



Jack and the Beanstalk

by Stephen Duckham

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JACK AND THE BEANSTALK

Characters

Fairy Greenbean

Tillamina Trot	Owner of Trot Family Farm
Jack Trot	Her eldest son
Tommy Trot	Her youngest son

Baroness Betina Beetroot (pronounced B'troot.)

Miranda	Her daughter
Harriet	Her niece

Giant Blunderbore

Slime	Blunderbore's Henchman
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Chorus of Villagers and Creatures above the clouds.

Children of the Village

SCENES

ACT ONE

SCENE 1	THE VILLAGE OF GREENWILLOW
SCENE 2	THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE VILLAGE
SCENE 3	THE VILLAGE OF GREENWILLOW
SCENE 4	THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE VILLAGE
SCENE 5	TILLIE TROT'S FARMHOUSE
SCENE 6	TILLIE TROT'S GARDEN

ACT TWO

SCENE 1	ABOVE THE CLOUDS
SCENE 2	ON THE WAY TO THE CASTLE
SCENE 3	THE GIANT'S KITCHEN
SCENE 4	BACK TO THE BEANSTALK
SCENE 5	TILLIE TROT'S GARDEN
SCENE 6	THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE VILLAGE
SCENE 7	THE WEDDING AT B'TROOT HALL

CHARACTERS

Jack Trot	The hero of the pantomime. A kind-hearted, ambitious young man. Able to defend himself and look after his family. Should be athletic and have a strong singing voice.
Tommy Trot	Jack's younger brother. Comic, with a good sense of timing. Must be a good mover and possess a pleasant singing voice.
Tillamina Trot	The pantomime Dame. Mother to Jack and Tommy, and owner of the Trott Family Farm. Big-hearted and a big voice. Runs the gamut of emotions from comic to tragic! Must have a good rapport with the other characters and the audience. Good movement and singing are important.
Miranda	Principal Girl. Pretty, intelligent and has a mind of her own. Must have a strong singing voice and will be required to move and dance in the production numbers.
Baroness Betina B'troot	Pretentious member of the landed gentry who married well, thinks she is above everyone else, and is the butt of a lot of Tillie's put-downs. Must be able to handle comedy and have a reasonable singing voice.
Harriet	Miranda's cousin. A jolly and friendly girl who only appears in Act 2. She is a 'jolly hockey sticks' type with a good singing voice.
Fairy Greenbean	A friendly sprite who looks after the Trot family. She should have a West Country accent and a good conversational manner with the audience. Her magic 'wand' is in the shape of a carrot she calls Kevin!
Slime	Giant Blunderbore's henchman. A creepy character, as his name suggests. Must be able to handle an audience that will constantly barrack him as the story progresses.
Giant Blunderbore	A big character, who will need a specially designed costume to give his appearance the maximum impact. Deep-voiced, and if he can be amplified, this will help his delivery within any large character headgear.
Buttercup	The lovable cow. Two performers who know each other well!!
Chorus	Villagers, Creatures in the Giant's domain and Fairy Greenbean's assistants in the growing of the Beanstalk. All-round ability, including good vocals and movement. It is also an advantage to have dancers who can provide choreography to enhance production numbers.

SCENERY

ACT ONE

- Scenes 1 & 3 Full stage set with village backcloth. Tillie Trot's Farm House to one side, and other buildings opposite. Market stalls can be placed where practical.
- Scenes 2 & 4 Front cloth depicting the outskirts of the village.
- Scene 5 This set has to transform into the garden, so if the kitchen backing can be made up of two sections (one containing a practical window), they can move off stage during the transformation. They can be backed by black tabs which open to reveal scene 6.
- Scene 6 Garden backing with trees and plants on either side. Up stage centre is a grassy mound hiding the beanstalk. This grows at a point in the transformation and can be pulled up by a wire. The beanstalk itself can vary in design and size, depending on the capability of your stage area and space.

ACT TWO

- Scene 1 A full stage with a cyclorama backing. Cloud wings and a large cloud piece with the top of the beanstalk showing through it. This should be set near a wing to make the actors appear to reach the top of their climb.
- Scene 2 & 4 A second front cloth showing clouds and the Giant's Castle in the distance.
- Scene 3 A half or full stage interior scene with a large table and chair. To one side is a cage with a practical door. Other kitchen furniture items can be added if the space allows.
- Scene 5 A repeats of Act One Scene 6
- Scene 6 A repeat of Act One Scene 2
- Scene 7 A wedding scene that can be whatever your design team come up with.

ACT ONE

OVERTURE

[Towards the end of the overture, the music becomes sinister, and a crash of thunder echoes around the auditorium. The voice of the Giant is heard.]

GIANT V/O Fee fi foe fum,
I want food to fill my tum!
No use hiding under your seat,
I've got potatoes, all I need now is meat!
I'll get what I want before the end of the day,
Blunderbore is coming your way!

[An evil laugh, accompanied by more thunder and lightning, is heard. The music segues into the introduction to the next scene as the house tabs open.]

SCENE 1 THE VILLAGE OF GREENWILLOW

[Full stage. General village backcloth. The Trot Farmhouse is stage left with a sign over the door saying: Tillamina Trot's Family Farm. It is Market Day. Some stalls are visible but remain empty. It is a busy scene as the Company prepares for market day. Miranda is with them, as is Tommy Trot.]

OPENING NUMBER

TOMMY Morning Miranda.

MIRANDA Hello, Tommy. Are you all ready for the Market Day?

TOMMY Nearly. I've just got to get all our produce out on the stall.

MIRANDA *[To the Company.]* Are you all looking forward to the annual Greenwillow Market Day Fair? *[All react.]* It looks like we have a perfect day for it.

[She begins the song. Tommy and the Company join her. At the end of the number, Tommy exits into the Farmhouse. Miranda moves downstage.]

I thought Jack might be here, helping set up the Trot family stall.

WOMAN I'm sure he's around here somewhere. Quite keen on him, aren't you, Miranda? *[All laugh.]*

MIRANDA *[Feigning innocence.]* We're just good friends.

- MAN** Oh go on. You've both had a soft spot for each other for ages!
- MIRANDA** Shh. Don't let Mother hear you.
- WOMAN** *[Rather disparagingly.]* Your mother – Baroness Betina Beetroot – is a bit of a snob. Just because she married into the gentry, it doesn't give her the right to run your life.
- MIRANDA** I know, but she won't change her mind. She doesn't approve of Jack and I seeing each other.
- WOMAN** Well, you can see each other now. *[To all.]* Eye candy off stage left, girls!
- [Jack enters.]*
- JACK** Morning all. *[All greet Jack.]* Hello Miranda.
- MIRANDA** Hello, Jack.
- JACK** How are you today?
- MIRANDA** Very well. But mother is due any minute.
- JACK** Don't worry. *[He talks to everyone.]* One of these days, I'll prove that I'm worthy of you, just wait and see. *[All cheer him.]* Now, is everyone ready for market day? *[All react.]* Where's Tommy? I thought he was bringing all the produce for us to sell.
- TOMMY** *[Off stage.]* Weooooh. Look out! *[Tommy enters carrying a huge pile of boxes containing produce for the market. He staggers around the stage, and it looks like he is going to drop them. All call out.]* Make way. Mind your backs. Heavy load coming through.
- JACK** Tommy, be careful.
- TOMMY** Ooooh, I'm trying to do a three-point turn, but I've got an obstruction in the rear!
- WOMAN** I've got a box of laxatives if they will help.
- TOMMY** Not that rear! *[He totters again.]* Oooh, help! *[He heads towards the audience.]* Watch out!! *[It looks like the pile of boxes is going to fall on the front row of the audience, but the Chorus come to the rescue and pull him back. He puts the pile down and speaks to someone in the audience.]* You nearly had a couple of cabbages on your head, didn't you, mate? Mind you, they would have gone well with the Colliflower ears.

JACK You must be more careful.

TOMMY I wanted to get here quickly as I've just heard some worrying news.

MIRANDA What's that?

TOMMY We all know about that awful Giant who lives above the clouds.

JACK Yes. The one who has tormented us for years.

TOMMY Well, he now has a henchman working for him down here who has been seen in the vicinity of – *[Name of a nearby town.]*

ALL No!

TOMMY And it was just reported on Breakfast News that he's heading this way.

[All react.]

MIRANDA Oh, Jack, what are we going to do?

JACK It will be some time before he gets here. We'll get the market fair started and show that we're not frightened of him.

TOMMY *[Boldly.]* No, I'm not frightened. *[Weakly, knees shaking.]* I'm petrified!

MIRANDA But what if we upset him and he tells his master?

WOMAN And the Giant comes down here.

TOMMY Remember the last time he set foot on Earth? He stole our prize hen, the one that laid the golden eggs.

MIRANDA And my dear cousin Harriet, who sang and played the harp so beautifully. He picked her up in that huge hand of his, and she was never seen again.

TOMMY I know. I do miss Harriet. I had quite a soft spot for her. But even worse, I've heard he's looking for his next meal! You know what he says – *[In a voice like the Giant.]* "I'll grind your bones to make my bread!"

JACK I'll not let that happen. There must be a way to defeat him. But for now, let's carry on with the market fair and enjoy the day.

[All agree.]

NUMBER – JACK and COMPANY

[At the end of the number, the sound of a motor car racing along is heard with skidding and revving up noises. All quickly exit as Buttercup the cow enters, pulling a cart with Tillamina Trot in. She has a bag of various milk cartons.]

TILLIE

Whoa, Buttercup, whoa!! *[Buttercup comes to an abrupt stop and Tillie falls out of the cart.]* Oh, now look what you've done. You've battered me butter, crushed me clotted cream and damaged me dairy delight. *[Adjusts her bust.]* And look at this. *[She holds up an empty milk bottle.]* It's evaporated! *[She holds up a small bottle.]* And this is condensed! *[She stands up and sees the audience.]* Oh hello. Have you popped in for a pint of semi-skimmed? *[Audience reaction.]* No? But you should always drink plenty of milk. Makes you grow up big and strong, just like me. *[She holds up various bottles in the milk crate.]* I've got full fat, half fat, fat-free and - *[Points to her ample bosom.]* - not so fat-free! But I've not introduced myself. I'm Tillamina Trot, but that's a bit of a mouthful, so you can call me Tillie. When I see you, I'll shout - How Are You? - and you can shout back - Terrific Tillie. Can you do that? *[Reaction.]* Okay, let's try it. *[This happens a couple of times. Ad lib about being louder.]* That's great. I run the town's lactic establishment. That's posh for a milk farm. And this is Buttercup, our principal supplier. In fact, she's our only supplier. Say hello to everyone, Buttercup. *[Buttercup curtseys.]* You know I've been in this business ever since I met my husband, Jethroe. He owned the local dairy and taught me everything I know about the finer points of pulling a pint. *[Buttercup crosses her legs.]* Mind you, he was more likely to be pulling a pint down at - *[Name of local pub.]* He came into my life like a ray of sunshine - and went through my bank account like a flash of lightning. Swept me off my feet, he did with his strong arms and rippling muscles. Oh, but he was a handsome brute. His father was a boxer. His mother was a right Shih Tzu! But we did have a lovely wedding. I was a vision in taffeta and tiaras! When I walked down the aisle, there were gasps of amazement. My mother was crying, my father was crying, and the vicar was crying. Even the cake was in tiers! For our honeymoon, he took me on a P & O cruise. Pubs and Off-licences! Anyway, we can't stand around talking all day, can we, Buttercup? *[Buttercup shakes her head.]* You take the cart to the farm, there's a good girl.

[Buttercup trots off, pulling the cart. Betina Beetroot enters.]

BETINA

Well, if it isn't the village milkmaid!

TILLIE

Oh, here she is. Betty Beetroot.

BETINA

It's B'troot. The Baroness Betina B'troot, as well you know.

- TILLIE** Come off it, Bet. You're no different to the rest of us. *[To the audience.]* We used to go to school together. She was always copying my homework.
- BETINA** I was not!
- TILLIE** Then she married Baron Bertrum Beetroot and landed in the lap of luxury. But she still doesn't know her art from her algebra! *[To Betina. Very posh.]* And what can I do for you, milady?
- BETINA** I'm looking for my daughter Miranda.
- TILLIE** She's probably behind the cow shed with my son!
- BETINA** Highly unlikely.
- TILLIE** Why not? It's where you met the Baron!
- BETINA** How dare you.
- [Miranda enters, followed by Jack.]*
- MIRANDA** Mother!
- BETINA** Miranda, what are you doing with that commoner?
- TILLIE** My son is not a commoner. He speaks perfect English, like what I do!
- MIRANDA** We were just getting things ready for the market.
- BETINA** *[Appalled.]* What? And getting your hands all grubby like his?
- TILLIE** My son will make a fortune one day with his grubby hands – then he'll be filthy rich!
- BETINA** Come along, we must get home to B'troot Hall.
- TILLIE** *[Rolling her eyes at the audience.]* B'troot Hall!!!
- BETINA** It is our family's stately home.
- TILLIE** And a right state it is too. *[To audience.]* It used to be the Dog and Trumpet at the end of – *[Insert a local street.]*
- MIRANDA** I thought you wanted to see what new outfits were on sale at – *[Local store.]*

- BETINA** Oh yes. You're right. I won't be long, and then we must get back. I have guests arriving for afternoon tea.
- TILLIE** Oooh, milk and two sugars, please. And have you got some cream fancies? I do fancy having a fancy cream fancy.
- BETINA** We're having Gâteau Magique and Petit Fours.
- TILLIE** *[With a shrug to the audience.]* Fancy, no fancies!
- BETINA** And it's by invitation only. *[Calling off stage.]* Clarence, the carriage. *[She exits.]*
- TILLIE** I'm sorry Miranda, dear, but she really rattles my dentures!
- MIRANDA** I know mother can be a bit much.
- JACK** Don't worry about that. The market fair will be starting soon, and we still haven't got the stall set up.
- TILLIE** Jack's right. Nothing is going to spoil today.
- MIRANDA** I am a little frightened that the Giant might turn up and wreak havoc on us all.
- JACK** I'm going to think of a plan to defeat the Giant once and for all.
- MIRANDA** *[Gazing at JACK.]* Oh, Jack, you are brave.
- JACK** *[Gazing back at her.]* Not really.
- TILLIE** I think this is my cue to leave. Tatar! *[SHE exits, waving at the audience.]*
- JACK** I've spoken to the rest of the townspeople, and they agree with me. We have to stand up to the Giant and fight him.
- MIRANDA** But how? I've heard tell he's enormous and can crush a person with the wave of his hand.
- JACK** That's as maybe, but we must try. We have to fight for our rights.
- MIRANDA** And what if something were to happen to you? I'd never see you again.
- JACK** Hey, don't think you're going to get rid of me that easily.

DUET - JACK & MIRANDA

[At the end of the song, they exit. The lights change, and there is gentle music.]

FAIRY GREENBEAN'S MUSIC

[Fairy Greenbean enters down right. She carries a large carrot as a sort of magic wand. Her accent is Somerset.]

FAIRY Hello there. *[Reaction.]* Nice to see you all. I thought I'd better come out and introduce myself. I'm Fairy Greenbean, and I live in the woods just outside the village. *[She holds up her carrot. And this is Kevin. Say hello to Kevin. Audience reaction.]* I've been around for centuries, looking after the good people who dwell here. I've managed to keep them fairly safe every time that awful Giant Blunderbore makes an appearance, but it's a bit of a struggle. And now he's employed a henchman, appropriately called Slime, to do a lot of his dirty work.

SLIME'S MUSIC

[Slime enters down left.]

SLIME Did someone mention my name?

FAIRY I thought there was a nasty smell around here.

SLIME You can talk. You look like – *[Name of an unpopular female TV character.]* – with a bad hair day!

FAIRY Don't you be cheeky. What are you doing here anyway?

SLIME Oh, haven't you heard the latest news from my master? He's imposing a land tax on everyone. They must pay up today or forfeit everything they own.

FAIRY That is wicked. He must be stopped from ruining people's lives.

SLIME Nothing can stop the mighty Giant Blunderbore.

FAIRY Don't you be too sure. If you think I'm going to let anything happen to those good folk, you've got another thing coming. *[She waves her carrot at him.]*

SLIME What on earth is that?

FAIRY It's my trusty magical carrot, Kevin!

SLIME I thought it was one of your five a day!

FAIRY *[To the carrot that looks as though it is trembling.]* Don't listen to him, Kevin. *[To Slime.]* The likes of you or the Giant don't frighten me. I am here to protect those good folk, and protect them I will. So just be warned.

SLIME Don't threaten me, you mouldy-looking marrow.

FAIRY Oh, rant and rave all you like, but remember, I'll always be there watching your every move.

SLIME I don't have to listen to you, you troublesome old turnip. I've got my master's work to do. *[Audience reaction. He speaks to them.]* And you better watch out, or you could end up on the Giant's dinner table. *[He exits.]*

FAIRY Don't you worry about him. You're all under my protection, and I won't let anything happen to you. *[She holds up her carrot.]* Kevin will protect you. See you later. *[She exits. Tillie enters with Buttercup.]*

TILLIE How are you? *[Reaction.]* Great. Aren't they a lovely crowd, Buttercup? *[Buttercup nods.]* She's one of the family, and she's very intelligent. She is – she does everything I do. Every morning she reads her favourite newspaper, the Daily Moos – while she has her breakfast, Mooosli. Her favourite entertainment is the Mooovies – and on the TV she loves watching Doctor Moo!! *[No doubt these will get groans and hopefully laughter from the audience.]* And that is the end of the Mooos! Now Buttercup, it's milking time, and I want a good yield to sell at the market. Are you going to be a good girl for Mummy and do your best? *[Buttercup nods.]* That's my baby. *[She calls]* Tommy, where are you?

[Tommy enters.]

TOMMY Here, Mum.

TILLIE Time for the daily milking.

TOMMY *[Rubbing his hands together.]* Ready to get going, Buttercup?

[Buttercup's legs start shaking.]

TILLIE Why is she shivering?

TOMMY She's Friesian! *[Buttercup looks as though she's laughing.]* Now she's a Laughing Cow!

TILLIE Get on with it. I'll get the bottles.

TOMMY Okay Mum.

TILLIE *[To the audience.] See you later. [She exits.]*

TOMMY Right. Let's get started. *[He gets a small stool and places it behind Buttercup. He then goes to get a bucket. Buttercup sits her rear end on the stool, and the front sits on its lap.]* Oh, very funny. This is no time to be sitting around. Now come on. *[Buttercup stands.]* That's more like it. *[He sits, puts the bucket under Buttercup and starts to milk her. Nothing happens.]* What's the matter, Buttercup? Have you turned your taps on? *[Buttercup nods.]* I'd better take a look. *[He lies down under Buttercup and starts to work her udder. A squirt of milk hits him in the face. Buttercup runs down to the other side of the stage.]* Oh, very clever. Now, will you stop messing about? I want a full bucket. *[He crosses and puts the bucket under her. She moves a few steps. He places the bucket again, and she moves. This continues across the stage, getting faster and faster until the last time when Tommy falls flat on his face. Tillie enters with a crate of bottles that she puts down by the exit.]*

TILLIE How are you? *[Reaction.]* Tommy, what are you doing?

TOMMY About ten miles to the litre!

TILLIE *[Picking up the bucket.]* This is no good. We'll have nothing to sell at the fair.

FAIRY MUSIC

[The Fairy enters and makes a magic pass at Buttercup, who is now standing by the crate of bottles. Lighting effects during which the crate of bottles is swapped for one full of milk.]

Look! Buttercup what a clever girl you are. And what a selection. *[She pulls out various bottles.]* Oat milk, soy, coconut, almond – and look, Organic with omega three!

[Jack, Miranda and the Chorus enter. They bring on the Trot Family Farm stall and set it near the Farmhouse.]

JACK Everything is ready for the market, Mum.

TILLIE Good. Now let's hope we get plenty of customers.

MIRANDA I'll give you a hand.

[Betina enters.]

BETINA No you won't. It's time to be getting back.

MIRANDA Oh, mother.

BETINA No arguments. There's nothing to keep us here. *[She turns to leave.]*

SLIME MUSIC

[Slime enters down left.]

SLIME Good morning all. *[He doesn't get a good reaction from the Company.]*

TILLIE Good grief, it's – *[TV baddie or politician.]*

SLIME I come bearing news from my master, Giant Blunderbore.

[All cower away, very worried.]

BETINA You mean he's got you doing his dirty work?

SLIME I look after all his affairs.

TILLIE Who'd want to have an affair with that ugly brute? *[All agree.]*

SLIME Be careful what you say, old, old woman.

[Tillie is apoplectic.]

BETINA I am Baroness B'troot. What is your business with us?

SLIME The Giant is imposing a land tax on all property under his realm.

[All gasp and start talking.]

BETINA That is outrageous. He can't do that.

SLIME He can do anything he likes.

JACK But he's already looted and stolen our possessions in the past. What more does he want?

SLIME You are living in his realm, so therefore you must pay for the privilege. I will be back later to collect what is due. *[He exits with a look at the audience, who will be booing him.]*

TILLIE Now then everyone. Let's forget about him and the Giant for a while and enjoy the Market Fair.

[All agree.]

BETINA Miranda, we're leaving.

TILLIE Oh come on, Bet. In that creep's eyes, you're just one of us. So, loosen your girdle, let your hair piece down and have a good time.

BETINA *[Wavering for a moment.]* Oh, all right.

[All cheer.]

MUSIC – REPRISE OF OPENING NUMBER AND SCENE CHANGE

[At the end, the lights blackout and the scene changes.]

SCENE CHANGE 1 – 2

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SCENE 2 THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE VILLAGE

[A front cloth. The Giant's voice is heard.]

GIANT Slime. Slime, you snivelling wretch. Where are you?

[Slime enters down left.]

SLIME Here I am master. What can I do for you?

GIANT You can get me something to eat! I've not had a good meal in ages. My stomach is groaning for food. Listen.

[Sound effect of a rumbling stomach.]

SLIME Oh, that doesn't sound good, master. Shall I get you some Rennies or a gallon of Gaviscon?

GIANT *[Shouting.]* I don't want something to settle my stomach, I want something to fill it.

SLIME *[Grovelling.]* Yes, master.

GIANT How are things progressing down there?

SLIME I've told them about the tax, master. I'm going back to collect it later.

GIANT Very good. And find me a tasty morsel – or it will be you who will be satisfying my hunger.

SLIME *[Worried.]* Yes master. *[He starts muttering to himself.]* It's no easy job finding food for the Giant. *[Looks out at the audience.]* Wait a minute. There looks like a larder full out there. Maybe a few of you would satisfy my master's hunger. *[Reaction.]* But on second thoughts, you're a particularly puny-looking bunch. Not very appetising. Quite a pale, scrawny lot you are. No, you wouldn't even make a decent light snack for the Giant. I shall have to find someone more substantial, so you're safe – for the time being! *[Audience reaction. Fairy Greenbean enters right.]*

FAIRY Here, I heard what you just said.

SLIME Oh, and what was that?

FAIRY Looking for someone to fill Giant Blunderbore's table. Well, Kevin and I won't let you take anyone from around here, so just be warned.

SLIME Don't threaten me, you pathetic-looking parsnip.

FAIRY Just keep away from the village.

SLIME Don't tell me what I can and can't do. I am instructed by my master to collect a land tax, so I will start at the Trot family farm. Jack Trot is a strapping young lad. Maybe he will suit the Giant's palate. *[He gives an evil laugh and exits, sneering at the audience.]*

FAIRY *[To her carrot.]* Kevin, I can see we've got our work cut out watching that evil creature's every move. But never fear; my mission is to make sure all of the villagers are looked after. I've had a chat with Spiderman, Superman, Wonder Woman and Captain America, and they're all on standby in case I need them. So, look out, Giant and your greasy henchman. Fairy Greenbean is ready for action!

[She exits. Tommy enters from stage left. He calls off stage.]

TOMMY All right, Buttercup, you can have a rest and a quick graze in that field, but then we must get back 'cos the market fair will be starting.

[Betina enters from stage right. Tommy gets a little flustered.] Oh, hello your warship, your battleship, er - Mrs Beetroot....

BETINA It's B'troot! Who were you talking to, young man?

TOMMY To our Buttercup over there.

BETINA Ah yes, your cow. I remember when your father bought her. She was just a calf.

TOMMY The Trot family are very fond of her. I don't know what we'd do without her.

[Tillie enters from stage right. The others don't see her.]

TILLIE *[To the audience.]* How are you? *[Reaction.]*

BETINA I must admit, she's a grand old lady.

[Tillie thinks she is talking about her and primps a little.]

TOMMY Yes, she is. We all love her.

- BETINA** I remember watching her on my way home from school. Her head was slightly stooped with those big ears twitching in the breeze. *[Tillie touches her ears and thinks this is an odd thing to say. She reacts to the following.]* And she liked to roll in the grass with her legs in the air. She also got a kick out of all the farm boys tickling her tummy. Then other times she'd stand under a tree, flicking the flies off. *[At this, Tillie's mouth drops open.]*
- TOMMY** She still does that sometimes.
- [Tillie glares at him.]*
- BETINA** And when she had something to eat, you could see those great big teeth grinding away, mouthful after mouthful and making that low rumbling sound.
- TILLIE** *[In a low voice.]* Ooooooh!
- BETINA** Ah, there she goes again!
- TILLIE** When you two have quite finished. *[They spin around to see Tillie standing there.]*
- TOMMY** Hello, Mum. We were just talking about.....
- TILLIE** I heard!
- BETINA** You must admit that everything I said was true.
- DAME** Oh I must, must I?
- TOMMY** She's right Mum. And I know the whole town feels the same.
- TILLIE** What??
- BETINA** Surely you know what a prize specimen you've got there.
- TILLIE** *[Looking down at her bust.]* Where?
- TOMMY & BETINA** *[Pointing off stage.]* Over there.
- TILLIE** Buttercup?
- TOMMY** Of course, Buttercup. Who did you think we were talking about?
- TILLIE** *[Casually.]* I've no idea! Anyway, it's time to get the market fair started.

BETINA And I must collect Miranda. My guests will be arriving soon. *[She crosses left.]*

TILLIE Tommy, get the cow.

BETINA *[Turning.]* I beg your pardon?

[Tillie crosses to Betina.]

TILLIE Buttercup!! Who *could* you be thinking of? *[With a wink at Tommy, she and Betina exit left. Children of the village enter right and meet Tommy.]*

1st. CHILD Hello, Tommy. Are you going to the market?

TOMMY Yes. The Trot stall will have plenty of things for you to eat.

2nd. CHILD I want apples.

3rd. CHILD I want strawberries.

4th. CHILD I want lots and lots and lots of sweets!!

TOMMY Wow, what big appetites you've all got.

SONG - TOMMY & CHILDREN

[HE starts the song with the children. During the song, the cloth flies out, and we are in -]

SCENE 3 THE VILLAGE OF GREENWILLOW

[The same as scene one, but now the stalls are full of produce, and bunting decorates the buildings. People are looking at what they can buy. They join in with the number.]

SONG - TILLIE, TOMMY & COMPANY (Continues)

[At the end, the Chorus mill around looking at the stalls. Jack and Miranda are hand in hand over on stage right. Tommy exits right. Slime enters down left. He is thinly disguised.]

SLIME *[Aside.]* Look at all these fools having a good time. I shall soon put a stop to that. I have disguised myself so that I may move freely around and see what money is being made. The Giant's tax is due at the end of the day, and I want to be sure everyone has enough to pay it. Also, I'm still on the lookout for a meal for my master. *[He notices Jack.]* Ah, there is Jack Trot and a rather tasty young lady. *[Jack and Miranda exit up left.]* No sign of that mange-ridden Fairy to watch over them. This may be just the chance I want. *[He exits after Jack and Miranda. Tommy enters right and calls.]*

TOMMY Come on, Buttercup, or we'll never get started. *[Buttercup staggers on.]* I know you're exhausted after all that milking, but Mother says she would like you to squeeze a few more pints in case we sell out. *[Buttercup looks aghast and starts to back off.]* Now don't be like that. If we don't make enough money to pay the rent, we could all end up on the Giant's table. *[Buttercup stops and thinks, and then runs across the stage and starts pushing Tommy towards the stall.]* All right! All right! Steady on.

[Tillie enters from the farmhouse right.]

TILLIE *[To the audience.]* How are you? *[Reaction.]* Here we are. All ready to start selling. I just hope there are plenty of people who want to stock up on their produce. If we don't sell enough, I don't know where the money will come from to pay the tax.

TOMMY Don't worry, Mum. If the worst comes to the worst, I'll sell my Pokémon Cards. *[Or similar.]*

TILLIE You're a good boy, Tommy. You're weird, but you're a good boy! *[She looks around.]* Where is Jack? He's supposed to be bringing the eggs.

TOMMY I'll get them for you, Mum. *[He runs around the stall towards the house.]*

TILLIE Just take it steady. I want them whole, not scrambled!

- TOMMY** O.K Mum. *[He takes deliberately slow steps as he exits. Jack and Miranda enter, gazing into each other's eyes.]*
- TILLIE** Jack, there you are. Come and give me a hand with the stall.
- JACK** *[Dreamily.]* Yes Mum. *[To Miranda.]* I'd better go. You won't be far away?
- MIRANDA** I'll be right over there watching you.
- JACK** I won't be long.
- TILLIE** Oh my goodness. It's like watching "Love Island"! *[Or another TV programme. Miranda exits down right as Jack goes to the stall. Tommy comes running back on carrying a basket of eggs. This is a trick basket with all the eggs stuck down.]*
- TOMMY** Got them, Mum. *[He trips, and the basket goes up in the air. Members of the Chorus knock it about like a ball until it finally disappears behind the stall and is rescued by Jack. He now holds an identical basket containing blown eggs.]*
- JACK** Here.
- TILLIE** *[Taking the basket.]* Tommy! You've broken the eggs.
- TOMMY** No I haven't. They're fine. *[He takes one out and throws it to Tillie.]* Look!
- TILLIE** Oh. Be careful. You could've broken them – *[To the audience.]* – couldn't he, boys and girls? *[Audience reacts.]*
- TOMMY** There's nothing wrong with them. *[He takes another egg and throws it into the audience.]* Here, have a look! *[He takes another egg and throws it.]* Here's another one!
- TILLIE** Stop that. You're giving away all the profits! *[Tillie, Jack and Tommy take up their positions behind the stall.]* Now remember, we have to sell as much as we can to pay the tax. *[She starts calling to the crowd.]* Fresh farm produce here for sale.
- 1st. MAN** I'll have a pint of milk.
- TILLIE** Very good. Serve the gentleman, Tommy.
- 1st. WOMAN** A pound of cheese for me.
- TILLIE** Very good. Serve the lady, Jack.

- 2nd. MAN** And I'll have a couple of those melons at the back!
- TILLIE** *[Primping.]* Oh, I think I'll serve that gentleman myself!
- [The Crowd continues to buy from the stall. Slime enters down left and sees them.]*
- SLIME** *[Aside.]* What's going on here? It looks as though the Trot family is doing good business. That means she should have enough money to pay the tax. *[An idea dawns, and He grins to himself.]* I shall have to put a stop to that and get one over on that interfering, cretinous old cabbage of a Fairy. *[He produces a dark bottle.]* The Giant has given me this magical potion that destroys anything it comes into contact with. I'll use it to turn all the produce stale. *[He moves among the crowd, and from the bottle, pours the contents over the items bought from the stall without anyone noticing. He then stands downstage watching the proceedings.]*
- 1st. MAN** Here, what's going on? This milk is sour.
- 1st. WOMAN** And this cheese smells awful
- 2nd. WOMAN** This butter is rancid.
- 3rd. WOMAN** These eggs are off!
- 2nd. MAN** *[Looking at Tillie.]* And you know what you can do with these melons! *[He pushes them back into Tillie's hands. She holds them in front of her bosom.]*
- TILLIE** What cheek! *[All complain. They start returning their goods and getting their money back.]* I can't understand it. Everything was fresh this morning. How can it all be stale?
- SLIME** Round one to me, I think. *[He exits, laughing. The Chorus starts to drift off as Betina enters. Buttercup wanders down right.]*
- BETINA** Miranda? Where is that girl? *[She sees Tillie.]* What's the matter with you?
- TILLIE** All the food's gone bad. We haven't sold a thing.
- BETINA** What? But what about the tax?
- TILLIE** There's no money to pay it.
- JACK** But that means the Giant will take all our possessions.

TOMMY We'll have nothing left.

TILLIE Oh, we're ruined, ruined.

BETINA Is there nothing you can sell?

TILLIE Nothing. [*Trying to charm Betina.*] Bet. Dear friend. You couldn't lend me a few quid?

BETINA [*Very posh.*] I'm afraid one doesn't carry cash.

TILLIE Now she thinks she's royalty!

[*Miranda enters down right and sees Buttercup.*]

BETINA Miranda.

MIRANDA Hello, mother. Hello Buttercup. [*Buttercup "moos". The others look across at her.*]

BETINA [*To Tillie.*] There's your answer. You'll have to sell Buttercup.

OTHERS BUTTERCUP!!!

JACK Mother, we couldn't.

TILLIE No, we couldn't.

TOMMY But there's no other way.

BETINA [*Loudly.*] You'll have to liquidate your assets.

TILLIE I'll liquidate your assets if you don't keep your voice down.

BETINA [*In high dudgeon.*] I was only making a suggestion.

TILLIE Well, you know where you can shove your suggestion.

BETINA [*Grandly.*] Miranda, we're leaving!

MIRANDA Bur mother...

BETINA Now! [*She sweeps out.*]

MIRANDA I'm so sorry.

JACK I see you later. *[Miranda exits.]* I think it may be the only solution, Mum.

TILLIE I know. I just didn't want Betty Bigmouth to think she had all the answers. *[Big tragic gestures.]* I'm overwrought, I'm overwrought.

TOMMY You're overacting.

TILLIE *[She glares at Tommy, then looks at Buttercup.]* I'll have to break it to her gently, and then Jack, you must take her to this afternoon's cattle auction.

JACK All right, Mum.

TILLIE Leave me with my lovely Buttercup.

[ALL exit except Tillie and Buttercup. Tillie sits on a stool by her stall.]
Buttercup, come over here a minute. *[Buttercup trots over to her.]*

SAD MUSIC AND SCENE CHANGE 3 - 4

Buttercup, I've got something very important to say to you. You know we all love you very much. *[Buttercup nods her head and rubs it against Tillie.]* Oh dear, this is going to be very difficult. You see we have to pay a lot more in tax to that wicked Giant, and we don't have the money. In fact, we don't have anything left except – you! Buttercup, I'm afraid the only way we're going to raise enough money is to sell you! *[Buttercup stands back in amazement.]* Oh, we don't want to. It breaks my heart to even think about it. But we don't know what else to do. *[Buttercup turns away with her head bowed.]* Oh, Butter, please say you understand and that you forgive us. *[A pause and then Buttercup slowly nods her head.]* Oh, thank you, Buttercup. It'll only be for a short time. Things are bound to get better, and then we'll buy you back. I promise. Now come and give Mummy a big kiss. *[She stands as Buttercup turns to her. They embrace.]* And whatever happens, whatever tough times we go through, remember this – we'll never forget you.

[Jack and Tommy enter.]

Get a good price for her, Jack. She's a prize cow, you know. Don't let her go for next to nothing.

JACK All right mother, I'll do my best. Ready Buttercup? *[Buttercup slowly nods her head and Jack starts to lead her off.]*

TILLIE Goodbye, Buttercup.

[SHE bursts into tears. Tommy crosses and comforts her as the lights fade]