

(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)

Start: ->

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.

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.

Stop: ->

#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.