

MYSTERIOUS MAN

When is a white cow not a white cow?

BAKER

I don't know! Leave me alone!

MYSTERIOUS MAN

Haven't I left you alone long enough?

BAKER

Your questions make no sense, old man! Go away!

MYSTERIOUS MAN

(jingling sack of gold)

In need of another cow?

#32 - *Underscore*

(Drops sack of gold; BAKER turns around at the sound of the falling coins; MYSTERIOUS MAN EXITS as BAKER picks up money.)

BAKER EXITS.

JACK, carrying the HEN and a golden egg, comes upon LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD, who wears a cape made of wolfskins. SHE walks with a certain confidence and bravado)

JACK

What a beautiful cape!

(LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD swerves around with a knife)

LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD

Stay away from my cape or I'll slice you into a thousand bits!

JACK

(Stepping back)

I don't want it! I was just admiring it!

LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD

(Proud)

My granny made it for me from a wolf that attacked us. And I got to skin the animal - and best of all, she gave me this beautiful knife for protection.

JACK

(Competitive)

Well, look what I have. A hen that lays golden eggs.

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LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD

(Suspicious)

I don't believe that egg came from that hen. Where did you get that egg?

JACK

I stole this from the kingdom of the Giant – up there. And if you think this is something, you should see the golden harp the Giant has. It plays the most beautiful tunes without your even having to touch it.

LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD

(Laughing at JACK)

Of course it does. Why don't you go up to the kingdom right now and bring it back and show me?

JACK

I could.

LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD

You could not!

JACK

I could!

LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD

You could not, Mr. Liar!

(Makes a hasty EXIT)

JACK

I am not a liar! I'll get that harp. You'll see!

(EXITS)

NARRATOR ENTERS)

NARRATOR

After having cast out Rapunzel to a remote desert, the Witch returned to take the Prince by surprise. And as he leapt from the tower – the thorns into which he fell pierced his eyes and blinded him.

(RAPUNZEL'S PRINCE ENTERS and stumbles about the forest, helpless. HE EXITS)#33 – *On the Steps of the Palace*

As for Cinderella, she returned from her final visit to the Festival.

(NARRATOR EXITS. LIGHTS dim. CINDERELLA hobbles ONSTAGE, wearing but one shoe)