

**(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.

**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.