

Audition Piece for Red Riding Hood

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.

(Pigs leave at end of song.)

(Enter Granny is dressed in hiking gear, with rucksack. Red runs on screaming, bumps into Granny)

Red Oh Granny, Granny, it's the Wolf! He's after me! He tried to catch me and eat me!

Granny Gracious me, we can't have that! Now just a minute ...

(Granny starts rummaging through a rucksack with all sorts of odd objects, until she finds a hankie, which she gives to Red)

Red What are you doing Granny?

Granny I'm getting ready for my next expedition.

Red Oh, where are you going this time?

Granny I'm off to the Himalayas, to see if I can find the Yeti

Red Oh! The Yeti? Who's he?

Granny Haven't you heard of the Yeti? He lives in secrecy in the tallest peaks of the Himalayas, in the remote mountains of Tibet. Few have ever seen him and lived to tell the tale, but the few survivors speak of a strange beast, barely human, tall, frightening to behold and covered in thick fur. He walks with a strange stoop and communicates with a language of grunts.

Red Oh Granny, I've just met some of those ... don't be silly, they aren't in Tibet, there's a whole family of them over there **(points offstage)**

Granny No dear, that's the stage crew. **(pause)** The Yeti is better looking.

Red Oh, Granny, now I'm really worried. Will you be alright?

Granny Yes, well, got to find something interesting to do. What brings you to this neck of the woods anyway?

Red Oh, I was bringing you some flowers. Mum said you might like them.

Granny When will your mother learn? I'm just not that sort of a granny. I mean it's not like I sit around in bed all day crocheting loo roll doily ladies?

Red No well, it keeps Mum happy!

Granny Well one day I may be glad of the flowers I'm sure. In the meantime, Everest and the Yeti await! I'd better get going.