CINDERELLA'S PRINCE

(Realizing it is CINDERELLA)

My darling. I did not recognize you. What are you doing in those old clothes? And with a child? You must go back to the castle at once. There's a Giant on the loose.

CINDERELLA

The Giant has been to the castle.

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE

No! Are you all right?

(Moves to her; CINDERELLA nods and walks away)

My love. Why are you being so cold?

CINDERELLA

Maybe because I'm not your only love. Am I?

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE

(Beat)

I love you. I do.

(Pause)

But yes, it's true.

CINDERELLA

Why, if you love me, would you have strayed?

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE

I thought if you were mine, that I would never wish for more. And part of me is content and as happy as I've ever been. But there remains a part of me that continually needs more.

CINDERELLA

I have, on occasion, wanted more. But that doesn't mean I went in search of it. If this is how you behave as a Prince, what kind of King will you be?

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE

I was raised to be charming, not sincere. I didn't ask to be born a King, and I am not perfect. I am only human.

CINDERELLA

(Beat)

I think you should go.

OPEN DOOR THEATRE

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE

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Leave? But I do love you.

CINDERELLA

Consider that I have been lost. A victim of the Giant.

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE

Is that what you really wish?

CINDERELLA

My father's house was a nightmare. Your house was a dream. Now I want something in between. Please go.

(CINDERELLA'S PRINCE begins to EXIT)

CINDERELLA'S PRINCE

I shall always love the maiden who ran away.

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CINDERELLA

And I, the faraway Prince.

(CINDERELLA'S PRINCE EXITS. Another moment for CINDERELLA with the BABY. LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD ENTERS)

LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD

They're almost finished. You see over there between those two towers? When the Giant comes, we are to send her over there.

CINDERELLA

Good.

LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD

I wanted to climb the tower, too.

CINDERELLA

I'm glad you're here to help me.

(LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD begins to cry)

What's wrong?

LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD

My granny's gone.

CINDERELLA

Oh, no. I'm so sorry.

LITTLE RED RIDINGHOODPEN DOOR THEATRE

I think my granny and my mother would be upset with me.

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CINDERELLA

Why?