Act Two, Scene 2

(RAPUNZEL enters, sees BAKER, BAKER'S WIFE, BABY, LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD and CINDERELLA; she screams. they scream and exit.
RAPUNZEL sees JACK; she screams. he screams and exits. RAPUNZEL sits, weeping. WITCH enters)

Witch: (urgent) Rapunzel! What are you doing here?
(RAPUNZEL whispers)
What’s the matter?

Rapunzel: Oh, nothing! You just locked me in a tower without company for fourteen years, then you blinded my Prince and banished me to a desert where I had little to eat, and again no company, and then bore twins! Because of the way you treated me, I’ll never, never be happy! (she cries)

Witch: (defensive, yet sincere) I was just trying to be a good mother. Stay with me. There’s a giant running about.

(RAPUNZEL runs off; WITCH follows her; PRINCES enter)

Rapunzel’s Prince: Good brother! What a surprise!

Cinderella’s Prince: Brother. How good to see you.

Rapunzel’s Prince: What brings you into the wood today?

Cinderella’s Prince: I am investigating news of a giant.

Rapunzel’s Prince: You? Investigating news of a giant? Father would not even do that! That is the business of your Steward...or less.

Cinderella’s Prince: (defensive) Well what brings you into the wood?

Rapunzel’s Prince: My Rapunzel has run off.

Cinderella’s Prince: Run off?

Rapunzel’s Prince: She’s a changed woman. She has been subject to hysterical fits of crying. Moods that no soul can predict. I know not what to do.

Cinderella’s Prince: What a pity.

Rapunzel’s Prince: And Cinderella?

Cinderella’s Prince: She remains well.

Rapunzel’s Prince: (conspiratorial) Does she? Now, brother, do tell what you’re really doing here.

Cinderella’s Prince: HIGH IN A TOWER
LIKE YOURS WAS, BUT HIGHER...
A BEAUTY ASLEEP.
ALL ROUND THE TOWER
A THICKET OF BRIAR
A HUNDRED FEET DEEP
AGONY!
NO FRUSTRATION MORE KEEN.
WHEN THE ONE THING YOU WANT
IS A THING THAT YOU’VE NOT EVEN SEEN.

Rapunzel’s Prince: I FOUND A CASKET
ENTIRELY OF GLASS...
(as CINDERELLA’S PRINCE starts to shrug)
NO, IT'S UNBREAKABLE
INSIDE...DON'T ASK IT...
A MAIDEN. ALAS.
JUST AS UNWAKEABLE...

Cinderella's Prince, Rapunzel's Prince: WHAT UNMISTAKABLE AGONY!
IS THE WAY ALWAYS BARRED?

Rapunzel's Prince: SHE HAS SKIN WHITE AS SNOW...

Cinderella's Prince: DID YOU LEARN HER NAME?

Rapunzel's Prince: NO.
THERE'S A DWARF STANDING GUARD.

Cinderella's Prince, Rapunzel's Prince: AGONY
SUCH THAT PRINCES MUST WEEP!
ALWAYS IN THRALL MOST
TO ANYTHING ALMOST,
OR SOMETHING ASLEEP.

Cinderella's Prince: IF IT WERE NOT FOR THE THICKET...

Rapunzel's Prince: A THICKET'S NO TRICK
IS IT THICK?

Cinderella's Prince: IT'S THE THICKEST.

Rapunzel's Prince: THE QUICKEST IS
PICK IT
APART WITH A STICK...

Cinderella's Prince: YES, BUT EVEN ONE PRICK
IT'S MY THING ABOUT BLOOD.

Rapunzel's Prince: WELL IT'S SICK!

Cinderella's Prince: IT'S NO SICKER
THAN YOUR THING WITH DWARVES.

Rapunzel's Prince: DWARFS.

Cinderella's Prince: DWARFS...

Rapunzel's Prince: DWARFS ARE VERY UPSETTING.

Cinderella's Prince, Rapunzel's Prince: NOT FORGETTING
THE TASKS UNACHIEVABLE,
MOUNTAINS UNSCALEABLE...
IF IT'S CONCEIVABLE
BUT UNAVAILABLE,
AHHHHHHHHHHHHH...
AGONY!

Cinderella's Prince: MISERY!

Rapunzel's Prince: WOE!
Cinderella's Prince, Rapunzel's Prince: NOT TO KNOW WHAT YOU MISS

Cinderella's Prince: WHILE THEY LIE THERE FOR YEARS...

Rapunzel's Prince: AND YOU CRY ON THEIR BIERS...

Cinderella's Prince, Rapunzel's Prince: WHAT UNBEARABLE BLISS!
AGONY
THAT CAN CUT LIKE A KNIFE!
AH WELL, BACK TO MY WIFE...

(we hear a wail in the distance)

Rapunzel's Prince: (disappointed) Rapunzel, I must be off. God speed to you, brother.

Cinderella's Prince: Godspeed!

(they exit in different directions: BAKER with a suitcase, BAKER'S WIFE with BABY and LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD enter)

Baker: Are you certain this is the right direction?

Little Red Ridinghood: We went down the dell.

Baker's Wife: Perhaps you forgot the way.

Little Red Ridinghood: The path is straight.

Baker: Was straight. Now there is no path.

Little Red Ridinghood: (increasingly upset) Where's the stream? Where's the lily pond? Where's Granny?

Baker's Wife: Calm down. (the BABY starts to cry; to BAKER) Maybe we should turn back.

Little Red Ridinghood: No!

Baker: We will just have to find Granny's house without the path.

Little Red Ridinghood: (crying) But Mother warned me never to stray from the path!

Baker: The path has strayed from you.


(we hear voices approaching)

Baker: Yes. I recognize...

Baker's Wife: Who might that be?

(STEWARD with wicker satchel and staff, STEPMOTHER with umbrella, CINDERELLA'S FATHER with carpet bag, LUCINDA and FLORIZINDA with blind canes and dark glasses, bedraggled, they make their way downstage)

Baker: The Steward and the Royal Family.

(they bow)

What brings you into the Woods?

Cinderella's Father: The castle has been set upon by a Giant.

Baker's Wife: Oh, no...
Baker: (to STEWARD) I warned you! Why didn't you do something?

Steward: I do not make policy, I just carry it out!

(WITCH appears)

Witch: (to BAKER) And I warned you that you can't rely on the Royal Family to solve your problems.

Baker's Wife: I think it best we go back to the village.

Witch: (bitter) I wouldn't be in such a rush if I were you. Guess which path the giant took to the castle?

Baker's Wife: Oh no...

Baker: What?

Witch: All that was left of my garden was a sack of beans...and there's not much left of your house either.

Baker: But I heard giants never strike the same house twice.

Baker's Wife: Shhh.

(suddenly the ground begins to shake. frightening and loud crunching noises approach. the huge shadow of the GIANT envelopes the stage.

The earth stops shaking and they look up in amazement

2nd step: ALL make a sudden head move

3rd step: ALL look up

4th step: ALL start to chatter and feel movement in knees

5th step: ALL bounce, see first tree fall. STEWARD yells "There" and points up in the air.

6th step: ALL bounce bigger, start to lose balance. ALL see something in the trees

7th step: ALL, except WITCH, bounce into a clump, losing balance. STEPMOTHER points and yells as she sees the full height of the GIANT. LUCINDA and FLORINDA scream with STEPMOTHER

Witch: (total amazement) The giant's a woman!

Baker: That size!

Giant: (amplified from a specific spot) Where is the lad who killed my husband?

(ALL lean back as GIANT speaks)

Steward: There is no lad here.

Baker: We haven't seen him.

Giant: I want the lad who climbed the beanstalk.

Witch: We'll get him for you right away. Don't move!

(LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD pulls a knife from beneath her cape and runs towards the GIANT; BAKER restrains her, but she threatens the GIANT anyway)
Little Red Ridinghood: It was you who destroyed our house...not a great wind! It's because of you I've no mother!

Giant: And who destroyed my house? That boy asked for shelter, and then he stole our gold, our hen, and our harp. Then he killed my husband. I must avenge the wrongdoings.

Baker’s Wife: We are not responsible for him.

Witch: You are wasting your breath.

Steward: She’s right. You can’t reason with a dumb giant.

(the ground gives a mighty shake; leaves and twigs fall down)

Giant: Not all giants are dumb. Give me the boy!

Little Red Ridinghood: We told you, he’s not here.

Cinderella’s Father: The girl is telling the truth!

(NARRATOR enters)

Giant: I know he’s there. And I’m going to wait right here until he’s delivered to me.

Narrator: The giant, who was nearsighted, remained convinced that she had found the lad. There was no consensus among them as to which course of action to take.

Baker’s Wife: (to WITCH) Put a spell on her.

Witch: I no longer have my powers. If I did, you think I’d be standing here with all of you?

(indicates group: getting down to business)

Now, we’ll have to give her someone.

All Except Witch: Who?

Witch: The Steward. It’s in his line of duty to sacrifice his life...

Steward: Don’t be ridiculous! I’m not giving up my life for anyone!

Giant: I’m waiting!

Narrator: You must understand, these were not people familiar with making choices...their past experiences in the woods had in no way prepared them to deal with a force this great.

Witch: Excuse me, but would you like a blind girl instead?

(FLORINDA and LUCINDA scream)

Stepmother: How dare you!

Witch: Put them out of their misery.

Florinda, Lucinda: We’re not that miserable!

Baker: What are you talking about?

Baker’s Wife: She doesn’t want a woman.

Witch: Fine. Then what do you suggest we do?
Giant: I'm still waiting!

Narrator: It is interesting to examine the moral issues at question here. The finity of stories such as these dictates...
(NARRATOR turns upstage and notices EVERYONE looking at him. THEY move towards him, as a group)
Sorry, I tell the story, I'm not part of it.

Little Red Ridinghood: That's right. (pulls out knife)

Witch: Not one of us!

Baker: You're always on the outside.

Narrator: (nervous) That's my role. You must understand, there must always be someone on the outside.

Steward: You are going to be on the inside now.

Narrator: You are making a big mistake.

Stepmother: Nonsense.

Narrator: You need an objective observer to pass the story along.

Witch: Some of us don't like the way you've been telling it.

(THEY grab him and begin to pull him upstage)

Narrator: If you drag me into this mess, you'll never know how your story ends. You'll be lost.

Baker: (to GROUP) Wait. He's the only one who knows the story.

Narrator: Do you think it will be fun when you have to tell it yourselves? Think of your baby.

Baker's Wife: Stop! He's right! Let him go!

(THEY let go of him; to LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD) Put that away! (LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD does)

Narrator: Now that's better. You don't want to live in a world of chaos.
(calms down; begins to inch away from them)
There must always be an outside observ--

Witch: (screaming; racing towards the NARRATOR) Here's the lad!
(she suddenly pushes the NARRATOR across the stage in the direction of the GIANT; there is a sudden earth tremor; all eyes swoop upwards as if to suggest the NARRATOR has been picked up by the GIANT; we hear the NARRATOR yell from the distance)

Narrator: I'm not the lad!

Giant: This is not the lad.

Baker: Don't drop...

(their eyes swing from the GIANT to the ground, and we hear a thud. they recoil in horror as we hear the NARRATOR spit)

Baker: (to WITCH) Why did you push him into her arms?

Witch: You wanted to get rid of him, too.

Baker's Wife: We might have thought of something else.

Witch: If it was up to you, a decision would never be made.
Little Red Ridinghood: (looking towards NARRATOR'S spot; panic) Now that he's gone we'll never know what will happen next.

Baker's Wife: We'll manage.

Giant: Must I search among you for the lad?

(JACK'S MOTHER enters)

All: No!

Jack's Mother: (tough) Jack is just a boy! We had no food to eat and he sold his beloved cow in exchange for magic beans. If anyone is to be punished, it's the man that made that exchange.

Little Red Ridinghood: That's right!

(BAKER and WIFE simultaneously)

Baker: Shhh.

Baker's Wife: Nonsense.

Giant: He was you responsibility. Now I must punish him for his wrongs!

Jack's Mother: We've suffered too. Do you think it was a picnic disposing of your husband's remains?

Giant: You are getting me angry!

Jack's Mother: (more worked up) What about our anger? What about our loss? Who has been flouncing through our kingdom?

Steward: Shhh. Be quiet.

Jack's Mother: I'll hide my son and you'll never find him!

Baker: (through clenched teeth) Don't upset the giant.

Jack's Mother: You'll never, never find him!

Giant: I'm warning you!

Jack's Mother: (out of control) And if you don't go back this instant, we'll get you for all you've done! We'll--

(STEWARD comes from behind her and slams her over the head with his staff. She staggers a moment, then stands motionless)

Giant: Where is your son?

(RAPUNZEL runs onstage weeping; she sees the GIANT and screams; WITCH restrains her)

Is that him?

Witch: No. No. This is not the boy. (to RAPUNZEL) Stay here!

Steward: The boy is hiding in the Steeple tower.

(RAPUNZEL'S PRINCE enters)

Rapunzel's Prince: Rapunzel!

Stepmother: That's true.

Florinda, Lucinda: Yes...
Giant: If he is not, I will return and find you.

Rapunzel’s Prince: Rapunzel!
(GIANT begins to exit. On the second footstep, RAPUNZEL runs towards the GIANT).
Rapunzel, my love, wait...
(RAPUNZEL’S PRINCE follows her off stage)

Steward: No, don’t step on...

(we hear a loud squish noise; the group recoils; RAPUNZEL’S PRINCE returns, shaking his head and exits stage. Jack’s Mother moans)

Baker: She’s in poor condition.

Baker’s Wife: Wake up.

Jack’s Mother: (fighting for breath) Don’t let them get Jack.

Baker’s Wife: We won’t.

Jack’s Mother: Promise me you won’t let him be hurt. As I stand here at death’s door.

Baker: I’ll do all I can.

Jack’s Mother: Promise! Promise!

Baker: Alright! I promise.

(JACK’S MOTHER expires; LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD sidles beside her and stares)

Baker’s Wife: No, no. Come away from there.
(pulls her away; to STEWARD)
You killed her!

Steward: I was thinking of the greater good. That’s my job.

(BAKER, CINDERELLA’S FATHER and STEWARD drag JACK’S MOTHER offstage. The GROUP, hushed, watches; the WITCH stands alone)

Witch: (looking offstage to where RAPUNZEL was killed)
THIS WAS THE WORLD I MEANT,
COULDN’T YOU LISTEN?
COULDN’T YOU STAY CONTENT
SAFE BEHIND WALLS?
AS I COULD NOT?

NO MATTER WHAT YOU SAY,
CHILDREN WON’T LISTEN.
NO MATTER WHAT YOU KNOW
CHILDREN REFUSE TO LEARN.
GUIDE THEM ALONG THE WAY,
STILL THEY WON’T LISTEN.
CHILDREN CAN ONLY GROW
FROM SOMETHING YOU LOVE
TO SOMETHING YOU LOSE.

(STEWARD and CINDERELLA’S FATHER return; followed by the BAKER)

Stepmother: Life was so steady, and now this! When are things going to return to normal?
Steward: We must be gone if we're to arrive before nightfall.

Baker: Where are you going?

Lucinda: We're off to a hidden kingdom.

Stepmother: Shhh. We can't take everyone.

Witch: Fools! There is nowhere to hide!

Baker: You'll never get there. We have to stay and find our way out of this together.

Stepmother: (sincerely) Some people are cut out to battle giants, and others are not. I don't have the constitution. And as long as I can be of no help, I'm going to hide. Everything will work out fine in the end.

Baker: Not always.

(STEPMOTHER, CINDERELLA'S FATHER, FLORINDA, LUCINDA, and STEWARD exit)

Little Red Ridinghood: I hope the giant steps on them all.

Baker's Wife: You shouldn't say that!

(WITCH, who has been quietly standing off to the side, turns around)

Witch: You were thinking the same thing.

Little Red Ridinghood: This is terrible. We just saw three people die!

Witch: (bitter) Since when are you so squeamish? How many wolves have you carved up?

Little Red Ridinghood: A wolf's not the same.

Witch: Ask a wolf's mother!

Baker: Stop it!

Witch: I suggest that we find that boy now and give her what she wants.

Little Red Ridinghood: If we give her the boy, she will kill him too.

Witch: And if we don't, she'll kill half the kingdom!


Baker: Yes! He'll return the stolen goods.

Little Red Ridinghood: Yes!

Baker's Wife: He's really a sweet boy at heart. She'll see that.

Witch: You people are so blind! It's because of that boy that there's a giant in our land. While you continue talking about this problem, I'll find the lad and I'll serve him to the giant for lunch.

(WITCH exits)

Little Red Ridinghood: Are we going to let her feed the boy to the giant?

Baker's Wife: No!
Baker: I'll have to find him first.

Baker's Wife: I'll go too.

Baker: No! Stay here with the baby.

Baker's Wife: We'll fan out. It will increase our chances of finding him.

Baker: What if one of us gets lost?

Baker's Wife: We'll count our steps from right here.

(\textit{LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD} comes over)

No. You stay here with the baby. I do not want you roaming about the Woods.

Baker: You would leave our child with her?

Baker's Wife: Yes. The baby is asleep. He will be safe with the girl.

Baker: But what if the giant were to return here...!

Baker's Wife: The giant will not harm them. I know.

Baker: How do you know?

Baker's Wife: I know!

Baker: But what if...

Baker's Wife: But what if! BUT WHAT IF! Will only a giant's foot stop your arguing. One hundred paces...GO!

\textit{(pause -- The BAKER and the BAKER'S WIFE march off in opposite directions, counting to themselves, leaving LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD and the BABY, we follow the BAKER'S WIFE as she crosses paths with CINDERELLA'S PRINCE; SHE is nervous and excited in his presence)}

Baker's Wife: 81...82...83...84

(\textit{she sees CINDERELLA'S PRINCE and bows})

Hello, Sir.

Cinderella's Prince: \textit{(continuing to walk)}Hello.

Baker's Wife: You must be here to slay the giant.

Cinderella's Prince: Yes.

Baker's Wife: Have you come upon the giant yet?

Cinderella's Prince: No.

Baker's Wife: I have.

Cinderella's Prince: \textit{(stops walking)}You have?

Baker's Wife: Yes.

Cinderella's Prince: And why are you alone in the woods?

'Baker's Wife: I came with my husband. We were...well, it's a long story.

Cinderella's Prince: He would let you roam alone in the woods?
Baker's Wife: No, actually, it was my choice. I'm looking for the lad.

Cinderella's Prince: (moves closer) Your choice? How brave.

Baker's Wife: Brave?

Cinderella's Prince: (next to her) Yes.
   ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN IN THE WOODS
   MAY I KISS YOU?
(BAKER'S WIFE blinks)
   ANY MOMENT WE COULD BE CRUSHED

Baker's Wife: Uh...

Cinderella's Prince: DON'T FEEL RUSHED
   (he kisses her. she is stunned, turns to audience)

Baker's Wife: THIS IS RIDICULOUS,
   WHAT AM I DOING HERE?
   I'M IN THE WRONG STORY.
(resumes the kiss, then pulls away; music stops)
Wait one moment! We can't do this. You have a princess.

Cinderella's Prince: Well, yes, I do.

Baker's Wife: And I have a baker...

Cinderella's Prince: Of course, you're right. How foolish.
(Music resumes)
   FOOLISHNESS CAN HAPPEN IN THE WOODS.
   ONCE AGAIN, PLEASE...
   LET YOUR HESITATIONS BE HUSHED.
   ANY MOMENT, BIG OR SMALL,
   IS A MOMENT AFTER ALL.
   SEIZE THE MOMENT, SKIES MAY FALL
   ANY MOMENT.
(kisses her again)

Baker's Wife: But this is not right!

Cinderella's Prince: RIGHT AND WRONG DON'T MATTER IN THE WOODS.
   ONLY FEELINGS.
   LET US MEET THE MOMENT UNBLUSHED.
   LIFE IS OFTEN SO UNPLEASANT...
   YOU MUST KNOW THAT AS A PEASANT...
   BEST TO TAKE THE MOMENT PRESENT
   AS A PRESENT FOR THE MOMENT.

(As CINDERELLA'S PRINCE takes the BAKER'S WIFE into the glade, the BAKER encounters CINDERELLA at her Mother's grave; the tree is shattered, she is weeping)

Baker: (offstage, then entering) Jack! Jack! 81...82...83...
(he sees CINDERELLA) What's wrong Ma'am? May I be of some service?

Cinderella: The tree has fallen. Mother's grave, destroyed.
Baker: Oh, I'm sorry.

Cinderella: My wishes have just been crushed.

Baker: Don't say that.

Cinderella: It's true. You wouldn't understand.

Baker: Well you can't stay here. There's a giant on the loose.

Cinderella: I'm certain the prince will see to it that the giant is rid from our land.

Baker: There's no sign of the prince. No doubt he's off seducing some young maiden.

Cinderella: What?

Baker: I understand it's what princes do.

Cinderella: Not all princes.

Baker: You look just like the princess...only dirty. You are the princess.

(he drops)

Cinderella: Please. Get up. Get up!

(BAKER rises)

Baker: What are you to do?

Cinderella: I must be on my way back to the castle.

Baker: You haven't heard? We came upon the royal family. The castle has been set upon by the giant.

Cinderella: And the prince?

Baker: He was not with them. (beat) You must come with me. You shall be safe in our company.

(they exit; return to BAKER'S WIFE and CINDERELLA'S PRINCE, who are on the ground kissing; he pulls away)

Cinderella's Prince: I must leave you.

Baker's Wife: Why?

Cinderella's Prince: The giant.

Baker's Wife: The giant. I had almost forgotten. Will we find each other in the woods again?

Cinderella's Prince: THIS WAS JUST A MOMENT IN THE WOODS.

OUR MOMENT,

SHIMMERING AND LOVELY AND SAD.

LEAVE THE MOMENT, JUST BE GLAD

FOR THE MOMENT THAT WE HAD.

EVERY MOMENT IS OF THE MOMENT

WHEN YOU'RE IN THE WOODS...

(Music continues under)

Now I must go off to slay the giant. That is what the next moment holds for me.

(he gives her a quick kiss)

I shall not forget you. How brave you are to be alone in the Woods. And how alive you've made me feel.
(he exits)

**Baker's Wife:** (sits stunned; music briefly, stops) What was that?
(music resumes)

WAS THAT ME?
WAS THAT HIM?
DID A PRINCE REALLY KISS ME?
AND KISS ME?
AND KISS ME?
AND DID I KISS HIM BACK?

WAS IT WRONG?
AM I MAD?
IS THAT ALL?
DOES HE MISS ME?
WAS HE SUDDENLY
GETTING BORED WITH ME?

(she stands)

WAKE UP! STOP DREAMING.
STOP PRANCING ABOUT THE WOODS.
IT'S NOT BESEEMING.
WHAT IS IT ABOUT THE WOODS?

(firm)

BACK TO LIFE, BACK TO SENSE,
BACK TO CHILD, BACK TO HUSBAND,
YOU CAN'T LIVE IN THE WOODS.
THERE ARE VOWS, THERE ARE TIES,
THERE ARE NEEDS, THERE ARE STANDARDS,
THERE ARE SHOULDN'TS AND SHOULDS.

WHY NOT BOTH INSTEAD?
THERE'S THE ANSWER, IF YOU'RE CLEVER;
HAVE A CHILD FOR WARMTH
AND A BAKER FOR BREAD
AND A PRINCE FOR WHATEVER...

NEVER!
IT'S THESE WOODS.

FACE THE FACTS, FIND THE BOY,
JOIN THE GROUP, STOP THE GIANT...
JUST GET OUT OF THESE WOODS.

WAS THAT HIM? YES IT WAS.
WAS THAT ME? NO, IT WASN'T,
JUST A TRICK OF THE WOODS.

 JUST A MOMENT,
ONE PECULIAR PASSING MOMENT.

MUST IT BE EITHER LESS OR MORE
EITHER PLAIN OR GRAND?
IS IT ALWAYS "OR"?
IS IT NEVER "AND"?
THAT'S WHAT WOODS ARE FOR;
FOR THOSE MOMENTS IN THE WOODS...

OH, IF LIFE WERE MADE OF MOMENTS,
EVEN NOW AND THEN A BAD ONE...
BUT IF LIFE WERE ONLY MOMENTS,
THEN YOU'D NEVER KNOW YOU HAD ONE.

FIRST A WITCH, THEN A CHILD,
THEN A PRINCE, THEN A MOMENT...
WHO CAN LIVE IN THE WOODS?
AND TO GET WHAT YOU WISH,
ONLY JUST FOR A MOMENT...
THOSE ARE DANGEROUS WOODS...

LET THE MOMENT GO...
DON'T FORGET IT FOR A MOMENT THOUGH.
JUST REMEMBERING YOU'VE AN "AND"
WHEN YOU'RE BACK TO "OR"
MAKES THE "OR" MEAN MORE
THAN IT DID BEFORE.
NOW I UNDERSTAND...

(sighs, starts walking faster)

AND IT'S TIME TO LEAVE THE WOODS.

(BAKER'S WIFE finishes song and begins counting her steps offstage. She stops and retracts her steps, and begins exiting in another direction. She realizes she is lost. She begins to go in yet another direction, when we hear the approach of the giant in the distance. In panic, she backs up. Loud noise and dramatic light change as BAKER'S WIFE falls backwards. Blackout -- set change. We see BAKER, CINDERELLA and LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD)

Baker: She should be back by now.

Little Red Ridinghood: She wouldn't get lost.

Cinderella: I'm sure she'll return.

Baker: No. I must go in search of her.

Little Red Ridinghood: We'll come too.

Baker: No. You stay here. I will count 100 paces. I shall return soon. 1...2...3...

(WITCH makes a noisy entrance with JACK in tow; SHE keeps a firm grip on him. JACK drops BAKER'S WIFE's scarf as he enters)

Witch: Look who I found!

Jack: Please don't let her give me to the giant!

Witch: It's not our fault the giant wants you!

(BAKER notices scarf and picks it up)

Cinderella: Let go of him!
Little Red Ridinghood: Leave him alone!

Baker: Where did you find this?
(WITCH lets go of JACK)
Where is my wife?

Witch: She's dead.

Baker: (he stops) What?

Jack: (he breaks loose from the WITCH)
I'm sorry sir. I came upon her. She was under a tree...

Witch: He was sobbing over her like she was his own mother!

Cinderella: How awful...

Baker: How could this happen? I should never have let her wander off alone.

Jack: I buried her in a footprint.

Baker: I should have insisted she stay at home.

Witch: Remorse will get you nowhere.

Baker: (angry) My wife is dead!

Witch: Wake up! People are dying all around you. You are not the only one to suffer a loss. When you're dead, you're dead. Now it's time to get this boy to the giant before we're all so much dead meat.
(SHE grabs JACK; HE struggles)

Cinderella: (trying to free JACK) Keep away from him!

Little Red Ridinghood: (joining CINDERELLA) No!

Witch: This is no time to be soft-hearted! He's going to the giant and I'm taking him...

Baker: (advancing, distraught) Yes. He's the one to blame.
(to JACK) It's because of you there's a giant in our midst and my wife is dead.

Jack: BUT IT ISN'T MY FAULT,
I WAS GIVEN THOSE BEANS!
(refering to BAKER)
YOU PERSUADED ME TO TRADE AWAY MY COW FOR BEANS!
AND WITHOUT THOSE BEANS
THERE'D HAVE BEEN NO STALK
TO GET UP TO THE GIANTS
IN THE FIRST PLACE!

Baker: WAIT A MINUTE, MAGIC BEANS
FOR A COW SO OLD
THAT YOU HAD TO TELL
A LIE TO SELL IT
WHICH YOU TOLD!
WERE THEY WORTHLESS BEANS?
WERE THEY OVER SOLD OH AND TELL US WHO
PERSUADED YOU
TO STEAL THAT GOLD?

Little Red Ridinghood: (to JACK) SEE, IT'S YOUR FAULT

Jack: NO!

Baker: SO IT'S YOUR FAULT

Jack: NO!

Little Red Ridinghood: YES, IT IS!

Jack: IT'S NOT!

Baker: IT'S TRUE

Jack: (to BAKER) WAIT A MINUTE...
    THOUGH I ONLY STOLE THE GOLD
    TO GET MY COW BACK
    FROM YOU!

Little Red Ridinghood: (to BAKER) SO IT'S YOUR FAULT!

Jack: YES!

Baker: NO, IT ISN'T!
    I'D HAVE KEPT THOSE BEANS,
    BUT OUR HOUSE WAS CURSED
    (referring to WITCH)
    SHE MADE US GET A COW
    TO GET THE CURSE REVERSED!

Witch: IT'S HIS FATHER'S FAULT
    THAT THE CURSE GOT PLACED
    AND THE PLACE GOT CURSED
    IN THE FIRST PLACE!

Little Red Ridinghood: OH, THEN
    IT'S HIS FAULT!

Witch: SO?

Cinderella: IT WAS HIS FAULT...

Jack: NO.

Baker: YES, IT IS.
    IT'S HIS

Cinderella: I GUESS...

Jack: WAIT A MINUTE, THOUGH...
    I CHOPPED DOWN THE BEANSTALK...
    RIGHT, THAT'S CLEAR
    BUT WITHOUT ANY BEANSTALK
    THEN WHAT'S QUEER IS
HOW DID THE SECOND GIANT GET DOWN HERE
IN THE FIRST PLACE
(confused) SECOND PLACE...

Cinderella: YES!

Little Red Ridinghood: HOW?

Baker: HMM..

Jack: WELL,
WHO HAD THE OTHER BEAN?

Baker: THE OTHER BEAN?

Cinderella: THE OTHER BEAN?

Jack: (to BAKER) YOU POCKETED THE OTHER BEAN

Baker: I DIDN'T.
YES, I DID.

Little Red Ridinghood: SO, IT'S YOUR F...!

Baker: NO, IT ISN'T,
'CAUSE I GAVE IT TO MY WIFE!

Little Red Ridinghood: SO, IT'S HER F...!

Baker: NO, IT ISN'T!!

Cinderella: THEN WHOSE IS IT?

Baker: WAIT A MINUTE!
(to CINDERELLA) SHE EXCHANGED THAT BEAN
TO OBTAIN YOUR SHOE,
SO, THE ONE WHO KNOWS WHAT HAPPENED
TO THE BEAN IS YOU!

Cinderella: YOU MEAN THAT OLD BEAN...
THAT YOUR WIFE...? OH DEAR...
(as they all look at her)
BUT I NEVER KNEW,
AND SO I THREW...
WELL, DON'T LOOK HERE!

Little Red Ridinghood: SO, IT'S YOUR FAULT!

Cinderella: BUT...

Jack: SEE, IT'S HER FAULT...

Cinderella: BUT...

Jack: AND IT ISN'T MINE AT ALL!

Baker: (to CINDERELLA) BUT WHAT?
Cinderella: (to Jack) WELL, IF YOU HADN'T GONE BACK UP AGAIN...

Jack: WE WERE NEEDY...

Cinderella: YOU WERE GREEDY!
DID YOU NEED THAT HEN?

Jack: BUT I GOT IT FOR MY MOTHER...!

Little Red Ridinghood: SO, IT'S HER FAULT THEN!

Cinderella: YES, AND WHAT ABOUT THE HARP IN THE THIRD PLACE?

Baker: The Harp, yes!

Jack: (referring to LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD) SHE WENT AND DARED ME TO!

Little Red Ridinghood: I DARED YOU TO?

Jack: YOU DARED ME TO!
(to OTHERS) SHE SAID THAT I WAS SCARED TO.
SHE DARED ME!

Little Red Ridinghood: NO, I DIDN'T!

Jack: SO, IT'S YOUR FAULT!

Little Red Ridinghood: WAIT A MINUTE...!

Cinderella: IF YOU HADN'T DARED HIM TO...

Baker: (to Jack) ...AND IF YOU HAD LEFT THE HARP ALONE,
WE WOULDN'T BE IN THIS TROUBLE IN THE FIRST PLACE!

Little Red Ridinghood: (to Cinderella, overlapping) WELL, IF YOU HADN'T THROWN AWAY THE BEAN IN THE FIRST PLACE...!
IT WAS YOUR FAULT!

Cinderella: (looking at Witch) WELL, IF SHE HADN'T RAISED THEM IN THE FIRST PLACE...!

Jack: (overlapping, to Witch) YES, IF YOU HADN'T RAISED THEM IN THE FIRST PLACE...!

Little Red Ridinghood, Baker: (to Witch) IT WAS YOU WHO RAISED THEM IN THE FIRST PLACE...!

Cinderella: (simultaneous) YOU RAISED THE BEANS IN THE FIRST PLACE!

Jack: IT'S YOUR FAULT!

Little Red Ridinghood, Baker, Jack, Cinderella: YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE!
YOU'RE THE ONE TO BLAME!
IT'S YOUR FAULT!
(Witch stops them in their tracks)

Witch: IT'S THE LAST MIDNIGHT.
IT'S THE LAST WISH
IT'S THE LAST MIDNIGHT.
SOON IT WILL BE BOOM...
(stamps her foot; drum)
SQUISH!
(squishes; squish sound. confronting each in turn)

TOLD A LITTLE LIE,
STOLE A LITTLE GOLD,
BROKE A LITTLE WISH
DID YOU?
HAD TO GET YOUR PRINCE,
HAD TO GET YOUR COW,
HAVE TO GET YOUR WISH,
DOESN'T MATTER HOW,
ANYWAY, IT DOESN'T MATTER NOW!

IT'S THE LAST MIDNIGHT.
IT'S THE BOOM...
(drum)
SPLAT!
(splat sound)
NOTHING BUT A VAST MIDNIGHT
EVERYBODY SMASHED FLAT!

NOTHING WE CAN DO.
NOT EXACTLY TRUE;
WE CAN ALWAYS GIVE HER THE BOY!

they protect JACK as she reaches for him

NO?
NO, OF COURSE WHAT REALLY MATTERS
IS THE BLAME,
SOMEBODY TO BLAME.
FINE IF THAT'S THE THING YOU ENJOY
PLACING THE BLAME
IF THAT'S THE AIM,
GIVE ME THE BLAME...
JUST GIVE ME THE BOY!

Little Red Ridinghood, Cinderella: No!

Witch: NO...
YOU'RE SO NICE
YOU'RE NOT GOOD,
YOU'RE NOT BAD,
YOU'RE JUST NICE.
I'M NOT GOOD
I'M NOT NICE
I'M JUST RIGHT!
I'M THE WITCH
YOU'RE THE WORLD.

I'M THE HITCH,
I'M WHAT NO ONE BELIEVES,
I'M A WITCH.
YOU'RE ALL LIARS AND THIEVES
LIKE HIS FATHER,
LIKE HIS SON WILL BE TOO...
OH, WHY BOTHER?
YOU'LL JUST DO WHAT YOU DO.

IT'S THE LAST MIDNIGHT.
SO, GOODBYE ALL.
COMING AT YOU FAST, MIDNIGHT...
SOON YOU'LL SEE THE SKY FALL.

(during the following verse the WITCH scatters beans as the others scramble to pick them up)

HERE, YOU WANT ANOTHER BEAN?
HAVE ANOTHER BEAN.
BEANS WERE MADE FOR MAKING YOU RICH!
PLANT THEM AND THEY SOAR...
HERE, YOU WANT SOME MORE?
LISTEN TO THE ROAR;
GIANTS BY THE SCORE...!
OH WELL, YOU CAN BLAME ANOTHER WITCH.

IT'S THE LAST MIDNIGHT,
IT'S THE LAST VERSE.
NOW, BEFORE IT'S PAST MIDNIGHT,
I'M LEAVING YOU MY LAST CURSE;

I'M LEAVING YOU ALONE.
YOU CAN TEND THE GARDEN, IT'S YOURS.
SEPARATE AND ALONE,
EVERYBODY DOWN ON ALL FOURS.

ALRIGHT MOTHER, WHEN?
LOST THE BEANS AGAIN!
PUNISH ME THE WAY YOU DID THEN!
GIVE ME CLAWS AND A HUNCH
JUST AWAY FROM THIS BUNCH
AND THE GLOOM
AND THE DOOM
AND THE BOOM
CRUNNNCH!
(she disappears)

Jack: Maybe I shouldn't have stolen from the Giant.

Little Red Ridinghood: Maybe I shouldn't have strayed from the path...
Cinderella: Maybe I shouldn’t have attended the ball...

Baker: Yes, maybe you shouldn’t have.

(BAKER begins to exit)

Jack: Where are you going?

Baker: Away from here.

Little Red Ridinghood: But you said we had to find our way out of this together.

Baker: It doesn’t matter whether we’re together or apart.

Jack: We need your help.

Baker: You don’t understand. My wife was the only one who really helped. I depended on her for everything. (moves further)

Cinderella: You would leave your child?

Baker: (sad) My child will be happier in the arms of a princess.

(BAKER exits)

Cinderella: But wait...

(CINDERELLA, JACK, LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD exit -- (set change MYSTERIOUS MAN appears and startles the BAKER)

Baker: I thought you were dead.

Mysterious Man: Not completely. Are we ever?

Baker: As far as I’m concerned you are.

Mysterious Man: Is that true?

Baker: It’s because of you all this has happened.

Mysterious Man: I strayed into the garden to give your mother a gift. And I thoughtlessly took some of those beans for myself. How was I to know? How are we ever to know? And when she died, I ran away from my guilt. And now, aren’t you making the same mistake?

Baker: No.

Mysterious Man: Aren’t you running away?

Baker: NO MORE QUESTIONS.

PLEASE.

NO MORE TESTS.

COMES THE DAY YOU SAY “WHAT FOR?”

PLEASE...NO MORE.

Mysterious Man: THEY DISAPPOINT,

THEY DISAPPEAR,

THEY DIE BUT THEY DON’T...

Baker: What?

Mysterious Man: THEY DISAPPOINT,

IN TURN, I FEAR.

FORGIVE, THOUGH, THEY WON’T...
Baker: NO MORE RIDDLES.
    NO MORE JESTS.
    NO MORE CURSES YOU CAN'T UNDO,
    LEFT BY FATHERS YOU NEVER KNEW
    NO MORE QUESTS.

    NO MORE FEELINGS
    TIME TO SHUT THE DOOR
    JUST...NO MORE.

Mysterious Man: RUNNING AWAY...LET'S DO IT
    FREE FROM THE TIES THAT BIND.
    NO MORE DESPAIR,
    OR BURDENS TO BEAR,
    OUT THERE IN THE YONDER.

    RUNNING AWAY...GO TO IT.
    WHERE DID YOU HAVE IN MIND?
    HAVE TO TAKE CARE;
    UNLESS THERE'S A "WHERE",
    YOU'LL ONLY BE WANDERING BLIND.
    JUST MORE QUESTIONS.
    DIFFERENT KIND.
    WHERE ARE WE TO GO?
    WHERE ARE WE EVER TO GO?

    RUNNING AWAY...WE'LL DO IT.
    WHY SIT AROUND, RESIGNED?
    TROUBLE IS, SON
    THE FARThER YOU RUN
    THE MORE YOU FEEL UNDEFINED
    FOR WHAT YOU HAVE LEFT UNDONE
    AND, MORE, WHAT YOU HAVE LEFT BEHIND.

    WE DISAPPOINT,
    WE LEAVE A MESS
    WE DIE BUT WE DON'T...

Baker: WE DISAPPOINT
    IN TURN, I GUESS.
    FORGET, THOUGH, WE WON'T...

Baker, Mysterious Man: LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON.

Baker: (as MYSTERIOUS MAN disappears) NO MORE GIANTS,
    WAGING WAR.
    CAN'T WE JUST PURSUE OUR LIVES
    WITH OUR CHILDREN AND OUR WIVES?
    TILL THAT HAPPY DAY ARRIVES,
    HOW DO YOU IGNORE
    ALL THE WITCHES,
    ALL THE CURSES
    ALL THE WOLVES
ALL THE LIES
THE FALSE HOPES, THE GOODBYES, THE REVERSSES,
ALL THE WONDERING WHAT EVEN WORSE
IS STILL IN STORE?

ALL THE CHILDREN...
ALL THE GIANTS...
(after a moment's thought)
NO MORE.

(BAKER exits; CINDERELLA, JACK, LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD with BABY enter. BAKER returns through woods to group)

Cinderella: I knew you wouldn't give up.

Jack: He wouldn't leave his baby.

Little Red Ridinghood: It looked like he was going to.

Baker: Give me my son.
(BAKER takes the BABY in his arms; BABY begins to cry)
He always cries when I...
(BABY stops crying; beat)

Cinderella: Now what are we going to do?

Baker: We must have a plan before the giant returns.

Jack: What?

Baker: We all have to think.

Jack: If there were just some way we could surprise her.

Little Red Ridinghood: She's too tall to surprise.

(birds descend, twittering)

Cinderella: Oh, good friends, I need your help now more than ever.
(she listens)
What of the Prince?
(she listens, glancing at the BAKER as if he understands the birds)
I don't care! What's important now is that we find a way to fell the giant. How can you help?
(she listens)
You could do that?
(SHE listens)
How can I ever thank you?
(birds fly off as CINDERELLA waves goodbye)

Little Red Ridinghood: You can talk to birds?

Cinderella: The birds will help.

Jack: How?

Cinderella: When the giant returns, they'll attack her and peck out her eyes 'til she's blind.

Baker: What good will that do?
Cinderella: Then you can surprise her. Strike her...or whatever you do to kill a giant.

Baker: Once she’s blinded she’ll stagger about.

Jack: She’ll get angry.

Little Red Ridinghood: And she’ll crush us.

(beat)

Baker: Smear the ground with pitch.

Cinderella: What?

Baker: We’ll lure her to an area smeared with pitch.

Cinderella: Her shoes will stick, and she won’t be able to move.

Jack: And I will climb a tree and strike her from behind.

Baker: I will climb a tree too. It will take two mighty blows.

Little Red Ridinghood: I’m excited.

Jack: I’m going to kill another giant.

Baker: Quick. It will be dark soon. We must find the pitch.

Little Red Ridinghood: There’s some at Granny’s.

Baker: (hands the BABY to CINDERELLA) The baby will be safe here with you. This will take no time.

(BAKER, JACK and LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD exit. BABY begins to cry)

Cinderella: Oh no. Now, now, don’t cry little one. I know you want your mother.

(BABY begins to calm down. CINDERELLA’S PRINCE bounds onstage; he doesn’t recognize CINDERELLA)

Cinderella’s Prince: Hello.

(he begins to cross the stage to exit)

Cinderella: The Giant went in that direction.

Cinderella’s Prince: (realizing it is CINDERELLA) My darling. I did not recognize you. What are you doing in those old clothes? And with a child? You must go back to the castle at once. There’s a giant on the loose.

Cinderella: The Giant has been to the castle.

Cinderella’s Prince: No! Are you alright?

(CINDERELLA nods and walks away)

My love, why so cold?

Cinderella: Maybe it’s because I am not your only love. Am I?

Cinderella’s Prince: (beat) I love you. I do.

(pause)

But yes, it’s true.
Cinderella: Why, if you love me, would you have strayed?

Cinderella's Prince: I thought if you were mine, that I could not wish for more. And part of me is content and as happy as I have ever been. But there remains a part that continually needs more.

Cinderella: I have, on occasion, wanted more. But that doesn't mean I went in search of it. If this is how you behave as a prince, what kind of king will you be?

Cinderella's Prince: I was raised to be charming, not sincere. I didn't ask to be born a king, and I'm not perfect. I am only human.

Cinderella: (after a pause) I think you should go.

Cinderella's Prince: Leave? But I do love you.

Cinderella: Consider that I have been lost. A victim of the giant.

Cinderella's Prince: Is that what you really wish?

Cinderella: My father's house was a nightmare. Your house was a dream. Now I want something in between. Please go.

(CINDERELLA'S PRINCE begins to exit)

Cinderella's Prince: I shall always love the maiden that ran away.

Cinderella: And I the faraway prince.

(CINDERELLA'S PRINCE exits. another moment for CINDERELLA with the BABY. LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD enters)

Little Red Ridinghood: They're almost finished. You see over there between those two trees? When the giant comes, we are to send her over there.

Cinderella: Good.

Little Red Ridinghood: I wanted to climb the tree too.

Cinderella: I am glad that you are here to help me.

(LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD begins to cry; music begins)

What's wrong?

Little Red Ridinghood: My granny's gone.

Cinderella: Oh no. I'm so sorry.

Little Red Ridinghood: I think my granny and my mother would be very angry with me.

Cinderella: Why?

Little Red Ridinghood: They said to always make them proud. And here I am about to kill somebody.

Cinderella: Not somebody. A giant that has been doing harm.

Little Red Ridinghood: But the giant's a person. Aren't we to show forgiveness? Mother would be very unhappy with these circumstances.

Cinderella: MOTHER CANNOT GUIDE YOU.

NOW YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN.

ONLY ME BESIDE YOU,

STILL, YOU'RE NOT ALONE.
NO-ONE IS ALONE, TRULY.
NO-ONE IS ALONE.

SOMETIMES PEOPLE LEAVE YOU,
HALFWAY THROUGH THE WOOD
OTHERS MAY DECEIVE YOU,
YOU DECIDE WHAT’S GOOD.
YOU DECIDE ALONE.
BUT NO-ONE IS ALONE.

Little Red Ridinghood: I WISH...

Cinderella: I KNOW...

(LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD moves close to CINDERELLA who comforts her. JACK and the BAKER appear sitting in a branch, clubs in hand)

Jack: Wait until my Mother hears I’ve slain the giant.

Baker: Jack. Your mother is dead.

Jack: (stunned) Dead? Was she killed by the giant?

Baker: She was arguing with the giant...trying to protect you...and she was struck a deadly blow by the prince’s steward.

Jack: Oh no. Why would he do that?

Baker: He was afraid she was provoking the giant.

Jack: Can no one bring her back?

Baker: No one.

Jack: That steward will pay for this. After we slay the giant, I will slay him.

Baker: You will do nothing of the kind!

Jack: But he shouldn’t have killed my mother. Right?

Baker: I guess not.

Jack: Then he must die.

Baker: Well, no.

Jack: (getting worked up) Why not?

Baker: Because that would be wrong.

Jack: But what he did was wrong. He should be punished.

Baker: He will be, somehow.

Jack: How?

Baker: I don’t know. (angry) Stop asking me questions I can’t answer.

Jack: I’m going to kill him.
Baker: Then kill him.

(pause) No, don't kill him.

Cinderella: (to LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD) MOTHER ISN'T HERE NOW

Baker: (to JACK) WRONG THINGS, RIGHT THINGS...

Cinderella: WHO KNOWS WHAT SHE'D SAY?

Baker: WHO CAN SAY WHAT'S TRUE?

Cinderella: NOTHING'S QUITE SO CLEAR NOW...

Baker: DO THINGS, FIGHT THINGS...

Cinderella: FEEL YOU'VE LOST YOUR WAY?

Baker: YOU DECIDE, BUT YOU ARE NOT ALONE.

Cinderella: YOU ARE NOT ALONE.

BELIEVE ME.

NO ONE IS ALONE.

Baker: NO ONE IS ALONE,

BELIEVE ME.

Cinderella: TRULY...

Cinderella, Baker: YOU MOVE JUST A FINGER,

SAY THE SLIGHTEST WORD

SOMETHING'S BOUND TO LINGER,

BE HEARD.

Baker: NO ONE IS ALONE.

CAREFUL, NO ONE IS ALONE.

Cinderella, Baker: PEOPLE MAKE MISTAKES.

Baker: FATHERS.

Cinderella: MOTHERS.

Cinderella, Baker: PEOPLE MAKE MISTAKES,

HOLDING TO THEIR OWN,

THINKING THEY'RE ALONE.

Cinderella: HONOR THEIR MISTAKES...

Baker: FIGHT FOR THEIR MISTAKES...

Cinderella, Baker: ONE ANOTHER'S TERRIBLE MISTAKES

WITCHES CAN BE RIGHT.

GIANTS CAN BE GOOD.

YOU DECIDE WHAT'S RIGHT

YOU DECIDE WHAT'S GOOD.

Cinderella: JUST REMEMBER:
Baker: JUST REMEMBER:

Cinderella, Baker: SOMEONE IS ON YOUR SIDE

Jack, Little Red Ridinghood: OUR SIDE.

Cinderella, Baker: OUR SIDE...SOMEONE ELSE IS NOT.
WHILE WE'RE SEEING OUR SIDE...

Jack, Little Red Ridinghood: OUR SIDE...

Cinderella, Baker: OUR SIDE...

Cinderella, Baker, Jack, Little Red Ridinghood: MAYBE WE FORGOT:
THEY ARE NOT ALONE
NO ONE IS ALONE

Cinderella: HARD TO SEE THE LIGHT NOW

Baker: JUST DON'T LET IT GO

Cinderella, Baker: THINGS WILL TURN OUT RIGHT NOW.
WE CAN MAKE IT SO.
SOMEONE IS ON YOUR...

Little Red Ridinghood: Here she comes.

Cinderella: Remember. Don't let her know our plan.

(ground trembles; shadow is cast)

Giant: Where is the boy?

Little Red Ridinghood: We don't know.

Cinderella: Yes we do! We can't go on hiding him any longer. He must pay the price for his wrongs.

Giant: Quick. Tell me where he is.

Little Red Ridinghood: (points) Over there.

Cinderella: See that tree where the birds are clustered? Jack is in that tree, hiding.

Giant: Thank you. Now justice will be served and I shall leave your kingdom.

(GIANT turns and heads away. we hear the sounds of birds attacking in the distance; CINDERELLA and LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD watch eagerly)

Cinderella: Good birds!

(cry from the GIANT)

Little Red Ridinghood: She doesn't look happy.

(we then hear the GIANT pounded on the head; another cry)

Cinderella: (grimace) Ouch!

(another cry from the GIANT)
Little Red Ridinghood: *(disgusted)* The club is stuck in her head!

Cinderella: But they've done it. She's swaying.

Little Red Ridinghood: She's bleeding all over!

Cinderella: She's beginning to fall!

Little Red Ridinghood: *(panicked)* She's beginning to fall this way!

*(they back off the stage quickly, as the loudest noise of all resounds. the GIANT'S head and mane of hair fall from the wing. the following enter and give their moral and exit. those killed appear as ghosts)*

Jack's Mother: The slotted spoon can catch the potato...

Mysterious Man: Every knot was once straight rope...

*(PRINCES enter with SNOW WHITE and SLEEPING BEAUTY)*

Cinderella's Prince, Rapunzel's Prince: The harder to wake, the better to have.

Snow White, Sleeping Beauty: *(yawn)* Excuse me.

Steward: The greater the good, the harder the blow...

Stepmother: When going to hide, know how to get there.

Cinderella's Father: And how to get back...

Florinda/Lucinda: And eat first...

Granny: The knife that is sharp today may be dull by tomorrow...

Rapunzel: AH-AH-AH-AH-AH...

*(JACK, BAKER, CINDERELLA and LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD enter from upstage of GIANT'S head)*

Baker: Now we can return home and let us hope there will be no more killing.

Jack: Where am I to go? I have no-one to take care of me.

Baker: You'll have to take care of yourself now Jack. It's time.

Little Red Ridinghood: No, it's not. I'll take care of him.

Jack: You will?

Little Red Ridinghood: Yes. I'll be your mother now.

Jack: I don't want another mother. I want a friend. And a pet.

Little Red Ridinghood: Of course, we have nowhere to go, so we'll move in with you.

Baker: Oh no.

Little Red Ridinghood: It'll be fun!
Baker: My house is a shambles and there is hardly room for—
(he stops mid-sentence)
Of course you can come home with us.

Jack: (to CINDERELLA) And you shall join us too.

Baker: You'll not return to the castle?

Cinderella: I'll gladly help you with your house. There are times when I actually enjoy cleaning.

(beat)

Baker: How proud my wife would have been of us. And how sad it is that my son will never know her.
Maybe I just wasn't meant to have children—

Baker's Wife: (enters as ghost) Don't say that!
Of course you were meant to have children!

Baker: But how will I go about being a father
With no one to mother my child?

(BABY cries)

Baker's Wife: JUST CALM THE CHILD.

Baker: (attempting to do so) YES. CALM THE CHILD.

Baker's Wife: LOCK, TELL HIM THE STORY
OF HOW IT ALL HAPPENED
BE FATHER AND MOTHER
YOU'LL KNOW WHAT TO DO.

Baker: ALONE...?

Baker's Wife: SOMETIMES PEOPLE LEAVE YOU
HALFWAY THROUGH THE WOOD.
DO NOT LET IT GRIEVE YOU
NO ONE LEAVES FOR GOOD.
YOU ARE NOT ALONE
NO ONE IS ALONE.

HOLD HIM TO THE LIGHT NOW,
LET HIM SEE THE GLOW.
THINGS WILL BE ALRIGHT NOW.
TELL HIM WHAT YOU KNOW...

(BABY cries)

Baker: Shhh...Once upon a time...in a far off Kingdom...lived a young maiden...a sad young lad...and a childless baker...with his wife.

(WITCH enters)

Witch: (simultaneously with BAKER, to AUDIENCE) CAREFUL THE THINGS YOU SAY,
CHILDREN WILL LISTEN.
CAREFUL THE THINGS YOU DO CHILDREN WILL SEE
AND LEARN.
GUIDE THEM ALONG THE WAY
CHILDREN WILL LISTEN
CHILDREN WILL LOOK TO YOU
FOR WHICH WAY TO TURN
TO LEARN WHAT TO BE

CAREFUL BEFORE YOU SAY
"LISTEN TO ME!"
CHILDREN WILL LISTEN.

Company: (during the following verse, the remainder of the COMPANY enters) CAREFUL THE WISH YOU MAKE,
WISHES ARE CHILDREN.
CAREFUL THE PATH THEY TAKE...
WISHES COME TRUE,
NOT FREE.

CAREFUL THE SPELL YOU CAST,
NOT JUST ON CHILDREN.
SOMETIMES THE SPELL MAY LAST
PAST WHAT YOU CAN SEE
AND TURN AGAINST YOU...

Witch: CAREFUL THE TALE YOU TELL.
THAT IS THE SPELL
CHILDREN WILL LISTEN...

Company: (in three groups) THOUGH IT’S FEARFUL,
THOUGH IT’S DEEP, THOUGH IT’S DARK
AND THOUGH YOU MAY loose THE PATH,
THOUGH YOU MAY ENCOUNTER WOLVES,
YOU CAN’T JUST ACT,
YOU HAVE TO LISTEN.
YOU CAN’T JUST ACT,
YOU HAVE TO THINK.

THERE ARE ALWAYS WOLVES,
THERE ARE ALWAYS SPELLS,
THERE ARE ALWAYS BEANS
OR A GIANT DWELLS THERE.

SO INTO THE WOODS YOU GO AGAIN...
YOU HAVE TO EVERY NOW AND THEN
INTO THE WOODS, NO TELLING WHEN,
BE READY FOR THE JOURNEY.

INTO THE WOODS, BUT NOT TOO FAST
OR WHAT YOU WISH YOU LOSE AT LAST.
INTO THE WOODS, BUT MIND THE PAST.
INTO THE WOODS, BUT MIND THE FUTURE.
INTO THE WOODS,
BUT NOT TO STRAY
OR TEMPT THE WOLF,
OR STEAL FROM THE GIANT...

THE WAY IS DARK,
THE LIGHT IS DIM,
BUT NOW THERE'S YOU,
ME, HER AND HIM
THE CHANCES LOOK SMALL,
THE CHOICES LOOK GRIM,
BUT EVERYTHING YOU LEARN THERE
WILL HELP WHEN YOU RETURN THERE.

Baker, Cinderella, Jack, Little Red Ridinghood: THE LIGHT IS GETTING DIMMER...

Baker: I THINK I SEE A GLIMMER...

Company: INTO THE WOODS, EACH TIME YOU GO
THERE'S MORE TO LEARN OF WHAT YOU KNOW.
INTO THE WOODS, BUT NOT TOO SLOW...
INTO THE WOODS, IT'S NEARING MIDNIGHT...

INTO THE WOODS
TO MIND THE WOLF,
TO HEED THE WITCH,
TO HONOR THE GIANT,
TO MIND,
TO HEED,
TO FIND,
TO THINK,
TO TEACH,
TO JOIN,
TO GO TO THE FESTIVAL!

INTO THE WOODS
INTO THE WOODS
INTO THE WOODS
THEN OUT OF THE WOODS...
AND HAPPY EVER AFTER!

Cinderella: I WISH...

(pause; CHORD; BLACKOUT)

END OF SCENE TWO — END OF ACT 2

END OF INTO THE WOODS