



April 16, 2015

## CINDERELLA



*Cinderella* has been retold in several versions that show the importance of having supportive people in your life, and how losing your mother can leave you at the mercy of others who may not have your best interests at heart. The stereotype of wicked stepmother has never been more alive than in the guise of Cate Blanchett, whose cruelty is sharp and cutting with all the venom of a viper.

The equally shallow and internally ugly stepsisters prove that not all blended families are Brady bunches. I think that this version of the tale illustrates how a person can be kind and overcome adversity by not becoming damaged or embittered by the tragedies that life offers.

Resilient and resolute in her kindness, Cinderella knows what she wants and tries to be an agent in her destiny, only to be again over run by the ruthless clan of princess wannabes. Just as our embattled heroine is about to throw in the towel, in to the rescue comes the fairy godmother, played in full bibbity bobbity boo by Helena Bonham Carter.

*Cinderella* continues to be one of the most beloved princesses in the Disney collection. She accepts her fate, but still strives for more than what fate has challenged her with. When she meets the prince in the woods, she doesn't know who he is, and he doesn't know who she is. Their love is struck at face value.

In contrast to the contrived marriages of convenience and commerce going on all around them, these two fought to find each other again. Commitment, faith, love and courage in the form of kindness are what lead to the happy ending. I think the take-away here is that love is not something that can be planned or controlled or bartered. It must be shared and felt by both to be the stuff of fairy tale legend.

*Cinderella* reminds us also that mean spiritedness is just another form of evil and that evil never wins in the long run. That is why these stories remain with us from generation to generation. They provide examples of how to deal with adversity and how to learn to trust the world and other people again. In the case of *Cinderella*, we are reminded that forgiveness is a gift given by those who have grace, beauty and a loving heart. Those are the qualities that we should impart on our young people. To have courage, be kind and forgive are qualities worth much more than fortune or fame.



I give *Cinderella* four golden tickets. Take a little prince or princess to see it. The transformation scenes are spectacular.

