

Into the Woods

Character Descriptions

Baker – Kind, good. Eager to support his wife, be successful in his business, and mostly eager to conceive a child. Eager to provide that child with a stability that his own childhood was lacking. Even in peaceful times, the Baker is a bit high-strung; so in these times of upheaval, he's finding it hard to believe in himself and his abilities. He struggles with finding the humility to give up control and ask for help from his wife, but he must, and they grow closer from it.

Baker's Wife – Usually the calming force in the marriage, even she is being pushed past her limit amidst the trouble and chaos. Desperately wants to conceive a child. Wants to share responsibilities with her husband and have him see her for the smart, sensible and brave woman that she is.

Witch – In her own words, "I'm not good. I'm not bad. I'm just right." The Witch in Act 1 is a hunched, old hag- a stereotypical "forest" witch in any given fairytale. In Act 2 a spell is lifted and she is restored to her youth and beauty, but her attitudes, relationships and motivations remain unchanged. The Witch cares only for her own good. If she has to hurt others, so be it. She is incapable of real love; forever cold, practical, calculating, mis-trusting and self-serving. Other people and their sentimentalities are an annoyance to her. The closest she comes to love is for her daughter Rapunzel, but she only wants to keep her locked away like a possession to keep for herself.

Cinderella – Kind, compassionate, gentle, smart and brave. She, having been living as a slave in her Father & Stepmothers house, is thrilled to attend the 3 night ball. However, the ball isn't all she expected it would be and she tires of being pursued. When she marries the Prince, she finds that being a Princess isn't all she expected either. As she tells the Prince, "my father's house was a nightmare, yours was a dream. I want something in between." She truly cares for others, becoming very maternal toward the baby and Little Red during the Giant's pursuit.

Little Red Riding Hood – Young girl. It is implied she is somewhere from 12-14, so not a small child. Very precocious, unsentimental, matter-of-fact. Possesses that childlike quality of speaking the plain truth – calling it "like it is" with no social correctness. Not shy. Not weak. Can speak for herself and defend herself aggressively when need be. Expects the world to be kind and predictable and is learning that it is not.

Jack – A teenage boy. Not the sharpest tool in the shed, but possibly only because his overbearing mother has made all decisions for him up till now. Young and inexperienced for his age. Loves his pet cow Milky White. Loves adventure. Innocent, simple and pure of heart. Jack finds his bravery and independence through this journey.

Narrator – Engaging. Animated. Well-spoken. Takes us along on this journey with enthusiasm. This character may also be cast as the Mysterious Man.

Mysterious Man – Old, ragged man who flits in and out of scenes swiftly and mysteriously; always with a quick debate, confusing bit of instruction, or confounding riddle. We later learn that he is the Baker's father who abandoned him early in life; watching over him from the shadows of the woods and trying to assist in any way he can.

Cinderella's Prince – Handsome, charming, adventurous. Only skin deep. Rather conceited, only concerned with the current moment's adventure. Doesn't feel too deeply or think too deeply. Does what he likes, because he can. Loves Cinderella when he must pursue her, but grows tired of her once she is no longer a challenge. Not cruel, just self-absorbed.

Rapunzel's Prince – Like his brother: handsome, charming, adventurous. We get the impression that his feelings for Rapunzel, however, are true. Possibly not quite as shallow as his brother. This character may also be cast as the Wolf.

Wolf- Charming predator.

Jack's Mother – Overbearing, worrier, nagger. Truly loves her son, Jack, but afraid of letting him out into the world for very long.

Rapunzel - Sheltered her entire life. Finally rescued by the Prince, but is completely ignorant about the outside world, or how to live her life. Resentful of her mother, the Witch for not allowing her to see the world.

Cinderella's Father – Drunk most of the time. Never notices much or challenges his wife.

Cinderella's Stepmother – Bossy, greedy, selfish.

Lucinda & Florinda (Cinderella's Stepsisters) – “Beautiful of face, but vile and black of heart.”

Cinderella's Mother – Deceased. Comes to her as a spirit in a tree. Gives loving advice.

Steward – Employed by the Royal Family. Doing his duty but looking out for his own interests.

The Giant – We will only hear her voice. Needs to be a big booming, rich voice. Her husband has been killed, and she is angry and seeking vengeance.

Granny - Little Red's Grandmother. Is killed by the Wolf, but is removed from his belly and lives. Angry and vengeful toward the Wolf.