

STAY WITH ME BLOCKING (begins page 75)

A bit of theory: This scene is all about how formidable the witch is at manipulating Rapunzel. It winds up being a little bit of “you won’t leave me, I’ll leave you first!” The witch has long dreaded Rapunzel coming of age and going off to find her own happiness. At first she tries to derail it through strictness but Rapunzel is surprisingly disobedient and determined. So the witch changes tactics, several times, eventually turning into the ideal loving mom, caring and gentle, who only wants a few more moments with her beloved daughter. Rapunzel is touched and gives in. The witch, having thus demonstrated her control of Rapunzel, now feels free to punish her.

[Witch, angrily, throwing Rapunzel to the ground] Why didn’t you tell me you had a visitor?!

[Rapunzel, defensively, near tears] "It was lonely atop that tower!"

[Witch, grabbing her by the clothes] I gave you protection, and yet you disobeyed me!

[Rapunzel. Ready to take a beating] I am no longer a child! [breaks free and moves DSL, sobbing] I wish to see the world. [she sits, sobbing]

MUSIC

[Witch, changing tactics. Appeal to common sense (in witch’s mind)] Don’t you know what’s out there in the world? [approach rapunzel slowly] Someone has to shield you from the world. [at CS} Stay with me [Rapunzel shakes her head no and buries her head in her knees]

[a beat – witch changes tactics again, GO MUCH SOFTER HERE. Slowly approach all the way up to her,] Princes wait there in the world it’s true, [Rapunzel looks out and imagines her prince. Witch now standing over her] Princes yes [witch looks out to audience to see what she is describing] but wolves and humans too.... [has witch told Rapunzel that they are both not human?] Stay at home [witch takes a knee (gracefully)] I am home [witch tries to stroke her hair. Rapunzel makes a noise, flees SR.

witch rises quickly as she sings the following, with rising intensity] who out there [sweeping gesture of audience, then look to Rapunzel] could love you more than I?! [look out, sing loudly with anguish] what out there, that I can not supply? [take a step to Rapunzel] Stay, with me. [forlorn, practically weeping, crouching in pain is optional, which could get Rapunzel’s attention].

[Witch moves slowly SR , sweet and loving, and pleading. It’s different this time. She is warning of the world, but in the context of her deep love for Rapunzel] Stay with me, the world is dark and wild,

[Witch drops to one knee, and turns Rapunzel gently by the chin, singing tenderly] Stay with me [reaches out to Rapunzel with two hands] while you can be a child...

[Rapunzel turn and embraces witch] with me... [witch strokes Rapunzel’s hair tenderly]

A beat as witch gently holds Rapunzel, who calms and stops sobbing.

[witch – calmly] I will not share you - [a beat, then suddenly menacing, rising] but I will show you a world you’ve never seen! [cuts her hair off with a knife]