

## *Little Cindy*

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Once upon a time, there was a one year old baby named Little Cindy. She lived with her father, for her mother had died a few months after she was born. They lived in a small village called Greenville. They loved going outside, but Spring was their favorite. In the Spring, Papa loved sitting in a chair reading and playing with Little Cindy. Little Cindy loved playing with Papa, rolling in the grass, and crawling after butterflies. They both loved having picnics and exploring their yard. One crisp Autumn day, Papa got very, very sick so he gave Little Cindy to a pretty woman with two cute babies. But when poor Little Cindy was in her care, she got a rotting, creaking crib with straw for a mattress and an old fraying blanket with holes in it for her bed. Her stepsisters had shiny new cribs with the softest mattresses and the thickest blankets. And while her stepsisters ate fresh yogurt and baby foods Little Cindy had sour yogurt and old baby food. Her stepsisters had beautiful dresses and colorful bows. Little Cindy had ratty old patched clothes and dull bows, but they were always too big or too small. One day her stepmother got a call from Tom's mother. Tom was in a professional musical and was famous. He was lonely so he was inviting all the other babies in the town to a party! And that was not all, he was going to pick a best friend! Little Cindy's stepmother said it was next week. Little Cindy's stepsisters spent the week trying on new dresses. When the week was over Little Cindy asked if she could come too. Her stepmother said yes, if you can find something to wear. She could not find anything at first, but finally found an old dress of her stepsisters it was not worn out but it was too small for both of her stepsisters. Fortunately Little Cindy was skinny so it fit her. But, when she went downstairs her stepsisters saw their old dress they ripped it off of her. Then they went away. Little Cindy ran into the playroom and cried bitterly. Suddenly, her grandmother walked into the room. What's wrong? She asked kindly. I don't have anything pretty to wear and my stepmother says I can't go to Tom's party if I don't have anything! Cried Little Cindy. "I can fix that." Little Cindy's grandmother said cheerfully. With a flash of a needle, she took ribbon, thread, and fabric scraps out of her apron pocket. She took an ugly, faded dress and quickly sewed colorful fabric scraps and ribbon onto it. She made ruffles and finally made a pretty bow and two little slippers out of ribbon. Then she took the pretty painted carnival wagon Little Cindy's stepsisters had got the year before. She made cushions and a thick blanket for it. She hitched up her dog to the wagon, so that he could pull it to Tom's house. She said, "Be home at noon so you'll have time to get ready before your sisters get home." The dog pulled her to the party and when she got there Tom came over to her and stayed by her for the rest of the party. He shared his yogurt and crackers with her and played with her. When she heard the noon bells, she hurried to the dog and the wagon. Tom chased after her, she ran so fast that she lost one of her slippers. Then, Tom and his mother stopped to pick it up and look at it. When they looked up again, the dog had already sped away. Little Cindy's grandmother was waiting for her. She took back the dress, slipper, bow, cushions and dog so there would be no clues that she was at the party. When Little Cindy's stepsister's got home, Little Cindy asked them, "Who won?" "Some silly girl who wasn't even there the whole time!" They shouted back. The next day, Tom and his mother were going about knocking on doors. They were trying the slipper on all of the girls who were at the party. Little Cindy's stepmother put her in her crib so that she wouldn't be seen when they got to her house. They tried the slipper on Little

Cindy's stepsisters. "Oh well," sighed Tom. Just then, there was a sound in the doorway. Little Cindy had managed to get out of her crib! "Wait, " said Tom's mother. They tried the slipper on her," it fit 'perficly'!" Said Tom. "But, she wasn't even there!" protested her stepmother. But Tom and his mother took no notice. Tom was overjoyed. Then his mother took them to where Little Cindy used to live. They found out that her father was well! They lived together happily ever after.

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