

## 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.