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## I'm Today's Cinderella

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# I'm Today's Cinderella

Talmeez F. Burney

I'm the new age's,  
today's  
Cinderella.  
Now my real mother rather than stepmother  
takes me to parties,  
where the arrival of a prince is expected.  
Now a fairy doesn't help me to get ready.  
Now I do it all by myself.  
I've been trained for that.  
I've turned grooming into a business.  
Now nobody asks me a wear a specific color.  
Now everyone's wish comes true even before it is said.

I'm today's Cinderella.  
Now parties don't end at eleven or twelve.  
Rather, they start at that time and continue all night long.  
I'm today's Cinderella.  
At every single party where I go,  
there is more than one prince,  
and countless Cinderellas.  
Along with their mothers and fathers,  
who bring their daughters for every bargain,  
for every unfulfilled goal.  
They bring them well-prepared.

I'm today's Cinderella.  
I go to parties,  
I even offer to dance with a prince before he asks me.

Now nobody's stare,  
touch,  
words,  
closeness,  
heated breath,  
lips,  
disturb me at all from the inside.  
Because I know,  
and he knows too,  
that this encounter is neither the first nor the last.

I'm today's Cinderella.  
I've countless pairs of shoes,  
a thousand dresses,  
but every time, I have a problem before going to the party,  
like the story's Cinderella.  
Even though I have many dresses and shoes,  
not a single shoe is left at the party by mistake.

I'm today's Cinderella.  
I'm waiting  
for the right moment  
when the prince and his men,  
will wander house to house  
with my missing shoe.  
I'm today's Cinderella.  
If his men come, then my mom wouldn't hide me.  
I'm today's Cinderella.



I know  
even if the shoe is too loose or tight for my foot,  
I would say, "Yes it is my shoe."  
After that I wouldn't ever wear my own size shoe.  
My shoes will be big or small.  
But I will wear them for the rest of my life,  
like a quick fix.  
  
I'm today's Cinderella.  
After the wedding my husband will take me to parties.  
He will present me well groomed  
like my mother.

His eyes will push me  
toward  
every big shot,  
bureaucrat,  
CEO,  
because  
I'm today's Cinderella,  
but maybe he doesn't know  
that I use my body and mind at the same time.  
I'm today's Cinderella.

**Mixed Media Collage** by Lori Carr

