

"JACK AND THE BEANSTALK"

by
Peter Long & Keith Rawsley

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his script is published by

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"Jack and the Beanstalk"

Written by
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CHARACTERS

JACK.....PRINCIPAL BOY
 DAME TROT.....JACK'S MOTHER
 JETHRO.....FARM HAND AT TROT'S FARM
 PRINCESS JASMINE.....OF AIREBORIA
 KING FREDERICK.....OF AIREBORIA
 QUEEN GLADIOLI.....OF AIREBORIA
 MARY.....PRINCESS JASMINE'S MAID
 MAJOR RODEWERKS }
 PRIVATE ACCESS }.....THE KING'S GUARD
 GIANT BLUNDERBUSS.....FEARED BY ALL
 MR FLESHCREEP.....THE GIANT'S HENCHMAN
 THE GIANT'S HOUSEKEEPER....HIS LONG SUFFERING SERVANT
 THE GOOD FAIRY.....THE SAVIOUR OF GOOD PEOPLE
 BUTTERCUP THE COW.....OF TROT FARM

ALSO FEATURING

SUNBEAMS
 DANCERS
 CHORUS

Character Descriptions

- 1: **Jack Trot:** (Female) Principal Boy. Jack is the only son of the lowly Dame Trot, owner of Trot's farm. He is a carefree sort of guy who is not worried about his family's lack of money. His thoughts are mostly for the Princess Jasmine, the daughter of the King and Queen.
- 2: **Dame Trot:** (Male) The pantomime Dame. Poor Dame Trot, struggling to keep her farm going against all the odds, normally optimistic about all things financial she suddenly discovers that her only asset Buttercup the Cow has been exchanged for a bag of beans.
- 3: **Jethro:** (Male) This is the Comic Lead. Jethro is the farm hand down on Trot's farm. A country yokel, Jethro is a bit work shy. He is constantly being pursued by his boss Dame Trot who always has a job for him. This character would speak in a 'West Country' accent throughout.
- 4: **Princess Jasmine:** (Female) Principal Girl. She is (as it eventually turns out) the *adopted* daughter of the King and Queen. She has been the sweetheart of Jack since their childhood, but her parents hope she will marry someone with money and standing and in the end she does.....Jack!!
- 5: **King Frederick of Aireboria:** (Male) The rather elderly father of Princess Jasmine. His Kingdom has been overshadowed by the legendary Giant Blunderbuss for longer than he cares to remember. His main priority is the welfare of his adopted daughter and one day re-uniting her with her natural mother who was kidnapped by the Giant many years ago.
- 6: **Queen Gladioli of Aireboria:** (Female) Again, the elderly mother of Princess Jasmine. Rather domineering of her husband, she is also hard of hearing, using her ear trumpet to comic effect throughout the pantomime.
- 7: **Mary:** (Female) Maid to Princess Jasmine. Like Jethro, Mary speaks with a "West Country" accent throughout the pantomime, and as well as being Princess Jasmine's maid she is Jethro's sweetheart. In her own words she says "We've been stepping out together longer than I care to remember", Will Mary get her man??
- 8: **Major Rodewerks:** (Male) An overbearing man who in the real world probably wouldn't rise above the rank of Private. In the King's Guard he is top dog, but in reality is a coward (A Captain Mainwaring of his day). He bullies his sub-ordinate the poor old Private Access. Together they are the traditional pantomime "Brokers Men".
- 9: **Private Access:** (Male) Bullied by the Major, Corporal Punishment is a bit of a daft lad, but well meaning and loveable he always seems downtrodden but usually comes out on top which irritates the officious Major.

Character Descriptions (CONT/D)

- 10:** **Giant Blunderbuss:** (Male) The evil Giant. Perhaps here it might be better to describe the man who would be best suited to take on this demanding role!?. The taller the better and with a great booming voice, also with the ability and agility to perform on stilts or elevated boots. A big nasty piece of goods!!
- 11:** **Mr or Mrs Fleshcreep:** (Male or Female) The Giant's Henchman. A cringeing creepy sort of person who threatens the local folk and demands taxes. She works for the Giant to who he/she gives all the riches. Very servile to his/her master a bit like Charles Dickens "Uriah Heap".
- 12:** **The Giant's Housekeeper:** (Female) As the story unfolds we discover that this character is the natural mother of Princess Jasmine. She was kidnapped by the Giant many years ago and now works for him. She is treated cruelly by her master the Giant, but Jack soon sorts this out!!
- 13:** **The Good Fairy:** (Female) She is our story teller. A traditional Fairy, who through her rhymes gives Jack the means to destroy the Giant once and for all. A goody through and through.
- 14:** **Buttercup the Cow:** (Male/Female) The typical pantomime Cow in "Jack and the Beanstalk". The Cow has an important role and features in several scenes. It requires two reasonably fit adults to cope with the demanding and important role and who can re-act to dialogue and situations.

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Synopsis of Scenes

ACT ONE

- Scene 1: "DAME TROT'S FARMYARD"
 Scene 2: "INSIDE THE ROYAL PALACE"
 Scene 3: "OUT IN THE MEADOW"
 Scene 4: "JETHRO'S DREAM"
 Scene 5: "DAME TROT'S FARMYARD"

===== INTERVAL =====

ACT TWO

- Scene 1: "IN THE CLOUDS AT GIANTLAND"
 Scene 2: "THE GIANT'S KITCHEN"
 Scene 3: "THE PALACE BALLROOM"
 Scene 4: "DAME TROT'S FARMYARD"
 Scene 5: "THE GIANT'S KITCHEN"
 Scene 6: "DAME TROT'S FARMYARD"
 Scene 7: "THE ROYAL PALACE"

Song Sheet
 Walk Down
 Grand Finale

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OVERTURE.....THEN CURTAIN

ENTER FAIRY ON TABS

FAIRY: It's pantomime season once again,
 So welcome to you, one and all.
 To Dame Trot's Farm is where we must go,
 As their story to you I recall.

 The story you'll see is a traditional one,
 A fairy story that you'll probably know,
 Concerning a poor old widow and son,
 And a handful of beans that they sow.

 The beans that I mention will be magical ones,
 And give reason for telling this tale.
 They lead to all kind of adventures,
 That will entertain you I'm sure, without fail.

 It's hay making time now down on the farm,
 And the townsfolk are there pitching in.
 Follow me now through this magical tale,
 Of Jack, and a Giant.....who will win?

FAIRY EXITS AS SHE BECKONS TO TABS WITH WAND

TABS OPEN FOR....

=====

ACT 1...SCENE 1..."DAME TROT'S FARMYARD:

SET:...FULL STAGE....FARMYARD SETTING WITH CLOTH TO
SUIT.....FLATS DEPICTING FARMHOUSE WITH A PRACTICAL
DOOR....AND OTHER FARM BUILDINGS ETC

♪ **...MUSICAL ITEM No 1...**LIVELY OPENING ROUTINE FEATURING DAME TROT, SUNBEAMS, DANCERS AND ANY CHORUS.....AFTER ROUTINE

DAME: (TO ALL ON STAGE)...Right you lot!...up into the top meadow with you....I want all that hay in by dusk.

THEY ALL EXIT ENTHUSIASTICALLY

DAME: (TO AUDIENCE)...Hello everybody!...my name's Dame Trot...what's yours?...oh never mind....I would have gone to help them all with the hay making....but I've not been well!...(AAHS FROM AUDIENCE)...oh it's worse than that!...(LOUDER AAHS FROM AUDIENCE)...I went up to the health centre yesterday and the Doctor said "I haven't seen you for a long time"...I said "No, you won't have, I've been poorly!".....you ought to see my Doctor...it's a disgrace really....hands like sand paper!...dirty finger nails!...dandruff!...smokes a pipe!...beer belly!...unshaven!...I just can't take to that **lady** doctor at all!....anyway, she passed me on to a young male Doctor....I don't like these young good looking ones...do you girls?...I put all clean on, and he only looked at my tongue!.....he said "You've got 'flu Dame Trot"....I said "I want a second opinion"....he said "OK, you're **ugly** as well!"...cheeky thing...I said "By gum, it does hurt when I do this with my arm (SHE LIFTS ARM SHOULDER HEIGHT)...he said "Well don't do it then!".....anyway, he wrote out a description for me, and I took it down to the chemist's...I said "Can you make me something up"....the chemist said "By the way, Prince Charles came in here this morning!"...I said "He never did, did he?"...he said "No, I've just made it up for you!".....you can't get a lot of sense out of that lot at Boots!

ENTER JACK

JACK: Good morning Mother....have you got everyone hay making?.. oh, and before you ask....yes I did go to the bank.

DAME: Oh good....did you go to the bank that likes to say “yes”?

JACK: Yes!

DAME: And what did they say?

JACK: No!.....I even went to the listening bank.

DAME: Did they say yes?

JACK: No...they said "Pardon?"

DAME: Oh dear....we owe money all over the place!...did they have any other suggestions?

JACK: They did mentions stocks and shares.

DAME: Stocks and shares?

JACK: Yes...apparently, if they don't get their share....you're going into the stocks!

DAME: (FILLING UP)....What are we going to do?...when we've paid the wages to the hay makers....and the taxes to that horrible Mr. Fleshcreep we'll be penniless!...(THINKING)....well, it has finally come to it....we're going to have to sell the only thing we've got that's worth anything....our cow Buttercup!

BUTTERCUP THE PANTOMIME COW PEEPS AT AUDIENCE FROM WINGS....THEN ENTERS UNSEEN BY JACK AND DAME TROT

JACK: You mean we'll have to sell our dear family pet Buttercup!?

DAME: Yes...there's still a lot of life in her....they won't buy old cows you know?

BUTTERCUP TOTTERS AROUND APPEARING OLD

JACK: I think you're wrong Mother....they would prefer the more mature type of beast....it's the frisky ones that they won't buy.

BUTTERCUP SKIPS ABOUT FRISKILY

DAME: They would never buy a lame one you know.

BUTTERCUP HOBBLER ABOUT WITH AN EXAGGERATED LIMP

JACK: No, they prefer lame ones....it's the sprinters that they won't take, they are too difficult to catch.

BUTTERCUP ASSUMES SPRINT START POSITION

JACK: (CONT/D)...But they like them in good shape!

BUTTERCUP CONCERTINA'S TOGETHER MAKING WEIRD SHAPE

DAME: They don't like good milkers..

BUTTERCUP MAKES HER UDDER SWIFTLY DISAPPEAR

DAME: (CONT/D)...The only time a cow can't be sold is when it's dead!

BUTTERCUP ROLLS ON BACK WITH LEGS IN THE AIR AS IF DEAD

JACK: By the way Mother....where is Buttercup?

AUDIENCE "BEHIND YOU BIZ""OH NO, OH YES BIZ"THEY
EVENTUALLY SEE HER

DAME: Ah, there you are Buttercup.

JACK: (TO BUTTERCUP)...It's way past milking time old friend.....
shouldn't you be in the stalls?

BUTTERCUP MAKES TO GO DOWN STEPS TO ORCHESTRA STALLS

DAME: Not those stalls you daft lump of offal!!..the milking stalls!

JACK: (TAKING HOLD OF BUTTERCUP)...Come on...I'll take you for
milking....(BUTTERCUP RESISTS)....Oh all right then....I promise to warm
my hands first.

JACK AND BUTTERCUP EXIT

DAME: (TO THEM AS THEY EXIT)....And keep away from McDonald's...
I've seen the manager eyeing you up and down....(THEN TO AUDIENCE)....it'll
finish up a quarter pounder the way it's going on!....(SHE SNIFFS THE
AIR)....mmmm, now there's a smell of the countryside...I thought we were
muck spreading next week....(SNIFFS AGAIN)....it's getting stronger!

ENTER JETHRO...HE SPEAKS THROUGHOUT WITH A DEVON YOKEL
ACCENT

JETHRO: Morning Dame Trot....just been doing a spot of mucking out...(LOOKS AT HIS HANDS)....do you think you might run to a shovel sometime?

DAME: (WAFTS NOSE WITH HAND)....Been muck spreading have you?...I'd never have guessed!..I thought you were going somewhere this morning?

JETHRO: Oh arrr....that be earlier on.....I took my dog to the sheep dog trials.....they found the darn thing guilty....he got five years!

DAME: Right...well I haven't got time to stand and gossip with you all day....when you've done what you're supposed to be doing, get yourself up to the top meadow and supervise the hay making...I'm going to make them all some sandwiches.

JETHRO: I'll give thee a hand if eee likes!...I can butter the bread.

DAME: (LOOKS AT HIS HANDS)....Er...no, I can manage thanks all the same....I don't want them all going down with semolina poisoning!!

SHE EXITS INTO FARMHOUSE

JETHRO: (TO AUDIENCE)....Fine woman yon Dame Trot yer know... I be her farm hand I be....I bet eee never guessed did eee?...oh arrr....I likes saying that I do...oh arrr....can you lot say it?.....yer can?...right then....after three....one, two, three....(AUDIENCE "OH ARRR")...not bad for the first time that....so from now on, every time I say "oh arr"I want you to say "oh arr" after me.....do you get it?...right then...oh arrr.... (AUDIENCE "OH ARRR")...very good that was....I'll turn you all into farmers before you know it....'cause I can't be doing with these city slickers types and their fancy ways....Blow me down if they aint spelling 'talties with a 'P' now!...I saw a city type the other day...one of these hikers or whatever yer calls 'em....he says to me in his "la-di-da" voice...(MIMICS)... "Excuse me my good man...I want to cross this stream, is it deep?"I says... "No it aint that deep"so he steps into it, and he went in right over his head...when he managed to clamber out he says to me... "I thought you said it wasn't deep!?...it's over six feet!"I says "That's funny...it normally only comes half way up our ducks!"

ENTER MARY

MARY: (COYLY)....Good morning Jethro.

JETHRO: (SEES HER)...Oh arrr!...(AUDIENCE REACT)...good morning Miss Mary...(LICKS HIS HAND AND MAKE A VAIN EFFORT TO FLATTEN DOWN HIS HAIR)...and what brings you up to Trot's farm?

MARY: I've brought the order for the Palace dairy products...(SHOWS LIST)

JETHRO: Dairy products?...don't they want any butter, eggs and milk?

MARY: Er...yes...that's what I meant actually.

JETHRO: I'm only teasing Miss Mary....I likes to see eee blush....you reminds me of a rosy red apple!

MARY: (SMILES KNOWINGLY)...You say the most romantic things Jethro...when are you and I going to settle down?...we've been stepping out together for longer than I care to remember.

JETHRO: Now don't you be rushing me Mary....yer knows I'm saving for our own little farmstead.

ENTER JACK

JACK: Ah, there you are Jethro.

JETHRO: (RELIEVED ASIDE)...Saved by the bell!

JACK: (TO JETHRO)...Can you go milk Buttercup?...she's being difficult with me again.

JETHRO: Right master Jack....I'll see you later Mary.

JETHRO EXITS

MARY: Bye Jethro!...and how are you Jack?

JACK: Fine thank you Mary....and how is your Mistress the Princess Jasmine this morning?...(REFERS TO LIST IN MARY'S HAND)...that doesn't happen to be a note from her to me does it?

MARY: I'm afraid not....it's just the Palace order for the dairy...although she did say it would be nice if you could deliver it in person (TEASING)... that's if you're not too busy?

JACK: I'm never too busy to see my darling Jasmine!

MARY: Have a care Jack...you know that the King and Queen insist that she marries a Nobleman with land and wealth!

JACK: Go back to the Princess, and tell her that her beloved Jack will see her before the day is out....and don't worry Mary...I will be that wealthy Nobleman before too long!

MARY: I hope you are....you've been penniless for far too long....I'll see you later

MARY EXITS

SUNBEAMS DRIFT ON AS VILLAGE CHILDREN

JACK: (TO HIMSELF)...Penniless?...yes, I suppose I am!...(FEELS IN HIS POCKETS AND TAKES OUT FIVE COINS)....well, almost....just five shiny pennies to my name....(SEES CHILDREN)....Hey...what are you lot doing out of school at this time?

1st SUNBEAM: Oh it's too hot for lessons Master Jack...teacher says the sunshine will do us more good.

2nd SUNBEAM: Is that all the money you have Master Jack?

JACK: (REALISES SHE MEANS THE PENNIES)....What?...oh this?..yes, I'm afraid it is my little one...but you know, with only five pennies you can feel a very rich person....listen, I'll tell you all about it.

♪ ...MUSICAL ITEM No 2....SONG SUGGESTION "THESE 5 PENNIES ARE TO DREAM ON"FEATURING JACK AND THE SUNBEAMS.....AFTER ROUTINE...

TABS CLOSE

ENTER FAIRY

FAIRY: All seems peaceful now, at this point in the tale,
But Jack must soon be defiant,
If he is to overcome the evil at hand,
Mr Fleshcreep and his employer the Giant.

The Giant I mention lives far out of reach,
In Cloudland high up in the sky.
Our hero will journey there soon on his own.
Be prepared, for danger is nigh.

Down here on earth, the Giant's henchman's about,
Mr Fleshcreep, such a horrible man.
Roaming the Kingdom, spreading misery and doom,
By collecting taxes where ever he can.

So prepare yourselves now for a visit,
From Fleshcreep, a man with no heart.
Don't be fooled by his false outward manner,
And with that warning I now will depart.

EXIT FAIRY

ENTER FLESHCREEP ON TABS HE IS CARRYING A LARGE LEDGER

FLESHCREEP: The Giant Blunderbuss has sent me to meet you,
His good wishes to you I convey.
He has a particular liking for children,
But says he can't eat a whole one today!

I collect taxes for my employer the Giant,
From the poor, and the old all alone.
If they don't pay me I'll put pressure to bear.
Who says you can't get blood from a stone!?

(CHECKS BOOK) Now who's in arrears with their taxes this week?
Ah...Dame Trot's on my list for today.
The proceeds from the hay she is gathering in,
Straight to me for her taxes she'll pay.

The Giant will be pleased with my efforts,
In fact he will see me a winner.
And if I hear dissent from you lot out there,

I will take one of you for his dinner!!

The Royal Palace now is my next port of call,
But the Royals, they'll suffer no strife.
It's the peasants who'll pay from their menial wage.
If not cash...then they'll pay with their lives!!


EXIT FLESHCREEP WITH AN EVIL LAUGH

TABS OPEN FOR.....

=====

ACT I...SCENE 2..."INSIDE THE ROYAL PALACE"

SET:...FULL STAGE...CLOTH DEPICTING GRAND PALACE
INTERIOR...TWO RAISED THRONES ARE TO REAR O/P SIDE

 **...MUSICAL ITEM No 3**...FEATURING DANCERS...AFTER
ROUTINE THEY EXIT

ENTER MAJOR RODEWERKS...HE MARCHES TO CENTRE STAGE
VERY REGIMENTAL...THEN DOES SOME EXAGGERATED ABOUT
TURNS AND STAMPING OF FEET AND SALUTING

MAJOR: (SHOUTING AS IF DRILLING TROOPS)...Kings Guard,
into the drawing room...at the double....quick....(PRIVATE ACCESS ENTERS
PREMATURELY)...wait for it lad!..wait for it....(PRIVATE ACCESS BACKS
OFF)...double time quick march!..left right...left right...left right...left right,
etc.....(PRIVATE ACCESS DOES COMICAL MARCH UP TO MAJOR
THEN MARCHES ON THE SPOT)...halt!...(PRIVATE ACCESS IS SLOW TO
RESPOND)...slope arms!.. (PRIVATE DROPS HIS MUSKET)...you are the
most Horrible!... Scruffy!..Clumsy!..Dim-Witted!Lazy! ...Idiotic!....
Disobedient!..Good for Nothing! in the Kings army!...what are you?

PRIVATE: (SCRATCHES HIS HEAD)...Er...I can't remember all them
Major!..can you just run through them again.

MAJOR: Silence!!...(HE WALKS BEHIND PRIVATE AS IF INSPECTING
HIM)...am I hurting you lad?

PRIVATE: No Major...why?

MAJOR: 'Cause I'm standing on your hair!...get it cut!...(PRIVATE MAKES AS IF TO MARCH OFF)...just a minute lad...where do you think you're going?

PRIVATE: I'm going to (MENTION A LOCAL BARBER)...to get my hair cut.

MAJOR: As you were lad!..((HE POINTS TO MEDAL ON PRIVATE ACCESS'S CHEST))....and just where did you get this medal?

PRIVATE: I got it at the Frontier.

MAJOR: The Frontier?

PRIVATE: Yes!..and I've got one at the back here as well!...HE TURNS TO SHOW MEDAL PINNED IN THE MIDDLE OF HIS BACK)

MAJOR: Silence in the ranks!!...pick up your weapon lad...(HE DOES...AND MAJOR TAKES IT FROM HIM)...give me it here....I'll show you how a real soldier does it!...(INTO VISUAL GAG WITH MUSKET)...Shoulder 2..3.....Down 2..3....Present 2..3....Charge 2..3....Load 2..3....Aim 2..3....Bang 2..3....Do as I do it 2..3....(HE THROWS MUSKET TO PRIVATE WHO BY SHEER LUCK CATCHES IT)

PRIVATE: (COPIES MAJOR)...Shoulder 2..3....Down 2..3....Present 2..3Charge 2..3....Load 2..3.....Aim 2..3....Bang 2..3....Catch 2..3.....(HE THROWS MUSKET TO MAJOR WHO ISN'T EXPECTING IT AND SO DROPS IT)

MAJOR: It's back to the parade ground for you my lad....(BARKS OUT ORDERS)...About turn!...by the left...at the double ...quick march!...left right....left right....left right....etc.

AS THEY EXIT MAJOR GIVES A DROLL SALUTE TO AUDIENCE

ENTER PRINCESS JASMINE DREAMILY STAGE LEFT

ENTER MARY STAGE RIGHT

MARY: Oh there you are Princess Jasmine....I took the shopping list to Trot's farm, just as you asked.

PRINCESS: (EXCITED).....Did you see Jack?...did you give him a message?..what did he say?

MARY: (TEASING)....Yes, I saw him....but he never mentioned you!

PRINCESS: (DOWNHEARTED)....What?..he didn't mention me?..oh no....now my life is even more meaningless!

MARY: Oh, I'm sorry your Highness!..I was only teasing...of course Jack asked after you, in fact he should be here at the Palace shortly....he's delivering the order himself, just in the hope of seeing you!

PRINCESS: Jack coming here!!...(EXCITEDLY)...is my hair all right?..maybe I should get changed?

MARY: Don't worry your Highness...you look fine...but do the King and Queen approve of your romance?..after all, Jack is a commoner!

PRINCESS: The King and Queen know nothing of this romance Mary...but if they did know, it shouldn't make any difference....for I too am a commoner!!

MARY: What!?!?...you a commoner?..but your Highness, you have Royal blood running through your veins!

PRINCESS: Sit down Mary...there is something that I must tell you... (THEY BOTH SIT)...but please promise me that what I am about to tell you will go no further!

MARY: (AGOG)....I promise....your secret will be safe with me.

PRINCESS: Well...many years ago, when I was a small child...the Queen had a lady-in-waiting...a certain Lady Gardenia, and she had a young daughter....

MARY: (INTERRUPTING)...And what became of the Lady Gardenia?

PRINCESS: That's what I'm about to tell you Mary....you see, one fateful day, a dark shadow came across the land...people scurried into hiding, and when the shadow passed, the Lady Gardenia was nowhere to be found!..and indeed was never seen again!...the story has it, that the shadow had been cast by the

legendary Giant Blunderbuss, who abducted the Lady Gardenia to be a slave at his castle!

MARY: And what became of her little daughter?

PRINCESS: You're looking at her!

MARY: What!??..You are the daughter of the Queen's lady-in-waiting?

PRINCESS: Yes...and as the King and Queen had no children, they adopted me and brought me up as their own...they also decreed that one day I would become Queen of Aireboria.

MARY: I see...and this Giant...do you really think he exists?

PRINCESS: Yes, I really believe he does....and I also believe that the tax collector Mr. Fleshcreep is in his employ.....and the taxes he collects go directly to the Giant!

MARY: Well, that does make sense...but from all that you've told me, the fact that you are a commoner surprises me the most!..you have such a regal air about you.

PRINCESS: That's training Mary...as I said, I was very young!

MARY: I must admit, it had crossed my mind that the King and Queen were a little old to have such a young daughter....by the way, does Jack know all about this?

PRINCESS: Well, we've talked about the Giant and Mr. Fleshcreep...but he doesn't know of my humble beginnings...perhaps I will tell him one day.

MARY: And does Jack believe the Giant exists?

PRINCESS: He said he won't be totally convinced until he's actually seen him....and as for Fleshcreep, he thinks he's evil enough to work for the Devil himself!

MARY: I won't argue with that!

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