The Egyptian Cinderella
Synopsis
Poor Rhodopis! She has nothing - no mother or father, and no friends. She is a slave, from the far-off country of Greece. Only the beautiful rose-red slippers her master gives her can make Rhodopis smile. So when a falcon swoops down and snatches one of the slippers away, Rhodopis is heartbroken. For how is she to know that the slipper will land in the lap of the great Pharoah himself? And who would ever guess that the Pharoah has promised to find the slipper's owner and make her queen of all Egypt?

Book Information
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Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews
This book is not "racist". The fairy tale is based upon the tale of "Rhodopis", Greek word for 'rosy cheek or sunburned', in antiquity. "Rhodopis" stories were popular Greek tales among ancient Greeks since the 6th century BC, told in different versions. A well told account in one of these older versions had her finance a pyramid in her honor, the Pyramid of Mycerinus or Menkera. Shirley Climo's version is based upon these versions of "Rhodopis", Strabo's "Rhodopis" is an archetypal Cinderella from the 1st century BC. He immortalized a woman by the same name in what historians consider the first "Cinderella" basing his story on both facts and fictions. The woman who's story is somewhat based upon was believed to be the beautiful Rhodopis born in Northern Greece,
kidnapped by pirates, sold to a man on the island of Samos, a fellow slave, a homely little man called Aesop, used to tell her stories of animals. When she was grown the man in Samos sold the girl in Naucratis, bought by Charaxos in Egypt who spoiled her as if she was his own daughter giving presents of jewels and beautiful clothes, she later married a Pharaoh. She is of whom some Greeks believed the Pyramid of Mycerinus or Menkera were build by, while others dispute this. One thing can not be disputed is that by Strabo times and many centuries afterwards, "Rhodopis" was renowned through out ancient Greece and Rome for her beauty, promoting various different versions of "Rhodopis" stories. The wind according to Strabo takes away one of her rose red slippers, an eagle according to Aelian's version. It is a historical fact that a Greek maiden did marry Pharaoh Amasis (Dynasty XXVI, 570-536 BC), Amasis was actually the king's Greek name. His birth name was Ahmose II, who was of common origins.

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