

INTO THE WOODS ACTING SIDES

Narrators

1. Once upon a time, in a far-off kingdom, lived a young maiden, a sad lad, and a childless baker with his wife.

The young maiden's father had taken for his new wife a woman with two daughters of her own. All three were

beautiful of face but vile and black of heart. Jack, on the other hand, had no grandmother and no father, and his mother, well, she was not quite beautiful.

2. Because the Baker had lost his mother and father in a baking accident – well, at least that's what he believed

– he was eager to have a family of his own and was concerned that all efforts until now had failed. The old

enchanted told the couple that she had placed a spell on their house. Then she, for purposes of her own, explained how the Baker might lift the spell.

3. 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, 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.

4. As for Rapunzel, she lived impoverished in the desert until the day her Prince, wandering aimlessly, heard a

voice so familiar that he went toward it. And when approached, Rapunzel, overjoyed at seeing him, fell into his arms,

weeping. Two of her tears wetted his eyes and their touch restored his vision. As is often the way in these tales, in

exchange for her youth and beauty, the Witch lost her power over others. And it all came to pass that all that seemed

wrong was now right, the kingdoms were filled with joy, and those who deserved to were certain to live a long and

happy life.

Jack's Mother, Baker's Wife:

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?

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 weird about their animals. You be careful with your children...

Baker's Wife: I have no children.

Jack's Mom: (beat) That's okay too.

Jack, Little Red Riding hood

Jack: What a beautiful cape!

Little Red Riding hood: Stay away from my cape or I'll slice you into a thousand bits!

Jack: (stepping back) I don't want it! I was just admiring it!

Little Red Riding hood: (proud) My granny made it for me from a wolf that attacked us.

Jack: (competitive) Well, look what I have. A hen that lays golden eggs.

Little Red Riding hood: (suspicious) I don't believe that egg came from that hen. Where did you get that egg?

Jack: I stole it from the kingdom of the Giant. And if you think this is something, you should see the golden harp the Giant has. It plays the most beautiful tunes without your even having to touch it.

Little Red Riding hood: (laughing at Jack) Of course it does. Why don't you go up to the kingdom right now and bring it back and show me.

Jack: I could.

Little Red Riding hood: You could not!

Jack: I could!

Little Red Riding hood: You could not, Mr. Liar.

WITCH:

(To the Baker)" Forget the little girl and get the cape! That's the cape. Get it! You can get it. You go up to the little thing, and you take it. Get me what I need."

(hearing Rapunzel sing) Ahh, my Rapunzel...Listen to her beautiful music. Rapunzel, Rapunzel. Let down your hair to me. Why didn't you tell me you had a visitor? I gave you protection yet you disobeyed me. I will not share you, but I will show you a world you've never seen.

Scene 2: Jack & the Mysterious Man

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

Mysterious Man: 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 time 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..

Scene 5: Cinderella & Baker's Wife

Baker's Wife: Are you alright, miss?

Cinderella: (breathless) Yes. I just need to catch my breath.

Baker's Wife: What a beautiful gown you are wearing. Were you at the King's Festival?

Cinderella: (preoccupied) Yes.

Baker's Wife: Aren't you the lucky one. Why ever are you in the woods at this hour? If a prince were looking for me, I certainly wouldn't hide.

Cinderella: What brings you here--and with a cow?

Baker's Wife: Oh, my husband's somewhere in the woods. (proud) He is undoing a spell.

Cinderella: (impressed) Oh?

Baker's Wife: Oh, yes. Now, the Prince, what was he like? 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. What I wouldn't give to be in your shoes.

Cinderella: Will you look over there...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: As pure as gold?

Cinderella: I must get home.(she begins to leave)

Baker's Wife: Wait! (CINDERELLA exits) I need your shoes!

Vocals:

I KNOW THINGS NOW

When he said, "Come in," with that sickening grin, how could I know what
was in store?

Once his teeth were bare then I really got scared. Well, excited AND
scared, but he drew me close and he swallowed me down, down a dark
slimy path where lie secrets that I never want to know

And I know things now, many valuable things that I hadn't known before
Do not put your faith in a cape and a hood... They will not protect you the
way that they should.

And take extra care with strangers, even flowers have their dangers and
though scary is exciting, Nice is different than good. Now I know -don't
be scared-Granny is right, just be prepared.
Isn't it nice to know a lot? And a little bit not.

INTO THE WOODS OPENING

The way is clear, the light is good. I have no fear nor no one should.
The woods are just trees, the trees are just wood.

No need to be afraid there- there's something in the glade there!
Into the woods to get the thing that makes it worth the journeying
Into the woods to see the king, to sell the cow, to make the potion
To see, to sell, to get, to bring, to make, to lift, to go to the festival
Into the woods, into the woods, into the woods then out of the woods
and home before dark!

AGONY

High in her tower she sits by the hour maintaining her hair
Blithe and becoming and frequently humming a light-hearted air AH AH
AH AH AH AH AH

Agony- far more painful than yours
when you know she would go with you- if there only were doors
Agony, oh the torture they teach. Always 10 steps behind always 10 feet
below

And she's just out of reach
Agony that can cut like a knife. I must have her to wife

GIANTS IN THE SKY

A big tall terrible giant with a terrible roar
So you steal some gold and away you go and you scramble down to the
world below
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!

ON THE STEPS OF THE PALACE

Better run along home and avoid the collision
Even though they don't care you'll be better off there
Where there's nothing to choose so there's nothing to lose
So you pry up your shoes and then out of the blue and without any
guide...
You know what your decision is- which is not to decide. You'll just leave
him a clue
For example a shoe - and then see what he'll do
Now it's he and not you who is stuck with the shoe, in the stew, in the
goo...
and you've learned something too, something you never knew- on the
steps of the palace!

STAY WITH ME

Princes wait there in the world it's true
Princes, yes, but wolves and humans too
Stay at home, I am home. Who out there could love you more than I?
What out there that I cannot supply? Stay with me.
Stay with me, the world is dark and wild.
Stay a child while you can be a child. With me.