

(BAKER)

*(BAKER'S WIFE begins to move back towards him)*

Go!

*(THEY EXIT in opposite directions.)*

TWO FANFARES.

*Another part of the forest. CINDERELLA'S PRINCE, somewhat bedraggled, crosses the stage. HE is met by RAPUNZEL'S PRINCE)*

RAPUNZEL'S PRINCE

Ah, there you are, good brother. Father and I had wondered where you had gone.

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE

I have been looking all night... for her.

*(BAKER'S WIFE APPEARS behind a tree and eavesdrops)*

RAPUNZEL'S PRINCE

Her?

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE

The beautiful one I danced the evening with.

RAPUNZEL'S PRINCE

Where did she go?

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE

Disappeared, like the fine morning mist...

RAPUNZEL'S PRINCE

She was lovely.

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE

The loveliest.

RAPUNZEL'S PRINCE

I am not certain of that! I must confess, I, too, have found a lovely maiden. She lives here in the Woods.

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE

*(Incredulous)*

The Woods?

RAPUNZEL'S PRINCE

Yes! In the top of a tall tower that has no door or stairs.

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CINDERELLA'S PRINCE

Where?

RAPUNZEL'S PRINCE

Two leagues from here, due east, just beyond the mossy knoll.

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE

And how do you manage a visit?

RAPUNZEL'S PRINCE

I stand beneath her tower and say, "Rapunzel, Rapunzel, let down your hair to me." And then she lowers the longest, most beautiful head of hair — yellow as corn — which I climb to her.

*(BAKER'S WIFE reacts)*

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE

*(Starts laughing hysterically)*

Rapunzel, Rapunzel! What kind of name is that? You jest! I have never heard of such a thing.

RAPUNZEL'S PRINCE

*(Defensive)*

I speak the truth! She is as true as your maiden. A maiden running from a Prince? None would run from us.

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE

*(Sober)*

Yet one has.

#25 - Agony

DID I ABUSE HER  
OR SHOW HER DISDAIN?  
WHY DOES SHE RUN FROM ME?  
IF I SHOULD LOSE HER,  
HOW SHALL I REGAIN  
THE HEART SHE HAS WON FROM ME?

AGONY!  
BEYOND POWER OF SPEECH,  
WHEN THE ONE THING YOU WANT  
IS THE ONLY THING OUT OF YOUR REACH.