

# THE EGYPTIAN CINDERELLA

"Long ago in the land of Egypt where the green water of the Nile River flows into the blue water of the Mediterranean Sea lived a young maiden named Rhodopis." Rhodopis was born in Greece but was kidnapped by pirates and carried down into Egypt where she was sold into slavery. Her owner turned out to be a kind old man, called Charaxos, who spent most of his time under a tree sleeping. Because of this he never saw how the other girls in the house, all servant girls, taunted and teased Rhodopis.

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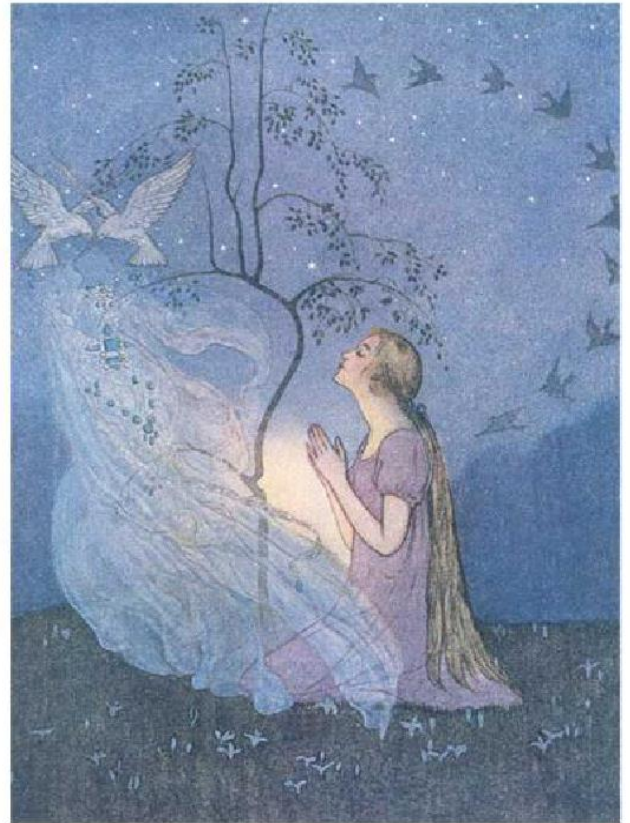


They teased her because she looked differently from them. Their hair was straight and black while hers was golden and curly. They had brown eyes and she had green.

Their skin had the glow of copper, but Rhodopis had pale skin that burned easily in the sun causing them to call her Rosy Rhodopis. They also made her work hard shouting at her all day, "Go to the river and wash the clothes," "Mend my robe," "Chase the geese from the garden,": "Bake the bread."

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Now Rhodopis had no friends- only the animals. She had trained the birds to eat from her hand, a monkey to sit on her shoulder, and the old hippopotamus would slide up on the bank out of the mud to be closer to her. At the end of the day if she wasn't too tired she would go down to the river to be with her animal friends and if she had any energy left from the hard day's work she would dance and sing for them.



One evening as she was dancing, twirling around lighter than air with her feet barely touching the ground, the old man woke from his sleep and watched as she danced. He admired her dancing and felt that one so talented should not be without shoes. He ordered her a special pair of slippers. The shoes were gilded with rose-red gold and the soles were leather.

Read the first four pages of text, then answer these questions.

1) Where was Rhodopis born and why doesn't she live there now?

2) Name three ways that Rhodopis looked different to the Egyptian girls:

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3) What do the words in bold mean in these sentences?

He <b>seldom</b> heard the servant girls tease Rhodopis.	
Rhodopis always hurried to do their <b>bidding</b> .	
She <b>coaxed</b> a monkey to sit upon her shoulder.	
"No goddess is more <b>nimble!</b> " he called out.	

4) Why has an apostrophe been used here?

**Rhodopis went to the water's edge each day to wash clothes.**

**Answers:**

1. She's from Greece. She was kidnapped by pirates and sold to be a slave

2. Her skin was pale, theirs was like copper

She had blonde, curly hair; theirs was black and straight

She had green eyes; theirs were brown

3.

<b>seldom</b>	Not very often
<b>bidding</b>	What they told her to do
<b>coaxed</b>	persuade
<b>nimble</b>	Quick and light

4. water's edge – the edge of the river – it belongs to the water.