

INTO THE WOODS

MYSTERIOUS MAN
+ BAKER

Sondheim & Lapine

The roof, the house, and your mother at the door.
The roof, the house, and the world you never thought
to explore.

And you think of all of the things you've seen,
And you wish that you could live in between,
And you're back again,
Only different than before,
After the sky.

There are giants in the sky!
There are big tall terrible awesome scary wonderful
Giants in the sky!

Baker stirs; Jack bounds over to him.

JACK: Good fortune! Good fortune, sir! Look what I have!
Here's five gold pieces.

BAKER (Astounded): Five gold pieces! (He examines the gold)

JACK: I had more, but my mother made me surrender them.
She allowed me these five to do with as I pleased.

BAKER: Oh, my . . .

JACK: Where is Milky-White?

BAKER: Milky-White is back home with my wife.

JACK: Let's go find them! (He grabs Baker and starts to pull him
away)

BAKER: Wait! I don't know that I wish to sell.

JACK: But you said I might buy her back.

BAKER: I know, but I'm not certain that five gold pieces
would—

JACK: Are you saying that you wish more money?

BAKER: More money is always—

JACK (Hands him gold): Keep this. I will go fetch more.

BAKER: Wait. I didn't say—

Jack exits; Baker looks at money.

Five gold pieces! With this money I could buy baking
supplies for a year. I could buy a new thatched roof
and a new chimney.

Mysterious Man appears from nowhere.

MYSTERIOUS MAN: But could you buy yourself a child?

BAKER (Startled): Who are you?

MYSTERIOUS MAN: When first I appear I seem delirious. But
when explained, I am nothing serious. Could you buy
yourself a child?

BAKER: I don't understand.

MYSTERIOUS MAN: How badly do you wish a child? Five gold
pieces? Ten? Twenty?

BAKER: I've not thought to put a price on it.

MYSTERIOUS MAN: Exactly. (He walks over and distracts the Baker
and takes the gold) You've not thought about many
things, have you son?

BAKER: Give me back the money! It is not yours—

MYSTERIOUS MAN: Nor is it Jack's. The money is not what's
important. What's important is that your wish be
honored.

*Mysterious Man goes around a tree and disap-
pears; Baker begins darting around trees looking
for him.*

BAKER: Come back here! Damn! Give me back—

*He sees Wife, who comes from around another
tree.*

What are you doing here now?

WIFE (Quickly switching gears): I see you've the red cape.

BAKER: Yes. I've the cape. Only two items left to locate.

WIFE: Three.

BAKER: Two. I've the cape and the cow.

WIFE (Faking enthusiasm): You've the cape!

BAKER: WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH THE COW?!

WIFE: She ran away. I never reached home. I've been looking
for her all night.

BAKER: I should have known better than to have entrusted her
to you.

WIFE: She might just as easily have run from you!

BAKER: But she didn't!

WIFE: BUT SHE MIGHT HAVE!

BAKER: BUT SHE DIDN'T!!!

Witch appears from nowhere.

WITCH: WHO CARES! THE COW IS GONE! GET IT BACK!
GET IT BACK!!!