

**MADAME.** (*To her DAUGHTERS.*) The only thing I have to comfort me after this disastrous evening is that the prince seemed so completely devastated when his dream date ran away.

(*ELLA puts away the pianoforte.*)

**CHARLOTTE.** Oh, it was hilarious! The powder room was full of yammering when we were leaving. Why did the girl run away? My feeling is that up close the girl was physically unappealing.

**MADAME.** To bed, my lovely daughters. Cinderella, you stay here and clean up this pigsty of a parlor. Why is there a pumpkin on the table? It makes no design sense.

(*MADAME and CHARLOTTE exit.*)

**GABRIELLE.** Is there anything else you would like to know, Ella?

**ELLA.** No, it sounds like a really marvelous ball. I only wish I could have been there.

**GABRIELLE.** How did you know all that happened at the ball earlier this evening?

**ELLA.** I just...supposed it. Imagined it. Had a vision.

**GABRIELLE.** Interesting.

(*Thrusts her right hand behind her own back.*)

Quick, how many fingers?

**ELLA.** Two?

**GABRIELLE.** Three. Fascinating. Where're your visions now?

**ELLA.** You're being silly. You're just picking on me just because I said the prince was wearing a white jacket and -

**GABRIELLE.** You didn't say it and he was. Something's going on here.

**ELLA.** You're being absurd. More than usual. I need to finish up and...

(*She takes a kettle from the fire.*)

**GABRIELLE.** Let me help you with that.

*(She grabs ELLA's hand.)*

Your hand is so callused and rough from work. Just like the hand of the woman I shook this evening. Who danced with the prince.

*(ELLA pulls her hand back.)*

**ELLA.** I don't know what you're -

**GABRIELLE.** It was you tonight. Wasn't it?

**ELLA.** I -

**GABRIELLE.** It *was* you! How did you dance in glass shoes?

*(ELLA gasps.)*

**[MUSIC NO. 18A "IT WAS YOU TONIGHT,  
WASN'T IT?"]**

*(ELLA runs out the door. GABRIELLE is right behind her. The interior of the cottage transforms back into the exterior yard.)*

**ELLA.** You won't tell the others, will you? Madame and Charlotte?

**GABRIELLE.** No. Never.

**ELLA.** Are you mad at me that I stole the prince from you?

**GABRIELLE.** I will confess a secret to you. I never loved the prince. Or even liked him. There's someone else that I want.

**ELLA.** How wonderful for you. Who is it?

**GABRIELLE.** Well, Madame hates him.

**ELLA.** Madame hating them doesn't narrow the field. Who is it?

**GABRIELLE.** If I promise to keep your secret of the prince, can you keep my secret of my forbidden love?

**ELLA.** I can. And I will.

**GABRIELLE.** It's Jean-Michel. The firebrand.

**ELLA.** He is a good man. And seems angry for all the right reasons.

**GABRIELLE.** He wants to change the world and make it a better place. You gotta love a guy like that.

**ELLA.** You may one day win Jean-Michel. But I will never win Prince Topher. If he saw who I truly was, he would have no interest in me.

**GABRIELLE.** That's not true. He would love you for who you are.

**ELLA.** I don't see how.

**GABRIELLE.** Well, if Madame ever saw me with Jean-Michel, why I shudder to think what she might do! Are you sure you can keep my secret?

**[MUSIC NO. 19 "A LOVELY NIGHT (REPRISE)"]**

**ELLA.** I can. And you can keep mine. We shall have a secret. That will make us -

**GABRIELLE.** Co-conspirators.

**ELLA.** Friends.

**GABRIELLE.** Sisters.

*(ELLA and GABRIELLE hug. They look at each other and smile. They have bonded.)*

**ELLA.** May we both find our loves.

**GABRIELLE.** And our lives.

THE STARS IN A HAZY HEAVEN  
TREMBLING ABOVE ME,

**ELLA.**

DANCED WHEN HE PROMISED  
ALWAYS TO LOVE ME.

**GABRIELLE.**

THE DAY CAME THROUGH,

**ELLA.**

AWAY I FLEW,  
BUT ON MY LIPS HE LEFT A KISS -

**GABRIELLE.**

ALL MY LIFE I'LL DREAM OF THIS

**ELLA.**

LOVELY -