

NODA PANTOMIMES PRESENT...

JACK & THE
BEANSTALK

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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 FURIOSIA 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'll 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'll 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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