

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D FIND PERFECTION...

CINDERELLA, CINDERELLA'S PRINCE

I NEVER THOUGHT I COULD BE SO HAPPY!

CINDERELLA

NOT AN UNHAPPY MOMENT SINCE...

JACK, JACK'S MOTHER

I DIDN'T THINK WE'D BE THIS RICH...

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE

NOT A CONCEIVABLE OBJECTION...

BAKER, BAKER'S WIFE

I NEVER THOUGHT WE'D HAVE A BABY...

**CINDERELLA, CINDERELLA'S PRINCE,
JACK, JACK'S MOTHER**

I NEVER THOUGHT I COULD BE SO HAPPY!

BAKER, BAKER'S WIFE

(Overlapping)

I'M SO HAPPY!

STEPMOTHER

(To CINDERELLA)

HAPPY NOW,

HAPPY HENCE,

HAPPY EVER AFTER —

STEPMOTHER, FLORINDA, LUCINDA

WE'RE SO HAPPY YOU'RE SO HAPPY!

JUST AS LONG AS YOU STAY HAPPY,

WE'LL STAY HAPPY!

CINDERELLA, CINDERELLA'S PRINCE

NOT ONE ROW...

JACK'S MOTHER

POTS OF PENCE...

JACK

WITH MY COW...

BAKER, BAKER'S WIFE

LITTLE GURGLING...

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE

(To CINDERELLA)

DARLING, I MUST GO NOW...

(EXITS)

JACK'S MOTHER

(To JACK)

WE SHOULD REALLY SELL IT.

BAKER

(To BAKER'S WIFE)

WHERE'S THE CHEESECLOTH?

ALL EXCEPT BAKER

WISHES MAY BRING PROBLEMS,
SUCH THAT YOU REGRET THEM.

ALL

BETTER THAT, THOUGH,
THAN TO NEVER GET THEM...

CINDERELLA

I'M GOING TO BE A PERFECT WIFE!

JACK

I'M GOING TO BE A PERFECT SON!

BAKER'S WIFE, JACK'S MOTHER

I'M GOING TO BE A PERFECT MOTHER!

BAKER

I'M GOING TO BE A PERFECT FATHER!

I'M SO HAPPY!

**CINDERELLA, JACK, JACK'S MOTHER,
BAKER'S WIFE**

(Overlapping)

I'M GOING TO SEE THAT HE (SHE)
IS SO HAPPY!

ALL

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D LOVE MY LIFE!
I WOULD HAVE SETTLED FOR ANOTHER!

CINDERELLA

THEN TO BECOME A WIFE...

JACK, JACKS MOTHER

THEN TO BE SET FOR LIFE...

BAKER, BAKER'S WIFE

THEN TO BEGET A CHILD...

ALL

THAT FORTUNE SMILED...
I'M SO HAPPY!

BAKER'S WIFE

(Hands the BABY to BAKER, who is very awkward holding the child)

If only this cottage were a little larger.

BAKER

I will expand our quarters in due time.

BAKER'S WIFE

Why expand when we could simply move to another cottage?
(BABY CRIES)

BAKER

We will not move. This was my father's house, and now it will be my son's.

BAKER'S WIFE

You would raise your child alongside a Witch?

BAKER

(Edgy)

Why does he always cry when I hold him?

BAKER'S WIFE

Babies cry. He's fine. You needn't hold him as if he were so fragile.

BAKER

He wants his mother. Here.

(Carefully passes BABY back to BAKER'S WIFE. BABY STOPS CRYING)

BAKER'S WIFE

I can't take care of him all of the time!

BAKER

I'll care for him when he's older.

BAKER, BAKER'S WIFE, JACK, JACK'S MOTHER

WE HAD TO GO THROUGH THICK AND THIN.

STEPMOTHER, LUCINDA, FLORINDA

WE HAD TO LOSE A LOT TO WIN.

CINDERELLA

I VENTURED OUT AND SAW WITHIN.

ALL

I NEVER THOUGHT

I'D BE SO MUCH I HADN'T BEEN!

I'M SO HAPPY...

(The song is suddenly interrupted by a loud RUMBLING noise followed by an enormous CRASH. The BAKER'S HOUSE CAVES IN. HE is caught underneath the rubble as the BAKER'S WIFE runs forward with their BABY.)

ACTION STOPS. JACK and JACK'S MOTHER look concerned. CINDERELLA sends her STEPMOTHER out to investigate. We should be momentarily uncertain as to whether there has truly been an accident ONSTAGE)

Oh, my goodness.

BAKER'S WIFE

BAKER

(Stunned)

Are you all right?

BAKER'S WIFE

I think so.

And the baby?

BAKER

BAKER'S WIFE

Yes, he's fine. Are you all right?

(HE nods; WITCH ENTERS)

BAKER

(To WITCH)

You! Have you done this to our house?

WITCH

Always thinking of yourself! Look at my garden.

BAKER'S WIFE

What of your garden?

WITCH

Look!

(BAKER and BAKER'S WIFE move to window)

BAKER

Destroyed.

BAKER'S WIFE

What has happened?

WITCH

I was thrown to the ground. I saw nothing.

BAKER'S WIFE

What could do such a thing?

BAKER

An earthquake.

WITCH

No earthquake! My garden has been trampled. Those are footprints!

BAKER'S WIFE

Who could do such a thing?

WITCH

Anything that leaves a footprint that large is no "who."

BAKER

(Spoken)

DO YOU THINK IT WAS A BEAR?

WITCH

(Spoken)

A BEAR? BEARS ARE SWEET.

BESIDES, YOU EVER SEE A BEAR WITH FORTY FOOT FEET?

BAKER'S WIFE*(Spoken)*

A DRAGON?

WITCH*(Spoken; shakes her head)*NO SCORCH MARKS –
USUALLY THEY'RE LINKED.**BAKER***(Spoken)*

MANTICORE?

WITCH*(Spoken)*

IMAGINARY.

BAKER, BAKER'S WIFE*(Spoken)*

GRIFFIN?

WITCH*(Spoken)*

EXTINCT.

BAKER*(Spoken)*

GIANT?

WITCH*(Spoken)*POSSIBLE.
VERY, VERY POSSIBLE...*(MUSIC fades under)***BAKER**

A Giant...

BAKER'S WIFE

Maybe we should tell someone.

WITCH

Who are you going to tell?

BAKER

The royal family, of course.

WITCH

(Lets out a loud cackle)

The royal family? I wouldn't count on that family to snuff out a rat! With a Giant, we'll all have to go to battle!

(Change of tone)

A Giant's the worst! A Giant has a brain. Hard to outwit a Giant. A Giant's just like us — only bigger! Much, much bigger! So big that we are just an expendable bug beneath its foot.

(Suddenly steps on a bug)

BOOM... CRUNCH!

(We hear it CRUNCH as she grinds it into the floor and then eats it. SHE EXITS)

We are moving!

BAKER'S WIFE

NARRATOR

And so, the Baker proceeded to the castle, but not before visiting Jack and his mother.

(KNOCK ON JACK'S DOOR; BAKER ENTERS)

#43 – Act II Opening, Part 4

JACK

Look, Milky-White. It's the butcher.

BAKER

The baker.

JACK

The baker...

JACK'S MOTHER

What can we do for you, sir?

BAKER

I'm here to investigate the destruction that was wrought upon our house today.

JACK'S MOTHER

(Defensive)

Jack has been home with me all day.

NARRATOR

The Baker told Jack and his mother that he feared there was a Giant in the land.

JACK

I can recognize a Giant's footstep! I could go to your house —

JACK'S MOTHER

You'll do no such thing!

BAKER

Any help at all —

JACK'S MOTHER

I am sorry, but you'll get none from us.

(Opens the door for the BAKER)

No one cared when there was a Giant in my backyard! I don't remember you volunteering to come to my aid.

BAKER

A Giant in your backyard is one thing. A crushed home is quite another.

JACK'S MOTHER

(Change of tone)

Look, young man. Giants never strike the same house twice. I wouldn't worry.

BAKER

I am taking the news to the castle, nonetheless.

(EXITS)

NARRATOR

When the Baker reached the castle, it was the Princess who greeted his news. The story unfolds.

(FANFARE; STEWARD ENTERS)

STEWARD

Excuse me, Madame. This small man insists on seeing you.

(BAKER ENTERS. NARRATOR EXITS)

BAKER

(Kneels, kisses CINDERELLA'S HEM)

Princess, I've come to report the appearance of a Giant in the land.

CINDERELLA

Where did you see a Giant?

Well, I didn't exactly see it.

BAKER

STEWARD

Then how do you know there is a Giant in the land?

BAKER

Our house was destroyed and there are footprints --

STEWARD

That could have been caused by any number of things. I will show you to the door.

CINDERELLA

Wait.

BAKER

A nearby household was visited by a Giant not long ago... descending from a beanstalk --

CINDERELLA

Yes, I remember.

STEWARD

That Giant was slain. Now come along --

BAKER

(Apologetic)

Wait, please. We have a young child. Princess, our child was very difficult to come by. His safety is of great importance to me.

STEWARD

Are we entirely through now?

BAKER

Yes.

CINDERELLA

I will take this news up with the Prince when he returns. Thank you.

(BAKER and STEWARD EXIT. CINDERELLA, BAKER and BAKER'S WIFE freeze)

#44 - Act II Opening, Part 5

JACK'S MOTHER

I'm going off to sell the harp, Jack.

Mother, no!

JACK

JACK'S MOTHER

Jack. Listen to me! We don't want that harp around here when there's a giant on the loose.

JACK

But I know how to kill a Giant!

JACK'S MOTHER

Please! We've had our fill of Giants!

JACK

But Mother, if I could help –

JACK'S MOTHER

Enough! Promise me, son, you won't leave your surroundings!

JACK

But Mother, I'm a man now.

JACK'S MOTHER

You're still a little boy in your mother's eyes. I want you to promise.

(Pause)

Promise!

JACK

(Reluctantly)

I promise.

(JACK'S MOTHER gives JACK a peck on the cheek and EXITS. LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD knocks on the BAKER'S DOOR and ENTERS, suitcase in hand; BAKER and BAKER'S WIFE are sitting)

#45 – Act II Opening, Part 6

LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD

What happened to your house?

BAKER'S WIFE

We've had a baking accident.

BAKER

Baking accident?

BAKER'S WIFE

(Whispers to him)

No use frightening the young thing.

BAKER

(Whispers back)

You can't frighten her.

LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD

Well, I guess Granny will have to do without the bread and sweets. Besides, I have all I can carry.

(Drops suitcase)

BAKER'S WIFE

(Trying to lift suitcase)

Why such a load?

LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD

Oh. I'm moving in with Granny. We had an accident, too. I came home to find our house collapsed. As if a big wind blew it in. I couldn't find my mother anywhere.

BAKER'S WIFE

Oh, no.

LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD

So I salvaged what I could, and now I'm off.

(MUSIC continues.)

46 – Act II Opening, Part 7

BIRDS DESCEND, CHIRP to CINDERELLA)

CINDERELLA

Oh, good friends. What news have you?

(Listens)

What of Mother's grave?

(Listens) .

What kind of trouble?!

(Listens)

Oh, no. I can't investigate. A Princess is not supposed to go into the Woods unescorted.

(CINDERELLA)

(Begins to cry. BIRDS CHIRP)

Good idea! I will disguise myself and go to see what's wrong. Thank you, birds.

(BIRDS ASCEND. CINDERELLA EXITS)

#47 – Act II Opening, Part 8

BAKER'S WIFE

We'll take you to Granny's.

BAKER

What?!

(Whispers)

We're not going to let her go alone!

BAKER

All right. I will take you.

LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD

I don't need anyone to take me. I've gone many times before.

BAKER

But not when there have been such winds blowing.

BAKER'S WIFE

That's right. We'll all take you.

BAKER

No!

BAKER'S WIFE

I'm not about to stay here with the baby when a "wind"^{er} might return to this house, too.

JACK

I know Mother made me promise, but I'm going to find that Giant anyway!

(CINDERELLA, JACK, BAKER, BAKER'S WIFE, LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD make their way into the Woods)

#48 – Act II Opening, Part 9

BAKER

INTO THE WOODS,
IT'S ALWAYS WHEN
YOU THINK AT LAST
YOU'RE THROUGH, AND THEN
INTO THE WOODS YOU GO AGAIN
TO TAKE ANOTHER JOURNEY.

BAKER'S WIFE

INTO THE WOODS,
THE WEATHER'S CLEAR,
WE'VE BEEN BEFORE,
WE'VE NAUGHT TO FEAR...
INTO THE WOODS, AWAY FROM HERE -

JACK

INTO THE WOODS, TO FIND A GIANT - !
LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD
INTO THE WOODS TO GRANDMOTHER'S HOUSE...

BAKER

INTO THE WOODS,
THE PATH IS STRAIGHT,
NO REASON THEN
TO HESITATE -

(CINDERELLA ENTERS dressed in her dirty attire from ACT ONE)

BAKER'S WIFE

INTO THE WOODS,
IT'S NOT SO LATE,
IT'S JUST ANOTHER JOURNEY...

CINDERELLA

INTO THE WOODS,
BUT NOT TOO LONG:
THE SKIES ARE STRANGE,
THE WINDS ARE STRONG.
INTO THE WOODS TO SEE WHAT'S WRONG...

JACK

INTO THE WOODS, TO SLAY THE GIANT!

**JACK, BAKER, CINDERELLA, BAKER'S WIFE,
LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD**

INTO THE WOODS,

BAKER'S WIFE

TO SHIELD THE CHILD...

LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD

TO FLEE THE WINDS...

BAKER

TO FIND A FUTURE...

BAKER'S WIFE

TO SHIELD...

JACK

TO SLAY...

LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD

TO FLEE...

BAKER

TO FIND...

CINDERELLA

TO FIX...

BAKER'S WIFE

TO HIDE...

LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD

TO MOVE...

JACK

TO BATTLE...

CINDERELLA

TO SEE WHAT THE TROUBLE IS...

(MUSIC fades)

END OF SCENE ONE

ACT TWO**SCENE ONE**

(DOWNSTAGE, three structures:

FAR LEFT, the castle where CINDERELLA now lives. SHE sits on her throne.

CENTER, the home/workplace of the BAKER and the BAKER'S WIFE. It is very cluttered with both baking supplies and nursery items. BAKER'S WIFE holds their BABY who does not stop crying.

FAR RIGHT, the cottage — now dramatically improved — where JACK lives. JACK and JACK'S MOTHER are inside, along with MILKY-WHITE and the golden HARP.

NARRATOR steps forward)

#40 — Act II Opening, Part 1

NARRATOR

Once upon a time —

(MUSIC)

— later —

(LIGHT on CINDERELLA)

CINDERELLA

I WISH...

NARRATOR

— in the same far-off kingdom —

CINDERELLA

MORE THAN ANYTHING...

NARRATOR

— lived a young Princess —

CINDERELLA

MORE THAN LIFE...

NARRATOR

— the lad Jack —

(LIGHT on JACK)

CINDERELLA

MORE THAN FOOTMEN...

JACK

I WISH...

NARRATOR

— and the Baker and his family —

(LIGHT on the BAKER and BAKER'S WIFE with their BABY)

BABY

WAAH!

JACK

NO, I MISS...

CINDERELLA, BAKER

I WISH...

BABY

WAAH!

JACK

MORE THAN ANYTHING...

CINDERELLA, BAKER, JACK

MORE THAN THE MOON...

BAKER'S WIFE

(To the BABY)

There, there...

CINDERELLA

I WISH TO SPONSOR A FESTIVAL.

BABY

WAAH!

BAKER

MORE THAN LIFE...

JACK

I MISS...

CINDERELLA

THE TIME HAS COME FOR A FESTIVAL...

BABY

WAAAH!

BAKER'S WIFE

SHH...

BAKER

(Simultaneous with above)

MORE THAN RICHES...

CINDERELLA

AND A BALL...

JACK

I MISS MY KINGDOM UP IN THE SKY.

CINDERELLA, BAKER

MORE THAN ANYTHING...

BAKER'S WIFE

I WISH WE HAD MORE ROOM...

JACK

(To HARP)

PLAY, HARP...

(CINDERELLA'S PRINCE ENTERS the castle)

BAKER

ANOTHER ROOM...

(JACK strums the HARP, and it SINGS)

HARP

AHHH...

(STEPMOTHER, attended by the blinded FLORINDA and LUCINDA, ENTERS the castle)

#41 – Act II Opening, Part 2

NARRATOR

But despite some minor inconveniences, they were all content...

CINDERELLA

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D WED A PRINCE...