

INTO THE WOODS

Sondheim & Lapine

CINDERELLA: My father's house was a nightmare. Your house was a dream. Now I want something in-between. Please go.

He begins to exit.

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE: I shall always love the maiden who ran away.

CINDERELLA: And I the faraway Prince.

He exits. Another moment for Cinderella with the baby. Little Red Ridinghood enters.

LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD: They're almost finished. You see over there between those two trees? When the giant comes, we are to send her over there.

CINDERELLA: Good.

LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD: I wanted to climb the tree, too.

CINDERELLA: I'm glad you're here to help me.

Little Red Ridinghood begins to cry; music.

What's wrong?

LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD: My granny's gone.

CINDERELLA (*Moves to comfort her*): Oh, no. I'm so sorry.

LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD: I think my granny and my mother would be upset with me.

CINDERELLA: Why?

LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD: They said to always make them proud. And here I am about to kill somebody.

CINDERELLA: Not somebody. A giant who has been doing harm.

LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD: But the giant's a person. Aren't we to show forgiveness? Mother would be very unhappy with these circumstances.

CINDERELLA:

Mother cannot guide you.

Now you're on your own.

Only me beside you.

Still, you're not alone.

No one is alone, truly.

No one is alone.

Sometimes people leave you,
Halfway through the wood.

Others may deceive you.
You decide what's good.
You decide alone.
But no one is alone.

LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD:
I wish . . .

CINDERELLA:
I know . . .

Little Red Ridinghood moves close to Cinderella, who comforts her; Jack and the Baker, atop nearby trees.

JACK: Wait until my mother hears I've slain the giant.

BAKER: Jack. Your mother is dead.

JACK (*Stunned*): Dead? Was she killed by the giant?

BAKER: She was arguing with the giant—trying to protect you—and she was struck a deadly blow by the Prince's steward.

JACK: Oh no. Why would he do that?

BAKER: He was afraid she was provoking the giant.

JACK (*Upset*): Can no one bring her back?

BAKER: No one.

JACK: The steward will pay for this. After we slay the giant, I will slay him.

BAKER: You'll do nothing of the kind!

JACK: But he shouldn't have killed my mother. Right?

BAKER: I guess not.

JACK (*Cold*): Then he must die.

BAKER: Well, no.

JACK (*Getting worked up*): Why not?

BAKER: Because that would be wrong.

JACK: What he did was wrong. He should be punished.

BAKER: He will be, somehow.

JACK: How?
BAKER: I don't know! (*Angry*) Stop asking me questions I can't answer.

JACK (*Cold*): I'm going to kill him!

BAKER: Then kill him! (*Beats*) No, don't kill him.

Music.