

(As the two boys excitedly prepare to leave, they hear...)

FATHER

(offstage)

Cain. Abel.

(CAIN and ABEL freeze in their tracks, shocked at the sound of a voice they don't recognize.)

CAIN

Who's there?

(FATHER enters.)

ABEL

Who is it, Cain?

CAIN

It must be... Father.

ABEL

He's not as big as I thought.

FATHER

What fine young men you've become.

CAIN

Have you come to take us back to Eden?

(FATHER is unprepared for this.)

FATHER

I've come to see my grandchildren.

ABEL

I'll get Mama and Papa.

FATHER

No, Abel. I'm not here to see your parents.

CAIN

But they're waiting for you. Papa calls to you every day.

FATHER

You are my children now. In you, I place my hope.

(FATHER and CAIN continue to look at each other while ABEL speaks.)

ABEL

Papa said you'd forgive us, Grandfather, and take us all back to the garden.

CAIN

We're not going back to the garden, Abel.

ABEL

What?

CAIN

There is no garden. Not for us.

(to FATHER)

Is there?

FATHER

You must have faith in me, Cain.

CAIN

Like my father has faith in you?

(another thought occurs to him)

And why did you come now? To stop us from leaving?

FATHER

I'm here to keep you safe.

CAIN

I don't need you to keep me safe.

(CAIN runs off.)

(#18 - LOST IN THE WILDERNESS (REPRISE) begins.)