

INTO THE WOOD - SCRIPT

CAST:

Narrator
Cinderella
Jack
Baker
Baker's Wife
Cinderella's Stepmother
Lucinda
Florinda
Jack's Mother
Little Red Ridinghood
Witch
Rapunzel's Prince
Rapunzel
Milky White (Cow)
Cindrella's Prince

Prologue INTO THE WOODS

Narrator: Once upon a time in far off kingdom lived a young maiden...

Cinderella: I wish...

Narrator: - a sad young lad -

Jack: I wish...

Narrator: - and a childless Baker and his Wife...

Baker & Baker's Wife: I wish...

Cinderella: The King is giving a festival...I wish to go to the festival and the ball!

Jack: I wish my cow would give us some milk...

Baker's Wife: I want a child

Baker: I wish we might have a child

All four: I wish!

Narrator: Cinderella's mother had died and her father had taken a new wife. A woman with two daughters of her own. All three were beautiful of face but vile and black of heart.

Cinderella's Stepmother: You wish to go to the festival?

Lucinda: The festival?

Florinda: The King's festival?

All three: Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha (break off into guffaws)

Narrator: Jack, on the other hand, had no father, and his mother...

Jack's Mother: I wish...

Narrator: Well she was not quite beautiful...

Baker's Wife: Why, come in little girl.

Little Red Ridinghood: I wish... a loaf of bread for my Granny who lives in the wood please...

Baker: What a beautiful red cape you're wearing.

Cinderella's Stepmother: I have emptied a pot of lentils into the ashes for you. If you have picked them out again in two hours' time, you shall go to the ball with us.

Narrator: Cinderella called to the birds so that they might pluck the lentils from the fire and place them in the pot. As for the Baker. He had lost his family in a baking accident, or so he had been told, and so was eager to have a family of his own...

There is a knock at the door

Baker: Who's that?

Baker's Wife: It's the Witch from next door!

Narrator: The old enchantress explained that she had placed a spell on their house because the Baker's father had stolen beans from her garden.

Baker & Baker's Wife: Beans?

Witch: Special, magical beans!

Narrator: The witch punished the Baker's parents by taking their baby girl from them and locking her far away in a high tower...

Jack's Mother: Lead Milky-White to market and fetch the best price you can. Take no less than five pounds. Are you listening to me?

Jack: Yes Mother! (*leads Milky-White away*)

Witch: You wish to have the curse reversed? You'll need a certain potion first...

Go to the woods and bring me back

One: the cow as white as milk

Two: the cape as red as blood

Three: the hair as yellow as corn

Four: the slipper as pure as gold

Bring me these before the chime of midnight in three days time and you will have, I guarantee, a child as perfect as child can be...

GO TO THE WOODS!

Narrator: Although Cinderella fulfilled the task her Stepmother had set still would not allow her to attend the King's festival

Stepmother: You'll make us the fools of the festival and mortify the Prince!

Lucinda: The carriage is waiting!

Florinda: We must be gone!

Baker: Look what I found in Father's hunting jacket. Six beans! Maybe they're magic?

Scene 1

Narrator: Cinderella had planted a branch at the grave of her mother and she visited there so often, and wept so much, that her tears watered it until it had become a handsome tree.

Cinderella: I wish...

Narrator: Cinderella heard a voice, it was her mother, and she asked her what she wished for?

Cinderella: Shiver and quiver little tree. Silver and gold threw down on me...

A gold and silver dress and fancy slippers drop from the tree

Cinderella: A beautiful gown and slippers! I'm off to get my wish!

Scene 2

Narrator: Little Red Ridinghood was skipping through the woods on the way to her Grandmother's house...

Wolf: Hello, little girl...

Little Red Ridinghood: Hello Mr. Wolf.

Narrator: Unperturbed she continued on her way...

Wolf: (*under his breath*) Delicious!

Scene 3

Narrator: The Baker and his wife who had ventured into the woods to find the items they needed to break the spell, came upon a young boy taking his snow white cow to market...

Baker's Wife: (*seeing Milky White*) The cow as white as milk!

Baker: Are you on your way to market young man?

Jack: Yes Sir!

Baker: How much do you want for your animal?

Jack: I'm to take no less than five pounds sir.

Baker: Five pounds! *(To wife)* Where am I to get such money!

Baker's Wife: Beans! We can't part from our beans!

Baker: What? *(Understanding)* Oh yes, our beans are much too precious to be traded for such an animal as this.

Jack: Beans, Sir?

Baker's Wife: Yes, magic beans. They are worth at least a pound a piece!

Baker: Yes, five beans in trade for your cow...

Jack wavers for a moment and then shakes his hand

Jack: Very well Sir! I accept your offer!

Narrator: And the Baker continued his search for the cape as red as blood... as for Rapunzel, the Witch was careful not to lose this beauty to the outside world and so shut her within a doorless tower. When the old enchantress paid a visit she called forth Rapunzel! Rapunzel! let down your hair to me! But her cry was heard by a passing Prince who fell in love with the beautiful maiden at first sight. Once the Witch was gone he called out...

Prince: Rapunzel! Rapunzel! let down your hair to me!

Scene 4

Narrator: The little girl was surprised to find her grandmother's cottage door standing open.

Little Red Ridinghood: Oh dear. How uneasy I feel. Perhaps it's all the sweets I've eaten. Good day Grandmother. My, Grandmother, your're looking very strange. What big ears you have!

Wolf: *(in Grannie's voice)* All the better to hear you with my dear.

Little Red Ridinghood: And what big eyes you have...

Wolf: All the better to see you with my dear...

Little Red Ridinghood: And what big teeth you have...

Wolf: All the better to EAT YOU WITH, MY DEAR!

Narrator: And scarcely had the wolf said this than with a single bound he devoured the little girl. With his appetite appeased, the wolf took to his bed for a nice long nap.

The Wolf falls asleep, snoring loudly.

Narrator: The Baker, passing Grandmother's house in the woods, wonders how his baked goods have been received by Granny...

Baker: That Grandmother has a mighty snore. Odd, where is the little girl with the red cape? Eating, no doubt! (*Sees Wolf*) Or eaten! That's no Grannie! That's a Wolf!

Narrator: The Baker, seeing a corner of the little girl's red cape in the Wolf's mouth, pulls out his knife and slits the wolf's belly freeing Little Red Ridinghood and her Grandmother.

Little Red Ridinghood: Mr Baker. You saved our lives...here! (*she gives him the cape*). I thought it would keep me safe but it didn't. Maybe Grannie will make me a new cape from the skin of the wolf!

Scene 5

Narrator: Meanwhile Jack had returned home without Milky White and with only a handful of beans...

Jack's Mother: Only a dolt would exchange a cow for beans! (*She throws the beans out of the window into the ground*). To bed without supper for you! (*She grabs the boy and marches him upstairs*).

Narrator: Little did they know those beans would grow into an enormous stalk that would stretch into the heavens. Swinging from his bedroom window, Jack climbed the beanstalk, found the giant's castle, stole his treasure and escaped back down the stalk, his arms filled with gold.

Jack: Good fortune! Good fortune, Sir! Look what I have. Five gold pieces!

Baker: Five gold pieces!

Jack: Where is Milky White? I want to buy her back!

Baker: She's with my wife but I don't want to sell her!

Jack: You want more? I can get more gold Sir! (*running away to return back up the beanstalk*)

Baker: That isn't what I meant!

Scene 6

Narrator: In her search for hair as pure as gold, the Baker's Wife had observed the Prince visiting Rapunzel in her tower...

Baker's Wife: Rapunzel! Rapunzel! let down your hair to me!

Rapunzel: Is that you my Prince?

Baker's Wife: (*in low voice*) Rapunzel! Rapunzel! let down your hair to me!

Rapunzel drops her hair

Baker's Wife: Excuse me for this...

The Baker's wife yanks on Rapunzel's hair three times. Each time Rapunzel cries louder until the hair come loose. The Baker's Wife falls backwards into the path of the Baker, the Witch, Jack and his mother.

Witch: Third midnight and I see a cape and a cow...

Baker's Wife: And the hair...

Baker: And the slippers! The Prince's steward gave them to me!

Witch: Where did you get this hair?

Baker's Wife: I pulled it from an unsuspecting maiden in a tower!

Witch: You did what! Don't you understand! I touched that hair. I cannot have touched the ingredients!

Baker: Hair as pure as gold...What about the silky hair of a corn cob? You haven't touched that!

Narrator: They feed the remaining ingredients to the cow and she begins to milk...

Jack: It's working!

Narrator: The Baker's wife took the magic milk and gave it to the Witch. She began to shake and cry out as if in pain. They watched, transfixed, as she transformed into a beautiful woman.

Scene 7

Narrator: At the house of Cinderella's father the Prince is still searching for the woman who has entranced him at the ball for the last three nights. Lucinda and Florinda have both tried to fit the slipper, resorting to removing toes and heels with a sharp knife but to no avail...

Prince: Have you no other daughters?

Narrator: At this moment Cinderella appeared. Even though she was dressed only in rags the Prince recognised his love immediately. The golden slipper fitted perfectly and he whisked Cinderella into his arms.

Prince: This is my true bride!

Narrator: And much to the dismay of her stepmother and her daughters, he took Cinderella on his horse and rode off.

Scene 8

Narrator: As for Rapunzel, the Witch banished her from her tower. She gave birth to twins and lived impoverished in the desert until one day when her Prince, hearing her voice crying out into the desert, stumbled upon her. They returned to confront the Witch who tried to use her powers against them...but as is often the way in these tales, in exchange for her youth and beauty, the witch had lost her power...

Cinderella was free to marry her Prince and all that seemed wrong was now right. The kingdom was filled with joy and those who deserved it were certain to live a long and happy life...Ever after!

