On the Steps of the Palace

He's a very smart Prince,  
He's a Prince who prepares.  
Knowing this time I'd run from him,  
He spread pitch on the stairs.  
And I'm caught unawares.  
Well it means that he cares—  
  
This is more than just malice.  
Better stop and take stock  
While you're standing here stuck  
On the steps of the palace.  
  
All right, what do you want?  
Have to make a decision.  
Why not stay and be caught?  
Should I give that a thought,  
What would be his response?  
  
But then what if he knew  
Who I am when I know  
That I'm not what he thinks  
That he wants?  
Or, then, what if I am?  
What a Prince would envision?  
  
But then how can you know  
Who you are till you know  
What you want, which I don't?  
So then which do you pick:  
Where you're safe, out of sight,  
And yourself, but where everything's wrong?  
Or where everything's right  
But you know that you'll never belong?  
And whichever you pick,  
Do it quick,  
'Cause you're starting to stick  
To the steps of the palace.  
  
It's my first big decision,  
The choice isn't easy to make.  
To arrive at a ball  
Is exciting and all  
Once you're there, though, it's scary.  
  
And it's fun to deceive  
When you know you can leave,  
But you have to be wary.  
There's a lot that's at stake,  
But I've stalled long enough,  
'Cause I'm still standing stuck  
In the stuff on these steps  
  
Better run along home  
And avoid the collision.  
Though at home they don't care,  
I'll be better off there  
Where there's nothing to choose,  
So there's nothing to lose.  
So I'll pry up my shoes.  
  
Wait, though, thinking it through,  
Things don't have to collide,  
I know what my decision is,  
Which is not to decide.  
I'll just leave him a clue:  
For example, a shoe.  
And then see what he'll do.  
Now it's he and not you  
Who'll be stuck with a shoe,  
In a stew, in the goo,  
And I've learned something, too,  
Something I never knew,  
On the steps of the palace.

From *Into the Woods*, sung by Cinderella

Lyrics By Stephen Sondheim

You Tube song + visuals <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mGfsC7rc9ic>