

Little Red, Witch, Baker, Wife

INTO THE WOODS

Children won't listen.
No matter what you know,
Children refuse
To learn.

Guide them along the way,
Still they won't listen.
Children can only grow
From something you love
To something you lose . . .

*Steward and Cinderella's Father return, followed
by Baker.*

STEPMOTHER (To Cinderella's Father): Life was so steady, and
now this! When are things going to return to normal?
STEWARD: We must be gone if we're to arrive before nightfall.
BAKER: Where are you going?
LUCINDA: We're off to a hidden kingdom.
STEPMOTHER: Shhh! We can't take everyone.
WITCH: Fools! There is nowhere to hide!

Music fades.

BAKER: You'll never get there. We have to stay here and find
our way out of this together.
STEPMOTHER (Sincere): Some people are cut out to battle giants,
and others are not. I don't have the constitution. And
as long as I can be of no help, I'm going to hide.
Everything will work out fine in the end.
BAKER: Not always.

Stepfamily and Steward exit.

LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD: I hope the giant steps on them all.
WIFE: You shouldn't say that!

*Witch, who has been quietly standing off to the
side, turns around.*

WITCH: You were thinking the same thing.
LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD: This is terrible. We just saw three peo-
ple die!
WITCH (Bitter): Since when are you so squeamish? How many
wolves have you carved up?

Sondheim & Lapine

LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD: A wolf's not the same.
WITCH: Ask a wolf's mother!
BAKER: Stop it!
WITCH: I suggest we find that boy now and give her what she
wants.

LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD: If we give her the boy, she'll kill him,
too.
WITCH: And if we don't, she'll kill half the kingdom!
WIFE: One step at a time. Maybe if he apologizes. Makes
amends.

BAKER: Yes! He'll return the stolen goods.

LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD: Yes!
WIFE: He's really a sweet boy at heart. She'll see that.
WITCH: You people are so blind. It's because of that boy there's
a giant in our land. While you continue *talking* about
this problem, I'll find that lad, and I'll serve him to
the giant for lunch! (*She exits*)

LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD: Are we going to let her feed the boy to
the giant?

WIFE: No!

BAKER: I'll have to find him first.

WIFE: I'll go, too.

BAKER: No! Stay here with the baby.

WIFE: We'll fan out. It will increase our chances of finding
him.

BAKER: What if one of us gets lost?

WIFE: We'll count our steps from right here.

Little Red Ridinghood comes over.

No. You stay here with the baby. I do not want you
roaming about the woods.

BAKER: You would leave our child with her?

WIFE: Yes. The baby is asleep. He will be safe with the girl.

BAKER: But what if the giant were to return here—?

WIFE: The giant will not harm them. I know.

BAKER: How do you know?

WIFE: I know!

BAKER: But what if—

WIFE: But what if! BUT WHAT IF! Will only a giant's foot stop
your arguing! One hundred paces—GO!

End