

BAKER

What do you wish?

WITCH

It's not what I wish. It's what you wish.

(Points to BAKER'S WIFE'S BELLY)

Nothing cooking in there now, is there?

NARRATOR

The old enchantress went on to tell the couple that she had placed a spell on their house.

BAKER

What spell?

WITCH

In the past, when you were no more than a babe, your father brought his young wife and you to this cottage. They were a handsome couple, but not handsome neighbors. You see, your mother was with child and she had developed an unusual appetite. She took one look at my beautiful garden and told your father that what she wanted more than anything in the world was...

(Spoken)

GREENS, GREENS, AND NOTHING BUT GREENS:
PARSLEY, PEPPERS, CABBAGES AND CELERY,
ASPARAGUS AND WATERCRESS AND
FIDDLEFERNS AND LETTUCE - !

(Falling into "Rap" style)

HE SAID, "ALL RIGHT," BUT IT WASN'T, QUITE,
'CAUSE I CAUGHT HIM IN THE AUTUMN
IN MY GARDEN ONE NIGHT!
HE WAS ROBBING ME, RAPING ME,
ROOTING THROUGH MY RUTABAGA,
RAIDING MY ARUGULA
AND RIPPING UP THE RAMPION
(MY CHAMPION! MY FAVORITE!) -
I SHOULD HAVE LAID A SPELL ON HIM

("SPELL" chord)

RIGHT THERE,
COULD HAVE. TURNED HIM INTO STONE
OR A DOG OR A CHAIR, OR A SN -

(WITCH)

(Drifts off into a momentary trance)

BUT I LET HIM HAVE THE RAMPION —
I'D LOTS TO SPARE.
IN RETURN, HOWEVER,
I SAID, "FAIR IS FAIR:
YOU CAN LET ME HAVE THE BABY
THAT YOUR WIFE WILL BEAR.
AND WE'LL CALL IT SQUARE."

(MUSIC stops)

BAKER

I had a brother?

WITCH

No. But you had a sister.

NARRATOR

But the Witch refused to tell him any more of his sister. Not even that her name was Rapunzel. She went on:

(MUSIC resumes)

WITCH

I thought I had been more than reasonable, and that we all might live happily ever after. But how was I to know what your father had also hidden in his pocket? You see, when I had inherited that garden, my mother had warned me I would be punished if I were ever to lose any of the...

(Spoken)

BEANS.

BAKER, BAKER'S WIFE

(Spoken)

BEANS?

WITCH

(Spoken)

THE SPECIAL BEANS.

(Getting worked up)

I LET HIM GO, I DIDN'T KNOW

(CINDERELLA'S MOTHER)

IF YOU KNOW WHAT YOU WANT,
THEN MAKE A WISH.
ASK THE TREE,
AND YOU SHALL HAVE YOUR WISH.

(CINDERELLA'S MOTHER *disappears*)

CINDERELLA

(*Rising*)

SHIVER AND QUIVER, LITTLE TREE,
SILVER AND GOLD THROW DOWN ON ME.

(A GOLD AND SILVER DRESS and FANCY SLIPPERS DROP DOWN from the tree)

I'M OFF TO GET MY WISH.

(*Picks up the clothes and dashes OFFSTAGE.*)

JACK is walking through the Woods, leading MILKY-WHITE. HE stops and sits on a tree stump)

JACK

Quiet. Silence everywhere, Milky-White. Not to my liking...

(*Pause*)

MYSTERIOUS MAN

(*Stepping from behind a tree*)

Hello, Jack.

JACK

(*Frightened*)

How did you know my name?

MYSTERIOUS MAN

When first I appear, I seem mysterious. But when explained, I am nothing serious.

JACK

Say that again.

MYSTERIOUS MAN

On your way to market? You might have been there long ago. Taking your time, Jack?

JACK

No, sir.

MYSTERIOUS MAN

Is that the truth?

JACK

Well, you see, now I'm resting —

MYSTERIOUS MAN

How much are you asking for the animal?

JACK

No less than five pounds, sir.

MYSTERIOUS MAN

Oh now, Jack. Why such a sum?

JACK

My mother told me —

MYSTERIOUS MAN

Your mother? A boy your age? Why, you'd be lucky to exchange her for a sack of beans.

JACK

Well, I —

(Before JACK can respond, the MYSTERIOUS MAN has DISAPPEARED)

Come along, Milky-White. There are spirits here...

(EXITS.)

If you are performing #3—Hello, Little Girl (Two Wolf Version) turn to page 204 in the Appendix.

#3—Hello, Little Girl

(Another part of the Woods. LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD, skipping to the accompaniment of "Into The Woods," is surprised by the WOLF. MUSIC stops)

(HOWLS and EXITS)

Continue here following #3—Hello, Little Girl (Two Wolf Version).

BAKER

(Horried)

Is harm to come to that little girl... in the red cape!

#3A—Underscore After "Hello, Little Girl"

(WITCH appears. MUSIC under)

WITCH

Forget the little girl and get the cape!

BAKER

(Clutching his chest)

You frightened me.

WITCH

(Nasty) That's the cape. Get it. Get it. Get it!

BAKER

How am I supposed to get it?

WITCH

You go up to the little thing, and you take it.

BAKER

I can't just take a cloak from a little girl. Why don't you take it!

WITCH

If I could, I would! But I...

RAPUNZEL

(Sweetly, OFFSTAGE, in the distance)

AHHH...

(WITCH listens, entranced)

WITCH

(Sweetly) Ahh, my Rapunzel... listen to her beautiful music...

(Yelling) Get me what I need. Get me what I need!

(Disappears)

BAKER

(Distracted)

This is ridiculous. I'll never get that red cape, nor find a golden cow, or a yellow slipper — or was it a golden slipper and a yellow cow? Oh, no...

BAKER'S WIFE

(Softly, APPEARING behind a tree)

THE COW AS WHITE AS MILK,
THE CAPE AS RED AS BLOOD,
THE HAIR AS YELLOW AS CORN,
THE SLIPPER AS PURE AS —

BAKER

(Overlapping)

What are you doing here?

BAKER'S WIFE

(Coming forward, takes a scarf and tries to put it around his neck)

You forgot your scarf —

BAKER

(Taking scarf off)

You have no business being alone in the Wood. And you have no idea what I've come upon here. You would be frightened for your life. Now go home immediately!

BAKER'S WIFE

I wish to help.

BAKER

No!

(BAKER)

THE SPELL IS ON MY HOUSE -

BAKER'S WIFE

OUR HOUSE.

(JACK ENTERS, dragging MILKY-WHITE by a rope on its neck)

BAKER

ONLY I CAN LIFT THE SPELL,
THE SPELL IS ON MY HOUSE -- !

BAKER'S WIFE

(Overlapping)

WE MUST LIFT THE SPELL TOGETHER --

BAKER

THE SPELL IS ON -

(BAKER'S WIFE, seeing JACK at other side of stage, puts her hand across BAKER'S MOUTH)

BAKER'S WIFE

A COW AS WHITE AS -

(BAKER sees JACK takes BAKER'S WIFE'S HAND away)

BAKER, BAKER'S WIFE

- milk.

(BAKER'S WIFE pushes BAKER in JACK'S direction, then follows)

Hello there, young man.

JACK

(Looks at BAKER, scared)

Hello, sir.

BAKER

What might you be doing with a cow in the middle of the forest?

JACK

(Nervous)

I was heading toward market - but I seem to have lost my way.

(BAKER)

THE SPELL IS ON MY HOUSE —

BAKER'S WIFE

OUR HOUSE.

(JACK ENTERS, dragging MILKY-WHITE by a rope on its neck)

BAKER

ONLY I CAN LIFT THE SPELL,
THE SPELL IS ON MY HOUSE — !

BAKER'S WIFE

(Overlapping)

WE MUST LIFT THE SPELL TOGETHER —

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THE SPELL IS ON —

(BAKER'S WIFE, seeing JACK at other side of stage, puts her hand across BAKER'S MOUTH)

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A COW AS WHITE AS —

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BAKER, BAKER'S WIFE

— milk.

(BAKER'S WIFE pushes BAKER in JACK'S direction, then follows)

Hello there, young man.

JACK

(Looks at BAKER, scared)

Hello, sir.

BAKER

What might you be doing with a cow in the middle of the forest?

JACK

(Nervous)

I was heading toward market — but I seem to have lost my way.

BAKER'S WIFE

(Coaching BAKER)

What are you planning to do there — ?

BAKER

And what are you planning to do there?

JACK

Sell my cow, sir. No less than five pounds.

BAKER

Five pounds!

(To BAKER'S WIFE)

Where am I to get five pounds!

BAKER'S WIFE

(Taking over)

She must be generous of milk to fetch five pounds?

JACK

(Hesitant)

Yes, ma'am.

BAKER'S WIFE

And if you can't fetch that sum? Then what are you to do?

JACK

I hadn't thought of that... I suppose my mother and I will have no food to eat.

(BAKER has emptied his pocket; HE has a few coins and the beans in hand)

BAKER

(To BAKER'S WIFE)

This is the sum total...

BAKER'S WIFE

(Loudly)

Beans — we mustn't give up our beans! Well... if you feel we must.

BAKER

Huh?

BAKER'S WIFE

(To JACK)

Beans will bring you food, son.

JACK

Beans in exchange for my cow?

BAKER'S WIFE

Oh, these are no ordinary beans, son. These beans carry magic.

JACK

Magic? What kind of magic?

BAKER'S WIFE

(To BAKER)

Tell him.

(MYSTERIOUS MAN enters behind a tree)

BAKER

(Nervous)

Magic that defies description.

JACK

My mother would —

MYSTERIOUS MAN

... You'd be lucky to exchange her for a sack of beans.

*(BAKER'S WIFE and BAKER hug, frightened by MYSTERIOUS MAN'S VOICE.
MYSTERIOUS MAN EXITS before anyone sees him)*

JACK

How many beans?

BAKER

Six.

(BAKER)

THEN YOU GO
AND YOU FIND IT
AND YOU TAKE IT.
DO I WANT A CHILD OR NOT?

IT'S A CLOAK,
WHAT'S A CLOAK?
IT'S A JOKE,
IT'S A STUPID LITTLE CLOAK.
AND A CLOAK IS WHAT YOU MAKE IT.

(Nods, convincing himself)

SO YOU TAKE IT.

(With resolve)

THINGS ARE ONLY WHAT YOU NEED THEM FOR,
WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS WHO NEEDS THEM MORE -

(MUSIC continues under as HE EXITS.

NARRATOR ENTERS)

NARRATOR

And so the Baker, with new-found determination, went after the red cape. As for the little girl, she was surprised to find her grandmother's cottage door standing open.

#5C - Grandmother's House

(We see GRANNY'S cottage with WOLF [Wolf #1], dressed as GRANNY, in bed, covers up and hands near his mouth. The walls of the cottage are made of scrim. LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD ENTERS)

LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD

(To herself)

Oh, dear. How uneasy I feel. Perhaps it's all the sweets.

(Towards the bed)

Good day, Grandmother.

(Moves to the bed)

My, Grandmother, you're looking very strange. What big ears you have!

Little Red
and
Wolf

WOLF

(In a GRANNY voice)

The better to hear you with, my dear.

LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD

But Grandmother, what big eyes you have!

WOLF

The better to see you with, my dear.

LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD

But Grandmother, what large hands you have!

WOLF

The better to hug you with, my dear.

LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD

Oh, Grandmother — what a terrible, big, wet mouth you have!

WOLF

The better to eat you with!

(Bloodcurdling scream from LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD, who DISAPPEARS)

NARRATOR

And scarcely had the Wolf said this, than with a single bound he was devouring the little girl.

(In clear)

Well, it was a full day of eating for both. And with his appetite appeased, the Wolf took to bed for a nice long nap.

(WOLF snores; BAKER is outside cottage. NARRATOR EXITS)

BAKER

That grandmother has a mighty snore.

(Goes up to the window and looks in)

Odd. Where is the little one? Eating, no doubt.

(Turns to walk away. WOLF belches. BAKER suddenly stops)

Or eaten!

(BAKER)

(Enters the house and timidly goes over to the bed, his knife stretched before him. HE lets out a yelp when he sees the WOLF with his swollen belly)

Grandmother, hah!

(Draws the knife back, then stops)

What is that red cloth in the corner of your mouth? Looks to me to be a piece of -- ah hah! I'll get the cape from within your stomach.

(Slits the WOLF'S stomach. The WOLF howls in pain. BAKER then recoils in disgust)

LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD

(Stepping out of the WOLF, bloodied)

What a fright! How dark and dank it was inside that wolf.

(GRANNY emerges from WOLF, also bloodied)

GRANNY

(Wheezing, tries to strangle WOLF)

Kill the devil! Take that knife and cut his evil head off? Let's see the demon sliced into a thousand bits. Better yet, let the animal die a painful, agonizing, hideous death.

LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD

(Shocked)

Granny!

GRANNY

Quiet, child. This evil must be destroyed.

BAKER

(Faint)

Well, I will leave you to your task.

GRANNY

Don't you want the skins?

BAKER

No. No! You keep them.

BAKER'S WIFE

(Spoken)

YES—? AND—?

CINDERELLA

(Sung)

AND IT MADE A NICE CHANGE.

BAKER'S WIFE

(Spoken)

NO, THE PRINCE!

CINDERELLA

(Spoken)

OH, THE PRINCE...

BAKER'S WIFE

(Spoken)

YES, THE PRINCE.

CINDERELLA

(Sung)

HE HAS CHARM FOR A PRINCE, I GUESS...

BAKER'S WIFE

(Spoken)

GUESS?

CINDERELLA

(Sung)

I DON'T MEET A WIDE RANGE.
AND IT'S ALL VERY STRANGE.

BAKER'S WIFE

Are you to return to the Festival tomorrow eve?

CINDERELLA

Perhaps.

BAKER'S WIFE

Perhaps? Oh, to be pursued by a Prince. All that pursues me is tomorrow's bread.

(We hear the first CHIME of midnight)

(BAKER'S WIFE)

What I wouldn't give to be in your shoes.

(Second CHIME; CHIMES continue under)

CINDERELLA

Will you look over there.

(MILKY-WHITE stands and looks)

An enormous vine growing next to that little cottage.

BAKER'S WIFE

(Looking down at CINDERELLA'S FEET)

... I mean slippers.

CINDERELLA

It looks like a giant beanstalk rising into the sky.

BAKER'S WIFE

(Excited)

As pure as gold?

CINDERELLA

I must get home.

(Begins to leave)

BAKER'S WIFE

Wait!

(CINDERELLA EXITS)

I need your shoes!

(BAKER'S WIFE starts off after CINDERELLA; MILKY-WHITE lets out a "MOO!" and takes off in the other direction; BAKER'S WIFE stops, torn between MILKY-WHITE and CINDERELLA.

To CINDERELLA)

Hey!

BAKER'S WIFE

Lovely.

BAKER

She's very gifted.

WITCH

(Tough)

By tomorrow's midnight — deliver the items or you'll wish you never thought to have a child!

(WITCH puts a SPELL on each of them. THEY double over in pain as WITCH leaves)

BAKER

I don't like that woman.

BAKER'S WIFE

(Contrite)

I'm sorry I lost the cow.

BAKER

I shouldn't have yelled.

(Beat)

Now, please, go back to the village.

(BAKER'S WIFE, annoyed, turns her back and begins to walk away)

I will make things right! And then we can just go about our life. No more hunting about in the Woods for strange objects. No more Witches and dim-witted boys and hungry little girls.

(BAKER'S WIFE begins to move back towards him)

Go!

(THEY EXIT in opposite directions.

TWO FANFARES.

Another part of the forest. CINDERELLA'S PRINCE, somewhat bedraggled, crosses the stage. HE is met by RAPUNZEL'S PRINCE)

Rapunzel
+
Cinderella's
Prince

RAPUNZEL'S PRINCE

Ah, there you are, good brother. Father and I had wondered where you had gone.

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE

I have been looking all night... for her.

(BAKER'S WIFE APPEARS behind a tree and eavesdrops)

RAPUNZEL'S PRINCE

Her?

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE

The beautiful one I danced the evening with.

RAPUNZEL'S PRINCE

Where did she go?

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE

Disappeared, like the fine morning mist.

RAPUNZEL'S PRINCE

She was lovely.

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE

The loveliest.

RAPUNZEL'S PRINCE

I am not certain of that! I must confess, I, too, have found a lovely maiden. She lives here in the Woods.

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE

(Incredulous)

The Woods?

RAPUNZEL'S PRINCE

Yes! In the top of a tall tower that has no door or stairs.

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE

Where?

RAPUNZEL'S PRINCE

Two leagues from here, due east, just beyond the mossy knoll.

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE

And how do you manage a visit?

RAPUNZEL'S PRINCE

I stand beneath her tower and say, "Rapunzel, Rapunzel, let down your hair to me." And then she lowers the longest, most beautiful head of hair -- yellow as corn -- which I climb to her.

(BAKER'S WIFE reacts)

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE

(Starts laughing hysterically)

Rapunzel, Rapunzel! What kind of name is that? You jest! I have never heard of such a thing.

RAPUNZEL'S PRINCE

(Defensive)

I speak the truth! She is as true as your maiden. A maiden running from a Prince? None would run from us.

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE

(Sober)

Yet one has.

#10 - Agony

DID I ABUSE HER,
OR SHOW HER DISDAIN?
WHY DOES SHE RUN FROM ME?
IF I SHOULD LOSE HER,
HOW SHALL I REGAIN
THE HEART SHE HAS WON FROM ME?

AGONY!
BEYOND POWER OF SPEECH,
WHEN THE ONE THING YOU WANT
IS THE ONLY THING OUT OF YOUR REACH.

RAPUNZEL'S PRINCE

HIGH IN HER TOWER,
SHE SITS BY THE HOUR,

(Heads in the other direction frantically.)

All read "Jack's mother"

#10A-2 - Jack, Jack, Jack / Spells

(JACK'S MOTHER ENTERS)

JACK'S MOTHER

Excuse me, young woman. Have you encountered a boy with carrot-top hair and a sunny, though occasionally vague, disposition, answering to the name of Jack?

* Jack's mother
Cinderella's mother
Granny
Florinda +
Lucinda
Cinderella's
Stepmother

BAKER'S WIFE

Not the one partial to a white cow?

JACK'S MOTHER

He's the one.

BAKER'S WIFE

Have you seen the cow?

JACK'S MOTHER

No, and I don't care to ever again.

(Confidential)

Children can be very queer about their animals. You be careful with your children...

BAKER'S WIFE

I have no children.

(Beat)

JACK'S MOTHER

That's okay, too.

BAKER'S WIFE

Yes... well, I've not seen your son today.

JACK'S MOTHER

(Annoyed)

I hope he didn't go up that beanstalk again. Quit while you're ahead, I say.

(Begins to EXIT)

(JACK'S MOTHER)

Jack...! Jack...!

(BAKER'S WIFE, after a moment's pause, EXITS in the other direction; BAKER ENTERS, looking for MILKY-WHITE)

BAKER

(Forlorn)

Moo... Moo...

(MYSTERIOUS MAN APPEARS from nowhere)

MYSTERIOUS MAN

Moo! Looking for your cow?

(Signals OFFSTAGE and MILKY-WHITE ENTERS)

BAKER

Where did you find her?

(MYSTERIOUS MAN ducks back behind a tree as BAKER goes to MILKY-WHITE.

BAKER turns, and sees the old man is gone)

Hello?

(Takes MILKY-WHITE and EXITS. MYSTERIOUS MAN REAPPEARS and watches after BAKER. WITCH surprises MYSTERIOUS MAN and touches him with her cane. HE falls to the ground, groveling)

WITCH

What are you doing?

MYSTERIOUS MAN

I am here to make amends.

WITCH

I want you to stay out of this, old man!

MYSTERIOUS MAN

I am here to see your wish is granted.

WITCH

You've caused enough trouble! Keep out of my path!

STEWARD

Steward
+
Cinderella's
Father
* Read
Steward's
part

(OFFSTAGE)

Stop!

BAKER'S WIFE

Here. Take my shoes. You'll run faster.

(Gives CINDERELLA her shoes and takes the golden slipper. CINDERELLA puts on the shoes and EXITS quickly. STEWARD bounds ONSTAGE; looks about)

STEWARD

Who was that woman?

BAKER'S WIFE

I do not know, sir.

STEWARD

Lying will cost you your life!

(BAKER ENTERS with another COW)

BAKER'S WIFE

I've done nothing...

BAKER

I've the cow.

BAKER'S WIFE

(Sees the COW; excited, to BAKER)

The slipper!

(Holds up slipper)

We've all four!

(Runs to the BAKER; STEWARD takes slipper as she passes)

STEWARD

I will give this to the Prince and we will search the kingdom tomorrow for the maiden who will fit this shoe.

BAKER'S WIFE

(Grabs the slipper)

It's mine.

(BAKER'S WIFE and STEWARD begin to struggle. MYSTERIOUS MAN comes from around a tree. Struggling)

I don't care if this costs me my life —

MYSTERIOUS MAN

(Simultaneously)

Give her the slipper and all will —

(Suddenly there is the SOUND of crackling wood, followed by an enormous THUD. This noise should be frighteningly loud: very bass, with the kind of reverberation that will shake the audience. Possibly, LEAVES FALL from trees.)

ACTION STOPS. There is a moment of stunned SILENCE. The COW lets out a MOAN, and sits. The other characters just stare at each other, then look in the direction of the noise.

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE *paces ONSTAGE*)

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE

'What was that noise?

STEWARD

Sir. Just a bolt of lightning in a far-off kingdom.

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE

(To STEWARD)

How dare you take off in search without me!

STEWARD

My apologies, sir. I thought that I might —

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE

Enough of what you thought! I employed a ruse and had the entire staircase smeared with pitch. And there, when she ran down, remained the maiden's slipper.

(Produces the slipper)

STEWARD

Brilliant!

(MYSTERIOUS MAN comes from around a tree)

MYSTERIOUS MAN

The corn! The corn!

BAKER

What?

MYSTERIOUS MAN

The silky hair of the corn. Pull it from the ear and feed it to the cow. Quickly!

(BAKER does so, hurriedly)

WITCH

This had better work, old man, before the last stroke of midnight, or your son will be the last of your flesh and blood.

BAKER

Son?

MYSTERIOUS MAN

(To WITCH)

Please. Not now.

WITCH

Yes. Meet your father.

(Moves to MILKY-WHITE)

BAKER

FATHER? Could that be you? I thought you died in a baking accident.

MYSTERIOUS MAN

I didn't want to run away from you, son, but —

(MILKY-WHITE lets out a bloodcurdling MOAN and begins to shake feverishly)

BAKER'S WIFE

It's working!

(MILKY-WHITE SQUEALS)

JACK

She's milking!

BAKER

(To MYSTERIOUS MAN)

I don't understand.

MYSTERIOUS MAN

Not now!

(To BAKER'S WIFE)

Into the cup!

(BAKER'S WIFE hands the filled goblet to the WITCH; BAKER and BAKER'S WIFE dance with joy as WITCH drinks the potion. THEY go to HER.

BAKER

We've given you what you wish.

BAKER'S WIFE

Now when can we expect a child?

(WITCH begins to shake and move away)

BAKER

What's wrong?

BAKER'S WIFE

What's happening?

BAKER

Where are you going?

(The last STROKE of midnight)

MYSTERIOUS MAN

(Falling to the ground)

Son! Son!

BAKER

(Going to MYSTERIOUS MAN'S side)

Father, Father --

(Looks at LUCINDA encouragingly as she cuts off LUCINDA'S HEEL)

NARRATOR

The girl obeyed and swallowed her pain. But as she was helped on the back of the horse by the Prince, he noticed blood trickling from the shoe.

(CINDERELLA'S PRINCE takes shoe off LUCINDA, pours blood from it and, ashen, returns it to STEPMOTHER)

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE

Have you no other daughters?

NARRATOR

To which the woman replied:

STEPMOTHER

No, only a little stunted kitchen wench which his late wife left behind, but she is much too dirty; she cannot show herself.

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE

I insist.

NARRATOR

And when Cinderella presented herself and tried on the blood-soaked slipper, it fit like a glove.

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE

This is the true bride!

CINDERELLA'S FATHER

I always wanted a son!

(CINDERELLA'S FATHER is admonished by STEPMOTHER, FLORINDA and LUCINDA.

FANFARE)

NARRATOR

And much to the dismay of the stepmother and her daughters, he took Cinderella on his horse and rode off.

(CINDERELLA'S PRINCE and CINDERELLA ride up to the grave)

CINDERELLA'S MOTHER

NO BLOOD AT ALL WITHIN THE SHOE;
THIS IS THE PROPER BRIDE FOR YOU,
FIT TO ATTEND A PRINCE.

(During the following, RAPUNZEL wanders in, SINGING fragmentedly, carrying twin babies. At the same time, RAPUNZEL'S PRINCE stumbles on from a different direction; RAPUNZEL sees him and falls in his arms, weeping)

NARRATOR

And finally, as for Rapunzel, she bore twins, and lived impoverished in the desert until the day her Prince, wandering aimlessly, heard a voice so familiar that he went towards it. And when he approached, Rapunzel, overjoyed at seeing him, fell into his arms, weeping. Two of her tears wetted his eyes and their touch restored his vision.

(RAPUNZEL'S PRINCE, sight restored, springs to his feet. WITCH comes from around a tree)

WITCH

(To RAPUNZEL)

I was going to come fetch you as soon as you learned your lesson.

RAPUNZEL

Who are you?

WITCH

Surely you remember.

RAPUNZEL

Mother?

WITCH

This is who I truly am. Come with me, child. We can be happy as we once were.

(Offers RAPUNZEL her hand)

RAPUNZEL'S PRINCE

(Pulling RAPUNZEL back)

She will not go with you!

WITCH

Let her speak for herself.

(RAPUNZEL shakes her head "no")

(WITCH)

You are the only family I know.

(Holds out her hand)

Come with me. You and those beautiful babies. Please...

(RAPUNZEL shakes her head "no")

You give me no choice!

(WITCH attempts to put a spell on them, but only a pathetic puff of SMOKE comes from her cane. SHE tries again, and again nothing. RAPUNZEL and RAPUNZEL'S PRINCE shrug and EXIT)

NARRATOR

As is often the way in these tales, in exchange for her youth and beauty, the Witch lost her power over others.

(WITCH, frustrated, breaks her cane and EXITS)

#15B - Finale (Part III)

When the wedding with the Prince was celebrated, Lucinda and Florinda attended, wishing to win favor with Cinderella and share in her good fortune.

(CINDERELLA, in her wedding gown, and CINDERELLA'S PRINCE ENTER with LUCINDA and FLORINDA at their sides)

But as the sisters stood by the blessed couple, pigeons swooped down upon them and poked out their eyes and punished them with blindness.

(FLORINDA and LUCINDA are blinded by PIGEONS DESCENDING and stagger OFFSTAGE, screaming. BAKER'S WIFE ENTERS, very pregnant)

BAKER'S WIFE

I see your Prince has found you.

CINDERELLA

Yes.

BAKER'S WIFE

(Patting her belly)

Thank you for the slipper.

#15C - F

And
joy,

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