

NARRATOR

The girl obeyed and swallowed her pain. But as she was helped on the back of the horse by the Prince, he noticed blood trickling from the shoe.

(CINDERELLA'S PRINCE takes shoe off LUCINDA, pours blood from it and, aghast, returns it to STEPMOTHER)

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE

Have you no other daughters?

NARRATOR

To which the woman replied:

STEMOTHER

No, only a little stunted kitchen wench which his late wife left behind, but she is much too dirty; she cannot show herself.

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE

I insist.

NARRATOR

And when Cinderella presented herself and tried on the blood-soaked slipper, it fit like a glove.

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE

This is the true bride!

CINDERELLA'S FATHER

I always wanted a son!

(CINDERELLA'S FATHER is admonished by STEPMOTHER, FLORINDA and LUCINDA.

FANFARE)

NARRATOR

And much to the dismay of the stepmother and her daughters, he took Cinderella on his horse and rode off.

(CINDERELLA'S PRINCE and CINDERELLA ride up to the grave)

CINDERELLA'S MOTHER

NO BLOOD AT ALL WITHIN THE SHOE;

THIS IS THE PROPER BRIDE FOR YOU,

FIT TO ATTEND A PRINCE.

(During the following, RAPUNZEL wanders in, SINGING fragmentedly, carrying twin babies. At the same time, RAPUNZEL'S PRINCE stumbles on from a different direction; RAPUNZEL sees him and falls in his arms, weeping)

NARRATOR

And finally, as for Rapunzel, she bore twins, and lived impoverished in the desert until the day her Prince, wandering aimlessly, heard a voice so familiar that he went towards it. And when he approached, Rapunzel, overjoyed at seeing him, fell into his arms, weeping. Two of her tears wetted his eyes and their touch restored his vision.

(RAPUNZEL'S PRINCE, sight restored, springs to his feet. WITCH comes from around a tree)

WITCH

(To RAPUNZEL)

I was going to come fetch you as soon as you learned your lesson.

RAPUNZEL

Who are you?

WITCH

Surely you remember.

RAPUNZEL

Mother?

WITCH

This is who I truly am. Come with me, child. We can be happy as we once were.

(Offers RAPUNZEL her hand)

RAPUNZEL'S PRINCE

(Pulling RAPUNZEL back)

She will not go with you!

WITCH

Let her speak for herself.

(RAPUNZEL shakes her head "no")

You are the only family I know.

(Holds out her hand)

Come with me. You and those beautiful babies. Please..

(RAPUNZEL shakes her head "no")

You give me no choice!

(WITCH attempts to put a spell on them, but only a pathetic puff of SMOKE comes from her cane. SHE tries again, and again nothing. RAPUNZEL and RAPUNZEL'S PRINCE strug and EXIT)

NARRATOR

As is often the way in these tales, in exchange for her youth and beauty, the Witch lost her power over others.

(WITCH, frustrated, breaks her cane and EXITS)

#38 – Act I Finale, Part 3

When the wedding with the Prince was celebrated, Lucinda and Florinda attended, wishing to win favor with Cinderella and share in her good fortune.

(CINDERELLA, in her wedding gown, and CINDERELLA'S PRINCE ENTER with LUCINDA and FLORINDA at their sides)

But as the sisters stood by the blessed couple, pigeons swooped down upon them and poked out their eyes and punished them with blindness.

(FLORINDA and LUCINDA are blinded by PIGEONS DESCENDING and stagger OFFSTAGE, screaming. BAKER'S WIFE ENTERS, very pregnant)

BAKER'S WIFE

I see your Prince has found you.

CINDERELLA

Yes.

(Patting her belly)

Thank you for the slipper.

(BAKER ENTERS)

BAKER'S WIFE

CINDERELLA

I DIDN'T THINK I'D WED A PRINCE.

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE

I DIDN'T THINK I'D EVER FIND YOU.

**CINDERELLA, CINDERELLA'S PRINCE,
BAKER, BAKER'S WIFE**

I DIDN'T THINK I COULD BE SO HAPPY! ...

(ALL come ONSTAGE; segue to "Act I Finale – Part 4")

#39 – Act I Finale, Part 4

NARRATOR

And it came to pass, 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.
(Spoken)

EVER AFTER...

ALL EXCEPT NARRATOR

(Sung)

EVER AFTER!

NARRATOR

(Sung)

JOURNEY OVER, ALL IS MENDED,
 AND IT'S NOT JUST FOR TODAY,
 BUT TOMORROW, AND EXTENDED
 EVER AFTER!

ALL EXCEPT NARRATOR

EVER AFTER!

NARRATOR

ALL THE CURSES HAVE BEEN ENDED,
 THE REVERSES WIPED AWAY.
 ALL IS TENDERNESS AND LAUGHTER
 FOR FOREVER AFTER!

ALL EXCEPT NARRATOR

HAPPY NOW AND HAPPY HENCE
 AND HAPPY EVER AFTER!

NARRATOR

THERE WERE DANGERS—

ALL EXCEPT NARRATOR

WE WERE FRIGHTENED —

NARRATOR

AND CONFUSIONS —

ALL EXCEPT NARRATOR

BUT WE HID IT —

NARRATOR

AND THE PATHS WOULD OFTEN SWERVE.

ALL EXCEPT NARRATOR

WE DID NOT.

NARRATOR

THERE WERE CONSTANT -

ALL EXCEPT NARRATOR

IT'S AMAZING -

NARRATOR

DISILLUSIONS--

ALL EXCEPT NARRATOR

THAT WE DID IT.

NARRATOR

BUT THEY NEVER LOST THEIR NERVE.

ALL EXCEPT NARRATOR

NOT A LOT.

NARRATOR, MEN

AND THEY (WE) REACHED THE RIGHT CONCLUSIONS,

NARRATOR, WOMEN

AND THEY (WE) GOT WHAT THEY (WE) DESERVE!

ALL

NOT A SIGH AND NOT A SORROW,

TENDERNESS AND LAUGHTER.

JOY TODAY AND BLESS TOMORROW,

AND FOREVER AFTER!

(FLORINDA and LUCINDA ENTER wearing black glasses and with canes)

FLORINDA

I WAS GREEDY.

LUCINDA

I WAS VAIN.

FLORINDA

I WAS HAUGHTY.

LUCINDA

I WAS SMUG.

FLORINDA, LUCINDA

WE WERE HAPPY.

LUCINDA

IT WAS FUN.

BUT WE WERE BLIND.

FLORINDA

FLORINDA, LUCINDA

THEN WE WENT INTO THE WOODS
TO GET OUR WISH
AND NOW WE'RE REALLY BLIND.

WITCH

I WAS PERFECT.

I HAD EVERYTHING BUT BEAUTY.

I HAD POWER,

AND A DAUGHTER LIKE A FLOWER,
IN A TOWER.

THEN I WENT INTO THE WOODS
TO GET MY WISH

AND NOW I'M ORDINARY.

LOST MY POWER AND MY FLOWER

FLORINDA, LUCINDA

(Overlapping)

WE'RE UNWORTHY.

FLORINDA, LUCINDA, WITCH

WE'RE (I'M) UNHAPPY NOW, UNHAPPY HENCE,
AS WELL AS EVER AFTER.
HAD WE USED OUR COMMON SENSE,
BEEN WORTHY OF OUR DISCONTENTEDS...

WOMEN

TO BE HAPPY, AND FOREVER,
YOU MUST SEE YOUR WISH COME TRUE.

ALL

DON'T BE CAREFUL, DON'T BE CLEVER.
WHEN YOU SEE YOUR WISH, PURSUE.
IT'S A DANGEROUS ENDEAVOR,
BUT THE ONLY THING TO DO—

GROUP 1

THOUGH IT'S FEARFUL,
THOUGH IT'S DEEP,
THOUGH IT'S DARK,
AND THOUGH YOU MAY
LOSE THE PATH,
THOUGH YOU MAY

ENCOUNTER WOLVES,

YOU MUSTN'T STOP,
YOU MUSTN'T SWERVE,
YOU MUSTN'T PONDER

THOUGH IT'S FEARFUL,
THOUGH IT'S DEEP,

THOUGH IT'S DARK,
AND THOUGH YOU MAY
LOSE THE PATH,

THOUGH YOU MAY

ENCOUNTER WOLVES

YOU HAVE TO ACT!

WHEN YOU KNOW YOUR
WISH,

IF YOU WANT YOUR WISH,

YOU CAN HAVE YOUR WISH,

BUT YOU CAN'T JUST WISH --
NO, TO GET YOUR WISH

YOU MUSTN'T STOP

YOU MUSTN'T SWERVE,

YOU HAVE TO ACT!

YOU CAN HAVE YOUR WISH,

BUT YOU CAN'T JUST WISH --
NO, TO GET YOUR WISH

THOUGH IT'S FEARFUL,
THOUGH IT'S DEEP,

THOUGH IT'S DARK,
AND THOUGH YOU MAY
LOSE THE PATH,

THOUGH YOU MAY

ENCOUNTER WOLVES,

YOU MUSTN'T SWERVE

OR PONDER

YOU CAN'T JUST WISH --
NO, TO GET YOUR WISH

ALL

(In unison)

YOU GO INTO THE WOODS,
WHERE NOTHING'S CLEAR,
WHERE WITCHES, GHOSTS
AND WOLVES APPEAR.
INTO THE WOODS
AND THROUGH THE FEAR,
YOU HAVE TO TAKE THE JOURNEY.

INTO THE WOODS
AND DOWN THE DELL,
IN VAIN PERHAPS,
BUT WHO CAN TELL?

GROUP 3

MEN

INTO THE WOODS TO LIFT THE SPELL,

WOMEN

INTO THE WOODS TO LOSE THE LONGING.

MEN

INTO THE WOODS TO HAVE THE CHILD,

WOMEN

TO WED THE PRINCE,

MEN

TO GET THE MONEY,

WOMEN

TO SAVE THE HOUSE,

MEN

TO KILL THE WOLF,

WOMEN

TO FIND THE FATHER,

MEN

TO CONQUER THE KINGDOM,

ALL

TO HAVE, TO WED,

TO GET, TO SAVE,

TO KILL, TO KEEP,

TO GO TO THE FESTIVAL!

INTO THE WOODS,

INTO THE WOODS,

INTO THE WOODS,

THEN OUT OF THE WOODS —

NARRATOR

(Spoken)

TO BE CONTINUED...

(A GIANT BEANSTALK emerges from the ground and stretches to the heavens; the characters are oblivious to its presence)

ALL

(Sung)

— AND HAPPY EVER AFTER!

(The parties head off to their respective homes, as the LIGHTS dim to black)

END OF SCENE FIVE

END OF ACT ONE

SCENE FIVE

#36 – Act I Finale, Part 1

**(If the MYSTERIOUS MAN is played by the same actor as the NARRATOR, the transition from one to another can be revealed here.)*

NARRATOR

(ENTERING)

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.

(BAKER and BAKER'S WIFE EXIT)

The Witch, who had been punished with age and ugliness that night when her beans had been stolen and the lightning flashed, was now returned to her former state of youth and beauty.

(WITCH strikes pose, then EXITS)

And Milky-White, after a night of severe indigestion, was reunited with the now wealthy Jack.

(JACK and JACK'S MOTHER EXIT with MILKY-WHITE and HARP)

As for the Prince...

(FANFARE)

... he began his search for the foot to fit the golden slipper.

(CINDERELLA'S PRINCE and STEWARD ENTER on horseback)

When he came to Cinderella's house, Cinderella's stepmother took the slipper into Florinda's room.

(FLORINDA tries on shoe; STEPMOTHER struggles to help her; LUCINDA watches)

FLORINDA

CAREFUL, MY TOE -- !

STEMOTHER

DARLING, I KNOW --

FLORINDA

WHAT'LL WE DO?

STEMOTHER

IT'LL HAVE TO GO --

(FLORINDA reacts as STEPMOTHER suddenly brandishes a knife)

(STEPMOTHER)

BUT WHEN YOU'RE HIS BRIDE YOU CAN SIT OR RIDE.
YOU'LL NEVER NEED TO WALK!

(Looks at her encouragingly, then cuts off FLORINDA'S TOE as FLORINDA reacts in pain. FLORINDA limps to CINDERELLA'S PRINCE, is seated on HORSE)

NARRATOR

The girl obeyed, swallowing the pain, and joined the Prince on his horse, riding off to become his bride.

(CINDERELLA'S PRINCE, with FLORINDA on horseback, arrives at the grave of CINDERELLA'S MOTHER; BIRDS CRY from the tree)

CINDERELLA'S MOTHER

LOOK AT THE BLOOD WITHIN THE SHOE;
THIS ONE IS NOT THE BRIDE THAT'S TRUE.
SEARCH FOR THE FOOT THAT FITS.

(CINDERELLA'S PRINCE looks at FLORINDA'S FOOT and sees blood trickling from the shoe. THEY return to CINDERELLA'S home)

#37 — Act I Finale, Part 2**NARRATOR**

The Prince returned the false bride, and asked the other sister to put on the shoe.

(STEPMOTHER tries forcing shoe onto LUCINDA'S FOOT)

(Struggling with the shoe)

WHY WON'T IT FIT?

LUCINDA**STEPMOTHER**

(Holding the knife)

DARLING, BE STILL.
CUT OFF A BIT
OF THE HEEL AND IT WILL A
ND WHEN YOU'RE HIS WIFE
YOU'LL HAVE SUCH A LIFE,
YOU'LL NEVER NEED TO WALK!

(Looks at LUCINDA encouragingly as she cuts off LUCINDA'S HEEL)