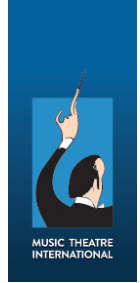


**Music Theatre International**

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## **Audition Central: Into the Woods JR.**

### **Script: Baker's Wife**

SIDE 1

*(CINDERELLA enters, as if pursued. CINDERELLA falls at the feet of BAKER'S WIFE, losing one slipper.)*

**CINDERELLA**

*(recognizing BAKER'S WIFE)*

Hello. It's these slippers.

**BAKER'S WIFE**

I'd say those slippers were as pure as gold.

**CINDERELLA**

Yes. They are all you could wish for in beauty.

*(CINDERELLA takes the slipper back.)*

**BAKER'S WIFE**

What I wouldn't give for just one.

**CINDERELLA**

One is not likely to do you much good. I must run.

*(BAKER'S WIFE grabs a shoe.)*

**BAKER'S WIFE**

And I must have your shoe.

**CINDERELLA**

Stop that!

*(The two engage in a tug-of-war over the shoe, and the dialogue overlaps.)*

**BAKER'S WIFE**

I need it to have a baby!

**CINDERELLA**

*(through clenched teeth)*

And I need it to get out of here!

*(CINDERELLA wins the battle over the shoe and desperately runs offstage; BAKER'S WIFE is embarrassed by her own behavior. BAKER'S WIFE straightens herself up as CINDERELLA'S PRINCE with STEWARD bound onstage, only to curtsy deeply again.)*

**CINDERELLA'S PRINCE**

Where did she go?

**BAKER'S WIFE**

Who?

**STEWARD**

Don't play the fool, woman.

**BAKER'S WIFE**

Oh! You mean the beautiful young maiden in the ball gown? She went in that direction. I was trying to hold her here for you...

**CINDERELLA'S PRINCE**

I can capture my own damsel, thank you.

*(CINDERELLA'S PRINCE and STEWARD dash offstage.)*

SIDE 2

**BAKER**

Yes. I've the cow. We've two of the four.

*(MILKY-WHITE continues to breathe heavily.)*

**BAKER'S WIFE**

Three.

**BAKER**

Two!

*(pulls the hair from her pocket)*

Three! Compare this to your corn.

*(BAKER does so and smiles.)*

Where did you find it?

*(false modesty)*

I pulled it from a maiden in a tower.

*(looking at hair)*

Three!

And I almost had the fourth, but she got away.

We've one entire day left. Surely we can locate the slipper by then.

We? You mean you'll allow me to stay?

*(embarrassed)*

Well... perhaps it will take the two of us to get this child.

SIDE 3

Yes. I've the cow. We've two of the four.

*(MILKY-WHITE continues to breathe heavily.)*

Three.

Two!

*(pulls the hair from her pocket)*

Three! Compare this to your corn.

*(BAKER does so and smiles.)*

Where did you find it?

*(false modesty)*

I pulled it from a maiden in a tower.

*(looking at hair)*

Three!

And I almost had the fourth, but she got away.

We've one entire day left. Surely we can locate the slipper by then.

We? You mean you'll allow me to stay?

*(embarrassed)*

Well... perhaps it will take the two of us to get this child.

SIDE 4

*(BAKER'S WIFE drops to the ground and searches for the bean.)*

I've already given up one shoe this evening. My feet cannot bear to give up another.

*(CINDERELLA begins to leave.)*

*(rising)*

I need that shoe to have a child!

That makes no sense!

**BAKER'S WIFE**

**BAKER**

**BAKER'S WIFE**

**BAKER**

**BAKER'S WIFE**

**BAKER**

**BAKER'S WIFE**

**BAKER**

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**BAKER**

**BAKER'S WIFE**

**BAKER**

**BAKER'S WIFE**

**BAKER**

**CINDERELLA**

**BAKER'S WIFE**

**CINDERELLA**

*(We hear rumblings from the distance.)*

Does it make sense that you're running from a prince?

*(offstage)*

Stop!

Here. Take my shoes. You'll run faster.

*(BAKER'S WIFE gives CINDERELLA her shoes and takes the golden slipper. CINDERELLA puts on the shoes and exits quickly. STEWARD bounds onstage and looks about.)*

Who was that woman?

I do not know, sir.

Lying will cost you your life!

*(BAKER enters with another cow.)*

I've the cow.

*(sees the cow; excited, to BAKER)*

The slipper!

*(holds up slipper)*

We've all four!

**(BAKER'S WIFE)**

*(BAKER'S WIFE runs to BAKER; STEWARD takes the slipper as she passes.)*

**STEWARD**

I will give this to the Prince and we will search the kingdom tomorrow for the maiden who will fit this shoe.

**BAKER'S WIFE**

*(grabs the slipper)*

It's mine.

*(BAKER'S WIFE and STEWARD begin to struggle. MYSTERIOUS MAN comes from around a tree.)*

**BAKER'S WIFE**

*(struggling)*

I don't care if this costs me my life-

**MYSTERIOUS MAN**

*(simultaneously)*

Give her the slipper and all will-

*(CINDERELLA'S PRINCE races onstage.)*

**CINDERELLA'S PRINCE**

I've the maiden's slipper.

*(CINDERELLA'S PRINCE produces another slipper.)*

**STEWARD**

And sir, I have succeeded in obtaining the other slipper!

**MYSTERIOUS MAN**

*(to STEWARD)*

Give them the slipper, and all will come to a happy end.

**STEWARD**

Shut up!

SIDE 5

**BAKER'S WIFE**

*(moving towards cow)*

Oh, she is.

*(petting cow)*

She is!

*(White powder flies about as BAKER'S WIFE pats the cow. BAKER pulls her away as WITCH approaches.)*

**WITCH**

This cow has been covered with flour!

**BAKER**

Well, we did have a cow as white as milk. Honestly we did.

**WITCH**

Then where is she?

**BAKER'S WIFE**

She's dead.

**BAKER**

We thought you'd prefer a live cow.

**WITCH**

Of course I'd prefer a live cow! So bring me the dead cow and I'll bring her back to life!

**BAKER**

You could do that?

**WITCH**

Now!

SIDE 6

**BAKER'S WIFE**

Two princes, each more handsome than the other.

*(BAKER'S WIFE begins to follow CINDERELLA'S PRINCE and RAPUNZEL'S PRINCE; she stops.)*

No! Get the hair!

*(BAKER'S WIFE heads in the other direction frantically.)*

*(JACK'S MOTHER enters.)*

**JACK'S MOTHER**

Excuse me, young woman. Have you encountered a boy answering to the name of Jack?

**BAKER'S WIFE**

Not the one partial to a white cow?

**JACK'S MOTHER**

He's the one.

**BAKER'S WIFE**

Have you seen the cow?

**JACK'S MOTHER**

No, and I don't care to ever again.

**BAKER'S WIFE**

I've not seen your son today.

**JACK'S MOTHER**

*(annoyed)*

I hope he didn't go up that beanstalk again.

*(JACK'S MOTHER begins to exit.)*

Jack...! Jack...!

SIDE 7

**BAKER**

Hello there, young man.

**JACK**

*(looks at BAKER, scared)*

Hello, sir.

**BAKER**

What might you be doing with a cow in the middle of the forest?

**JACK**

*(nervous)*

I was heading toward market - but I seem to have lost my way.

**BAKER'S WIFE**

*(coaching BAKER)*

What are you planning to do there-?

**BAKER**

And what are you planning to do there?

**JACK**

Sell my cow, sir. No less than five pounds.

**BAKER**

Five pounds!

**BAKER'S WIFE**

And if you can't fetch that sum? Then what are you to do?

**JACK**

I suppose my mother and I will have no food to eat.

*(BAKER has emptied his pocket; he has a few coins and the beans in hand.)*

**BAKER'S WIFE**

*(loudly)*

Beans - we mustn't give up our beans! Well... if you feel we must.

**BAKER**

Huh?

**BAKER'S WIFE**

*(to JACK)*

Beans will bring you food, son.

**JACK**

Beans in exchange for my cow?

**BAKER'S WIFE**

Oh, these are no ordinary beans, son. These beans carry magic.

**JACK**

Magic? What kind of magic?

**BAKER'S WIFE**

*(to BAKER)*

Tell him.

**BAKER**

Magic that defies description.