

INTO THE WOODS

Music; pause.

BAKER: One . . . two . . . three . . . four . . .

The Baker and Wife march off in opposite directions, leaving Little Red Ridinghood and the baby; we follow the Wife as she crosses paths with Cinderella's Prince; she is nervous and excited in his presence; music fades.

WIFE: Eighty-one . . . eighty-two . . . eighty-three . . . eighty-four . . . (She sees Prince and bows) Hello, sir.

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE (Continuing to walk): Hello.

WIFE: You must be here to slay the giant.

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE: Yes.

WIFE: Have you come upon the giant yet?

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE: No.

WIFE: I have.

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE (He stops): You have?

WIFE: Yes.

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE: And why are you alone in the woods?

WIFE: I came with my husband. We were . . . well, it's a long story.

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE: He would let you roam alone in the woods?

WIFE: No, actually, it was my choice. I'm looking for a lad.

Music.

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE (Moves closer): Your choice? How brave.

WIFE: Brave?

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE (Next to her): Yes.

Anything can happen in the woods.

May I kiss you?

Wife blinks.

Any moment we could be crushed.

WIFE: Uh—

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE:

Don't feel rushed.

He kisses her. She is stunned, steps away and turns to us.

Sondheim & Lapine

WIFE:

This is ridiculous, What am I doing here? I'm in the wrong story.

She resumes the kiss, then pulls away; music stops.

Wait one moment, please! We can't do this! You have a Princess.

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE: Well, yes, I do.

WIFE: And I have a . . . baker.

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE: Of course, you're right. How foolish.

Music resumes.

Foolishness can happen in the woods.

Once again, please—

Let your hesitations be hushed.

Any moment, big or small,

Is a moment, after all.

Seize the moment, skies may fall

Any moment.

He kisses her again.

WIFE: But this is not right!

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE:

Right and wrong don't matter in the woods,

Only feelings.

Let us meet the moment unblushed.

Life is often so unpleasant—

You must know that, as a peasant—

Best to take the moment present

As a present for the moment.

The Prince scoops up the Wife and carries her into a glade; elsewhere the Baker enters and encounters Cinderella at her Mother's grave; she is weeping.

BAKER (Offstage, then entering): Jack! Jack! Eighty-one . . . eighty-two . . . eighty-three . . .

He sees Cinderella; music fades.