

SIDES INTO THE WOODS JR

NARRATOR

And so the Mysterious Man died, having helped end the curse on his house. For the Baker, there would be no reunion with his father, and he and his wife, bewildered, returned home.

The Witch, who had been punished with age and ugliness that night when her beans had been stolen and the lightning flashed, was now returned to her former state of youth and beauty.

And Milky-White, after a night of severe indigestion, was reunited with the now wealthy Jack. And finally, as for Rapunzel, she 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.

LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD AND WOLF

WOLF Good day, young lady.

LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD Good day, Mr. Wolf.

WOLF Whither away so hurriedly?

LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD To my grandmother's.

WOLF And what might be in your basket?

LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD Bread and wine, so Grandmother will have something good to make her strong.

WOLF And where might your grandmother live?

LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD Further in the Woods; her house stands under three large oak trees.

SIDE 2

LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD But Grandmother, what big eyes you have!

WOLF The better to see you with, my dear.

LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD Oh, Grandmother - what a terrible, big, wet mouth you have!

WOLF The better to eat you with!

CINDERELLA & BAKER'S WIFE

(BAKER'S WIFE races ONSTAGE)

CINDERELLA : Don't come any closer to me!

BAKER'S WIFE:(Breathless) Please, just hear me out!

CINDERELLA: We have nothing to discuss. You have attacked me once before -

BAKER'S WIFE :I did not attack you! I attacked your shoe. I need it. (Reaches into her pocket) Here. Here is a magic bean in exchange for it. (Hands CINDERELLA the bean)

CINDERELLA: Magic bean? (Takes bean) Nonsense!(Throws the bean away) I've already given up one shoe this evening. My feet cannot bear to give up another. (Begins to leave)

BAKER'S WIFE (Rising) I need that shoe to have a child!

CINDERELLA :That makes no sense!

JACK BAKER AND BAKERS WIFE

BAKER

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!

BAKER'S WIFE

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

JACK

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'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.

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'S WIFE

Five! We can't part with all of them. We must leave one for ourselves. Besides, I'd say they're worth a pound each, at the very least.

JACK

Could I buy my cow back some day?

BAKER

(Uneasy)

Well...possibly.

WITCH

SIDE 1

WITCH

Forget the little girl and get the cape! That's the cape. Get it!

BAKER

How am I supposed to get it?

WITCH

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

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!

SIDE 2

(WITCH drags RAPUNZEL ONSTAGE and throws her to the ground)

WITCH

Why didn't you tell me you had a visitor?

RAPUNZEL

It was lonely atop that tower.

WITCH

(Stroking RAPUNZEL'S HAIR)

I gave you protection and yet you disobeyed me.

RAPUNZEL

I am no longer a child. I wish to see the world.

WITCH

I will not share you, but I will show you a world you've never seen.(Cuts RAPUNZEL'S HAIR)

RAPUNZEL No! NO!

JACK'S MOTHER

JACK'S MOTHER

Listen well, son. Milky-White must be taken to market.

JACK

But, Mother, no - he's the best cow -

JACK'S MOTHER

She's given us not milk for a week. We've no food nor money, and no choice but to sell her.

JACK

But Milky-White is my best friend in the whole world!

JACK'S MOTHER

Fetch the best price you can. Take no less than five pounds. Are you listening to me?

JACK

Yes. No more than five pounds.

(JACK'S MOTHER pinches his ear, hard)

JACK'S MOTHER

Less. Than five.(Lets go) Now, go!

MYSTERIOUS MAN

MYSTERIOUS MAN

The corn! The corn!

BAKER

What?

MYSTERIOUS MAN

The 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?

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 -

BAKER'S WIFE

It's working!

JACK

She's milking!

BAKER

(To MYSTERIOUS MAN)

I don't understand.

MYSTERIOUS MAN

Not now!

(To BAKER'S WIFE)

Into the cup! Mysterious Man Falls Down

Son! Son!

BAKER

(Going to MYSTERIOUS MAN'S side)

Father, Father -

MYSTERIOUS MAN

(Lets out a groan)

All is repaired.

(Dies)

BAKER

He's dead!

PRINCES
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)

The beautiful one I danced the evening with.

RAPUNZEL'S PRINCE

Where did she go?

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE

Disappeared.

RAPUNZEL'S PRINCE

I, too, have found a lovely maiden. She lives in the top of a tall tower that has no door or stairs.

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! What kind of name is that? You jest!

RAPUNZEL'S PRINCE

(Defensive)

She is as true as your maiden. A maiden running from a Prince? Does that make sense? None would run from us.

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE

(Sober)

Yet one has.