

As you read your article, stop at the underline passages and turn to this page. These underlined sections are in order below. In your own words, explain what the author means. All notes can be made in the margin.

*Cinderella was ahead of her time by giving her name to a fairy tale about the contemporary issue of "reconstituted families". Cinderella's "issues" are our "issues".*

*But Cinderella is also ahead of its time by showing us that people who have what are now euphemistically called difficult childhoods can have perfectly happy lives, can indeed live happily ever after, even if they had never been happy before.*

*The other striking thing about Cinderella - and which makes Freud's question relevant - is that men are not Cinderella's problem, women are.*

*- it is a story about why women don't want other women to have pleasure. It is, by the same token, a story about how women - or parts of themselves - can be enemies of their own desire; a story about how women, out of fear of other women's envy, want to frustrate themselves.*

*The story of Cinderella's life is about how she gets to have a life,*

*the men in the story are functional. And the function of the two main men, the father and the prince, is to be captivated (or dominated, depending on one's point of view) by their women.*

*Conflicts arise only between the women.*

*In other words, if Cinderella was a story about what women want, the answer would be: women want a mother who does everything she can to facilitate their pleasure; a mother who relishes her daughter's pleasure rather than envies it, or competes with it, or trivialises it.*

*The slippers represent the couple who have to be together, but Cinderella also has a double life - or rather two lives that, just like a pair of shoes, are similar (they are both hers) and inextricable (one shoe is no good to anyone).*

*She is like an undiscovered secret, and once she is discovered, the first thing she seems to learn is how to keep secrets, primarily the secret of having been to the ball.*

*The moral of the story is: girls must learn not to be intimidated by envy, not to make themselves unenviable by diminishing themselves, and that this requires a certain magic, a ruthless unwillingness to accept things as they are.*

*"how does a girl get what she wants?"*

*the problem, and the solution, is other women.*

*Men and women know the effect of women initially from their experience of their mothers.*

*The story tells us that there are two mothers, or two sides to the mother: the good mother who sees her daughter as she is, and helps her to reveal this, and the bad mother who treats the daughter as a usurper and rival.*

*For the author, and possibly the reader, of Cinderella, the question is not "what does a (the) woman want?" but "how does she want?"*