

Baker/Baker's Wife/Jack Side

BAKER

(distraught)

This is ridiculous. I'll never get that red cape, nor find a golden cow, or a yellow slipper – or was it a golden slipper and a yellow cow? Oh, no...

(BAKER'S WIFE enters)

What are you doing here?

BAKER'S WIFE

You forgot your scarf –

BAKER

You have no business being alone in the Wood. And you have no idea what I've come upon here. You would be frightened for your life. Now go home immediately!

BAKER'S WIFE

I wish to help.

BAKER

No! The spell is on *my* house –

BAKER'S WIFE

Our house.

(JACK enters, dragging MILKY-WHITE by a rope on its neck)

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!

(To BAKER'S WIFE)

Where am I to get five pounds!

BAKER'S WIFE

(taking over)

She must be generous of milk to fetch five pounds?

JACK

(Hesitant)

Yes, ma'am.

BAKER'S WIFE

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

JACK

I hadn't thought of that... 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

(To BAKER'S WIFE)

This is the sum total...

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
(Nervous)

Magic that defies description.

JACK

How many beans?

BAKER

Six.

BAKER'S WIFE
Five! We can't part with all of them. We must leave on for ourselves. Besides, I'd say they're worth a pound each, at the very least.

JACK

Could I buy my cow back someday?

BAKER
(Uneasy)

Well...possibly. Good luck there, young lad.

Baker's Wife

Moments in the Woods

58

Grazioso (♩ = 152) BAKER'S WIFE:
What was that?

(Piano)

BAKER'S WIFE *mp*

Was that me? Was that him? Did a prince real - ly

rall. A tempo rall. A tempo rall. A tempo

kiss me? And kiss me? And kiss me? And did I kiss him

back? Was it wrong? Am I mad? Is that all? Does he

(Stands)

miss me? Was he sud - den - ly Get - ting bored with me? Wake

58

Poco più mosso (♩ = 138)

(Baker's Wife)

up! Stop dream-ing. Stop pranc-ing a - bout the woods. It's

not be - seem-ing. What is it a - bout the woods? Back to

Più mosso (♩ = 148) *crispily, risoluto*

life, back to sense, Back to child, back to hus - band, No one

lives in the woods.— There are vows, there are ties, There are

needs, there are stan-dards, There are shoul-dn'ts and shoulds.—

81 *mp*

Let the

82 83 84

mo - ment go, Don't for - get it for a mo - ment, though.

85 86 87

Just re - mem - ber - ing you've had an "And" when you're back to "Or" Makes the

(Sighs, starts walking faster)

88 89 90

"Or" mean more than it did be - fore. Now I un - der - stand...

91 92 93-94 2

And it's time to leave the woods!