

GABRIELLE - Scene A

II - 3 - 54

(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.)

START

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...

(ELLA takes a kettle from the fire.)

GABRIELLE

Let me help you with that.

(GABRIELLE 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 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 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,~~

END

