

Vanessa Williams as the Witch.

Sondheim, Into the Woods

10. STAY WITH ME

WITCH

(throwing Rapunzel to the ground)

What did I clearly say?

Children must listen.

(grabs Rapunzel's hair, takes out scissors)

RAPUNZEL

No, no, please!

WITCH

What were you not to do?

Children must see—

RAPUNZEL

No!

WITCH

And learn.

Why could you not obey?

Children should listen.

What have I been to you?

What would you have me be?

Handsome like a Prince?

Ah, but I am old.

I am ugly.

I embarrass you.

RAPUNZEL

No!

WITCH

Yes! You are ashamed of me.

RAPUNZEL

No!

WITCH

You are ashamed.

You don't understand.

RAPUNZEL

It was lonely atop that tower.

WITCH

I was not company enough?

RAPUNZEL

I am no longer a child. I wish to see the world.

WITCH

Don't you know what's out there in the world?

Someone has to shield you from the world.

Stay with me.

Princes wait there in the world, it's true.

Princes, yes, but wolves and humans, too.

Stay at home.

I am home.

Who out there could love you more than I?

What out there that I cannot supply?

Stay with me.

Stay with me,

The world is dark and wild.

Stay a child while you can be a child.

With me.

(She cuts off Rapunzel's hair.)

11. ON THE STEPS OF THE PALACE

CINDERELLA

(bobbles on, wearing one shoe)

He's a very smart Prince,
He's a Prince who prepares.
Knowing this time I'd run from him,
He spread pitch on the stairs.
I was caught unawares.

And I thought: Well, he cares—
This is more than just malice.
Better stop and take stock
While you're standing here stuck
On the steps of the palace.

You think, what do you want?
You think, make a decision.
Why not stay and be caught?
You think, well, it's a thought,
What would be his response?
But then what if he knew
Who you were when you know
That you're not what he thinks
That he wants?

And then what if you are
What a Prince would envision?
Although how can you know
Who you are till you know
What you want, which you don't?
So then which do you pick:
When you're safe, out of sight,
And yourself, but where everything's wrong?
Or where everything's right
And you know that you'll never belong?

And whichever you pick,
Do it quick,
'Cause you're starting to stick
To the steps of the palace.

It's your first big decision,
The choice isn't easy to make.
To arrive at a ball
Is exciting and all—
Once you're there, though, it's scary.
And it's fun to deceive
When you know you can leave,
But you have to be wary.

There's a lot that's at stake
But you've stalled long enough,
'Cause you're still standing stuck
In the stuff on the steps...

Better run along home
And avoid the collision.
Even though they don't care,
You'll be better off there
Where there's nothing to choose,
So there's nothing to lose.
So you pry up your shoes.

Then from out of the blue,
And without any guide,
You know what your decision is,
Which is not to decide.

You'll just leave him a clue:
For example, a shoe.
And then see what he'll do.
Now it's he and not you
Who is stuck with a shoe,

In a stew,
In the goo,
And you've learned something, too,

LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD
And I've learned something too,

That I never, never, never knew
before

In the belly of the Wolf!

CINDERELLA

Something you never knew,

That I never, never, never knew
before

On the steps of the palace!

JACK

And I've learned something too
That I never, never, never knew
before

In the land of the Giant!

