

## 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. First she tries “actually, you still are a child” as a tactic and Rapunzel turns away from her. Then she decides to modify her argument: yes, there are attractive things about the world, but one must still be careful. You seek love and adventure, but nobody could love you more than I. This registers a bit with Rapunzel, who has still not given in yet, but is now open to hearing more. The witch is completely different now, the ideal loving mom, caring and gentle. After a few more lines Rapunzel 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.

## MUSIC

[ Witch, changing tactics] Don’t you know what’s out there in the world? [ approach rapunzel ] Someone has to shield you from the world. [ reaches out to rapunzel, rapunzel slaps her hand away ] Stay with me [ Rapunzel sits down ] [ a beat – witch changes tactics again, sits next to Rapunzel – GO MUCH SOFTER HERE ] Princes wait there in the world it’s true, [ Rapunzel looks out and imagines her prince ] Princes yes [ witch cradles her with left arm and points out to audience ] but wolves and humans too.... [ has witch told Rapunzel that they are both not human? ] Stay at home [ take both of rapunzel’s hands, ] I am home [ rise, get Rapunzel to rise ] who out there [ sweeping gesture of audience ] could love you more than I?! [ draw her close and sweeten voice ] what out there, that I can not supply? [ she is referring to “love”. Witch embraces Rapunzel ] Stay, with me.

[ Rapunzel starts to try to break away but stops slightly DC from Witch (in front) ]

[ Witch hands on Rapunzel’s shoulders , sweet and loving] Stay with me, the world is dark and wild,

[ Witch drops to one knee and tenderly embraces Rapunzel ] Stay with me 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 ] but I will show you a world you’ve never seen!