

All three settle down.

BAKER (Walks over to Witch): We were just going to do that.

(Offers cape) Here. I can give you this—

WITCH: DON'T GIVE ME THAT, FOOL!! I don't want to touch that! Have you no sense?

Rapunzel is heard suddenly, singing in the background.

My sweetness calls. (Tough) By tomorrow's midnight—deliver the items or you'll wish you never thought to have a child!

Witch zaps them with lightning and leaves.

BAKER: I don't like that woman.

WIFE (Contrite): I'm sorry I lost the cow.

BAKER: I shouldn't have yelled. (Beat) Now, please, go back to the village.

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 dimwitted boys and hungry little girls.

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'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.

RAPUNZEL'S PRINCE: Her?

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE: The beautiful one I danced the evening with.

RAPUNZEL'S PRINCE: Where did she go?

Wife begins walking by; noticing the Princes, she hides behind a tree and eavesdrops.

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.

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.

Music.

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.