

NODA PANTOMIMES PRESENT...

JACK & THE  
BEANSTALK

BY

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# JACK AND THE BEANSTALK

By Mark Llewelin, Roy Barraclough & John Jardine

## CHARACTERS:

*In order of appearance:*

Fairy Greenbean  
 Witch Furosia  
 Squire Stoneyheart  
 Simple Simon  
 Jack Dandelion  
 Herbert )  
 Humphrey ) Brokers Men  
 Alice Stoneyheart  
 Dame Dandelion  
 Buttercup )  
 Giant Blunderbore ) Can be doubled

Townspeople and ghosts.

## SCENES:

Act one:

1. The Land of Pantomime
2. Village Green
3. On The Way To The Fair
4. Fair
5. On The Way From The Fair
6. Dame Dandelion's Cottage

Act two:

1. Outside The Giant's Castle
2. Giant's Kitchen
3. Haunted Forest
4. Village Green
5. Grand Wedding

**JACK AND THE BEANSTALK****By Mark Llewelin, Roy Barraclough & John Jardine****ACT ONE:****1. LAND OF PANTOMIME:**FLASH AND FAIRY MUSIC. ENTER FAIRY GREENBEAN.

FAIRY:        Now pantomime is here once more,  
                 A tale of Jack and Blunderbore - I'll now unfold,  
                 With beanstalk, singing harp and eggs of gold,  
                 A tale of mirth .. some tears .. some laughter,  
                 But with all living happily - ever after!

FLASH AND WITCH FUROSIA ENTERS.

WITCH:        Not so fast, dear Fairy Greenbean,  
                 I, Witch Furosia, have another scheme - to cause dismay,  
                 Your sickly plot will crumble and decay,  
                 For I serve Giant Blunderbore - a glorious master,  
                 Who'll end your silly story - in disaster!

WITCH EXITS CACKLING.

FAIRY:        Fear not, dear children, an end so tragic,  
                 That witch reckons without my magic spell -  
                 Which will undo her plot and all will be well,  
                 Good triumphs over evil every time,  
                 And now dear friends, welcome to our pantomime -

## 2. VILLAGE GREEN:

CHORUS OF VILLAGERS - NUMBER.

THE NUMBER ENDS AS SQUIRE STONEYHEART ENTERS.

SQUIRE: Stop! Stop all this noise and merrymaking at once. Where do you think you are? Aldi (*or other discounted supermarket*) during happy hour?

CHORUS GROAN AND PROTEST.

What's that you say?

CHILD: Sorry Squire Stoneyheart.

SQUIRE: Let's have it again with a little more conviction.

CHILD: Sorry Squire Stoneyheart.

SQUIRE: So you should be. Now hear this - owing to the fact that Dame Dandelion has not paid her rent for six months, aye, six months! - it is my pleasurable duty to have her evicted forthwith ... if not sooner. Together with her worthless son, Jack. GROANS AND PROTESTS. And let that be a lesson to all my tenants. I'll have no rent rebels on my land. Good, I'm glad you agree with me. Now, to find those two brokers men and get them to evict that dangerous, dastardly, deadleg, decaying, defunct dame! Yes, it's D Day!

HE EXITS.

CHORUS 1: The miserable old skinflint. Poor Dame Dandelion, whatever will she do? She must be told at once.

CHILD: But no one's seen her all day.

CHORUS 2: Oh look, here's Simple Simon. Let's ask him - he may know where she is.

THE CHORUS SHOUT AND WAVE AS SIMON RUNS ON WITH BASKET.

SIMON: Hello boys and girls.

CHORUS: Hello Simple Simon.

SIMON: Hey, not so much of the Simple. I'm not daft you know.

CHORUS: Simon, Squire Stoneyheart is looking high and low for Dame Dandelion. He says he's going to evict her and he's sent for the broker's men.

SIMON: Oh dear, we'd better find her quickly and warn her. I'll tell you what, you go off and look for her and I'll join you in a minute...I just want to have a word with this lot.

CHORUS DASH OFF.

SIMON: Before I go looking for Dame Dandelion I thought perhaps we'd better get to know each other. My name is Simple Simon but I'd be glad if you just called me Simon. Will you do that? Will you? Oh thanks, that's smashing. Look, will you do something else for me too? Every time I come on I'm going to say - 'Hiya kids!' and I want you to shout back 'Hiya Simon!'. Can you do that for me? REHEARSES IT. I bet you can't guess what I've got in my basket. It takes me by surprise some nights. TAKES OUT WATERING CAN. It's for looking after my pet plant - Percy. Look, he's over here - BY THE PROS IS A TUB. HE WATERS IT AND A FLOWER GROWS. Percy loves a drink. So do I! Now, I don't want anyone to harm Percy so will you look after him for me? If you see anyone trying to steal him will you shout out, 'Simon!'. Great. REHEARSES IT. That's marvellous, thanks a lot. So don't forget, keep your peepers peeled and protect my Percy! I'd better go and help the other kids find Dame Dandelion. See you later!

SIMON EXITS. ENTER SQUIRE.

SQUIRE: I can't find those brokers men anywhere. SEES FLOWER. What a lovely bloom, that would look very nice in my buttonhole. GOES TO PICK IT.

SIMON: RUSHING ON. Thanks a lot! Hiya kids! Now then, what's this Squire - prowling around my allotment? I know your sort, turn my back for five minutes and you'd have a block of flats built there before I could say *(name of local estate)*.

SQUIRE: Don't be so stupid! I'm looking for the brokers men, have you seen them?

SIMON: Yes. You know that little pub down by the bridge?

SQUIRE: The one with the thatched roof and the big barmaid?

SIMON: The landlord has a parrot that shouts time.

SQUIRE: And there's a picture of the Prime Minister over the fireplace to keep the kids away?

SIMON: That's the one.

SQUIRE: Yes, I know that pub.

SIMON: Well they weren't in there.

SQUIRE: Imbecile!

SQUIRE CHASES SIMON OFF.

CHORUS ENTERS CALLING DAME DANDELION.

CHORUS: There's no sign of her anywhere.

CHORUS 3: Well she can't be far away, look, here's Jack.

ENTER JACK.

JACK: Hello everyone. Did I hear you shouting for my mother just now?

CHILD: Yes, she hasn't paid the rent.

CHORUS 2: And the Squire is going to throw you out of your cottage.

JACK: That's just typical of the mean old so and so. He'll stop at nothing to get his own back on me. He doesn't approve of me seeing his daughter, Alice. Thinks I'm not good enough for her, well, I'll show him.

NUMBER. AFTER WHICH, JACK EXITS TO APPLAUSE.

CACOPHONY OF CAR HORNS, BELLS ETC.

CHORUS: Look out; here come the brokerø men.

THEY EXIT IN ALL DIRECTIONS.

BROKERS MEN ENTER ON TANDEM OR MOTORBIKE AND SIDECAR.

HERBERT: Dismount Humphrey.

HUMPHREY: Eee, what a shame. I was enjoying that. I kept peddling faster to see if I could overtake you.

HERBERT: Put it away.

BIKE GOES OFF.

HERBERT: What a lovely day for an eviction. Dame Dandelion's feet won't touch the ground. POINTING Is this her house?

HUMPHREY: I don't know. Who could possibly live in a house like this? It's over to you!

HERBERT: I can see you're going to take some training! (ASIDE) This is his first day on the job. Right, I'd better put you in the picture.

HUMPHREY: The picture? Are we making a film? Is it one of those fly on the walls ó will I be discovered? MAKES FUNNY FACE Perhaps Iðl be a big catch.

HERBERT: If you are ó theyðl soon throw you back! IN FRENCH ACCENT:  
Listen carefully, I shall say this only once.

HUMPHREY: You came over all French then ó I could smell you from here.

HERBERT: Pay attention.

HUMPHREY: Pay? For this rubbish?

HERBERT: We have got to throw Dame Dandelion out of her house for not paying her rent. Squire Stoneyheart is going to meet us here.

HUMPHREY: Not Squire Stoneyheart of Stoneyheart Hall? *The* Squire Stoneyheart, the cruellest man ever to bear the name Stoneyheart. Not him?

HERBERT: Do you know him?

HUMPHREY: Never heard of him.

HERBERT: Pay attention. When you give an eviction notice, it has to be pinned on people's doors.

HUMPHREY: Really? Well, we'd better wait until Monday then.

HERBERT: Why Monday?

HUMPHREY: Washing Day. Sneak up to the clothes line and pin the notice on people's drawers.

HERBERT: Their doors. Not their drawers.

HUMPHREY: Oh, I am a fool.

HERBERT: At last, something we can agree on. The important thing is to be firm. Now, let's have a practice. You use that (THE PROS) as the door. Right, march to the door with authority.

HUMPHREY: Oh, is she coming too?

HERBERT: Who?

HUMPHREY: Our Dorothy.

HERBERT: Authority! Now, go on. Knock!

HE GIVES A TIMID KNOCK.

HERBERT: Think authority. Use your head.

HUMPHREY: Pardon?

HERBERT: Use your head man, your head.

HUMPHREY: If you say so.

HE KNOCKS WITH HIS HEAD.

HERBERT: ASIDE: And they say variety's dead. Now, break the door down. Go inside - and lay your hands on whatever she's got.

HUMPHREY: You're joking.

HERBERT: I am not. What ever she's got, you seize it.

HUMPHREY: I'd be shy.

HERBERT: Her furniture you stupid man, her furniture. Now, what do you do if she becomes violent?

HUMPHREY: I run.

HERBERT: No you do not. You say I am the town bailiff.

HUMPHREY: I am the brown tealeaf.

HERBERT: Not brown, you don't say brown - say -

HUMPHREY: Hovis.

HERBERT: Are you sure you're on a work experience scheme?

HUMPHREY: Oh yes. Of course, I wanted to be an author.

HERBERT: An author?

HUMPHREY: I write poems. Dan Dan the laundry man, He has an eye that flickers,  
It goes up and down like a blind, when he sees a pair of ...

HERBERT: Thank you. You won't win any prizes for that.

HUMPHREY: I don't need to. I already have the Nobel Prize.

HERBERT: The Nobel prize?

HUMPHREY: Yes, mine was the only bike in our street with no bell.

SQUIRE ENTERS.

SQUIRE: Ah ha!

HUMPHREY JUMPS INTO HERBERT'S ARMS.

SQUIRE: Is this the new fella?

HERBERT: Yes.

SQUIRE: Well put him down, you don't know where he's been.

HE DOES.

SQUIRE: Now listen, we must find Dame Dandelion.

HUMPHREY: We'd better wait for our Dorothy first.

SQUIRE: Are you a friend of Dorothy's too? Come on then -

SQUIRE AND HUMPHREY EXIT.

HERBERT: Oh, look at that pretty flower.

SIMON IS CALLED ON AND CHASES HERBERT OFF.

JACK ENTERS ALONE.

JACK: I said I'd meet Alice here this afternoon. We must try and change her father's mind about throwing mother and me onto the streets.

ALICE ENTERS.

ALICE: Jack, Jack, I'm sorry I'm late.

JACK: That's alright Alice, it's just lovely to see you.

ALICE: What's the matter, you look worried.

JACK: It's your father. He says he's going to throw mother and me out of the house for not paying the rent.

ALICE: Oh Jack, he's impossible these days. He's actually forbidden me from seeing you ever again.

JACK: And this is the next stage of his plan. If he throws us out of our home we will have to leave the village.

ALICE: No matter what happens Jack, I'll always love you.

JACK: And I you Alice. THEY KISS But we're not beaten yet! And anyway, they can't find mother!

ALICE: Then we'd better find her before father does.

THEY EXIT.  
CHILDREN ENTER.

CHILD 1: Well, we've looked everywhere.

CHILD 3: In the pawnbrokers, in the pub, at the washhouse ó everywhere she normally hangs out.

CHILD 2: Where can she be?

CHILD 1: Oh, look everyone. POINTING OFF

ALL: Here comes Dame Dandelion now.

CHORUS CHEER.  
DAME ENTERS CARRYING BASKET. COW CHASES ON AFTER HER.  
DAME STANDS CENTRE, TAKING A CURTSEY. THE COW BUTTS HER  
FROM BEHIND.

DAME: Now then everybody, I am í .

THE COW IS NUZZLING UP TO HER. DAME TRIES TO STEP ASIDE. SO  
DOES THE COW. THE RESULT IS THAT THE DAME TUMBLES TO THE  
FLOOR.

DAME: Now look what you've done Buttercup, you've squashed me fish fingers.

CHORUS LAUGH AS THE DAME GETS TO HER FEET. THE COW IS BEHIND  
HER, TO ONE SIDE.

DAME: Oh you are a naughty girl Buttercup! You're a naughty, naughty, naughty girl!

AS SHE SAYS THE ABOVE LINE THE DAME TAPS HER FOOT ON EVERY  
'NAUGHTY'

CHORUS: Naughty, naughty, naughty!

AS THE CHORUS SAY THE ABOVE LINE, THE COW TAPS ITS FRONT  
FOOT ON EVERY NAUGHTY  
CHORUS LAUGH.

DAME: And you lot are no better, standing there laughing at me. You're just encouraging her. Buttercup, come over here.

COW SHAKES HEAD.

DAME: You see, one word from me and she does what she likes. Come over here to mummy.

COW REFUSES.

DAME: Ooh, she's an awkward little devil. I knew she shouldn't have had two shredded wheat this morning, Oh alright Buttercup, mummy's sorry for shouting at you. Please come over here.

COW TROTS OVER.

DAME: Would you believe the cheek of her. You are a naughty, naughty girl.

FOOT STAMPING BUSINESS BUT THE COW STAMPS ON THE DAME'S FEET

DAME: Ooh you little ... cow! Now, you've gone too far. You know what's going to happen to you, don't you?

COW NODS.

DAME: Yes, you'll be sent off to *that place!*

COW TREMBLES.

DAME: Yes, you know what I mean. Now, are you sorry?

COW KISSES HER.

DAME: That's better, we're friends again.

CHORUS 1: Dame Dandelion, could you let me have a pint of milk?

DAME: Yes of course. Buttercup! Customer!

DAME CRANKS COW'S TAIL. PINT APPEARS.

DAME: There you are dear - homogenised, pulverised, and - WHISKS PINT PAST HER FACE - past-your-eyes'd! Forty-five pence please.

CHORUS: Can I have it on account?

DAME: On account?

CHORUS: On account of I haven't got any cash.

CHORUS AWAY.

DAME: Oh Buttercup, where would you be without a laugh?

COW WHISPERS IN HER EAR.

DAME: Here? Aye now, let's say hello to the boys and girls.

COW SHAKES HER HEAD.

DAME: You are being naughty today. I've just got one thing to say to you - beef burgers!

COW WAVES WILDLY TO AUDIENCE.

DAME: I should think so. Alright, you go and chew the cud on the common while I make myself acquainted with these lovely people.

COW EXITS.

DAME: She knows every word I say to her! Ooh, look what an afternoon I've had, I've just come back from Tesco's ... the queues! I've never seen anything like it since Edna Bickerstaff got stuck in the loo on (*local*) Station. Three flushes and a passing rugby player with half a pound of lard ó that's what it took to get her free poor love. She can't smell chips cooking without thinking of it. I didn't want a lot - well, I'm on a diet. Well, I'm on three diets actually; there wasn't enough food for me on the one. Now then, I'm Dame Dandelion. WAVES Are you having a good time? REACTION. REPEAT. REACTION Why, what are you doing? I tell you what, why don't we have some fun. Why don't we get all the ugly people to move down to the front. LOOKS OUT Oh, you've already done that. Now, don't be shy - this is pantomime after all and we're here to let ourselves go, aren't we! Go on, loosen a few things - no missus, not your corsets. We're not licensed for that sort of thing. Give me a smile - show off your teeth. No dear, I didn't mean take them out and pass them round! That's better - when I first came on I thought we were going to have to join hands and contact the living! Before we go any further, I know what you're saying to yourselves - 'Where's the genie!'. Well, he sends his love but that's not this pantomime! They said they were slow in (*town name*). I think we're going to have to do a bit of plot - you see, there's this evil giant called Blunderbore who's frightening the entire village. Nobody's ever seen him though because he lives up at the top of this mountain and every year he captures a young, beautiful, maiden ... I think this is where I come in! ...

LIGHTS GO DOWN.

DAME: Hey, hasn't it gone dark! Nights are drawing in, aren't they? Well, I said to the villagers, there's nothing to be afraid of ...

GIANT: Fee, foh, fie, fum!

DAME: He sounds a pain in the bum!

GIANT: I smell the blood of an Englishman, be he alive or be he dead, I'll grind his bones to make my bread.

LIGHTS UP.

DAME: Oh dear, if only Jack were here now. Just like his father, never here when you want him.

JACK, ALICE AND SIMON ON.

SIMON: Hiya kids!

DAME: Oh Jack, Jack, thank heavens you're back! That dreadful giant was here again.

JACK: Mother, there's more important things to worry about than the giant. Where have you been? We've looked high and low for you.

DAME: High and low?

ALICE: Up hill and down dale.

DAME: Up and down? High and Low? Where did you think I was ó on a bouncy castle?

SIMON: Where have *you* been?

DAME: To Tesco's! You should have seen the queues, I've just been telling the boys and girls. I was telling you, wasn't I ...

JACK: Mother! We're going to be evicted!

DAME: Evic...! What is this?

SIMON: It's true. The squire says you owe him six months rent. He said to me, 'She's £20 in arrears'.

DAME: And what did you say?

SIMON: I said: she wouldn't have £20 in her ears. She washes them out every day.

SIMON LAUGHS AS DO THE CHORUS WHO ENTER WITH COW.

DAME: This is no laughing matter. What am I going to do?

ALICE: Jack will think of something, don't worry!

DAME: You're right Alice, you're right. 'Cos he's got it up here you know TOUCHES HEAD, oh yes, he's very clever. Not like his father, he was a shift worker. You asked him to work and he'd shift alright.

JACK: I've got it!

DAME: Well give it back.

JACK: We'll have to sell Buttercup.

GASPS FROM THE CHORUS.

DAME: Those words went straight from your mouth to God's ears Jack. Do you know what you're saying?

JACK: It's the only way. What else can we do? The money we get will pay the rent and we can keep the cottage.

DAME: What about Buttercup, have you thought about her?

ALICE: Once you're out of financial trouble, you could buy her back?

DAME: That's enough of you little Miss Practical. It's your father's got us in this mess.

JACK: Mother!

DAME: That's right, all turn on me. I'm just the one that's brought you up from being a ... Isn't it dreadful when they grow up and turn against you like this. TO AUDIENCE: Have you had it too missus? I can see you have, I can see it from here actually. And you're thinking of having it again, aren't you!

SIMON: I've got an idea. We could have a jumble sale and the money we make will go towards buying Buttercup back.

DAME: Yes, that's it. We'll have her back in no time. Buttercup!

COW COMES FORWARD.

DAME: You won't mind being away for a few days, will you? You could think of it as a holiday. DOUBTFULLY Well, I don't know if we're doing the right thing. Would you mind?

COW SHAKES HEAD.

DAME: Alright then. But we're going to buy her back. Before she goes, perhaps you'd give us a moment or two together.

JACK: Come on everyone.

EVERYONE OFF BUT DAME & BUTTERCUP

DAME: Now you would say if you minded, wouldn't you love? I mean, we've been through a lot together you and me 'o we've laughed, and we've cried . . . and we've laughed, haven't we? I mean, when they're all out enjoying themselves it's just you and me back at the cottage of a night. And haven't we had some lovely times 'o two toilet duck and gins, a copy of Hello and (*trashy TV show*) on the telly. What more could a girl wish for? Look, Buttercup, I appreciate what you're doing for me and I promise you 'o it won't be long before I come and get you back. Alright?

BUTTERCUP GOES TO EXIT.

Ooh, I hate goodbyes 'o but then it's not goodbye is it? It's just au revoir. ASIDE: You didn't know I knew Spanish, but I do. Alright then love 'o

SHE RUSHES OVER & KISSES BUTTERCUP, WHO THEN EXITS.

Ooh, what have I done?

BROKERS MEN ON.

HERBERT: Ah ha, Dame Dandelion!

HUMPHREY: Dame Dandelion, would you mind stepping inside your cottage so that we can throw you out of it?

DAME: You want me to go ...

HUMPHREY: And our Dorothy's right sorry but she couldn't get here today.

DAME: Well, you're not going to evict me from my house 'cos we're going to the country fair to sell our cow Buttercup at the auction. She's our only hair-loom and she's going to see us alright. So there! BLOWS RASPBERRY.

NUMBER Dame, Humphrey and Herbert.

### 3. ON THE WAY TO THE FAIR:

#### SQUIRE ENTERS.

SQUIRE: Curses! Foiled again! I'd forgotten about Dame Dandelion's livestock. Still, as I'm the official auctioneer at the market I'll see to it that that mangy animal doesn't fetch a good price. Aren't I a clever little squire!

#### SQUIRE EXITS.

#### JACK AND ALICE LEAD COW ON.

JACK: Come on Buttercup, I know you don't really want to go but there's nothing else we can do. We'll buy you back in a few days - I promise!

ALICE: Oh Jack! Look at her face, she's so unhappy.

JACK: Would you like something to eat Buttercup, before we go any further?

#### COW NODS.

JACK: Alright, you go to that nice green field over there and we'll come for you in a minute or two.

#### COW EXITS.

ALICE: Poor Buttercup! She's so unhappy but then, so am I. Oh Jack, it seems as though we shall never be able to marry now.

JACK: Don't worry Alice, love will always find a way.

#### THEY GO TO EMBRACE. FLASH, FAIRY ON. THEY FREEZE.

FAIRY: Unhappy Jack, do not despair,  
For I'll keep watch at the fair - but in disguise!  
Look, would you mind if I spoke properly, all this rhyming is giving me a headache.

JACK: No ó but who are you?

FAIRY: Oh yes, sorry. Where are my manners? I am the Fairy Greenbean.  
CURTSEYS Now, the plan is this ó that Squire is driving me bonkers so I've come up with a cunning plan. I am going to disguise myself as an old lady and I will bid for the cow. With a bag of magic gold!

#### FLASH. WITCH ON.

WITCH: What! You meddling Fairy - hold!  
What's this you say of bags of gold? ó  
If you're not doing the rhyming, then I don't think I will bother.  
Anyway, I don't need little tricks or magic gold to stop you and your ó

oh so lovely ó friends. I am going to get you, over this one. Just you watch me! CACKLES

WITCH AND FAIRY OFF. DAME ON.

DAME: Now, what are you two doing? Where's Buttercup?

JACK: In that field, we'll go and hit the road again.

DAME: What do you think of the dress? It's by an American designer - one yank and it's off! Come on slow coaches!

SIMON ON.

SIMON: Hiya kids!

DAME: Ooh, do you know, I'll never forgive our Jack if we don't manage to buy Buttercup back.

SIMON: What happened to the money you had to pay the rent with anyway?

DAME: Ah, I was wondering when someone might ask me that. Well, I gave it to some animals!

SIMON: Animals?, what animals?

DAME: The horses!

SIMON: You lost the rent money on the horses?

DAME: The sport of kings!

BROKERS MEN ENTER.

DAME: Ah, it's you two! Do run along Simon.

SIMON OFF.

DAME HITCHES SKIRTS UP.

DAME: Gentlemen, could you see your way to helping a damsel in distress?

HUMPHREY: In distress, dat dress or any other dress!

HERBERT: Madam, I know a lady of quality when I see one. And you're right up my street!

HUMPHREY: I like those too!

DAME: What?

HUMPHREY: Quality Street!

HERBERT: Pay no attention to him dear lady, he's one step away from an idiot!

HUMPHREY MOVES A STEP AWAY.

DAME: Hey, stop right there! HE FREEZES I can see you have a yours!

HERBERT: A what? CONFUSED

DAME: A yours! Don't you know what that is?

HERBERT: No! What's yours?

DAME: Thank you - I'll have a port and lemon in the interval.

BROKERS MEN EXIT.

DAME: Oh, look at this lovely flower - it would look so pretty in my hair!  
GOES TO FLOWER.

SIMON ON.

SIMON: Thanks kids! Dame Dandelion, get your hands off my hollyhocks!

SIMON WATERS FLOWER AND IT GROWS A BIT MORE.

DAME: How lovely!

GOES DARK.

GIANT (OFF): Fee, foe, Fie, Fum!

DAME: Simon, your lips never moved then. Oh no, it's that big fella in the top flat! Come down here and say that.

GIANT: You old crone! It will be curtains for you if we ever do meet. Your son wants to marry Alice but you mark my words - she's going to be my bride so tell him to get his hands off!

LIGHTS UP.

DAME: That's the second time that's happened to me. I've been down the council about him but they're not even interested. If it wasn't for the buses I'd move to (*remote district*) in a flash.

FLASH. FAIRY ON.

DAME: They're coming from everywhere today!

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FAIRY: Fairy Greenbean is my name,

DAME: Did she call me a -has beenø?

FAIRY: To look after you dear dame, is my allotted task,

DAME: ASIDE: I donø have an allotment.

FAIRY: Stay not to question - do not ask!  
Go on your way, don't stop to stare.

DAME EXITS.

Come dear friends, the country fair!

#### 4. THE COUNTRY FAIR:

CHORUS WANDERING AROUND. [NUMBER].  
SQUIRE APPEARS AT LECTERN.

SQUIRE: Order, order, order!

CHORUS SHOUT OUT DRINKS ORDERS.

BROKERS MEN ARRIVE FOLLOWED BY JACK, ALICE, SIMON, COW.

SQUIRE: Now then ladies and gentlemen. The last item of the day is a perfect example of a fine animal gone to seed!

DAME ON.

DAME: Did somebody call?

SQUIRE: I don't expect this antiquated merchandise will realise a good price so I will start the bidding at just one penny. As cheap as chips bargain hunters. Now, who would like to spend a penny?

ALL HANDS GO UP.

DAME: Right, everybody form a queue.

ALL QUEUE, INCLUDING COW, DOWN STAGE.

DAME: There are never enough portaloos to go round, are there? It's alright for you men. You can get a shake on!

SQUIRE: When you've quite finished madam, I am trying to conduct an auction here.

HUMPHREY: You couldn't conduct a bus.

SQUIRE: Now, any advance on one penny?

CHORUS BID.

SQUIRE: Then I will bid myself - the sum of eleven pence! Going, going,

FAIRY ON IN DISGUISE.

FAIRY: I would like to make a bid.

SQUIRE: You?, you bag of old bones. You couldn't even manage to bid goodbye.

FAIRY: I will bid - one bag of gold.

SQUIRE: A bag of gold, are you mad?

SIMON TAKES THE HAMMER.

SIMON: Sold! BANGS HAMMER ON SQUIRE'S HAND.

CHEERS AS THE FAIRY GIVES GOLD TO SQUIRE & LEADS COW OFF.

DAME: I must run after that old woman and thank her - and to say goodbye to Buttercup. Jack, will you collect the money and bring it home? Ooh, just think - a bag of gold! This calls for a celebration, I've got time to pick up a malt loaf on the way home. Oh, go on, let's push the boat out and crack open a Viennetta!

DAME EXITS.

SQUIRE: Curses boy, here's the gold!

JACK HAS THE BAG. FLASH. WITCH ON. FREEZE.

WITCH: What cursed luck - that cow's been sold,  
To Fairy Greenbean, and for a bag of gold,  
But I shall use the evil in my means,  
To turn that gold to worthless beans!

A LIGHT APPEARS INSIDE THE BAG. WITCH OFF. UNFREEZE.

SQUIRE: Well, you've managed to keep your wretched home, but there is one thing you will never manage to get - and that is my approval for you to marry my daughter Alice.

ALICE: But father...

SQUIRE: Come on Alice, back to Stoneyheart Hall.

ALICE AND SQUIRE EXIT.

CHORUS: Don't worry Jack!

THEY EXIT.

HERBERT: Now come on boy, I'll escort you home with your bag of gold, there are some very odd characters about.

SIMON/

HUMPHREY: We'll come too.

HERBERT: See what I mean?

**5. ON THE WAY FROM THE FAIR:**JACK AND HERBERT ENTER.

JACK: Oh look, mother would love this flower for her kitchen window.

SIMON AND HUMPHREY ON.

SIMON: Thanks kids. Unhand my petunia at once. That is Percy, the petunia!

WATERS HIM AND HE GROWS A LITTLE MORE.  
STAGE DARKENS.

GIANT: Fee, foh, fie, fum, I smell the blood of an Englishman, Be he alive or be he dead, I'll grind his bones to make my bread.

HERBERT: Who's he talking to?

GIANT: You!

HERBERT: Me? Is that fella off the Lottery? Have I won??

GIANT: You pair of idiots! You bumbling baboons!

SIMON: I think he's trying to make a monkey out of you!

GIANT: You stupid, ignorant, cretinous, imbecillic morons!

HERBERT: Has something upset you sir?

HUMPHREY: Perhaps it was someone you ate.

GIANT: Be quiet. I want to speak to Jack.

JACK: Yes?

GIANT: You and I are fated to meet quite soon and when we do, that day will be your last!

JACK: You don't frighten me Blunderbore!

SIMON: The bigger you are, the harder you fall.

GIANT: Who said that?

SIMON: He did.

THEY ALL POINT AT EACH OTHER.

GIANT: I shall be waiting for you Jack, in my castle.

LIGHTS UP.

HERBERT: Well, that's cheered us all up.

NUMBER Herbert, Humphrey, Simon, Jack.

JACK: Nothing can upset me today, not with this bag of gold. Come on, let's hurry back to mother.

THEY EXIT.

## 6. DAME DANDELION'S COTTAGE:

### THE DAME IS ON THE PHONE.

DAME: That's a pony on Red Rum and a monkey on Desert Orchid with an each way accumulator on... SEES AUDIENCE. Ah ha ha, so there you are. I'll call you back William. HANGS UP. Ooh, isn't this exciting. All that money. I'll have a wonderful time on QVC! I'm getting a car for Jack ó and I'll pay it all upfront, wall to wall carpets, a diamonique necklace, one of those chairs for going up the stairs that all the old actors have, a walk in bath, and a walk out one - oh, there's no end to it! Anyway, I'll have to get on, I've got to cook some sausages for Jack's tea. I thought we'd have bangers and mash. HOLDS UP STRING OF SAUSAGES WHICH EXPLODE I suppose that's why they call them bangers. Oh well, I've got a bit of brisket in the oven and I'll have to open a tin of chunks.

### JACK ENTERS.

JACK: Here I am mother, all our worries are over. Buttercup's gone to a good home and we've got a bag of gold!

DAME: Never mind all that nattering, bring it over here onto this clean new pinnie. I want to count it. PUTS HAND INTO BAG What's this? PULLS OUT BEANS Beans? It's not gold at all, it's beans? You know what this means!

JACK: Beans means Heinz?

DAME: No, beans means we've been done. You useless, worthless boy. You've let yourself be tricked into parting with Buttercup for a meagre bag of beans. How could you be so stupid?

JACK: But mother!

DAME: Don't say another word, I don't want to hear any more from you tonight. You've ruined us with your stupidity, we've lost everything. And for what? - a worthless bag of beans.

### SHE THROWS THEM OUT OF THE WINDOW. FLASH.

DAME: And now to cap it all, I'm having one of me hot flushes.

### JACK COMFORTS HER. STAGE DARKENS. IN UV WE SEE THE BEANSTALK GROW OVER THE HOUSE. LIGHTS UP.

JACK: Mother, look! Look, what is it?

DAME: If that ginger Tom from next door's been on my rhubarb again!

FLASH. FAIRY APPEARS.

FAIRY: No dear Dame, you think quite wrong.  
Behold, a giant beanstalk ó so strong.

THEY EXAMINE IT.

DAME: But where does it lead?

FAIRY: Jack, be brave, advance our pantomime with thrills and fights,

DAME: But careful love, don't get a hole in them tights.

FAIRY: Go forward now and meet the giant, our adventure's not through.

DAME: And you lot, join us - in act two!

JACK STARTS TO CLIMB TO MUSIC. CHORUS COULD ENTER FOR  
NUMBER.  
CURTAIN.

## ACT TWO

### 1. THE ENTRANCE TO THE GIANT'S CASTLE:

CHORUS AS GHOSTS AND GHOULS - [NUMBER] THEN OFF AS -  
JACK CLIMBS ON.

JACK:           What a climb! I never thought I was going to reach the top. So this is Giant Blunderbore's domain. It's very bleak and very cold too! I must go and explore.

JACK EXITS AS SIMON ENTERS.

SIMON:          Hiya kids! What a climb! Oooh, and it's so chilly up here. HOLDS UP CLIMBING ROPE Hey, you won't believe what I've got on the end of this rope! EXITS PULLING ROPE ON WHICH ARE TIED VARIOUS COMEDY PROPS. SIMON THEN APPEARS FROM OPPOSITE SIDE OF STAGE TIED ON THE END OF THE ROPE. See, I said you wouldn't believe it!

SOUND OF PLANE FLYING OVER THEN DING DONG -

VOICEOVER:Attention please! British Beanstalk Airways wish to announce the arrival of Starship Enterprise at Beanstalk-Base Three.

STAR TREK MUSIC AS HUMPHREY AND HERBERT ENTER AS SPACEMEN.

SIMON:          Help! It's a yetty, I'm getting out of here.

SIMON EXITS.

HERBERT:       Enterprise to control, mission complete, all systems go!

HUMPHREY: Beam me up Spotty!

HERBERT:       Are there any signs of life up here?

HUMPHREY: What?

HERBERT:       KNOCKS ON HIS HEAD Are there any signs of life in there?

HUMPHREY: And why hasn't our Dorothy got here yet?

HERBERT:       Never mind Dorothy, where's Dame Dandelion. I thought she was following behind?

ENTER DAME.

DAME:           So this is Debenham's grotto! It's a helluva way up! I'm glad I wore my Tupperware bra.

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HERBERT: Tupperware?

DAME: Oh yes. I haven't got a lot but it keeps it fresh. Well I didn't expect it to be this chilly. No wonder the fella in the travel agents told me to put anti-freeze in my sun lotion. I passed a monkey advertising for a welder back there. Thank good ness I'm with friends -

NUMBER Dame, Herbert, Humphrey.

FLASH. WITCH ENTERS.

WITCH: Ha ha.

DAME: You caught me unawares then.

HUMPHREY: Leave her underwear alone!

WITCH: Silence thou queen of frumps,  
My evil plans have turned up trumps, or so it seems,  
For I have lured sweet Alice from her dreams,

ALICE ON IN DAZE.

WITCH: Within the castle waits my master - Blunderbore,  
To have her as his bride for - evermore!

WITCH EXITS WITH ALICE.

DAME: Oh blimey, there's more drama on this stage than in the EastEnders omnibus! Where's Jack when you want him?

JACK ENTERS.

JACK: Mother! Why did you have to climb the beanstalk too?

DAME: If you think you're hogging act two to yourself you've another thing coming. They're not going to sit there listening to 'Climb Every Mountain' all night. Anyroadup, I've just had that woman in green here telling me she's taking Alice to marry the giant!

JACK: Then I must go to her.

JACK EXITS.

DAME: Oh what a ta-do!

HUMPHREY: What now?

DAME: What?

HUMPHREY: You want me to play my didgeridoo!

DAME: You concentrate on playing *this* part. Now listen, you two go and look for Alice!

HERBERT: Anything for you dear lady!

HERBERT AND HUMPHREY EXIT.

DAME: Eee, I don't like being left here on my own. It looks as though the place could be haunted! Hey, if you do see any ghosts around you will tell me, won't you?

TABS COME IN TO ALLOW FOR THE SCENE CHANGE BEHIND.

I'll pull up this bench and sing a little song - it'll keep me cheerful - and with my singing, it'll keep the ghosts away. I don't fancy being grabbed by the ghoulies, do you kids? What about you dads? - didn't think so.

SINGS. A GHOST APPEARS STAGE RIGHT, TAPS HER ON SHOULDER AND RUNS OFF. SINGS. REPEAT WITH GHOST FROM LEFT. FOUR TIMES THIS HAPPENS UNTIL SHE STARES THE GHOST OUT AND IT SCREAMS AND RUNS OFF.

ENTER JACK.

JACK: Oh mother, it seems as though fate is against me. (SHOUTS) Don't worry Alice, wherever you are, I shall find you!

FLASH. FAIRY ENTERS.

FAIRY: Onward Jack to save the squire's daughter,  
In this resolve, your footsteps mustn't falter,  
Go now, be brave, Jack be bold  
Get the singing harp and eggs of gold,  
An awesome task as well I know,  
But I'll protect you - make haste - go!

EXIT FAIRY.

JACK AND DAME INTO ROUSING NUMBER.

## 2. THE GIANT'S KITCHEN:

### ALICE IS CHAINED TO A TABLE LEG. THE WITCH TORMENTS HER.

ALICE: Help! Help!

WITCH: Your cries and screams are to no avail. No one can hear you in the castle.

ALICE: You'll pay for this.

WITCH: Silence! Here comes my master now.

### GIANT ENTERS. HE CAN EITHER WALK ON OR A CLOTH OR SCREEN GOES OUT TO REVEAL HIS HEAD AND MAYBE A HAND.

GIANT: So this is my new bride.

### WITCH PRODS ALICE.

WITCH: Yes master, ain't she a pretty little thing.

GIANT: Good enough to eat!

### THEY LAUGH. ALICE PULLS AWAY FROM HIM.

GIANT: You shrink away from me now but soon you'll grow to love me - or it will make it worse for you.

ALICE: I shan't be here long enough to grow to love you. Jack will be here soon, he'll rescue me and then he'll kill you - you beast.

GIANT: Jack kill me?

WITCH: He'll have him on toast for breakfast.

GIANT: No Alice, you must forget Jack. You won't be seeing him again. Now look, I've got you a wedding gift - Guards, bring me my singing harp and my golden hen.

### GUARDS BRING ON TABLE WITH THE HEN AND HARP ON THEM.

GIANT: Come to me my little hen, lay a golden egg to show my new wife.

### HEN LAYS EGG.

GIANT: There - pure gold!

WITCH: There were two of them but one day we fancied some chicken nuggets!

HEN SQUAWKS.

WITCH: What bit of the chicken are her nuggets?

GIANT: Silence! And now my magic harp will sing a lullaby so that I may sleep.

HARP: Certainly master. SINGS.

GIANT: Witch, your work is done - now leave Alice and me to rest for we shall be married in the morning!

WITCH: Yes sire. I shall go and find a new hat.

WITCH EXITS. HARP SINGS. GIANT SLEEPS. JACK ENTERS.

ALICE: Oh Jack be quiet, the giant's sleeping and you'll wake him.

JACK UNDOES THE CHAIN.

JACK: Quickly, we must get out of here and find the others. They all came up the beanstalk after me. Oh look, there's the singing harp and magic hen that Fairy Greenbean told me about.

LOUD DOORBELL SOUND.DAME PEERS ROUND DOOR FOLLOWED BY SIMON, HERBERT AND HUMPHREY. THEY ENTER.

ALICE: Quiet, the giant is asleep.

GIANT SNORES.

HUMPHREY: It must have been those beans I had for me dinner. INTO SONG -  
How many beans do you find in a tin, how many beans do you see?,  
the answer my friend is blowing in the wind, the answer is blowing in  
the wind.

HERBERT: Quiet Humphrey!

HUMPHREY GOES TO GIANT.

HUMPHREY: He's a big fella!

THE GIANT STIRS.

GIANT: What's going on? Oh, it's you lot of no hoppers.

DAME: He's seen the reviews.

GIANT: So you've dared to come to my castle. How lucky though that you should choose today - you can stay for the wedding.

HERBERT: A wedding, how lovely.

HUMPHREY: Will there be a buffet? Scotch eggs, chicken drummers, HEN SHRIEKS ,trifle?

GIANT: Oh no, we're starting with soup - cream of Dandelion. Followed by casserole - Humphrey and Herbert flavour. Then it's the sorbet - Simple Simon and lemon!

HUMPHREY: And pudding?

GIANT: Oh yes, Jellied Jack!

HUMPHREY: Oh how lovely, a proper sit down do. With coffee and mints?

GIANT: You imbeciles! Guards, prepare my meal at once!

GUARDS GRAB HUMPHREY AND HERBERT.

DAME: Time for my secret weapon! Our Walter's watch. TAKES OUT WATCH ON CHAIN Do you know, this watch went through the Boer War with our Walter. He died with it in his hand. Fell right on top of it. I said to our Winnie, it's the only time your Walter was ever on time. Now then lofty!

GIANT: Get on with it woman.

DAME: Watch the watch! You are going to sleep....

SHE HYPNOTISES HIM AND HE FALLS ASLEEP.

SIMON: Now grab the goodies!

THEY COLLECT THE HARP AND HEN AND BUNDLE OFF.

**3. HAUNTED FOREST:**CHORUS DO UV [NUMBER.]JACK, ALICE, DAME, HERBERT, HUMPHREY AND SIMON ON.

JACK: Oh dear, I think we've lost our way back to the beanstalk.

DAME: Did nobody bring their A - Z?

SIMON: Look!

LIGHTS UP ON SIGN - 'BEANSTALK THIS WAY'.

JACK: Come on everyone!

JACK AND ALICE HEAD OFF.

SIMON: I don't like it round here, it's frightening!

DAME: Don't worry Simon. Do you know what I do when I'm frightened?

SIMON: No.

DAME: I sing.

SIMON: Really? Does it work?

DAME: It worked for Julie Andrews didn't it?

HERBERT: I like a good sing too.

DAME: Do you? Well, I tell you what. I'll bet you £5 that you can't sing 'Singing In The Rain' without looking right or left.

HERBERT: That's easy. Come on then, let's see the colour of your money.

MONEY IS PRODUCED.

DAME: Right, stand here and don't start until I tell you.

DAME OFF SR AND SIMON OFF SL. BACK ON WITH TWO SODA SYPHONS.  
HERBERT SINGS AND IS SQUIRTED.

HUMPHREY: Give us a chance to win our money back! You have a go. You see if you can sing 'Singing In The Rain' without looking left or right.

DAME: OK then, only fair.

THEY GO OFF AND RETURN WITH SYPHONS.This script is licensed for amateur theatre by NODA Ltd to whom all enquiries should be made. [www.noda.org.uk](http://www.noda.org.uk) E-mail: [info@noda.org.uk](mailto:info@noda.org.uk)

DAME SINGS BUT THE TWO SYPHONS ARE EMPTY AND THE DAME PRODUCES A WATER PISTOL FROM INSIDE OUTFIT AND GETS THEM AGAIN.

JACK ENTERS.

JACK: Come on you lot, we've found the beanstalk.

FLASH. WITCH ENTERS.

WITCH: Hold on Jack, not so quick,  
You're all beginning to make me sick.

DAME: You look a bit green around the gills.

WITCH: Once more I, Furosia, will Alice take -

ALICE ENTERS TRANCELIKE.

WITCH: The giant misses her, his heart aches!  
But curses, Jack will be a danger still,  
So Dame Dandy, your son I will kill!

FLASH. FAIRY ENTERS.

FAIRY: Quick Jack, this magic sword I give.  
Fight Furosia, she must not live!

DAME: Some days you can stand here and never see a soul.

FIGHT. THE WITCH IS HELD AT SWORD POINT.

WITCH: Don't kill me, I beg you.

JACK: Then renounce evil.

DAME: And get yourself some nicer frocks. They have some lovely outfits for the larger lady in Evans'.

WITCH: Alright, alright, I give in!

WITCH IS HELPED UP.

DAME: You should be nice and lovely like what I am.

WITCH: Really?? And what keeps you so lovely?

DAME: A good sing song. And if that's not a cue I don't know what is.

NUMBER.

#### 4. VILLAGE GREEN:

IN THE BACKGROUND, DAME DANDELION'S COTTAGE ALONG WITH A FALLEN BEANSTALK, A PAIR OF LARGE BOOTS AND AN AXE OR - IF ABLE, JACK CLIMBS DOWN SURROUNDED BY DRY ICE. THE GIANT TRIES TO FOLLOW. JACK INTO COTTAGE TO COLLECT AXE. CHOPS UNTIL BEANSTALK AND GIANT FALL. HE POSES IN TRIUMPHAL MODE. LIGHTING CHANGE INTO -

SQUIRE STONEYHEART ON.

SQUIRE: Oh it is a happy day alright. My daughter Alice is to marry Jack Dandelion. Well, what could I do? He saved her life up there in the giant's castle, didn't he? And Dame Dandelion has paid her back rent! - with interest. Well, it interested me alright!

ENTER HUMPHREY AND HERBERT.

SQUIRE: Hello, where are you two rushing off to in a hurry?

HERBERT: We're delivering this parcel -

SQUIRE: Really? What's in it?

HUMPHREY: A twenty-one piece dinner service.

SQUIRE: And you're delivering it by hand?

HERBERT: Oh yes, I wouldn't trust the post office to deliver it.

SQUIRE: Why not?

HERBERT: Well look, I'll show you what happens. The postman takes the parcel off you and he throws it in his sack DROPS IT Then he throws the sack over his shoulder PICKS IT UP AND THROWS IT Then when it gets to the sorting office they stamp it like this BASHES IT Then they throw it in another sack to deliver it THROWS IT AGAIN So I wouldn't send it by post. I mean, you wouldn't want to get it damaged, would you?

SQUIRE: No, I guess not.

ENTER DAME.

DAME: What have you got there?

SQUIRE: It's a parcel they're delivering.

DAME: By hand?

HUMPHREY: Yes, we don't trust the post. It's a SHAKES IT a forty-eight piece dinner service.

DAME: Really? I wouldn't trust the postman but I would trust Parcelforce.

HERBERT: Really?

DAME: Oh yes.

HUMPHREY: Except that when they come to collect a parcel they throw it in the back of the van THROWS IT and then he takes it to a depot and puts it on a conveyor belt THROWS IT AND KICKS IT ALONG until it finds the right bay DROPS IT Then it goes on another lorry THROWS IT and it comes to your house only you're not in and so they give it to your neighbour who doesn't like you and gives it a good kicking. KICKS IT.

DAME: You could be right.

HERBERT: And I wouldn't want one of the cups to get chipped.

ENTER SIMON.

SIMON: What have you got there?

HERBERT: We're delivering this parcel.

SIMON: What is it?

HUMPHREY: SHAKES IT A two hundred piece dinner service.

SIMON: Is it addressed to me?

HERBERT: Yes.

SIMON: I ordered that from Argos. It's a -

DAME: LAUGHS Five hundred piece -

SIMON: Dinner service.

DAME, SQUIRE, HERBERT AND HUMPHREY LAUGH.

DAME: I wouldn't trust the post with that.

SIMON: It's alright, it's not for me anyway. Happy birthday Auntie Dandelion!

DAME: Oh, just what I always wanted! Anyhow, nothing can make me cross today - nothing! Not with our Jack making an honest woman out of Alice and us becomin' in-laws!

SQUIRE: We are indeed Dame Dandelion.

DAME: So with me being family you'll be dropping this idea of charging rent!

SQUIRE: Now, now, I don't think I'll be that hasty. Anyhow, what with your hen laying those golden eggs you'll not be short of a bob or two -

DAME: That's true! Although I am getting tired of the feathers in the lounge. And that musical singing thing - oh, it does harp on! But not to worry, you're right squire, we're rich!

NUMBER CHORUS ON AS TOWNSPEOPLE FOR IT.

DAME: Well, I'd better go and titivate myself for the wedding.

SIMON: Don't forget your -

THROWS BOX AND THERE'S MORE SMASHING NOISES.

SIMON: - six hundred piece dinner service.

SIMON PRESENTS DAME WITH THE BOX. SHE CHASES HERBERT AND HUMPHREY OFF.

SQUIRE: What a glorious day this is!

SIMON: Makes you feel like singing!

SQUIRE: Well, we'll do just that.

TABS IN.

SIMON ON.

SIMON: It is a glorious day, isn't it? I'm so happy I'm going to declare my real earnings to the tax man, I'm going to phone up Crimestoppers and tell them you're all here, I'm so happy I just saw a picture of (*famous personality not known for their looks*) and thought: Now she's not bad! I am, I'm that blooming happy. Eh, my little flower hasn't half grown, hasn't it?

HE GOES TO FLOWER AND STROKES IT.

Thank you for looking after him. Well, there's only one way to end the story for me ó a good sing-a-ling-a-ling-long. So, why don't we get all my friends out here and you can join in too if you'd like.

REACTION Good ó come on kids!

ENTER CHORUS.

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NUMBER Simon and Children.
----------------------------

CHILDREN TAKE BOW. TABS OUT. THEY MOVE BACK. ADULT CHORUS ON, BOW AND BACK. SIMON HAS GONE OFF AND NOW RETURNS ó SIMON BOWS AND STEPS TO ONE SIDE. THEN THE OTHER CHARACTERS ENTER AND BOW IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER: Fairy Greenbean, Witch Furosia, Squire Stonyheart, Herbert, Humphrey, Giant (if he can walk), Dame Dandelion. THEN, LASTLY, Jack and Alice together.

JACK: As the Fairy foretold, I've won my Alice.

ALICE: We'll live happy ever after - in our new palace.

HERBERT: We hope you've all enjoyed it - and had lots of cheer.

HUMPHREY: Do you think our Dorothy'll make it next year?

FAIRY: There is just one thing I still have to do.

WITCH: Is it something that goes moo?

COW IS BROUGHT ON.

SIMON: Thanks for looking after my flower while you've been here.

SQUIRE: Just one thing - would you marry me my dear?

DAME: Oh happiness! Goodnight, God bless - and have a happy new year! (or - see you next year!)

CURTAIN.

**INTRODUCTION:**

This tale has a whole set of origins ó there's a folk tale set in Cornwall about a giant, there's a German version, a Norse version and a French version ó so, maybe the panto uses contributions from each. The first panto production was in 1819 and even today, the format of the plot is unaltered. There are three difficulties for producers ó the cow has to be a good costume because we have to understand the relationship between the Dame and the cow; the beanstalk has to grow so if you don't have a fly tower at your venue then you'll have to be imaginative; and thirdly, the giant ó now, in this script you can get with either a very elaborate walking giant or just a large head and hands.

**TECHNICAL:****Act One:****Scene 1:**

Flash x2: The show is written with pyrotechnics in mind however the flashes can be lighting effects instead.

**Scene 2:**

Basket: A small hand basket for Simon.

Watering can: A real one but without water.

Horns, bells etc: A cacophony of sounds to alert us to the comedy arrivals.

Tandem: Whatever you can get ó scooters, tandem, two bikes.

Basket: For the dame.

Pint of milk: A carton or plastic bottle painted white.

Flower: A big pot stood by the proscenium arch in which is a plastic flower on green rope. Attached to the top is fine wire which goes up the pros, through a hook and off stage. It's just pulled off stage every so often. If that's an issue ó start with a tall pot in which a large artificial flower is stuck. The flower should have a very long wire stem running to the very bottom of the pot. Sticking out of the top of the flower is a piece of wire with a hook at the top. Attach a similar wire with hook to the watering can. When Billy water the flower he carefully hooks the line on the watering can to the line on the flower and pulls it out of the pot a little ó so it looks like it's growing.

**Scene 3:**

Flash x3: As above.

**Scene 4:**

Lectern and gavel: For the Squire's auctioneering bit.

Bag of gold: A cloth bag (made of thin fabric) into which you place a small but powerful torch. The handle protrudes from the top so that Jack can operate it.

Flash x1: As above.

**Scene 6:**

Mobile telephone: An old one painted gold perhaps.

String of exploding sausages: Cut some brown fabric and stuff to make the sausages which you then stitch together into a string. You can use a pyro for the effect or attach a party popper and the Dame can pull that.

Beans: Some kidney beans will do (don't eat them!)

Beanstalk: You can do this either with a rope with large green leaves attached to it ó or some camouflage netting. Place in a pot or behind some greenery and then have a wire go off into the flies from where it's pulled. You could paint in UV paint and use UV light to great effect. A simpler form is to have the chorus hidden behind the greenery with long canes on which are attached leaves. Each person has canes of varying length. At the given moment they hold these canes aloft, shortest first through until the longest. You could again paint one side of the leaves in UV ó once

all the canes are up they turn them so that the UV leaves face the front.

Flash x2: As above.

## **Act Two:**

### **Scene 1:**

Beanstalk: Jack appears from the beanstalk top. This could be a mound of greenery, camouflage or large leaves spilling on from the wings.

Climbing rope with comedy props: A long rope onto which you tie, at intervals, inflatable or large props ó a lifebuoy, a corset etc.

Sound of plane and ding dong: Sound effects recording.

Star Trek music: Or similar.

Flash x2: as before.

### **Scene 2:**

Chain and table leg: Alice is chained to the leg. We needn't see the full table so she could be tied to a cardboard pillar for example.

Hen, harp and table: In the script the hen and harp are brought in on a table ó this is because in the original production there was an operator inside a box who operated the puppet chicken through a hole in the top. A harp was mounted on the top of the box. An alternative would be to have someone dressed as the chicken and someone else dressed as the harp.

Egg: A large gold painted ball.

Doorbell: Live or recorded effect.

Watch on chain: A card disc painted gold on one side and with a clock face on the other. A gold chain needs attaching to one side.

### **Scene 3:**

Sign: A freestanding or suspended sign post.

Money: Some cardboard notes.

Soda siphons x2: You could use squeeze bottles.

Water pistol: For the Dame.

Flash x2: As before.

### **Scene 4:**

Beanstalk: Depends how you set up the growing. If your beanstalk grew up into the flies then you just let it go and it collapses. Have the giant on a ladder behind it and he looks like he is climbing down. As the beanstalk falls, so does he (onto a mat). You could also have a mound of leaves with two big false legs and boots sticking up in the air.

Axe: A card cut-out for Jack.

Parcel: You need to wrap broken china in a box. Seal well with gaffer then wrap in several layers of gaffer tape and brown paper.

## **COSTUMES:**

Some ideas for those with minimal budgets:

Fairy Greenbean: Green tights and shoes with a skirt made of green leaves. Green top and a skull cap hat decorated with red flowers. She also appears disguised so needs a long hooded cloak.

Witch Furosia: A black hat and wig. Dark flowing skirt, boots and a glittery blouse.

Squire Stoneyheart: Black buckled shoes, white tights or long socks, trousers cut off at the knee and elasticated. Shirt and ruff. Tricorn hat.

Simple Simon: Stripty socks, cut off trousers, shoes, a loose colourful top and a neckerchief.

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Jack Dandelion: Trousers or tights with boots and a jerkin or waistcoat over a blouse.  
Herbert and Humphrey: Similar to Simple Simon. In act two they appear in spaceman suits (cut it if it's impossible).

Alice Stoneyheart: Full pastel coloured dress with a big bow in her hair.

Dame Dandelion: Over-the-top full dress with bright tights and shoes. A bun wig decorated with flowers.

Buttercup: A cow costume ó two pairs of trousers with braces, a cow body with a tail and a head.

Giant Blunderbore: The Giant is only seen in situ in his home. Therefore you could use a big head made from papier mache. An alternative would be to use an actor who is very tall or on stilts and make a padded costume.

Townsppeople and ghosts: Trousers and shirts (or full skirts and blouses) with hats or neckerchiefs as townspeople and as ghosts, sheets with ghoulish masks and wigs. You may also require a hen outfit and a couple of guard's costumes depending on how it's played.

### SCENERY:

For those with little space or budget, here are some suggestions:

#### Act one:

1. The Land of Pantomime: Can be performed in front of the tabs or a cloth.
2. Village Green: Full stage. Ideally you should have the door to Dandelion's cottage.
3. On The Way To The Fair: A front cloth or tabs scene.
4. Fair: Full stage with perhaps some bunting, a maypole or other dressing.
5. On The Way From The Fair: Front cloth or tabs.
6. Dame Dandelion's Cottage: The interior requires a chair, a window and a view outside to the garden where the beanstalk grows.

#### Act two:

1. Outside The Giant's Castle: A tabs or cloth scene. It can be performed on a half stage and you'll see a note in the script where you can bring the tabs in for the scene change.
2. Giant's Kitchen: Full stage. You only need something for Alice to be tied to.
3. Haunted Forest: Half stage in front of cloth or bring the tabs in.
4. Village Green: Full stage, as act one. The tabs come in towards the end.
5. Grand Wedding: This could just be the Village Green with the beanstalk and Giant removed or you can produce a whole new setting.

### CHARACTERS:

Some notes on playing:

Fairy Greenbean: A sweet fairy who could be played a little wacky as her costume might suggest. She is perhaps a little hyperactive and giggly at times.

Witch Furosia: Nasty through and through. She'll stop at nothing ó but is also servant to the Giant don't forget.

Squire Stoneyheart: Old moneybags is only after Dandelion's heart after all ó he's not quite the brutal businessman he is made out to be.

Simple Simon: He is simple! The loveable simpleton and village idiot.

Jack Dandelion: Played by a male or female, Jack is our hero. He may not be the

brightest bulb in the box but he's fearless.

Herbert and Humphrey: Could be played female and male if necessary (Herbert and Dotty perhaps?). Good comic roles of bad boys who are too soft.

Alice Stoneyheart: The pretty love interest of she'll stand by her man but she's also saddled with a roguish father.

Dame Dandelion: The outrageous mum who bets the rent money and then goes mad spending her new found wealth.

### **MUSIC:**

Some suggestions for use in the show:

#### **Act One:**

##### **Scene 2:**

Chorus: *The Sun in The Morning* or *Dancing In The Streets*.

Jack and Chorus: *I've Got The World On A String*.

Herbert, Humphrey and Dame: *Anything You Can Do (I Can Do Better)* or *The Lady Is A Tramp*.

##### **Scene 4:**

Chorus: *June Is Bustin' Out All Over, At The Fair* (from *Show Boat*) or *Our State Fair*.

##### **Scene 5:**

Herbert, Humphrey and Jack: *You'll Never Walk Alone* or *This Is The Moment* (from *Jekyll and Hyde*).

##### **Scene 6:**

Dame, Fairy, Jack and Chorus: *Up, Up And Away* or *Climb Every Mountain*.

#### **Act Two:**

##### **Scene 1:**

Chorus as ghosts: *Thriller* or *Bad*.

Dame, Herbert and Humphrey: *Friendship* or *Put It There Pal*.

Jack and Dame: *Top Of The World* or *For Once In My Life*.

Incidental: For the ghost routine use *Whistle A Happy Tune*.

##### **Scene 2:**

Harp: *Rock-A-Bye-Baby*.

##### **Scene 3:**

UV Haunted Chorus: *The Ghosts Walk Tonight* or *The Timewarp*.

Fight: *Dick Barton* theme.

Witch and Dame: *Sing, Sing A Song* or *I'd Like To Teach The World To Sing*.

##### **Scene 4:**

The Company: *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?* or *Easy Street* (from *Annie*)

Simon and Chorus: *Happiness* or *The Bells Are Ringing*.

### **TOPICALITY:**

Throughout the script you'll find chances to add in local references of audiences always enjoy a mention of the local pub, football team and so on and it's usually a guaranteed laugh. You'll also find the occasional topical reference to TV personalities and so on of obviously, as time passes since this script was written the topicality of these references will wane. However, the same jokes have been used for decades with the current Prime Minister's name or the current famous TV chef's

name added in ó jokes about Fanny Craddock gave way to Delia Smith then to Jamie Oliver ó but the gag stayed the same so please, simply update the reference.