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INTO THE WOODS

Sondheim & Lapine

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! (*She sees a bug crawling across the floor*) So big that we are just an expendable bug beneath its foot. (*She steps on the bug*) BOOM CRUNCH!

We hear the bug crunch as she grinds it into the floor; she then picks it up and eats it; she exits.

WIFE: We are moving!

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

Music continues; knock on Jack's door; Baker enters.

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

BAKER: The baker.

JACK: The baker . . .

JACK'S MOTHER (*Pushing Jack out of the way*): 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 footprint! 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. (*She 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. (*He 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.

BAKER: Princess, I've come to report the appearance of a giant in the land.

CINDERELLA: Where did you see a giant?

BAKER: Well, I didn't exactly see it.

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.

JACK'S MOTHER (*With her coat on*): I'm going off to market, Jack.

JACK: Goodbye, Mother.

JACK'S MOTHER: Now, I want you to stay inside.

JACK: But I haven't been outside all day!

JACK'S MOTHER: Jack. Listen to me! I don't want you out when there might be 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.