



Jack & the Magical Beanstalk

A Traditional Family Pantomime by Brian Luff

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Jack & the Magical Beanstalk

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LIST OF CHARACTERS

Jack	Principal Boy
Dame Philomena Plump	Jack's mother
Charlie	Farm hand at Plump's Farm
Princess Davina	Daughter of the king & queen
King William	The King
Queen Matilda	The Queen
Sarah	Princess Davina's Maid
Corporal Kosh }	The Palace Guard
Sergeant Bosh }	
The Giant	A Big Scary Ogre.
Mickey the Menace	A Chicago Gangster
Mrs. Blackberry	The Giant's cook
Fairy Tuppence.....	A good spirit
Esmeralda	Jack's cow.

Plus villagers, dancers, singers, scarecrows and palace courtiers.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT I

Scene 1	Plump's Farmyard
Scene 2	The Royal Palace
Scene 3	The Meadow
Scene 4	The Gymnasium.
Scene 5	Plump's Farmyard

INTERVAL

ACT II

Scene 1	In the Clouds
Scene 2	The Giant's Kitchen
Scene 3	The Royal Palace
Scene 4	Dame Plump's Barn
Scene 5	The Giant's Kitchen
Scene 6	Plump's Farmyard
Scene 7.....	The Royal Palace

Walk Down & Grand Finale

Act I

Scene 1

Enter Fairy Tuppence on tabs.

Fairy Tuppence I am Fairy Tuppence, welcome to our pantomime!
We have a bewitching tale to tell, in song and dance and rhyme.
The tale concerns a boy called Jack, a yarn that's often told.
He dreams of climbing to the clouds and one day finding gold.

The fable is enchanting and we hope you'll be engrossed
You'll hear of love and magic beans (*aside*) and I don't mean beans on toast.
The story's filled with kings and queens and beautiful princesses,
You'll hear of deeds of bravery as the narrative progresses...

(Aside to audience) Well, you try thinking of a rhyme for "princesses."

Now it's time to start our show with a great wave of my hand.
Suspend your silly disbelief, and come with us to panto land!

Fairy Tuppence exits. Tabs open to reveal Plump's Farm.

Song 1

Opening routine featuring Dame Plump, farm workers, dancers and chorus. After the routine...

Dame Plump Well done you lot! I'll have you on Strictly Come Dancing before you can say Claudia Winkleman. Now, stop jumping about and go and do some bloomin' work!

Dancers and chorus exit.

Dame Plump (*to audience*) Hello boys and girls! Hello grown-ups! How lovely to see you all. My name is Dame Philomena Plump. I shouldn't really be singing and dancing because I've not been very well. I said, I've not been very well.

Audience Aaaaahhhhh!

Dame Plump Oh, come on it's sadder than that. I've *not been very well*.

Audience Aaaaahhhhh!

Dame Plump Thank you for your sympathy. And so spontaneous. I went to see the doctor yesterday and I told him that I always feel dizzy about an hour after getting out of bed. So he told me to stay in bed an hour longer. While I was there I told him I get a pain in my eye every time I drink a cup of tea. He said, "Try taking the spoon out of the cup!" I should warn you, ladies and gentlemen, that the jokes are not going to get any better than that.

No, but seriously we've not had a lot of luck lately. Our turkey got arrested by the police. They suspected it of fowl play. Oh, I'm only joking we haven't even *got* a turkey. We're far too poor. On Christmas day we have to share a ready meal from Lidl. Anyway, welcome to Plump Farm. We're famous for many things. Our old dairy cow Esmeralda is so pampered she produces spoiled milk, and our chickens lay eggs that are already scrambled. But there is one bit of good news. Our scarecrow has just won the Nobel Prize. He was judged to be outstanding in his field. (*Aside to audience*) I'm not explaining it, you'll have to keep up.

Enter Jack. He has a sack tied to his back.

Jack Hello Mother!

Dame Plump Oh, hello Jack.

Jack Hello, boys and girls!

Audience Hello!

Jack Are you going to be my friends, boys and girls? I hope so. It's always good to know when you have friends around. I tell you what, whenever you see me, why don't you shout out "What's in your sack, Jack?" Shall we try that? I'll go off and come on again.

Jack exits and quickly returns.

Jack Hello, boys and girls!

Audience What's in your sack, Jack?

Jack Oh, I think you can say it louder than that. Hello boys and girls!

Audience What's in your sack, Jack?

Jack That's better.

Dame Plump Well, what have you got in your sack?

Jack I've got some eggs, and some milk.

Dame Plump You were supposed to sell those eggs and that milk at the market.

Jack I know.

Dame Plump And where's all that lovely homemade bread I gave you to sell?

Jack I ate it, mother.

Dame Plump You *ate* it??? What, six loaves?

Jack I was so hungry. It's a very long walk to the market.

Dame Plump But that bread was my own special crumbly, numbly, yeasty, feasty, yummy, scrummy, trusty, crusty bread!

Jack Sorry, mother. I know it was your own special crumbly, numbly, yeasty, feasty, yummy, scrummy, trusty, crusty bread.

Dame Plump It took me years to come up with the recipe for that.

Jack *(To audience)* It took me years to learn that line.

Dame Plump Paul Hollywood said it was the best home made bread he'd ever tasted, and Mary Berry nicked the recipe and put it on her web site.

Jack Well mother, you'll just have to make some more crumbly, numbly, yeasty, feasty, yummy, scrummy, trusty, crusty bread and then I can go back to the market and sell it.

Dame Plump But Jack, we're penniless. I don't have the ingredients.

Jack Oh dear.

Dame Plump If we can't sell our farm produce, we'll just have to sell the farm!

Jack We can't sell the farm, mother. We don't own it. We rent it from the king.

Dame Plump But, we owe money all over the place! A few orders from the palace now and again is just not enough to keep us going.

Jack I could try busking on the village green.

Dame Plump You can't do that, Jack. Last time you got yourself arrested.

Jack Only because I sang a song by James Blunt.

Dame Plump There's nothing else for it. We'll have to sell the only thing we've got that's worth anything like real money.

Jack Your rare collection of Boy George's hats?

Dame Plump No.

Jack Your football signed by Yaya Toure?

Dame Plump No. We'll have to sell Esmeralda the Cow!

Jack We can't sell Esmeralda.

Dame Plump Oh, yes we can.

Jack Oh no we can't.

Dame Plump Oh, yes we can.

Jack Oh no we can't.

Dame Plump Oh, yes we can.

Ad lib with audience.

Jack But Esmeralda is more than just a cow, she's part of the family!

Dame Plump Where is Esmeralda, anyway? I thought she was in the farmyard.

Esmeralda the Cow appears upstage.

Jack Have you seen Esmeralda, boys and girls?

Audience Behind you!

Dame Plump Oh, dear. Are we doing this?

Esmeralda disappears. Jack and Dame Plump turn around and look.

Jack Behind us? Well I can't see her, can you see her, mother?

Dame Plump Sigh. No, I can't see her.

Esmeralda the Cow appears upstage again.

Audience Behind you!

The cow disappears again. Jack and his mother turn around.

Jack Behind us? Did you say she was behind us?

Esmeralda the Cow appears from the wings.

Jack Oh, *there* she is. Hello Esmeralda. What have you been up to?

Dame Plump I don't know why you bother to talk to that cow. She can't answer back.

Jack Yes, she can. She talks to me by stamping her hooves.

Dame Plump So you say.

Jack Esmeralda, stamp once for "yes" and twice for "no".

Esmeralda stamps once for "yes".

Jack Has that lazy old farm hand Charlie milked you yet today?

Esmeralda stamps once for "yes".

Jack "Yes." Good girl. Did Charlie remember to warm his hands first?

Esmeralda stamps twice for "no", then shivers.

Jack Oh dear, she says "no"..

Dame Plump There's nothing worse than a pair of cold hands on your udder.

Jack Don't worry Esmeralda, I'll have a word with him about that.

Dame Plump Here's Charlie now.

Enter the farm hand Charlie.

Charlie Morning, all.

Jack Oooh, Charlie, what's that horrible smell? Have you been mucking out the pig sheds?

Charlie No, Mr Jack, that's my new aftershave. It's called "Essence of the Countryside."

Dame Plump "Essence of the Countryside"? Smells more like "essence of a cat's bum". When did you last have a bath, Charlie?

Charlie I has a bath once a year..

Dame Plump Once a year?

Charlie Yep, once a year. Whether I needs it or not.

Dame Plump Poooo!

Dame Plump exits, holding her nose. She takes Esmeralda with her.

Jack Charlie I need you to help me put some fresh straw in Esmeralda's cow shed.

Charlie Righto, Jack.

Jack Go and get that rake over there and we'll get started.

Charlie walks towards a rake propped up against the wall, but instead he grabs a bucket.

Charlie There you go...

Jack No, not a bucket, a rake.

Charlie Sorry.

Jack The rake's over there.

Charlie goes and picks up a broom.

Charlie Rake.

Jack No, that's a broom.

Charlie Oh.

Jack Charlie, I think you might need to get a pair of glasses.

Charlie Glasses?

Jack holds up four fingers

Jack I'll give you an eye test. Cover your right eye.

Charlie Like this?

Jack Now, how many fingers am I holding up?

Charlie Four.

Jack Correct. Now cover your left eye. How many fingers am I holding up now?

Jack holds up four fingers again.

Charlie Two.

Jack Mmm. What colour hair do I have?

Charlie Dark Brown.

Jack And with the other eye?

Charlie Light blond.

Jack Charlie....

Charlie With lowlights.

Jack Charlie, am I a boy or a girl?

Charlie A boy.

Jack And with the other eye?

Charlie A girl.

Jack Charlie, I think you're suffering from a condition that opticians call "Seeing one thing out of one eye, and something completely different out of the other eye".

Charlie Oh.

Jack pulls some pictures out of his sack.

Jack Let me show you some pictures. What's this?

Jack holds up picture of a horse. Charlie covers one eye.

Charlie It's a horse.

Jack And with the other eye?

Charlie It's a giraffe.

Jack holds up picture of a stable.

Charlie That's a stable.

Jack Other eye?

Charlie That's a cheese and pickle sandwich.

Jack holds up a picture of a car.

Charlie That's a car.

Jack (*changing eyes*) That's a nice bottle of Doctor Pepper.

Jack shows Charlie some more pictures in quick succession.

Charlie An horse chestnut tree, (*changes eye*) A Boeing 747, (*changes eye*) A table, (*changes eye*) Christopher Biggins.

Jack Wow, you've got it bad.

Charlie Is there a cure?

Jack Of course there is. You'll have to get a pair of glasses that let you to see the same thing out of your left eye as you can see out of your right eye.

Charlie That sounds expensive.

Jack I'll buy them for you when I make my fortune, Charlie.

Charlie And how do you plan to do that, Jack?

Jack I'll think of something. Oh, look, here comes your lady friend Sarah.

Charlie She's not my lady friend.

Jack Don't be so bashful, Charlie.

Enter Sarah. Exit Jack.

Sarah (*A bit flirty*) Good morning Charlie.

Charlie covers one eye.

Charlie Hello, Sarah.

He covers the other eye.

Charlie Oh look, a squirrel.

Sarah What was that?

Charlie Nothing. I just need to get some glasses, that's all.

Sarah You'll look very handsome in glasses, Charlie.

Charlie Will I?

Sarah I hope you're not blushing.

Charlie So... what can I do for you today, Miss Sarah?

Sarah I've come from the palace with the princess's shopping list.

Charlie What does she need?

Sarah (*reads from list*) She says she needs some utterly buttery butter, some chunky cheesy cheese and some silky, milky milk.

Charlie Utterly buttery butter, chunky cheesy cheese and some silky, milky milk.

Sarah Oh, and some eggs.

Charlie We've got hen's eggs, duck's eggs and a goat's egg.

Sarah A goat's egg? That's rather unusual.

Charlie She's a rather an unusual goat.

Sarah A dozen hen's eggs please.

Charlie Small, medium or large?

Sarah Large.

Charlie We haven't got any large.

Sarah Medium?

Charlie We've only got small. What colour you want?

Sarah What colours have you got?

Charlie Brown or plain.

Sarah Brown.

Charlie Do you need a bag?

Sarah Yes please.

Charlie They're 5p.

Sarah But, there's no hurry, Charlie. I like talking to you. You make me laugh.

Charlie I like talking to you, too Miss Sarah. You're looking very pretty today, by the way.

Sarah Thank you Charlie.

(Awkward pause)

Charlie Well, I'd better go and sort out your shopping.

Exit Charlie. Enter Jack

Jack Hello Sarah. How's your lovely employer Princess Davina?

Sarah Very well, Jack.

Jack Has she sent a note for me?

Sarah Not today, I'm afraid. Just a shopping list. But I think she'd rather like it if you delivered the groceries in person.

Jack I think I can find time.

Sarah But do be careful, Jack. The king and queen want Davina to marry a prince and if they see you hanging around with her you might find yourself in the dungeons.

Jack Well, I'm never going to be a prince, but I'll find some way for Davina and I to live happily ever after.

Sarah I hope so.

Jack Tell the princess I'll see her very soon. And I'll bring the shopping!

Sarah I'll tell her.

Sarah exits. Enter Esmeralda.

Jack Hello Esmeralda. What are you doing back here all on your own? Are you hungry?

Esmeralda taps her foot twice.

Jack You're not hungry. Are you thirsty?

She taps her foot twice again.

Jack You're not thirsty. Oh, I know what it is! You want me to sing a song.

She taps her foot once.

Jack I will sing a song Esmeralda, especially for you.

Jack sings an optimistic song to his cow. Esmeralda performs a sweet little dance routine.

Song 2

After the song, tabs close. Enter Fairy Tuppence.

Fairy Tuppence

It's Fairy Tuppence here again and our story has begun.
Jack will do most anything to be with his loved one.
But little does our hero know that adventure lurks nearby,
A mean old giant is up above and danger lurks in the sky.

The giant employs a gangster who goes by the name of Mickey.
He roams the countryside and he is slippery and tricky.
He's known as Mickey the Menace and he's really far from funny,
He's on his way to Plump Farm now, to collect protection money...

(Aside to audience) Oooh, Mickey the Menace is such a nasty man. You can't miss him, he wears a great big black hat. I think you should boo him when you see him, boys and girls....

Exit Fairy Tuppence. Enter Mickey the Menace on tabs. Chicago mobster type. He is carrying a violin case and speaks exactly like the gangsters in Guys and Dolls. The kids boo.

Mickey the Menace Greetings. If I am not very much mistaken you appear to be boo-ing me, which is a very unwise thing to do I can assure you. My name is Mickey, pleased to meet you. My enemies call me Mickey the Menace, and my friends don't call me anything at all, because I don't have no friends and even if I did have some friends I would be mean to them because I am not a nice person. If my boss The Giant finds out that you are disrespecting his chief security officer, he will be extremely displeased and he will be forced to dish out some very unpleasant punishment which will not be a nice thing to dish out.

Not that it's any of your business, but I am on my way to pay a visit to Jack and his mother at Plump Farm. I will be inviting them to take out an insurance policy. You can't be too careful these days. The farm could easily catch fire and burn to the ground and we wouldn't want that to happen, now would we? But if they pay their insurance they won't have nothing to worry about.

Now, if you will excuse I have to go and be mean. See you later.

He exits with an evil laugh. The audience boos. Tabs open for...

Scene 2

The Royal Palace. The courtiers and palace guards perform a marching song and dance routine.

Song 3

After routine they exit. Enter Corporal Kosh and Sergeant Bosh wearing tall bearskins on their heads. Kosh's headgear is a bit wonky and disheveled and has a twig sticking out of it.

Sergeant Bosh Palace guard, stand to attention!

Corporal Kosh Sir!

Sergeant Bosh Prepare to be inspected, Corporal Kosh.

Corporal Kosh Yes sir, Sergeant Bosh, sir!

Sergeant Bosh Fasten that top button, Kosh.

Corporal Kosh Yes sir.

Sergeant Bosh And tidy up that bearskin! You look like you've been dragged through a hedge backwards.

Corporal Kosh There's a good reason for that, sir.

Sergeant Bosh What's that, Kosh?

Corporal Kosh I *have* been dragged through a hedge backwards.

Sergeant Bosh Really?

Corporal Kosh Yes, sir.

Sergeant Bosh And who, may I ask, dragged you through a hedge backwards?

Corporal Kosh You did, sir. You said it would toughen me up, sir.

Sergeant Bosh And so it will, Corporal Kosh. So it will. Now, straighten up that headgear!

Corporal Kosh Yes, sir.

Sergeant Bosh This morning's training session will be all about standing very still.

Corporal Kosh Standing very still, sir?

Sergeant Bosh Yes, Kosh. When you're on guard duty outside the palace you have to keep very, very still indeed. No matter what happens. You must not move a muscle. No distractions. No diversions.

Corporal Kosh I see, sir.

Sergeant Bosh So we're going to have a little practice, Kosh. Standing very still *commence!*

Kosh stands to attention and tries to stand very still. Bosh stares closely at his face, virtually nose to nose.

Sergeant Bosh Well done, corporal. You're standing very still indeed. Extremely disciplined.

Corporal Kosh Thank you, sir.

Sergeant Bosh *(Trying to catch him out)* Are you sure you're not moving?

Corporal Kosh No, sir.

Sergeant Bosh Right! Time to put that discipline to the test. Test number one, the feather duster.

Corporal Kosh Feather duster, sir?

Bosh tickles Kosh's nose with a feather duster.

Sergeant Bosh How are you doing Corporal Kosh? Still not moving?

Corporal Kosh No, sir.

Sergeant Bosh You sure?

Corporal Kosh Yes, sir.

Sergeant Bosh Good man. Test number two. The water pistol.

Corporal Kosh Water pistol, sir?

Bosh squirts a water pistol in Kosh's face.

Sergeant Bosh How are you doing Corporal Kosh? Still not moving?

Corporal Kosh No, sir.

Sergeant Bosh Positive?

Corporal Kosh Yes, sir.

Sergeant Bosh Good job. Are you ready for test number three?

Corporal Kosh As ready as I'll ever be, sir.

Sergeant Bosh Excellent. Stand by for test number three, the pie in the face.

Corporal Kosh Pie in the face, sir?

Bosh slams a custard pie into Corporal Kosh's face.

Sergeant Bosh How are you doing Corporal Kosh? Still not moving?

Corporal Kosh No, sir.

Sergeant Bosh You sure?

Corporal Kosh Yes, sir.

Sergeant Bosh What flavour's the pie?

Corporal Kosh Lemon, I think sir.

Sergeant Bosh Correct. Right, I think that's enough training for one day. You can relax now.

Corporal Kosh Thank you, sir.

Kosh does some frantic star jumps.

Sergeant Bosh What are you doing, Corporal Kosh?

Corporal Kosh Moving, sir. It feels marvelous, sir.

Sergeant Bosh Stand at ease, corporal. Stand at ease.

Kosh stands still.

Sergeant Bosh About face. Quick march. Left, right, left, right...

The pair march off. As they exit Princess Davina and Sarah enter.

Sarah I gave the shopping list to Jack, like you asked Princess Davina, and he said he'd deliver it to the palace personally.

Princess Davina Ooh, good! I can't wait to see him.

Sarah Well, let's hope the king and queen don't see him. They wouldn't approve of you falling in love with someone who doesn't have royal blood running through his veins.

Princess Davina Sarah, I'm going to let you into a little secret.

Sarah A secret? Ooh, I love secrets.

Princess Davina But you must promise to never, ever tell anyone!

Sarah Cross my heart.

Princess Davina When I was a little girl there was a servant working at the palace called Mrs Blackberry, and she had a daughter

Sarah Where's Mrs Blackberry now?

Princess Davina She went missing.

Sarah Missing?

Princess Davina It's thought that she was carried off by an evil villain called Mickey the Menace.

Sarah I've heard of him

Princess Davina Mickey took her to his boss's castle and they forced her to work as a cook.

Sarah But who was his boss?

Princess Davina The Giant!

Sarah Giant?

Princess Davina A wicked Giant who lives in a castle in the clouds.

Sarah There are no giants living in the clouds. That's an old wife's tale.

Princess Davina I don't think so.

Sarah And what happened to Mrs Blackberry's daughter?

Princess Davina Can't you guess?

Sarah You?

Princess Davina Yes, me. The king and queen adopted me.

Sarah No way!

Princess Davina And they made me heir to the throne. But there's no royal blood in my veins, Sarah. That's why it'll be fine for me to marry Jack!

Sarah Does he know about this?

Princess Davina No!

Sarah When will you tell him?

Princess Davina Oh, I don't know. Maybe when we're married?

Sarah That's so exciting.

Princess Davina Look out, here come my mother and father!

Sarah exits. Enter King William and Queen Matilda.

King William (*To Princess Davina*) Ah, Davina, the queen and I have been looking for you all day.

Princess Davina I've been busy, father. There's plenty to do when you live in a big palace like this.

Queen Matilda (*Suspicious*) Well, I think you've been up to something? Where were you at breakfast time?

Princess Davina Breakfast time? I was eating an apple in the chapel.

Queen Matilda An apple in the chapel?

Princess Davina Then I had a shower in the north tower.

King William A shower in the north tower?

Princess Davina Sometimes I have a shower in the east tower.

Queen Matilda I didn't know we had a shower in the east tower.

Princess Davina We do. It's a power shower.

Queen Matilda A power shower in the east tower?

Princess Davina Yes. Then I went to the coffee machine on the mezzanine, played softball in the great hall and did some stitchin' in the kitchen.

King William Stitchin' in the kitchen? But where you at lunch time?

Princess Davina I had another apple in the chapel. Then I went and caught up on all the palace gossip.

Queen Matilda Gossip?

Princess Davina Let me see, I talked to a guard in the courtyard, a groom in the storeroom and I had a cup of tea with Aunt Valerie in the gallery.

King William Valerie in the gallery?

Queen Matilda How are we supposed to keep up with you if you go gallivanting all over the palace like that.

Princess Davina I'm not gallivanting. I just had an apple in the chapel and a shower in the north tower. Then I went to the coffee machine on the mezzanine, played softball in the great hall, did some stitchin' in the kitchen, talked to a guard in the courtyard, a groom in the storeroom and met Valerie in the gallery.

Queen Matilda Oh dear. Sometimes I wish we had a smaller house.

Enter Sarah.

Sarah Excuse me, your majesties. Dame Plump and her son Jack are asking to see you.

Princess Davina Jack!

King William By all means show them in, Lady Sarah. We are always happy to talk to the peasants.

Enter Jack and Dame Plump.

Jack Hello boys and girls!

Audience What's in your sack, Jack?

Jack I'll tell you what's in my sack, boys and girls. It's groceries for the palace, delivered by hand to a beautiful princess.

Sarah exits. Jack goes over to Princess Davina and hands her the sack. Dame Plump curtsies to the king.

King William Dame Plump...

Dame Plump Your majesty.

King William You requested an audience?

Dame Plump (*aside to audience*) With a script like this we're lucky to have an audience at all.

Queen Matilda State your business with the king and queen.

Dame Plump Your majesties, my son Jack and I work one of your farms.

Queen Matilda Well done.

Dame Plump But times are hard, your majesties and we were wondering if you might see your way clear to... see your way clear to....

King William Spit it out, woman!

Dame Plump Reducing our rent?

King William Reducing your rent? Have you gone mad? How do you expect us to be able to afford the upkeep of a huge palace like this....

Queen Matilda With a power shower in the east tower...

King William If we reduce your rent?

Queen Matilda And what is that scruffy boy doing talking to my daughter?

Princess Davina We're sweethearts, mother!

Queen Matilda Sweethearts? Nonsense!

Princess Davina We met in the fields.

Jack Our eyes came together over a combine harvester and a pile of manure.

King William Young man, if you have any "romantic intentions" towards Princess Davina, you can bally well forget it!

Jack Forget it? I can't forget it. I love her!

King William Davina will marry a rich man with a big castle and lots of land. Not a farmer's son. Good day to you, sir.

King William flounces out.

Dame Plump He's very dominant, isn't he?

Queen Matilda Some might say "overbearing." Is your husband like that?

Dame Plump My husband is no longer with us.

Queen Matilda I'm so sorry.

Dame Plump Oh, he's not dead. He's just no longer with us. He moved to a caravan park in Skegness with a circus contortionist called Britney.

Queen Matilda Oh dear.

Dame Plump It must be wonderful living with your family in a huge palace like this

Queen Matilda Yes, but it's so huge I never see them.

Dame Plump Oh dear.

Queen Matilda I just sit around all day getting bored.

Dame Plump Bored? But you're the queen!

Queen Matilda What do you suggest?

Dame Plump Well, you should take up a hobby.

Queen Matilda A hobby?

Dame Plump Like line dancing.

Queen Matilda Oh dear me, no.

Dame Plump Bird spotting?

Queen Matilda No.

Dame Plump Fret saw work?

Queen Matilda What's that?

Dame Plump Actually, I'm not too sure myself. I know, why don't you do some knitting?

Queen Matilda Knitting? I don't know how to knit.

Dame Plump I'll teach you.

Queen Matilda I should warn you that I get bored very easily.

Dame Plump I'll bear that in mind.

Dame Plump pulls two half finished pieces of knitting out of her bag. She hands one of the pieces to Queen Matilda.

Dame Plump Here, hold onto this and just do what I do. We'll knit a scarf for the king.
(Rhythmically) Now, "drape the yarn, over your palm..."

Queen Matilda *(Rhythmically)* "Drape the yarn, over your palm..."

The knitting needles are ridiculously large. They clunk together and jerk around fairly pointlessly.

Dame Plump "Needle under, cross your palm..."

Queen Matilda "Needle under, cross your palm..."

Dame Plump "Form a loop, pull it tight, without a hitch, first stitch!"

Queen Matilda "Form a loop, pull it tight, without a hitch, first stitch!"

Dame Plump Very good. All together now.

This time the pair bend their knees and wiggle their hips as they simulate knitting.

Queen Matilda & Dame Plump *(Together)* "Drape the yarn, over your palm, needle under, cross your palm... form a loop, pull it tight, without a hitch, second stitch!"

Dame Plump And again.

The wiggling hips get faster and more frantic.

Queen Matilda & Dame Plump *(Together)* "Drape the yarn, over your palm, needle under, cross your palm... form a loop, pull it tight, without a hitch, *third* stitch!"

Queen Matilda Have we knitted anything yet?

Dame Plump Not yet.

Queen Matilda Is this all there is to it?

Dame Plump No! We've barely scratched the surface.

Queen Matilda Really?

Dame Plump There's starter stitch, garter stitch, barter stitch, and "Get Carter" stitch.

Queen Matilda I'm sorry, this isn't drawing me in.

Dame Plump Bobble stitch, wobble stitch, gobble stitch and "Glenn Hoddle" stitch.

Queen Matilda Enough! I do not want to learn how to knit!

Queen Matilda starts to storm off. Dame Plump follows her.

Dame Plump Well, there's only one thing for it.

Queen Matilda What?

Dame Plump You'll have to get a skateboard.

Queen Matilda and Dame Plump exit.

Jack I thought they'd never leave.

Princess Davina We finally have a few moments to ourselves.

Jack and Princess Davina walk hand in hand downstage and the tabs to close behind. The pair sing a love duet.

Song 4

After the duet, Jack and Princess Davina exit. Fairy Tuppence enters on tabs.

Fairy Tuppence Jack and Davina are in love, but danger lies ahead.
An evil man approaches while the kingdom is in bed.
It's night time in the village now, nocturnal creatures thrive,
And sometimes, when the moon is full the scarecrows come alive...

Tabs open. Fairy Tuppence walks upstage.

Scene 3

The Meadow. Moonlight. Six scarecrows are propped up in the middle of the stage. They slowly come to life and perform a creepy song and dance with Fairy Tuppence.

Song 5

After the routine they all exit. The lighting state changes to represent morning. We hear the sound of the dawn chorus. Enter Mickey the Menace. The audience boo.

Mickey the Menace Greetings peasants. Mickey the Menace here again. Feel free to boo me. It is always good to hear the sweet sound of boo-ing in the morning. Not that it is any of your business, but today I am going to visit every cottage and farm in the village and make sure they're all fully paid up on their house insurance. I am sure you would agree that we do not want any nasty accidents to happen.

Enter Charlie, carrying a rake.

Charlie Mornin' You're up early.

Mickey the Menace Yes, I like to rise with the larks so that I can start to be evil sooner.

Charlie So I've heard.

Mickey the Menace As a matter of fact you are one of the people I wish to talk to.

Charlie Uh, oh.

Mickey the Menace I hope you do not mind me asking, but do you have insurance?

Charlie I don't, no.

Mickey the Menace Quel dommage.

Charlie Pardon?

Mickey the Menace That's French. If you do not have insurance, what if some unexpected damage was to occur to a valuable piece of your property?

Charlie Unexpected damage?

Mickey the Menace Your rake, for example. What if your rake were to get broken?

Charlie My rake?

Mickey the Menace Yeah, broken like this.

Mickey grabs the rake and breaks it across his knee.

Charlie But, that's not my rake.

Mickey the Menace It isn't?

Charlie No, it belongs to Jack.

Mickey the Menace Does Jack have insurance?

Charlie I don't think so.

Mickey the Menace Then I will be paying him a little visit and explaining to him the cost structure of our policies.

Charlie Cost structure?

Mickey the Menace Yeah, it's a very simple business model. You buy fire insurance, or we burn down your house.

Mickey the Menace exits.

Charlie *(to audience)* Fire insurance? I don't like the sound of that.

Enter Corporal Kosh and Sergeant Bosh.

Charlie Morning Kosh. Morning Bosh. My, *everyone's* up very early this morning.

Corporal Kosh & Sergeant Bosh *(together)* Good morning, Charlie.

Charlie What are you two up to?

Sergeant Bosh We're on the lookout for Mickey the Menace. He's been sighted in this area.

Charlie Oh, I just saw him.

Corporal Kosh You did? Well which way did he go?

Charlie He was heading for Plump Farm.

Sergeant Bosh Could you give us directions to Plump Farm?

Charlie I could, yes.

Sergeant Bosh Good.

Charlie But I wouldn't start from here.

Corporal Kosh How can we get there if we don't start from here?

Charlie You need to set off from the crossroads.

Corporal Kosh Can you give us directions to the crossroads?

Charlie I can, yes.

Sergeant Bosh Excellent.

Charlie But I wouldn't start from here.

Sergeant Bosh We'll never catch up with Mickey the Menace at this rate. We need to look at the map.

Corporal Kosh *(unfolding it)* Here's the map, sir.

Sergeant Bosh Right. Where are we on the map?

Corporal Kosh Well, sir, you see this big red arrow on the map that says, "You are here"?

Sergeant Bosh I see the arrow, yes.

Corporal Kosh Well, we're not there.

Sergeant Bosh We're not?

Corporal Kosh No, sir.

Sergeant Bosh Well why is the arrow on the map telling us, "You are here"?

Corporal Kosh Simple, sir. When we drew the arrow on the map ...

Sergeant Bosh Yes?

Corporal Kosh (*pointing*) We were over there.

Sergeant Bosh Over there?

Corporal Kosh At the crossroads, sir.

Sergeant Bosh So, what do we do now?

Corporal Kosh Well sir, before we look at the map again, we need to get to the crossroads.

Charlie I can give you directions to the crossroads..

Sergeant Bosh Good.

Charlie But you can't start from here.

Corporal Kosh (*To Charlie*) Ok, I tell you what we'll do. Charlie, you *know* the way to the crossroads. So you go on your own, and when you get there, shout out "I'm here".

Charlie "I'm here?"

Sergeant Bosh No, not "I'm here". When you're at the crossroads you won't be here, will you? You'll be there.

Charlie Yes.

Sergeant Bosh So you'll need to shout, "I'm there."

Charlie "I'm there"?

Corporal Kosh Yes.

Charlie But surely, Sergeant Bosh, when I'm there, I'll need to shout out "I'm here."

Sergeant Bosh Now you're just confusing me.

Corporal Kosh Tell you what, Charlie you set off towards the crossroads, and we'll follow you.

Charlie Good plan.

Sergeant Bosh Right.

Charlie But we can't start from here.

Dame Plum appears.

Dame Plump Charlie, what are you doing fooling about with these two? You should have started your chores by now.

Sergeant Bosh There's a bit of luck. It's Dame Plump.

Corporal Kosh Thank goodness for that. Can you direct us to the crossroads?

Dame Plump No problem at all, gentlemen.

Sergeant Bosh Fire away.

Dame Plump You turn due west at the Crow's Nest, then hard right at the camp site.

Corporal Kosh Hard right at the camp site?

Dame Plump Then straight ahead at the cow shed, right at the traffic light and dead ahead at the King's Head.

Sergeant Bosh (*rhythmically*) Due west at the Crow's Nest, hard right at the camp site, straight ahead at the cow shed, sharp right at the traffic light and dead ahead at the King's Head.

Dame Plump Correct.

Corporal Kosh Let's go.

The two guards exit stage right.

Dame Plump Why are they going to Plump Farm?

Charlie They're looking for Mickey the Menace. And Mickey the Menace is looking for you and Jack.

Dame Plump I know. That's why I'm here.

The two guards enter stage left.

Charlie Hello, chaps.

Corporal Kosh Oh no! We're back where we started!

Sergeant Bosh We must have taken a wrong turn.

Dame Plump Did you go (*rhythmically*) due west at the Crow's Nest, hard right at the camp site, straight ahead at the cow shed, sharp right at the traffic light and dead ahead at the King's Head?

Sergeant Bosh I think we turned *left* at the cow shed. We'll have to try again.

Bosh and Kosh exit, reciting the directions as they go.

Sergeant Bosh & Corporal Koch (*together, rhythmically*) Due west at the Crow's Nest, hard right at the camp site, straight ahead at the cow shed, sharp right at the traffic light, dead ahead at the King's Head.

Charlie The Giant has sent Mickey the Menace to the farm to collect protection money.

Dame Plump Oh dear. If we don't pay up he'll burn the farm to the ground.

Charlie But we haven't got any money. How are we going to pay?

Dame Plump I don't know. But I'm sure we'll think of something.

Bosh and Kosh enter stage left.

Charlie Back again?

Corporal Kosh We're back where we started again!

Dame Plump For goodness sake, pay attention!

Dame Plump & Charlie (*together*) It's due west at the Crow's Nest, hard right at the camp site, straight ahead at the cow shed, sharp right at the traffic light and dead ahead at the King's Head!!!

Sergeant Bosh We'll get it this time.

Bosh and Kosh exit, again reciting the directions as they go.

Sergeant Bosh & Corporal Koch (*marching together*) Due west at the Crow's Nest, hard right at the camp site, straight ahead at the cow shed, sharp right at the traffic light, dead ahead at the King's Head.

Dame Plump (*calling off*) Good luck boys!

Enter Jack pulling a very reluctant Esmeralda the Cow behind him.

Jack Hello boys and girls!

Audience What's in your sack, Jack?

Jack My sack's full of straw for Esmeralda the Cow. But I don't think she wants to go to the market!

Dame Plump I think she's guessed that we have to sell here.

Jack Sssshhhh! Not so loud. She'll hear. Charlie, come and help me push her?

Charlie Righto, Jack.

Jack One, two, three... heave!

Jack & Charlie One, two, three... *heave!*

Jack and Charlie manage to push Esmeralda almost to the wings of the stage, but then she reverses and pushes them all the way back to where they started.

Jack It's no use. She's not going to budge. We might as well stay here and let her eat some straw for a while.

Jack opens his sack and gives straw to the cow to eat. Enter Princess Davina and Sarah.

Dame Plump Princess Davina? What brings you to mingle with us pitifully poor, penniless peasants?

Princess Davina I'm here to see Jack of course.

Jack Davina!

Sarah The Princess and I snuck out of the palace while the king and queen were watching *Pointless*.

Princess Davina It's so lovely to escape that stuffy old place and get out into the sunshine and fresh air.

Jack and Princess Davina sing a song about being in the countryside. Dame Plump, Charlie and Esmeralda become backing singers and dancers.

Song 6

After the routine tabs close. Enter Fairy Tuppence on tabs.

The farm's in desperate need of gold,
So Esmeralda will have to be sold.
But I think I can help to improve Jack's means,
If I help him to own these magic beans.

I'll enter the story in disguise.
And give our fine hero an unlikely surprise.

Fairy Tuppence exits. Enter Mickey the Menace on tabs.

Mickey the Menace It is a matter of great sadness to me that there was no-one at Plump Farm. Which means that I will have to find some other poor innocent, unsuspecting sap from which to extract money by illegal and unfair means.

Enter Fairy Tuppence disguised as an old woman.

Mickey the Menace *(To audience)* But, what is this? A cute defenseless little old lady? What better person to take advantage of? *(To Fairy Tuppence)* Good morning madame. What brings you out on this bright and sunny morning?

Fairy Tuppence I'm going for a lovely, quiet stroll, young man. But if I'm not very much mistaken, you are Mickey the Menace.

Mickey the Menace At your service, madam.

Fairy Tuppence And since you are the right hand man of the evil Giant, I imagine that means I am about to be robbed.

Mickey the Menace You have cut me to the quick.

Fairy Tuppence I'm afraid I haven't got any money.

Mickey the Menace Do you have any credit cards?

Fairy Tuppence No.

Mickey the Menace Traveller's cheques?

Fairy Tuppence Nope.

Mickey the Menace Any stocks and shares?

Fairy Tuppence No. My one and only possession is this little bag full of beans.

Mickey the Menace Beans?

Fairy Tuppence Take them or leave them.

Mickey the Menace Well, I normally only accept gold or jewelry, but for you I will make an exception.

Fairy Tuppence Then take the beans.

Mickey the Menace I am much obliged, madam. You may go on your way.

Fairy Tuppence Thank you.

Fairy Tuppence hands Mickey the Menace the bag of beans and exits. She winks and makes a thumbs up to the audience as she goes

Mickey the Menace A bag full of beans? I have to admit to being a little disappointed at this latest acquisition. I was hoping for something a little more shiny and valuable.

Enter Jack pulling the reluctant cow.

Mickey the Menace But wait. Perhaps I can make this poor sucker an offer he can't refuse.

Jack (*sadly*) Hello boys and girls...

Audience What have you got in your sack, Jack?

Jack Oh dear. I hate to say it, but I'm afraid my sack's completely empty.

Mickey the Menace (*To Jack*) Good day to you, sir.

Jack (*to audience*) It's Mickey the Menace. This is going to get worse before it gets better.

Mickey the Menace Where might you be heading with that fine looking animal?

Jack This is our cow Esmeralda. She has to be sold at the market.

Mickey the Menace In that case I have some very bad news for you.

Jack Bad news?

Mickey the Menace The market closed early today.

Jack Oh no! Now what am I going to do?

Mickey the Menace It is indeed a puzzle.

Jack Mother says I'm not to go home until I've sold Esmeralda.

Mickey the Menace Well then in that case I may be able to help you.

Jack But you're Mickey the Menace. Why would you want to do something to help me?

Mickey the Menace You have hurt my feelings, young man. I was merely going to offer to buy your cow from you.

Jack For money?

Mickey the Menace Sadly, I am financially embarrassed at the moment and I am not in possession of any loose change.

Jack I thought as much.

Mickey the Menace However, I can offer you something much more precious than money.

Jack What's more precious than money?

Mickey the Menace There are many things more valuable. For example, you have your health, don't you?

Jack I do have my health, yes.

Mickey the Menace Would you like to keep it?

Jack Yes, please.

Mickey the Menace Then if you know what is good for you will sell your cow to me in exchange for these.

Mickey hands the bag of beans to Jack.

Jack What are these?

Mickey the Menace Beans.

Jack Beans?

Mickey the Menace You cannot eat money, but if you plant those beans, they will grow and you can feast upon the resulting crop next spring.

Jack Next Spring?

Mickey the Menace Yum, yum. Delicious beans.

Jack But my mother and I need to eat now!

Mickey the Menace As I see it, you do not have much choice.

Jack Oh dear. If I accept a bag of beans in exchange for Esmeralda, mother will never speak to me again.

Mickey the Menace Having met the woman, I would suggest that this could be something of an advantage.

Jack *(To audience)* What do you think, boys and girls? Should I take the beans?

The audience shout out what they think Jack should do.

Jack *(To audience)* You really think I should take the beans? Very well. *(To Mickey)* You have a deal!

Mickey throws the bag of beans to Jack.

Mickey the Menace *(To Jack)* I am sure you will not regret it.

Jack I'm sure I will.

Exit Jack.

Mickey the Menace *(To the cow)* Come, Esmeralda, let us *promenade* and enjoy the country air together.

Enter Charlie

Charlie Mickey the Menace? Where are you going with Esmeralda?

Mickey the Menace I am going to introduce her to some delicious roast potatoes, broccoli and a nice tasty Yorkshire Pudding.

Charlie Oh, that's alright then.

Mickey exits, dragging the reluctant cow behind him. The penny drops with Charlie.

Charlie Hold on a minute! I don't like the sound of that! *(To audience)* Oh, I wish I was a big tough guy so that I could stand up to Mickey the Menace. What I need to do is to get down to the gym...

Blackout. Tabs open for...

Scene 4

The gymnasium at the palace. Various pieces of keep fit equipment are set on the stage. Dressed in funny shorts and t-shirts, Corporal Kosh and Sergeant Bosh are working out. Kosh is using chest expanders and Bosh is doing sit ups. Music starts up and the two perform a song and dance routine together about keeping fit and healthy.

Song

At the end of the song, enter Charlie.

Corporal Kosh Charlie! Glad to see you've finally decided to take our advice and get yourself into shape.

Sergeant Bosh Welcome to the Bosh & Kosh gymnasium!

Charlie It all looks a bit scary. But if we're going to beat the Giant we all need to get fighting fit.

Sergeant Bosh Good lad.

Corporal Kosh Don't worry, Charlie. The trick is to take it slowly to begin with.

Sergeant Bosh Why don't we start with a bit of gentle weightlifting.

Bosh has no difficulty carrying a huge barbell over and putting it on the floor in front of Charlie. It has three heavy-looking weights on each end.

Charlie Righto.

Sergeant Bosh Let me see you lift that.

Charlie gets ready to lift the weights. Corporal Kosh dashes over with a bag of chalk.

Corporal Kosh Put this on your hands first. It'll help you get a firm grip.

Kosh sprinkles rather too much chalk on Charlie's hands. Charlie claps his hands together making a big white cloud.

Corporal Kosh Right. One, two, three.... lift!

Charlie strains to list the barbell off the floor but he can't get it to budge. He tries several times making the most ridiculous grunting and growling noises and pulling funny faces.

Charlie Grrrrrhhhhhhhh!

Sergeant Bosh Put your back into it, lad.

Charlie Grrrrrhhhhhhhh!!! Grrrrrhhhhhhhh!!! Grrrrroooowwwwwlllllllhhhhhhhh!!!

Sergeant Bosh He sounds like a constipated yeti.

Charlie Grrrrraaaaaaagggggghhhhhhhhh!!!

Sergeant Bosh And relax.

Corporal Kosh Don't worry, Charlie. I'll take off a couple of weights.

He removes one weight from each end. Charlie gets ready to lift the weights and Kosh puffs more chalk onto his hands. Charlie claps his hands together making an even bigger white cloud.

Corporal Kosh Right. One, two, three.... lift!

Charlie strains to list the barbell off the floor again but he still can't budge it.

Charlie Grrrrrhhhhhhhh!

Sergeant Bosh Come on, son!

Corporal Kosh I'll take the rest of the weights off.

Kosh removes all the weights, leaving just a pole lying on the floor. He puffs more chalk onto Charlie's hands who claps and makes more mess.

Corporal Kosh One, two, three... lift!

Charlie strains to lift just the pole off the floor. No luck.

Charlie Grrrrrrhhhhhhhh!

Sergeant Bosh Look's like weight lifting isn't your thing, Charlie. Why don't we try a bit of boxing?

Corporal Kosh *(hands him some huge boxing gloves)* Put these on.

Kosh ushers Charlie across to a big punch bag hanging on a frame. For some reason he puts chalk onto Charlie's boxing gloves.

Sergeant Bosh Right, punch that.

Charlie I'm not going to punch that.

Sergeant Bosh Oh yes you are.

Charlie Oh, no I'm not.

Sergeant Bosh Oh yes you are.

Charlie Oh, no I'm not.

Ad lib with audience.

Sergeant Bosh Just *punch* it.

Charlie Ok, if I must.

A few bars of the "Rocky" theme. Charlie hits the punch bag. It swings away from him then swings back and knocks him over. Clouds of chalk everywhere.

Charlie Owwww! It hit me back.

Sergeant Bosh Well you should have got out of the way, shouldn't you. Hit it again.

Charlie hits the punch bag again. As before it swings back and knocks him over.

Charlie Owwww! It hit me again.

Sergeant Bosh I don't think that's the right piece of apparatus for you either.

Kosh picks up a very heavy looking medicine ball.

Corporal Kosh Do you think you could catch this?

Charlie What, that little ball? Of course I could catch it.

Corporal Kosh Here it comes, then. One, two, three, catch...

Kosh throws the medicine ball to Charlie. It sends him flying backwards right across the stage.

Charlie Owwww! Why didn't you tell me it was so heavy?

Sergeant Bosh You didn't ask. Now, pick up the ball and put it away.

Charlie tries to lift the medicine ball without success.

Charlie I think I'll just leave it there.

Corporal Kosh Right, time to do some jogging. Follow Sergeant Bosh.

The three jog around the stage in unison. Bosh sings out encouragement and the other two copy him.

Sergeant Bosh *(Sings)* "I don't know but it's been said..."

Corp. Kosh & Charlie *(Singing together)* "I don't know but it's been said..."

Sergeant Bosh *(Sings)* "The Giant's got a massive head..."

Corp. Kosh & Charlie *(Singing together)* "The Giant's got a massive head..."

Sergeant Bosh *(Sings)* "I don't know but the story goes..."

Corp. Kosh & Charlie *(Singing together)* "I don't know but the story goes..."

Sergeant Bosh *(Sings)* "The Giant has got smelly toes..."

Corp. Kosh & Charlie *(Singing together)* "The Giant has got smelly toes..."

Sergeant Bosh *(Sings)* "Sound off..."

Corp. Kosh & Charlie *(Singing together)* "One, two..."

Sergeant Bosh *(Sings)* "Sound off..."

Corp. Kosh & Charlie *(Singing together)* "One, two!"

The rhythm changes to a more jazzy beat. Jogging turns to high kicking like chorus girls.

Sergeant Bosh *(Sings)* "I don't know but I've heard a rumour..."

Corp. Kosh & Charlie *(Singing together)* "I don't know but I've heard a rumour..."

Sergeant Bosh *(Sings)* "The Giant's got no sense of humour."

Corp. Kosh & Charlie *(Singing together)* "The Giant's got no sense of humour."

Sergeant Bosh *(Sings)* "I don't know but it's been explained to me fully."

Corp. Kosh & Charlie *(Singing together)* "I don't know but it's been explained to me fully."

Sergeant Bosh *(Sings)* "The Giant's just a mean old bully."

Corp. Kosh & Charlie *(Singing together)* "The Giant's just a mean old bully."

Sergeant Bosh *(Sings)* "Sound off..."

Corp. Kosh & Charlie *(Singing together)* "One, two..."

Sergeant Bosh *(Sings)* "Sound off..."

Corp. Kosh & Charlie (*Singing together*) "One, two!"

The three spring to attention. Blackout. Tabs close. Enter King William and Queen Matilda on tabs.

Queen Matilda The royal palace is looking rather untidy, don't you think dear?

King William Untidy

Queen Matilda Yes, there's far too much clutter. I was thinking of getting some of the objects in the palace valued on the Antiques Road Show. Then we could sell them.

King William The Antiques Road Show? What things?

Queen Matilda Well, a few choice pieces of furniture, rare paintings, Persian carpets... and *you*.

King William Me?

Queen Matilda Yes, dear. I thought I'd get *you* valued. For insurance purposes.

King William You can't get an antiques expert to value me!

Queen Matilda I don't see why not? You're very old, you're in quite good condition, and you are of historic importance to the nation. You would probably fetch quite a good price at auction.

King William You can't just sell me like an old table.

Queen Matilda Well, you've got a wobbly leg like an old table.

King William That's true.

Queen Matilda And people constantly have drinks on you.

King William (*aside to audience*) See what she did there?

Queen Matilda We'll need to give you a good clean and polish first. Perhaps I should get you restored.

King William Well if I'm going to be valued I think we should get *you* valued as well. After all, we do come as a pair.

Queen Matilda Yes we've been a pair for quite a few years now, haven't we dear?

King William Do you remember when we first met? We were so young and in love...

The king and queen sing a romantic little ditty together.

Song 8

After the duet the king and queen exit. Tabs open to reveal...

Scene 5

Plump's farmyard. Enter Dame Plump.

Dame Plump Hello boys and girls. Jack will be home soon and he'll have lots of lovely money from selling Esmeralda at the market. I'm going to treat myself to a new dress, a new hat and a nice new pair of knickers. Here comes my lovely boy now.

Enter Jack carrying the bag of beans.

Jack (*sadly*) Hello boys and girls.

Audience What have you got in your sack, Jack?

Dame Plump (*To audience*) I know what he's got. His sack is stuffed with lots of lovely money.

Jack Mother, I think you should sit down.

Dame Plump Sit down? I'm far too excited to sit down!

Jack Please, mother. Sit down.

Dame Plump (*Jumping*) Tell me, tell me, tell me, tell me, tell me!

Jack Alright, I'll tell you. I didn't get any money at all for the cow.

Dame Plump No money at all?

Jack No.

Dame Plump Ugggghhhhhh.

Dame Plump faints onto the floor with a thud.

Jack I said you should sit down before I told you.

Jack leans over his mother and fans her. She quickly wakes up.

Dame Plump Oh dear, I'm having one of me hot flushes.

Jack Mother, I can explain.

Dame Plump (*getting up*) What do you mean you got *nothing* for Esmeralda?

Jack I didn't say I got nothing.

Dame Plump Then, what *did* you get?

Jack I got this. A bag full of beans.

Dame Plump A bag full of beans???

Dame Plump faints onto the floor again.

Dame Plump Ugggghhhhhh.

Jack Mother!!!

Jack leans over his mother again and fans her. She jumps up.

Dame Plump We're ruined. Ruined! Whatever were you thinking of? How are we going to pay our rent? How are we going to pay protection money to the Giant?

Jack Something will come up.

Dame Plump Who was it who paid you nothing but a bag of beans for Esmeralda?

Jack Mickey the Menace.

Dame Plump Mickey the Menace???

Dame Plump faints onto the floor for a third time.

Dame Plump Ugggghhhhhh.

Jack Mother!!!

Jack fans her. She jumps up.

Dame Plump Whatever possessed you to give Esmeralda to that mobster?

Jack He made me an offer I couldn't refuse.

Dame Plump Give me those beans!

Dame Plump snatches the beans from Jack.

Jack No!

Dame Plump I never want to see these stupid beans again.

Dame Plump angrily throws the bag of beans upstage and she and Jack exit. Dramatic music. The lighting state changes to an eerie twilight. Fairy Tuppence enters and waves her wand where the beans have fallen.

Fairy Tuppence For these magic beans to spring up from the grass,
It'll take more than green fingers or Alan Titchmarsh.
With enchanted stardust I shall sprinkle them now
And the beans will awake and grow swiftly I vow.

(To audience) Boys and girls, I need your help to make the spell work. You must all wish very hard and say after me. "Grow, grow, magic beans grow up to the sky."

Audience "Grow, grow, magic beans grow up to the sky."

Fairy Tuppence You'll need to say the spell louder than that. "Grow, grow magic beans grow up to the sky."

Audience "Grow, grow magic beans, grow up to the sky."

Ad lib with audience.

The beanstalk slowly grows until it is at full height with its top out of view. The dramatic music reaches a climax. Fairy Tuppence exits. Fade to blackout.

As the lights slowly fade up to represent sunrise, we hear the sound of the dawn chorus. A cock crows to signal morning. Enter Charlie and Sarah with some villagers. They all look at the giant beanstalk in amazement.

Sarah My goodness, Charlie, what is that???

Charlie Well, it *looks* like a beanstalk. But I'm sure beanstalks don't grow as tall as that!

Enter Corporal Kosh and Sergeant Bosh.

Sergeant Bosh Nobody panic, the army has the situation under control.

Sarah The army?

Corporal Kosh What is it, Sergeant Bosh? I'm a bit scared.

Sergeant Bosh It might have landed from another planet.

Corporal Kosh A beanstalk from outer space? Wow! That would make a great movie.

Enter Dame Plump in comical night attire.

Dame Plump Do you mind keeping the noise down out here. I can't hear myself making breakfast. What's all the fuss about?

Everyone points at the beanstalk.

All It's a giant beanstalk!

Dame Plump A what?

All A giant beanstalk!!!

Dame Plump *(with her back to it)* A giant beanstalk? Don't be ridiculous!

Dame Plump turns around and sees it.

Dame Plump Wow! You know what that is, don't you?

All What?

Dame Plump That's a giant beanstalk!

All That's what we *said!*

Dame Plump Jack! Come and see this!

Jack enters.

Jack Hello boys and girls!

Audience What in your sack, Jack?

Dame Plump Never mind what's in his bloomin' sack. *(To Jack)* Look at that!

Jack Wow! What's that?

All It's a giant beanstalk!

Jack A giant beanstalk?

All Yes!

Dame Plump Alright, alright, I think we've established what it is. What I want to know is how did it get here?

Jack Well I didn't order it from Amazon.

All Neither did we!

Jack But I've got a funny feeling that it's here for a special reason. Something tells me I'm supposed to *climb* that beanstalk.

Charlie Climb it? What for?

Jack I think my destiny may lie at the top of that beanstalk.

Dame Plump Your destiny?

Jack Yes.

Sergeant Bosh I can't let you climb that plant, son.

Jack Why not?

Sergeant Bosh State security.

Corporal Kosh The sergeant's right. That colossal shrub is the property of the king and queen.

Enter the king and queen and Princess Davina.

King William Did someone mention my name?

Dame Plump Your majesties. What are you doing here?

Queen Matilda We came to see what all the commotion was about.

King William Good heavens what's that?

All It's a giant beanstalk!!!

King William & Queen Matilda *(together)* A giant beanstalk?

All Yes!!!

Dame Plump Oh, don't start all that again.

Jack Your majesties, I would like your royal permission to climb it.

King William Climb it? Why would you want to do that?

Jack Because at the top of that beanstalk there's wealth and riches beyond our wildest dreams!

Princess Davina How do you know?

Jack Let's just call it a hunch.

Dame Plump Wealth and riches? Well what are you waiting for? Get on that beanstalk and start climbing!

King William You have our permission, lad.

Princess Davina If there is a fortune at the top of that beanstalk, Jack and I can get married and live happily ever after.

Jack Well, there's only one way to find out.

Sergeant Bosh Wait!

Jack Sergeant Bosh?

Sergeant Bosh Take my sword, lad. You might need it up there.

Jack Thanks Sergeant Bosh? I'll take good care of it.

Princess Davina runs into Jack's arms.

Princess Davina Oh, Jack.

Jack Don't worry, Princess Davina. I'll be fine.

Princess Davina Do be careful up there!

Jack *(To the crowd)* Good-bye everyone. Wish me luck.

All Are you sure you want to do this???

Jack Yes, I'm sure.

Jack holds his sword aloft, and looks up the beanstalk bravely.

Jack Adventure, here I come!

Jack starts to climb the beanstalk. The full company sing a rousing song to send him on his way.

Song 9

End of Act I. Curtain.

Act II

Scene 1

In the clouds at the top of the beanstalk. Giant's castle as a backdrop. Tabs open to reveal dancers and singers.

Song 10

At the end of the routine Jack appears at the top of the beanstalk. Enter Fairy Tuppence.

Fairy Tuppence Welcome to the land above the clouds, where the air is cold and icy.
The views of Earth are spectacular and property's very pricy.
Jack's made it to the top of the beanstalk, it took him several hours.
He can see the Giant's castle, with its drawbridge, gate and towers.

If gold and riches he's to find he'll have to get inside,
But Giants are an evil bunch and Jack's probably terrified.
Be brave young Jack, be pure of heart and wealth will surely find you.
And my sorcery and magic won't be far behind you.

Fairy Tuppence exits. Jack heads towards the castle. Tabs close. Enter the Giant's cook, Mrs. Blackberry on tabs. We hear a loud knock on a door.

Mrs. Blackberry Alright, alright, I'm coming. No need to make such a racket.

She exits to answer the door then comes back on with Jack.

Mrs. Blackberry Who are you? What you coming knockin' 'round here for?

Jack My name's Jack. I'm sorry to disturb you. I'm looking for a room for the night.

Mrs. Blackberry A room? A room??? In case you ain't noticed, this is an enchanted castle in the clouds, not a bed and breakfast in Margate.

Jack But this castle is huge! You must have a spare room.

Mrs. Blackberry We have eight hundred and sixty rooms.

Jack Are any of them *en suite*?

Mrs. Blackberry Yes.

Jack Well, I'll take one of them.

Mrs. Blackberry No!!!

Jack What is this place, anyway? Who lives here?

Mrs. Blackberry I thought everyone knew that. This is the Giant's castle!

Jack The Giant? Wow, no wonder it's so big. He must take up an awful lot of room.

Mrs. Blackberry He does. He's got a bathroom the size of Wembley Stadium.

Jack That's big.

Mrs. Blackberry Ere, how did you get up here? The lift has been out of order for years.

Jack Well, you're probably not going to believe this, but I climbed a beanstalk.

Mrs. Blackberry Well, I'll be darned. A beanstalk?

Jack Do you work for the Giant?

Mrs. Blackberry Yes, I'm Mrs Blackberry his cook. A few years back he tricked me into coming to work for him after I won the Great British Bake Off.

Jack What a horrible thing to do.

Mrs. Blackberry Now I do nothing all day and all night but cook for the Giant, and he never pays me a penny.

Jack Mean old skinflint.

Mrs. Blackberry If I try and escape his bodyguard Mickey catches up with me and brings me back.

Jack Mickey the Menace?

Mrs. Blackberry How d'you know that?

Jack I've met him. He's a nasty bit of work.

Mrs. Blackberry He came in here yesterday with a cow. Asked me to stick it in the oven for him.

Jack The oven? Oh no! That's *my* cow Esmeralda.

Mrs. Blackberry Don't worry, I ain't cooked it yet. It's tied up in the yard out back.

Jack Esmeralda! Thank goodness she's safe.

Mrs. Blackberry Not for much longer. The Giant likes a nice bit of roast beef.

Jack I traded Esmeralda to Mickey the Menace for a bag of beans.

Mrs. Blackberry A bag of beans? Not that old trick. How'd you fall for that? He must have seen you comin' a mile off.

Jack Mrs Blackberry, will you help me get my cow back?

Mrs. Blackberry The Giant will fry me in oil and serve me with skinny fries if he catches me, but yes, I'll help you, Jack. If you'll help me get out of here.

Jack Deal.

Mrs. Blackberry Come with me. You'll need to hide and wait for the Giant to fall asleep after dinner.

They exit. Tabs open to reveal...

Scene 2

The Giant's kitchen. A big table and a big chair are in the middle of the stage. Bags of gold everywhere.

The Giant (*voice off stage*) "Fe, fi, fo, fum! I smell the blood of an Englishman. Be he tough or be he tender I'll stick his fat head in a blender."

The Giant enters.

The Giant Mrs Blackberry! Mrs Blackberry!

Mrs. Blackberry Coming sir!

The Giant Take my order for dinner!

Mrs. Blackberry But, you've just *had* dinner, sir.

The Giant Well, I want *another* dinner!

Mrs. Blackberry Very well, sir. (*With notepad*) What would you like this time?

The Giant Ten chickens.

Mrs. Blackberry Ten *slices* of chicken?

The Giant No, ten chickens!

Mrs. Blackberry Ten chickens.

The Giant On a bed of crisp, iceberg lettuce.

Mrs. Blackberry Yes, sir. And what would you like as a starter?

The Giant That *was* the starter!

Mrs. Blackberry Oh.

The Giant For my main course, I'll have a sheep on toast.

Mrs. Blackberry A sheep on toast. Any vegetables?

The Giant Yes, I'll have roast potatoes, baked potatoes, new potatoes, fried potatoes, mashed potatoes, jacket potatoes, sweet potatoes and *sautéed* potatoes.

Mrs. Blackberry *Sautéed* potatoes.

The Giant That's French.

Mrs. Blackberry Roast potatoes, baked potatoes, new potatoes, fried potatoes, mashed potatoes, jacket potatoes, sweet potatoes and *sautéed* potatoes.

The Giant Delicious.

Mrs. Blackberry Anything to follow?

The Giant Yes, I'll have an apple pie.

Mrs. Blackberry Lovely.

The Giant Followed by a gooseberry pie, a raspberry pie, a blackberry pie, a cherry pie, and a lemon meringue pie. No, three lemon meringue pies.

Mrs. Blackberry Custard or cream?

The Giant Both.

Mrs. Blackberry Anything to drink?

The Giant Yes, go to the wine cellar and get me another gallon of claret, a gallon of merlot and six bottles of Blue Nun.

Mrs. Blackberry Very good, sir.

The Giant You can fetch that right away. I'll drink it while I'm waiting to eat.

Mrs. Blackberry I'll go to the wine cellar directly, sir.

The Giant Before you do that, bring me my money. I want to count it.

Mrs. Blackberry puts a great big chest full of coins on the table.

The Giant And go and fetch my magic goose. The one that lays the golden eggs!

Mrs. Blackberry Yes, sir.

Mrs. Blackberry exits. The Giant starts counting his money.

The Giant Oooh, lovely money. Ten thousand, twenty thousand, thirty thousand...

Mrs. Blackberry enters with a fat goose in a cage. She puts it on the table.

Mrs. Blackberry Your magic goose, sir.

The Giant Aggghhhh! I lost count. Now I'll have to start all over again. Ten thousand, twenty thousand...

Music starts up as the Giant counts his cash. He sings a song about money.

Song 11

At the end of the song, enter Mickey the Menace with Esmeralda the Cow.

Mickey the Menace Greetings, sir. I am sorry to momentarily distract you from your finances, but I thought you might be interested to learn that I have purchased this very fine animal for you.

The Giant What that skinny old thing? That's not fat enough to feed my cat.

Mrs. Blackberry enters with a huge jug of wine for the giant, then scurries off again.

The Giant What about cash? (*Pouring out some wine*) Have you collected this week's protection money?

Mickey the Menace I have to admit, there has been resistance from the people, but I have succeeded in extracting a modest amount of funds on your behalf.

Mickey tips a small bag of cash out onto the table.

The Giant Is that it??? (*Slurping his wine*) Where's the rest?

Mickey the Menace That's all of it.

The Giant If I find out that you are double-crossing me, Mickey the Menace, I will tie you to a spit, cover you in onions and roast you over a slow fire.

Mickey the Menace (*Backing away*) I would never double cross you, sir.

The Giant Then I will have Mrs Blackberry serve you with carrots and aubergines in a creamy, white wine sauce! Now, go back and extract some more money from the townspeople. I have to pay my electricity bill at the end of the month!

Mickey the Menace Yes, sir.

The Giant Now get out, and take that ridiculous looking animal with you.

Mickey exits with Esmeralda. The giant slurps more wine and carries on counting his cash.

The Giant Ten thousand, twenty thousand, (*yawn*) thirty thousand, forty thousand...

The giant's head nods forward and he goes to sleep. Mrs. Blackberry creeps into the kitchen.

Mrs. Blackberry Sir? Are you asleep, sir?

The giant lets out a very loud snore and Mrs. Blackberry quickly backs away and hides. When she is certain he is asleep she creeps out again.

Mrs. Blackberry He's asleep. Jack, you can come in now!

Enter Jack.

Jack Hello, boys and girls!

Audience What's in your sack, Jack?

Mrs. Blackberry (*To the audience*) Sssssshhhhhh!!! Keep your voices down. The giant is a very light sleeper.

Jack He's not nearly as big as I thought he'd be.

Mrs. Blackberry He's been on a diet.

Jack A diet?

Mrs. Blackberry Yes, he limits himself to fifty thousand calories per day.

Jack points at the magic goose.

Jack Is that today's dinner?

Mrs. Blackberry No, that's the Giant's magic goose. It lays *golden eggs*!

Jack reaches for the cage.

Jack *Golden eggs?*

Mrs. Blackberry It's the his most prized possession. He has sworn to kill anyone who so much as touches it.

Jack touches it.

Jack Well, *I've* touched it.

The goose lets out a loud honk.

Jack *(to the goose)* Sssshhhhh!

Mrs. Blackberry The giant's waking up!

Jack Noisy bloomin' goose! I'll hide under here.

Jack hides under the table.

The Giant *(half asleep)* "Fe, fi, fo, fum, I still smell the blood of an Englishman."

Jack *(whispers to audience)* Oh no, his great big nose has got a whiff of me.

The Giant *(half asleep)* "Be he alive or be he dead, I'll fry him up like bacon and egg!"

The Giant gets up sleepily and exits in search of Jack.

Mrs. Blackberry Jack! Now's your chance to run away!

Jack Run away? I climbed up that beanstalk to make my fortune, and my fortune I am going to make! I'm not running away. I'm going to grab some of the Giant's gold!

Mrs. Blackberry He's coming back!

Jack grabs two big bags of gold.

The Giant *(off stage)* "Fe, fi, fo, fum, I smell the blood of an Englishman. Be he false or be he true, I'll turn him into a pot of stew!"

Mrs. Blackberry Jack, he'll catch you. Go!

Jack I'll go. But I'm coming back to rescue you and to get that magic goose!

Jack exits. The Giant enters.

The Giant Was there someone in here?

Mrs. Blackberry No, sir.

The Giant I heard voices. And I can still smell that Englishman's blood. Where's my gold?

Mrs. Blackberry Your gold? Why it's over there.

The Giant There are two bags missing!

Mrs. Blackberry Are there? It looks like it's all there to me.

The Giant There's something fishy going on here.

Mrs. Blackberry That'll be the fish pie on the stove.

The Giant I HATE fish pie! Did you hear me ask for fish pie?

Mrs. Blackberry No, sir.

The Giant If I find out you are lying to me, Mrs Blackberry, I shall slice you up like pepperoni and turn you into a pizza topping! Now, go and make my dinner!!!

Curtain. Enter Fairy Tuppence on tabs.

Fairy Tuppence Jack returned safely from the clouds, with tales of adventure to tell. The gold made him rich and famous and now he's engaged to the Princess as well. Jack knows he will have to return to the clouds, to plot the Giant's downfall, But first we must go to the palace, to Jack and Davina's Engagement Ball!

Enter Dame Plump with Sergeant Bosh. They are on their way to the engagement ball. Plump is in her very best ball gown. Bosh is in a smart white dress uniform

Dame Plump It's very kind of you to escort me to the ball, Sergeant Bosh.

Sergeant Bosh Well, you're a VIP now, Dame Plump. You need a bit of special security.

Dame Plump So can I think of you as my personal bodyguard?

Sergeant Bosh I suppose you can, yes.

Dame Plump Ooooh, you look just like Richard Gere in "An Officer and a Gentlemen".

Sergeant Bosh Do I?

Dame Plump I love that film. Especially the bit at the end. Perhaps, one day, you will sweep me off my feet and carry me in your arms?

Sergeant Bosh (*clearing his throat awkwardly*) Er... I'm sure you'd be as light as a feather, Dame Plump.

Dame Plump Cheeky boy. I bet you say that to all the panto dames.

Dame Plump grabs hold of Sergeant Bosh, spins him around and then dips him over backwards for an embrace.

Dame Plump Kiss me you fool!

Sergeant Bosh Dame Plump! This is not appropriate behavior at all!

Dame Plump But Sergeant Bosh, you look so handsome in that uniform. I'm only flesh and blood after all. A woman has "needs".

Sergeant Bosh I have "needs" as well.

Dame Plump Really?

Sergeant Bosh Yes, I "need" you to let go of me.

Dame Plump is about to kiss Sergeant Bosh.

Dame Plump Come here you great big sexy hunk!

Sergeant Bosh (*calling out for help*) Corporal Kosh! Corporal Kosh!

Corporal Kosh runs on. He discovers Bosh struggling in the embrace with Dame Plump.

Corporal Kosh Oh, I'm terribly sorry, sir, am I interrupting something?

Kosh starts to exit again. Bosh wrestles himself away from the Dame.

Sergeant Bosh No! Don't go!!! We need to... er... discuss security arrangements for the ball.

Corporal Kosh Yes, sir.

Dame Plump Surely that can wait, Sergeant Bosh. Let us away to the ball and dance until dawn.

Sergeant Bosh But the bar closes at eleven.

Dame Plump How inconvenient.

Sergeant Bosh You go on ahead, and I'll see you there.

Dame Plump If you insist, you naughty boy. See you later.

Dame Plump exits.

Corporal Kosh Are you alright, sir? You look a little flustered.

Sergeant Bosh Flustered? I am perfectly in control of the situation.

Corporal Kosh If you say so, sir.

Sergeant Bosh Now, security at the ball tonight needs to be very tight. Mickey the Menace is around and the Giant is on the war path.

Corporal Kosh I understand sir. I will be extra vigilant.

Sergeant Bosh We have a number of men in secret, strategic positions.

Corporal Kosh Strategic positions sir?

Sergeant Bosh And we're using all the latest surveillance equipment. Now, listen very carefully...

Corporal Kosh I'm all ears, Sergeant Bosh.

Sergeant Bosh There's a bodyguard in the courtyard.

Corporal Kosh A bodyguard in the courtyard.

Sergeant Bosh Yes, there's a bodyguard in the courtyard and there's a guard dog behind the egg nog.

Corporal Kosh The egg nog.

Sergeant Bosh There are two spies behind the pork pies, and the bagpiper... is a sniper.

Corporal Kosh The piper's a sniper?

Sergeant Bosh Yes. And the chef on the barbecue can do Kung Fu.

Corporal Kosh Bodyguard in the courtyard, dog behind the egg nog, spies behind the pork pies, the piper's a sniper, Kung Fu at the barbecue.

Sergeant Bosh Correct.

Corporal Kosh Anything else?

Sergeant Bosh Yes, the woman in the red dress... is in the S.A.S., and the buttered scones are drones.

Corporal Kosh The scones are drones?

Sergeant Bosh The scones are drones.

Corporal Kosh Bodyguard in the courtyard, dog behind the egg nog, spies behind the pork pies, the piper's a sniper, Kung Fu at the barbecue. Red dress, S.A.S., and the scones are drones.

Sergeant Bosh You've got it, corporal. Let's go and do our duty.

They exit. Jack enters.

Jack Hello boys and girls?

Audience What's in your sack, Jack?

Jack I'll tell you what's in my sack. Gold! But there's more to life than mere riches, boys and girls. Who would have thought that a poor farmer's boy like me would one day be about to marry a beautiful princess? I do love her...

Jack sings a love ballad.

Song 12

After Jack's song, tabs open to reveal...

Scene 3

The Palace Ballroom. On stage are King William, Queen Matilda, Princess Davina, Dame Plump, Corporal Kosh, Charlie, Sarah and Sergeant Bosh. A few courtiers and party guests stand around with glasses.

King William Well, here we are. The big day!

Queen Matilda Yes, our little girl is getting engaged at last.

Dame Plump And I am going to become royalty!

King William Yes, well I suppose we have to take the rough with the smooth.

Enter Jack.

King William Ah, there's the proud bridegroom now.

Jack Yes, I'm very proud. Thank you for allowing me to marry your daughter, your Majesty.

King William Jack, before the wedding, there's something you need to know.

Jack What's that?

Queen Matilda Princess Davina is not our natural daughter.

Jack *(To Davina)* Is this true?

Princess Davina It is true, yes. My real mother disappeared when I was a little girl.

Jack *(To Davina)* That's very sad.

Princess Davina It's thought that she was taken away, against her will, to work for the Giant.

King William So we adopted Davina.

Jack *(To Davina)* What did your mother do for a living?

Princess Davina She was a cook, and quite a famous one. I'll probably never see her again.

Jack *(Realisation)* She was a *cook*? But, surely that means....

Enter Mickey The Menace.

Mickey the Menace Good day to you, your majesty.

King William Mickey the Menace? You weren't invited to the party.

Mickey the Menace An unfortunate oversight, I am sure.

Queen Matilda Sergeant Bosh, throw this man out.

Bosh walks towards Mickey, but Mickey reaches his hand into his top pocket.

Mickey the Menace I do not think you want to do that, Sergeant Bosh. Why don't we keep this gathering nice and friendly.

King William What do you want from us?

Mickey the Menace I am sad to report that the Giant is not pleased with the royal family, in that they appear to have more money than what he as got.

Queen Matilda "Than what he has got"? What kind of English is that?

Mickey the Menace It is the kind of English that means something very nasty will happen to you if you do not pay your protection money to the Giant.

King William How much "protection money" does he want?

Mickey the Menace The Giant is not a greedy man. He is happy to accept a modest down payment.

King William A down payment of how much?

Mickey the Menace Ten million pounds.

King William Ten million pounds???

Mickey the Menace He takes Visa, Mastercard and American Express.

All Ten million pounds???

Mickey the Menace Is this paltry figure not within your royal means?

King William Of course it isn't!

Mickey the Menace That is most unfortunate.

Queen Matilda What happens if we don't pay?

Mickey the Menace Well, then the Giant will pay you a visit and make a very nasty mess of the royal palace.

Queen Matilda Throw this mobster out!

Corporal Kosh and Sergeant Bosh grab Mickey The Menace and escort him from the stage.

Mickey the Menace *(as he leaves)* This is most inhospitable. When the Giant hears about this you will all be in very big trouble!

King William Well don't all just stand there. Surely you're not in the slightest bit worried by a threat like that?

All Oh yes we are!!!

Queen Matilda Well, we're not going to worry about it today. Let the engagement party commence!

Jack Your Majesties, ladies and gentlemen... please take your partners for the first dance.

The company form into pairs for a very "Strictly" dance routine.

Song 13

After the routine, tabs close. Enter Jack and Princess Davina on tabs.

Jack Hello, boys and girls!

Audience What's in your sack, Jack?

Jack My sack's empty at the moment, but it won't be empty for much longer. Because it will contain a magic goose. The goose that lays golden eggs!

Princess Davina You're going back up the beanstalk?

Jack I must go, Davina. I have to get rid of that evil old Giant for good!

Princess Davina Oh Jack!

Jack And I'm going to bring back something far more precious than gold. I'm going to rescue the Giant's cook Mrs Blackberry...

Princess Davina Mrs Blackberry?

Jack Yes, Davina. I have some amazing news for you. Mrs Blackberry is your *real* mother.

Princess Davina Oh Jack! How wonderful! She'll be able to come to our wedding. But how are you going to defeat the Giant?

Jack I'll find a way, Davina. I'll find a way. Now, wish me luck. I must be going.

Princess Davina Good luck Jack!

Jack draws his sword and exits with a swagger.

Princess Davina He's so brave! He'll be in my thoughts every second until he comes home safely...

Princess Davina turns to the audience and sings a love song.

Song 14

After the song, tabs open to reveal...

Scene 4

Dame Plump's Barn. Enter Dame Plump and Charlie.

Dame Plump Oh, why did Jack have to go back up that bloomin' beanstalk? I'm so worried about him.

Charlie Don't you go worrying, Dame Plump, Jack knows how to look after himself.

Dame Plump I do hope so.

Charlie What you need is something to take your mind off it.

Dame Plump I suppose I do.

Charlie Why don't we count the potatoes?

Dame Plump Good idea. You can start by counting the potatoes in that big sack over there.

Charlie opens up a sack. He takes one potato out.

Charlie One potato.

He takes the potato, walks across to the other side of the stage, and puts it on a table. Then he walks back over to the sack and takes out another potato.

Charlie Two potatoes.

He walks across to the other side of the stage again, and puts the potato on a table. A puzzled Dame Plump watches him as he carries out this arduous method of counting.

Charlie Three potatoes...

As he is walking back, Dame Plump interrupts him.

Dame Plump Charlie, why don't you move the table over here?

Charlie Good idea.

Charlie moves the table and puts it next to the potato sack.

Dame Plump There you go. Much easier.

Charlie thinks for a moment then moves the potato sack to the opposite side of the stage.

Charlie Four potatoes...

He sets off across the stage again and then back.

Charlie Five potatoes...

Dame Plump Charlie, what are you doing?

Charlie Counting potatoes.

Dame Plump I know that! Why did you put the potatoes over there?

Charlie Because you told me to put the table over there!

Dame Plump No! Put the table *next* to the potatoes.

Charlie You're the boss.

Charlie puts the table next to the potato sack and gets ready to start counting again.

Dame Plump That's right, Charlie.

Charlie But now I can't remember what number I got up to. I'll have to start again.

He tips the five potatoes back into the sack.

Dame Plump No!

Charlie starts counting again.

Charlie One potato...

He takes the potato, walks across the stage to where the table had been and puts the potato on the floor.

Dame Plump What are you doing?

Charlie Counting potatoes.

Dame Plump I know! But why did you put that potato on the floor?

Charlie I had to put it on the floor.

Dame Plump Why???

Charlie Because the table's over there.

Dame Plump Charlie, why don't you take the potatoes out of the sack and put them on the table.

Charlie That's what I was doing before.

Dame Plump Yes, but that was when the table was over there. Why do you have to walk all that way every time you count a potato?

Charlie It helps me concentrate.

Dame Plump Charlie, I'm going to show you how to count potatoes.

Charlie You're the boss.

Dame Plump goes to the table with the sack next to it. She rapidly takes potatoes out of the sack and puts them on the table.

Dame Plump One, two, three, four, five.

Charlie Wow, that's fast.

Dame Plump Now you do it.

Charlie I can't do it like that?

Dame Plump Why not?

Charlie I has to say "potato" after each number.

Dame Plump I don't care! Just count the potatoes.

Charlie One potato, two potato, three potato, four. Five potato, six potato, seven potato, more.

Dame Plump More? Why are you saying "more".

Charlie I can only count up to seven.

Dame Plump Oh, for goodness sake! I'll count the potatoes later. Let's sing a song instead. Will you help us with a song, boys and girls?

Audience Yes!

Dame Plump Right, go and get the words, Charlie.

Charlie brings on a big board with the words of the song. Audience participation routine featuring Charlie and Dame Plump.

Song 15

After the routine, tabs close. Enter Jack and Mrs. Blackberry on tabs.

Mrs. Blackberry I can't believe my daughter's a princess! I can't wait to see her again. But Jack, you really shouldn't have come back here. The Giant is so angry with you.

Jack I'm not afraid of the Giant, Mrs Blackberry. I'll send him packing and take his magic goose as well. Then all the king and queen's poor subjects will have their wealth returned to them again!

Mrs. Blackberry But Jack, the Giant guards that goose more closely than any of his otreasures. He never lets it out of his sight!

Jack Then I'll have to find a way to distract him. Come on, let's go. It's time to take down a bully!

They exit. Tabs open to reveal...

Scene 5

The Giant's kitchen. The Giant sits at his big table. Mickey the Menace stands before him. Esmeralda the Cow is tied up.

The Giant So, how much money did you manage to extract from the king and queen?

Mickey the Menace I am glad you asked me that, sir. It is an excellent question.

The Giant And what, may I ask, is the excellent answer?

Mickey the Menace I went to great pains to explain to their royal majesties that you are very angry.

The Giant I *am* angry!

Mickey the Menace And that you are not at all pleased that they have more money than what you have.

The Giant Did you demand protection money?

Mickey the Menace I did.

The Giant What did they say?

Mickey the Menace They kicked me out.

The Giant What???

Mickey the Menace Not only that, but I regret to inform you that Jack is on his way back here to try and steal your magic goose and rescue your cook.

The Giant Jack? That puny little upstart thinks he can defeat me?

Mickey the Menace That would appear to be the case, sir.

The Giant I'll make Jack wish he'd never been born!

At the sound of this evil threat, Esmeralda's legs begin to shake with a loud chattering sound.

The Giant What's that noise? Are your teeth chattering?

Mickey the Menace No, sir. It's the cow's knees knocking.

The Giant I *hate* that cow!

Mickey the Menace Can I go now, sir?

The Giant Did I *say* you could go?

Mickey the Menace You did not.

The Giant I want you to *find* young Jack, and Mrs Blackberry, and bring them to me.

Mickey the Menace What are you going to do to them?

The Giant I am going to boil them in a casserole with winter vegetables and a red wine sauce.

Esmeralda's legs begin to shake again.

Mickey the Menace That sounds delicious, sir.

The Giant Now, get out!

Mickey the Menace Yes, sir.

The Giant And take that ridiculous animal with you!

Mickey The Menace exits, dragging a very agitated Esmeralda behind him.

The Giant Fe, fi, fo, fum, something furious this way comes...

The Giant exits. Enter Mrs. Blackberry followed by Jack.

Jack The Giant's not here. Now's our chance to grab that magic goose.

Jack clammers onto the big table and takes hold of the goose's cage. The bird makes a terrible racket.

Jack Sssssshhhh! Be quiet you stupid bird!

Mrs. Blackberry Be careful, Jack. The Giant could be back at any minute!

Jack Here, take the goose.

He hands the cage down to Mrs Blackberry.

Jack Have you got it?

Mrs. Blackberry Got it.

Jack Right, let's get out of here.

The Giant is heard outside.

The Giant (off) "Fe, fi, fo, fum, Jack's destruction has begun..."

Mrs Blackberry Agghhhh! Run for it Jack!

Jack Follow me!

They run off. The Giant appears and runs clumsily across the stage, chasing them. Blackout. Tabs close. Enter Jack and Mrs. Blackberry on tabs. They still have the magic goose and are looking warily behind them.

Jack (out of breath) It looks like we've left the Giant behind. We were too fast for him.

Mrs Blackberry (pointing off) There's the top of the beanstalk!

Jack We're almost there! We'll soon be home!

Mrs Blackberry Thank goodness for that.

They continue running but the Giant suddenly appears in front of them.

The Giant "Fe, fi, fo, fum, there's *no* escape, nowhere to run."

Jack Wanna bet?

Jack breaks away. The Giant chases he and Mrs Blackberry around and around in circles. Funny chase music.

The Giant Come here you sniveling little pest! (To Mrs Blackberry) Give me back my magic goose!

Mrs Blackberry Never!

The Giant (To Jack) Thieves! Come back here so I can eat you for lunch!

Jack You'll have to catch us first!

The Giant catches up with Jack who draws his sword. The Giant draws his sword too and a swashbuckling duel gets under way.

Mrs Blackberry Be careful Jack!

The Giant (as they duel) You are no match for my skill with a sword, Jack.

Jack *(as they duel)* We'll see about that!

The Giant I will chop you into tiny slices and put you in a salad!

Jack Aren't you forgetting something...

The Giant What's that?

Jack That good always triumphs over evil.

The Giant Only in fairytales, Jack.

Jack Yes, but this *is* a fairytale.

The duel pauses for a moment. The Giant looks at the audience.

The Giant I never thought of that.

The duel begins again.

Mrs Blackberry Jack, watch out for that bag of gold.

Jack trips backwards over the bag.

Jack Uh oh.

Our hero hits the floor and the Giant holds his sword to Jack's throat.

The Giant Say your prayers, boy!

Jack Let me up.

The Giant Mrs Blackberry, go and switch on the oven. Tonight I shall dine well.

Jack Mrs Blackberry! The Magic Goose!

Mrs Blackberry pulls the magic goose out of its cage and places her hands around its throat.

Mrs Blackberry Let him go!

The Giant *(Spinning around)* Whaa...?

Mrs Blackberry Or the goose *gets it!*

Jack *(To the audience)* Brilliant!

The Giant Not my goose! Don't hurt my magic goose!

The Giant slowly backs away from Jack. He jumps up and raises his sword in triumph.

Jack *(To Mrs Blackberry)* Victory is ours! Let's go!

The pair run off. Blackout. Tabs open to reveal...

Scene 6

Dame Plump's farmyard. The bottom of the beanstalk. Jack and Mrs. Blackberry come scrambling down, watched by Dame Plump, Charlie and Sarah.

Dame Plump Jack! You're safe!

Sarah Thank goodness!

Jack Yes. But the Giant is right behind us! He's climbing down the beanstalk.

Charlie Oh no!

Dame Plump You'll have to cut it down, Jack!

Dame Plump runs and fetches an axe.

Jack Good idea, mother.

Dame Plump (*Handing him the axe*) Here.

The Giant (*off*) Fe, fi, fo, fum. Down the beanstalk, here I come!

Mrs Blackberry Quickly Jack!

Sarah He's getting closer!

Jack Here goes nothing.

Jack starts chopping at the beanstalk.

Jack One, two, three...

Dame Plump & Mrs Blackberry Come on Jack!

Jack One more chop!

Jack gives the beanstalk an almighty final chop. We hear the sound of branches creaking, followed by a huge crash. The beanstalk collapses, quickly followed by what appears to be the giant falling from the top of the stage.

Charlie You got him, Jack! You got him!

Jack The evil Giant is no more!

Charlie Three cheers for Jack. Hip, hip...

All Hooray!

Charlie Hip, hip...

All Hooray!

Charlie Hip, hip...

All Hooray!

Dame Plump (*indicating Mrs. Blackberry*) Aren't you going to introduce us to your new friend?

Jack This is Mrs Blackberry. She's been an unwilling guest of the Giant for almost twenty years. Mrs Blackberry, this is my mother.

Mrs Blackberry You should be very proud of your son. He's a very brave boy. He saved my life.

Dame Plump I am proud. As proud as punch of my Jack.

Jack Charlie, can you look after this?

Charlie A goose?

Jack It's a special goose, Charlie. Be *very* careful with it.

Charlie I will.

Sarah and Charlie exit with the magic goose. Enter Corporal Kosh and Sergeant Bosh.

Sergeant Bosh What was that great big crash?

Jack (*pointing at the motionless Giant*) It was him.

Corporal Kosh The Giant! Ooh, dear, he doesn't look very well.

Dame Plump He's not very well. He's dead.

Sergeant Bosh Well I never. You did it, lad, just like you said you would. Well done!

Jack Thank you. You can have your sword back now.

Sergeant Bosh No, you keep it, son. Hang it on the wall as a souvenir. (*indicating the Giant's body*) Corporal Kosh, drag that thing out of here. It's making the place look very untidy.

Corporal Kosh Yes, sir.

Kosh tries to move it, but it won't budge.

Corporal Kosh I can't shift it sir. It's too heavy.

Sergeant Bosh I'll give you a hand.

They start to slowly drag the body off.

Corporal Kosh (*whisper*) Why's he so heavy, sir?

Sergeant Bosh (*whisper*) Probably because his pockets are stuffed with gold.

Corporal Kosh (*loudly*) Gold?

Sergeant Bosh (*whisper*) Sssssshhhhhh! Say nothing, corporal. Perks of the job.

They exit with the body. Enter the king and queen who go straight away to Mrs Blackberry.

King William Mrs Blackberry! Welcome home!

Mrs Blackberry Your Majesty.

Queen Matilda Don't worry, we've taken good care of your little daughter. Although she's not quite so little anymore.

King William Have you heard she's getting married?

Mrs Blackberry Yes, Jack told me.

Enter Princess Davina.

Princess Davina Mother?

Mrs Blackberry (*arms out*) Come here.

Davina runs right across the stage and embraces Mrs Blackberry.

Mrs Blackberry Let me look at you, Davina. My, you've grown up to be a beautiful girl. You'll make a lovely bride.

Dame Plump I'm filling up. I love it when a plan comes together.

Charlie and Sarah enter.

Jack Charlie, have you put the goose somewhere safe?

Charlie Yep! It's safely in the oven. Gas mark 6.

Jack What?

All (*together*) But that was the goose that lays the golden eggs!

Jack What *have* you done, Charlie?

(Awkward silence)

Sarah Oh, he's only joking, Jack.

All (*together*) Phew!

Sarah In fact, the goose just laid *this* egg.

Dame Plump grabs the egg and quickly inspects it with a jeweler's eye glass.

Dame Plump Sure enough...

She holds it up for all to see.

Dame Plump It's solid gold!

All (*together*) Hooray!

Princess Davina hugs Jack, Sarah hugs Charlie. Music starts.

Jack Charlie, you nearly gave me a heart attack!

Dame Plump Time for our happy ending, I think?

Enter Mickey the Menace.

Mickey the Menace Not so fast.

All (*together*) Oh no! It's Mickey the Menace!

Mickey the Menace Thank you for such a warm greeting. I am deeply touched.

Sergeant Bosh and Corporal Kosh come running on.

Sergeant Bosh We're sorry, everyone, we tried to stop him but he slipped past us.

Corporal Kosh Come on you, get out of here!

Jack Let him speak! What do *you* want, Mickey?

Mickey the Menace Well, I was wondering if this animal might belong to you.

Esmeralda the Cow comes running on and is embraced by Dame Plump.

All (together) Esmeralda!

Dame Plump You brought her back!

Mickey the Menace I did indeed.

Charlie But Mickey the Menace, we thought you were evil.

Princess Davina Why would you do a good deed for us?

Mickey the Menace Forgive me, but if you have not noticed, the Giant is dead. Which means that I no longer have a head honcho to report to.

Jack That's true.

Mickey the Menace What is the point of an evil henchman without an evil boss?

King William Well if you're looking for a job we could do with a little more brains and muscle in the palace guard.

Sergeant Bosh Charming.

Queen Matilda Sergeant Bosh, find this man a palace uniform!

Jack Well, it looks like that's everyone finally sorted out. And now, all together...

All (together) We can all live happily ever after! Hooray!

Enter dancers, townspeople and courtiers. They sing an upbeat, celebratory song.

Song 16

After the routine, blackout. Tabs close. Enter Fairy Tuppence on tabs.

Fairy Tuppence Another year's flown by so fast, our pantomime is done.
We hope you liked the characters and the yarn that we have spun.
Jack slayed the giant for his royal client and a princess he has won,
And as we turn the page, a new golden age in the kingdom has begun.
We've traveled and had adventures both near and afar.
Now let's say farewell to our cast of friends... *(aside)* then they can all go to the bar!

Tabs open for...

Song 17

Walk down & Grand Finale. Curtain.