

Sondheim & Lapine

Rapunzel keeps whimpering; music crescendos.

I will not share you, but I will show you a world you've never seen. *(She cuts Rapunzel's hair)*

RAFUNZEL: No! NO!

Witch drags Rapunzel off. Baker enters, followed by Mysterious Man.

MYSTERIOUS MAN: When is a white cow not a white cow?

BAKER: I don't know! Leave me alone!

MYSTERIOUS MAN: Haven't I left you alone long enough?

BAKER: Your questions make no sense, old man! Go away!

MYSTERIOUS MAN: In need of another cow?

He drops sack of gold; Baker turns around at the sound of the falling coins; Mysterious Man exits as Baker picks up money and exits. Jack comes upon Little Red Ridinghood, who wears a cape made of wolfskins. She walks with a certain bravado.

Stout
JACK: What a beautiful cape!

Little Red Ridinghood swoeves around, brandishing a knife.

LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD: 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 RIDINGHOOD *(Proud)*: My granny made it for me from a wolf that attacked us. And I got to skin the animal—and best of all, she gave me this beautiful knife for protection.

JACK *(Competitive)*: Well, look what I have. A hen that lays golden eggs.

LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD *(Suspicious)*: I don't believe that egg came from that hen. Where did you get that egg?

JACK: I stole this from the kingdom of the giant—up there. 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 RIDINGHOOD *(Smirking)*: Of course it does. Why don't you go up to the kingdom right now and bring it back and show me?

INTO THE WOODS

JACK: I could.

LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD: You could not!

JACK: I could!

LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD: You could not, Mr. Liar! *(She makes a hasty exit)*

JACK: I am not a liar! I'll get that harp. You'll see! *(He exits)*

NARRATOR: After having cast out Rapunzel to a remote desert, the witch returned to take the Prince by surprise.

Rapunzel's tower. Rapunzel's Prince climbs

Rapunzel's hair when suddenly the Witch pops out

from the tower.

WITCH: You would fetch your dearest, but the bird no longer sits in her cage.

The Witch pushes Rapunzel's Prince from the

tower. He falls and screams, grabbing his eyes. The

Witch laughs with delight.

NARRATOR: And unfortunately, the Prince fell into a patch of thorns which pierced his eyes and blinded him.

Rapunzel's Prince stumbles helplessly offstage.

As for Cinderella, she returned from her final visit to the Festival.

Lights dim. Cinderella hobbles onstage, wearing

but one shoe.

CINDERELLA:

He's a very smart Prince,

He's a Prince who prepares.

Knowing this time I'd run from him,

He spread pitch on the stairs.

I was caught unawares.

And I thought: well, he cares—

This is more than just malice.

Better stop and take stock

While you're standing here stuck

On the steps of the palace.

You think, what do you want?

You think, make a decision.