

*Audition Piece for Billy*

*Act 1, Scene 2 – Front of Tabs*

(During the following, the school set is built behind)

(Red enters with basket She sings to herself )

Red Hello boys and girls!

Audience Hello, Red!

Red Isn't it a lovely day to be walking in the woods? I feel so safe with all of you here. You will always let me know if I was in any danger, wouldn't you?

(Wolf enters and stalks Red. Audience should shout out "behind you!". Business. Billy enters, the Wolf sees him and runs off. Red doesn't notice any of this. Billy watches Red collecting flowers. She sees his feet, looks up...)

Red Oh Excuse (looks up) me! (drops basket)

Billy Here let me help you with those.

(They both bend down. Eyes meet)

Billy You're .. I mean *they're* ... beautiful.

Red Yes, you.. I mean *they*.. are, I normally collect flowers in the wood or from the garden. They're for my Granny.

Billy She's lucky to have a granddaughter like you! I don't think I've seen you here before. What's your name?

Red My name's Red Riding Hood. But my friends call me Red.

Billy My name's Billy.

Red Do you live near here?

Billy (Nervously, babbling) In that cottage, just over there. I'm a woodcutter, just like my father is, and his father before him. Ten generations of woodcutters, living in the woodcutter's cottage - that's where all the woodcutters live because it makes it easier to be a woodcutter here in the woods. (embarrassed , he fades out ...)

Red (Gazing at him adoringly) That's lovely. So what do you actually do?

Billy Well, I cut wood. That's it really. I have to admit, it sounds better in the storybooks, but it can be a bit dull.

Woodcutter (Calling from offstage) Son! Come on, there's work to be done. That wood won't cut itself, you know!

Billy That's my dad! (To Red) See you soon, I hope! (He gives her the basket.) Coming, Dad!

Red Yes... goodbye!

(Billy and Woodcutter exit. Jack and Jill enter. Red centre stage, smelling the flowers, looking dreamy)

Jack Come on Red, we'll be late for school!

Red (Dreamily) I've been picking flowers for Granny.

Jill That's nice! And there are so many lovely flowers to choose from.

**(Woodcutter and Billy enter. Billy is carrying his axe)**

**Woodcutter** Now son, I have to go to the town for a while, but I'm leaving you here for a while to get on with your work. Those trees don't tend themselves, you know!

**Billy** Yes, father.

**Woodcutter** And no dilly-dallying with those girls from the town. They keep you from honest work, the lot of them. Mind you, there was one lady, that rather mature one, who's got something about her....

**Billy (to audience)** Dame Hood? You can say that again!

**Woodcutter** Here, let me see that axe.

**Billy** Here, father.

**(Woodcutter examines the axe)**

**Woodcutter** As I thought, nearly blunt. What use is a blunt axe to a woodcutter? Go into town later, when your work is done, and get it sharpened. Remember to work hard. Life isn't meant to be easy. Remember, wood doesn't grow on trees, you know!

**(Woodcutter leaves)**

**Billy** Er, dad ... ? **(Red enters, meets Billy)** Hello again. Fancy meeting you here, Red

**Red (Giggles)** Yes, just fancy. Are you working?

**Billy** Yes, afraid so. My father keeps me busy, but he's not a bad sort really. He doesn't want me to get distracted by ...

**Red** By what?

**Billy** It's a bit embarrassing. Distracted by girls actually. He thinks you'll stop me getting any work done. Sorry about the other day.

**Red** That's OK, I understand.

**Billy** It's not just you. He doesn't want me to waste my time with any girls!

**Red** Is he like that with everyone from the town?

**Billy** Well, not all. I think he's taken a bit of a shine to your mother, actually. I'm a bit worried about that!

**Red** Oh, is that why the two of you have been hanging around the town so much lately?

**Billy** Well, maybe that's why my father was there. But, actually, I was hoping to see you.

**Red** Me? That's funny! I've been spending time in the woods hoping to see you.

**Billy** Well, at least we've found each other now.

**(They laugh. If these two can sing, they sing here. If they can't or won't they don't)**

**Red** Oh well, I'm sure your father will be happier about me when he gets to know me a little.

**Billy** I'm sure he will. Where are you going?

**Red** To Granny's - she hurt herself when she was in Tibet. She was attacked by a Yeti.

**Billy** Well, take care. The Wolf is somewhere about here, I'm sure.

**Red** I will. You take care too.

**(Red and Billy exit their separate ways, Wolf enters. He's been eating Granny, carries something distinctive from her costume (boots, etc.) He is licking lips and taking off a napkin)**

**Wolf** What a lovely little snack

I love to hear their bones go crack!

Granny, I fear, was past her best

Now it's time to eat the rest!

Here comes Red with food to spare

But she's not going anywhere!

**(Red enters in a hurry, meanwhile Wolf puts on a disguise as an old woman)**