

Gub Gub, Godmother, Gaslight (Or, Cindy's Revolt)  
By Colleen O'Doherty

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Bio

Colleen O'Doherty is a playwright and educator based out of Omaha, NE. Her short plays have seen productions all over the United States: *Bold Dorothy*, *Retired* was in Renaissance Theaterworks' 2017 Br!NK Briefs festival, *Elevated* and *Swipe Right at the Bar* were in Cone Man Running's 2017 Five Minute Mile, *Northern Bound* was in Cleveland Public Theater's 2018 Station Hope and *Meet Puberty* is set to be part of Funky Little Theater Company's Spectrum festival in July 2018. She is receiving her MFA in play and screenwriting from the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

*(CINDY cleans her fireplace as she sings terribly out of tune. A glass slipper sits on the fireplace. It can be any tune, but it might vaguely resemble Les Miserables' "I had a dream". She sings to her house plants.)*

CINDY

There was a time when Princes were kind, when their dicks didn't go soft, and their glass slippers inviting. There was a time when slippers were glass and mice could sing, and I wasn't called crazy. Then it all went wrong. I had a dream that life could be better than my step-sisters-

*(Gub-Gub, a person in a mouse outfit, scratches at the window.)*

GUB GUB

Cindy, Cindy.

CINDY

Dearest Gub Gub.  
*(CINDY dramatically leaves her fireplace work and throws open the window.)*

GUB GUB

Lord, girlie, it took forever to find you.

CINDY

*(Maybe to the plants?)* How did my dear childhood friend and pet mouse Gub Gub find me? And why is she so huge?

GUB GUB

Why are you speaking about me like I'm not here?

CINDY

Oh, what's it matter? She's here. Oh, Gub Gub! Let's sing a song together and clean like old times.

GUB GUB

The hell? Cindy. Okay. Here's the deal. We really gotta get you outta here. Your weird letter-

CINDY

-The messenger owl reached you?

GUB GUB

Right, yeah, about that. Like, it's cool you can talk to animals, but we have actual mail and like, owls eat mice.

So...whatever. Point is that your letter made it sound like you're having a bit of a rough time. Why don't we get you some help, friend?

*(Loud knocking.)*

PRINCE

*(From outside the door.)*

Cindy! Cindy, let me in! Now!

GUB GUB

Should we jump out the window?

CINDY

Oh, what for? He'll just chase me down in that damnable pumpkin carriage. Hide.

*(GUB GUB hides behind a plant. CINDY lets in PRINCE, who has a SECURITY GUARD standing nearby at all times.)*

PRINCE

Cindy. One of my spies...er...I mean your security guards...said you were speaking with someone.

CINDY

What? No. Never. Of course not. I couldn't. Not possibly. I was simply cleaning cinders. Cinders, cinders, cinders.

PRINCE

Well, you sound crazy right now. As my wife, you must present yourself respectably. How many times must I tell you?

CINDY

So this is love.

PRINCE

No. No singing. Please. I know you miss your home and the mice and all that weird shit, but you're with me now. And look, I've given you your own mini house with a fireplace you can clean. You have plants to talk to, which are way more sanitary than rats.

CINDY

Mice. Damn you. They were mice.

GUARD

Sir, she seems agitated.

PRINCE

No, no, I've got it. My dear sweet Cindy. Aren't I better to you than your evil stepmother? I had her killed for you. Your sisters are hookers barely making a living. You won. All because of me. Can't you just be sane?

GUB GUB

*(Stage Whisper.)*

My good fairy Godmother. He's gas-lighting her!

CINDY

It's just. I...I'm not allowed friends. I don't get to sing. You don't let me out doors. You can't get hard for-

PRINCE

*(Blustery sounds so GUARD doesn't hear that whole line.)*

Cindy. You're too weird for friends. Your singing is horrible. You can't be let out in the world.

*(The GUARD reacts nonverbally to this. "That's fucked up, man.")*

GUB GUB

Okay. Enough.

*(GUB GUB emerges from plant.)*

PRINCE

Holy Mother of Me, giant rat, giant rat, giant rat!

GUARD

On it, sir.

*(GUARD gets GUB GUB in a hold.)*

I call this the rat trap.

GUB GUB

Not funny. And I am a mouse.

GUARD

Whoa. You talk.

CINDY

Gub Gub! No!

PRINCE

See? You talk to animals and bring them in the house. Absolutely crazy.

GUB GUB

Stop. Stop screwing with her mind. *(To GUARD.)* Does this not sicken you? Forsake your duty and help me free her!

PRINCE

Can you just kill that thing?

GUARD

Aww. It's kinda cute, though. Look at that little nose.

PRINCE

Kill it.

GUB GUB

Must. Get. Reinforcements.

*(GUB GUB somehow gets a shoe or slipper out of her pocket.)*

Fairy Godmother!

*(FAIRY GODMOTHER makes big entrance. She is a little worse for wear. Everything about her got edgy as hell. Maybe she has a flask.)*

FAIRY GODMOTHER

Let the giant mouse go.

*(GUARD does.)*

*(To CINDY.)* My god. Look at you.

CINDY

Godmother! I thought I'd never see you again.

FAIRY GODMOTHER

Sorry it took so long.

PRINCE

What is this? I will have the entire guard here in moments.

FAIRY GODMOTHER

*(Uses fairy powers and knocks PRINCE back.)*

Like hell. Shut your entitled face. Cindy, you're coming with me and Gub here.

CINDY

What? But...but...you set this up. I thought this was how life was supposed to end up.

FAIRY GODMOTHER

I'm sorry, Cindy. We at Fairy Godmother Inc. thought we were doing right. All these poor or otherwise powerless women needed a way out. We thought marriage was the ticket. We've learned. And we're making it right.

GUB GUB

She's great. She made me this big.

PRINCE

No, no, no! Not fair, not fair! I am the Prince. Did you see how many people came to my coronation? Millions.

GUARD

Sir, there technically were only 100.

PRINCE

Shut up.

*(Pulls out a lamp.)*

I'll get a genie in here and then we'll see about this Fairy Godmother crap.

FAIRY GODMOTHER

Oh, no. That's the one thing my powers can't beat. Stop him.

*(She tries shooting some kind of power at him. He blocks it with the lamp.)*

Shit.

*(GUB GUB goes to stop him, but GUARD intervenes. FAIRY GODMOTHER struggles with PRINCE. CINDY freezes.)*

GUB GUB

*(To GUARD.)* Why are you defending this douche?

GUARD

I need the job, dude.

PRINCE

Cindy, Cindy, help me. You love me.

*(CINDY grabs the glass slipper and smashes it over PRINCE's head. It stuns him as CINDY grabs a potted plant and smashes that over his head. He still has the lamp and knocks over FAIRY GODMOTHER. He goes to get CINDY. This could be the end.)*

GUB GUB

Cindy!

*(GUARD releases GUB GUB, takes out an axe and uses the handle to knock out PRINCE. All must get their bearings.)*

FAIRY GODMOTHER

What was that?

GUARD

Oh, hell. Since we're all airing out closets. I was a woodsman. I used to save people that needed saving. Like, I saved this badass in a red hood...you might have read about me.

*(They haven't.)*

Anyway, once this new king took over, he forced a bunch of us into servitude. But the fairies are revolting against this mess?

GUB GUB

Hell yeah.

FAIRY GODMOTHER

You know others who would join?

GUARD

*Hell yeah.*

GUB GUB

Cindy?

CINDY

Finally, truly free? Really?

FAIRY GODMOTHER

If you ready to fight.

CINDY

*(Picks up PRINCE's dropped sword.)*  
Let's get outta here.

*(Maybe they all start humming a tune as they flee.)*

**End of Play.**