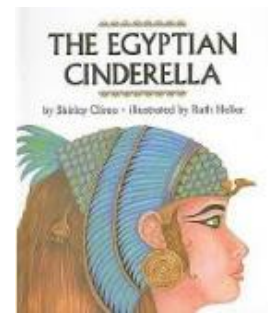


The Egyptian Cinderella



Long ago, in the land of Egypt, where the resplendent Nile River widens to meet blue sea, there lived a maiden called Rhodopis. When she was young, she was taken and sold as a slave in Egypt.

Rhodopis looked different from other Egyptian girls: her eyes were jade and her skin was pale. She was often teased because she looked different. "Rosy Rhodopid!" shouted the other girls. They would also boss her about. "Mend my robe and feed the geese!" they bawled obnoxiously.

After a seemingly endless night of dancing, Rhodopis was given a fantastic gift from her master. "You are a brilliant dancer. Have these rose-red slippers," said her master. The following morning, a splendid falcon swooped down as fast as lightening and stole one of her slippers. "Oh no!" she sobbed with anguish.

The falcon took the slipper to Amasis (the great Pharaoh) and he took it as a sign from god. "Whoever's foot fits inside this slipper shall become my queen," he announced. So the great search for the owner of the slipper began.

Beyond the magnificent pyramids and vast desert sands was a small landing platform beside the Nile. Excitedly, numerous servant girls tried to squeeze the slipper on however, only Rhodopis could fit it on her foot. "You shall be my new queen!" shouted Amasis joyfully.

