at the party? Look at what she is wearing.

IFE

I have my orders ma'am. She is going with me to the Governor's house. And thanks for reminding me. She will buy a new dress on the way.

*Temidire leaves with Ife and his assistant.*

CINDERELLA NIGERIANA

FUNMI

Noooooooo. *(She goes after them.)*

GBEMI

It's not fair. *(She walks slowly out.)*

IYA FUNMI

Hmmm. How did this happen? What can I do? *(She walks out slowly.)*

## ACT VII

INT - WEDDING RECEPTION - DAY

NARRATOR

Six months later, Ade and Temidire tie the knot. *(Brings out a handkerchief and wipes the eyes.)* I'm sorry, but I always cry at weddings. I am so happy for the two of them. *(Wipes the eyes again.)* I witnessed part of the courtship it was so romantic. He was made for her. She was made for him. They make such a wonderful couple. Let me hold my peace. It's not me you came to see, it's the wonderful couple. Dreams do come true. Enjoy the reception.

*It's the wedding day. There are six chairs around the table. Ade is wearing a suit while Temidire is wearing a white wedding gown. They are seated together in the middle of the table. The governor and his wife are wearing 'anko'. They are seated at one side of the couple, while Iya Funmi and another man are seated at the other side of the couple. They are also wearing 'anko'. The choir sings **Iyawo Mi**.*

M. C.

Hurray to the newest and 'bestest' couple in town, Mr. and Mrs. Ade Balogun. Now, let's welcome the Next Step dancers as we rejoice with the couple. *(Leaves)*

*The **Next Step dancers** present their dance. At the end of the dance Ade and Temidire dance for a few seconds to 'Iyawo Mi' and leave holding hands.*

THE END