

Sondheim & Lapine

RAPUNZEL'S PRINCE:

You know nothing of madness
Till you're climbing her hair
And you see her up there
As you're nearing her,
All the while hearing her
"Ah-ah-ah-ah-ah-ah-ah-ah-ah-ah—"

BOTH:

Agony!

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE:

Misery!

RAPUNZEL'S PRINCE:

Woe!

BOTH:

Though it's different for each.

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE:

Always ten steps behind—

RAPUNZEL'S PRINCE:

Always ten feet below—

BOTH:

And she's just out of reach.

Agony

That can cut like a knife!

I must have her to wife.

They exit.

WIFE: *Two Princes, each more handsome than the other. (She begins to follow the Princes; she stops) No! Get the hair! (She heads in the other direction)*

Jack's Mother enters frantically; music fades.

JACK'S MOTHER: Excuse me, young woman. Have you encountered a boy with carrot-top hair and a sunny, though occasionally vague, disposition, answering to the name of Jack?

WIFE: Not the one partial to a white cow?

JACK'S MOTHER: He's the one.

INTO THE WOODS

WIFE: Have you seen the cow?

JACK'S MOTHER: No, and I don't care to ever again. (*Confidential*) Children can be very queer about their animals. You be careful with your children . . .

WIFE: I have no children.

Beat.

JACK'S MOTHER: That's okay, too.

WIFE: Yes . . . well, I've not seen your son today.

JACK'S MOTHER (*Annoyed*): I hope he didn't go up that beanstalk again. Quit while you're ahead, I say. (*She begins to exit*) Jack . . . ! Jack . . . !

Wife, after a moment's pause, exits in the other direction; Baker enters looking for the cow.

BAKER (*Forlorn*): Moo Moo

Mysterious Man appears from nowhere.

MYSTERIOUS MAN: Moo! Looking for your cow?

Mysterious Man signals offstage and Milky-White enters.

BAKER: Where did you find her?

Mysterious Man ducks back behind a tree as Baker goes to cow. He turns, and sees the old man is gone.

Hello?

Baker takes cow and exits. Mysterious Man reappears and watches after Baker. Witch surprises him.

WITCH: What are you doing?

MYSTERIOUS MAN: I am here to make amends.

WITCH: I want you to stay out of this, old man!

MYSTERIOUS MAN: I am here to see your wish is granted.

WITCH: You've caused enough trouble! Keep out of my path!

Witch zaps Mysterious Man; he runs off; she follows him; Wife approaches Rapunzel's tower.