

SCENE TEN: THE WOLF'S DEN

The Wolf's Den is a milk tavern owned by the Big, Bad Wolf. The wait staff are all female wolves, and it's a gathering place for Happily Ever After's shadiest and most notorious villains. The Wolf is very "cool," and everything about him has a jazzy, blues-y feel.

The Wolf is cleaning glasses behind the bar.

RUMPELSTILTSKIN

I hate those women.

WOLF

Sidekick on the Short Side! What can I get you?

RUMPELSTILTSKIN

I told you not to call me that! Never call me that!

WOLF

Sorry, Little Man. Why are you coppin' a bit? Slide your tiny frame on down, tell the Big Bad what's on the clothesline.

RUMPELSTILTSKIN

(staring) As usual, I have no idea what you're talking about. I just stopped by to collect on our little agreement. I need you to devour a little girl and a frog.

WOLF

I'm reformed, daddy-o. I can't do your treacherous deeds anymore.

RUMPELSTILTSKIN

Oh, you can. And you will. Need I remind you of your oath? *(he unfurls a scroll)*

“When just a cub, left in the cold
This baby wolf, not three days old
Saved his life, a small man did
And all to other men forbid
Pledged to this man in time of need
To go and do a treacherous deed
For when the man comes calling hence
The cub must heed at no expense.”

Isn't this your paw print right here? On the dotted line?

The female wolves start to gather and bear their claws.

WOLF

Whoa, frado, slow the roll. You're upsetting the *ladies*.

RUMPELSTILTSKIN

(rolls scroll back up, tucks it in his pocket.) I'm here to collect. There's a girl in the woods who is ruining everything. And you're the one who is going to take care of her. My happiness depends on it.
Are we clear?

WOLF

I know we made a deal, Little Man, but that was many years ago. I have a legitimate business to attend to here.

RUMPELSTILTSKIN

You really want to do it like this? You know that's not how these contracts work. You've had your share of. . . assignments.

WOLF

In the past.

RUMPELSTILTSKIN

(through gritted teeth) Well, if you don't take care of this *present* problem, I won't have a *future*.

SHE WOLF 1

If he does this for you, then he's paid his price?

RUMPELSTILTSKIN

If he does this, then yes, we can ensure his story ends happily.

WOLF

Wait. I get. . . a happy ending?

RUMPELSTILTSKIN

Let's just say I know people who can take care of that for you.

WOLF

And I get to be. . . *(looks off in the distance)* with *her*?

RUMPELSTILTSKIN

(getting visibly frustrated) You can be with whoever you want, just take care of this girl!

The Wolf turns away for a moment, weighing his options. The She-wolves gather around him, trying to console him.

SHE WOLF 2

Do it. Do it for true love, Big, Bad.

SHE WOLF 3

You deserve a little bit of happiness, don't you?

WOLF

I do, don't I?

The Wolf turns back to Rumpelstiltskin. He holds out a paw. Rumpelstiltskin takes it and shakes.

WOLF

I'll do it. *(suddenly pulling him in close)* For a happy ending.

RUMPELSTILTSKIN

(shakily) Yes! Of. . . course! Heh heh, no problem!

The Wolf breaks his grip, and Rumpelstiltskin staggers back, nursing a sore hand.

WOLF

One last job then I'm out. But I want your word that once the deed is done, I'm free of you.

RUMPLESTILTSKIN

You have my word. Just don't make me regret bringing this situation to you. Can you even still handle a job like this?

WOLF

Can I. . .? (*give Rumpelstiltskin a look*) Little Man, sit yo chowder down and watch the master work.