

BAKER

The royal family, of course.

WITCH

(Lets out a loud cackle)

The royal family? I wouldn't count on that family to snuff out a rat! With a Giant, we'll all have to go to 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! So big that we are just an expendable bug beneath its foot.

(Suddenly steps on a bug)

BOOM... CRUNCH!

(We hear it CRUNCH as she grinds it into the floor and then eats it. SHE EXITS)

BAKER'S WIFE

We are moving!

Start: ->

NARRATOR

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

(KNOCK on JACK'S DOOR; BAKER ENTERS)

#43 – Act II Opening, Part 4

JACK

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

BAKER

The baker.

JACK

The baker...

JACK'S MOTHER

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 footstep! 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.

(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.

(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. NARRATOR EXITS)

BAKER

(Kneels, kisses CINDERELLA'S HEM)

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.

Stop: ->

(BAKER and STEWARD EXIT. CINDERELLA, BAKER and BAKER'S WIFE freeze)

#44 – Act II Opening, Part 5

JACK'S MOTHER

I'm going off to sell the harp, Jack.
