



# Jack and the Beanstalk

by Long & Rawnsley

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# **"Jack and the Beanstalk"**

Written by  
Peter Long & Keith Rawnsley

## **CHARACTERS**

JACK.....PRINCIPAL BOY  
DAME TROT.....JACK'S MOTHER  
JETHRO.....FARM HAND AT TROT'S FARM  
PRINCESS JASMINE.....OF AIREBORIA  
KING FREDERICK.....OF AIREBORIA  
QUEEN GLADIOLI.....OF AIREBORIA  
MARY.....PRINCESS JASMINE'S MAID  
MAJOR RODEWERKS}  
}.....THE KING'S GUARD  
PRIVATE ACCESS }

GIANT BLUNDERBUSS.....FEARED BY ALL  
MR FLESHCREEP.....THE GIANT'S HENCHMAN  
THE GIANT'S HOUSEKEEPER....HIS LONG SUFFERING SERVANT  
THE GOOD FAIRY.....THE SAVIOUR OF GOOD PEOPLE  
BUTTERCUP THE COW.....OF TROT FARM

## **ALSO FEATURING**

SUNBEAMS  
DANCERS  
CHORUS

## **Character Descriptions**

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

### **Character Descriptions (CONT/D)**

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

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### Synopsis of Scenes

#### ACT ONE

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

#### ===== INTERVAL =====

#### ACT TWO

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

Song Sheet  
Walk Down  
Grand Finale

# **"Jack and the Beanstalk"**

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OVERTURE.....THEN CURTAIN

ENTER FAIRY ON TABS

## **FAIRY:**

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

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

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

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

FAIRY EXITS AS SHE BECKONS TO TABS WITH WAND

TABS OPEN FOR....

=====

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

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



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

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

THEY ALL EXIT ENTHUSIASTICALLY

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

ENTER JACK

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

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

**JACK:** Yes!

**DAME:** And what did they say?

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

**DAME:** Did they say yes?

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

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

**JACK:** They did mentions stocks and shares.

**DAME:** Stocks and shares?

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

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

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

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

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

BUTTERCUP TOTTERS AROUND APPEARING OLD

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

BUTTERCUP SKIPS ABOUT FRISKILY

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

BUTTERCUP HOBBLER ABOUT WITH AN EXAGGERATED LIMP

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

BUTTERCUP ASSUMES SPRINT START POSITION

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

BUTTERCUP CONCERTINA'S TOGETHER MAKING WEIRD SHAPE

**DAME:** They don't like good milkers..

BUTTERCUP MAKES HER UDDER SWIFTLY DISAPPEAR

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

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

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

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

**DAME:** Ah, there you are Buttercup.

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

BUTTERCUP MAKES TO GO DOWN STEPS TO ORCHESTRA STALLS

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

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

JACK AND BUTTERCUP EXIT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SHE EXITS INTO FARMHOUSE

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

ENTER MARY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ENTER JACK

**JACK:** Ah, there you are Jethro.

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

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

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

JETHRO EXITS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MARY EXITS

SUNBEAMS DRIFT ON AS VILLAGE CHILDREN

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

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

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

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

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

TABS CLOSE

ENTER FAIRY

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

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

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

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

EXIT FAIRY

ENTER FLESHCREEP ON TABS HE IS CARRYING A LARGE LEDGER

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

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

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

The Giant will be pleased with my efforts,  
In fact he will see me a winner.  
And if I hear dissent from you lot out there,  
I will take one of you for his dinner!!

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

EXIT FLESHCREEP WITH AN EVIL LAUGH

TABS OPEN FOR.....

=====

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**PRIVATE:** No Major...why?

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

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

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



**PRIVATE:** I got it at the Frontier.

**MAJOR:** The Frontier?

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

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

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

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

AS THEY EXIT MAJOR GIVES A DROLL SALUTE TO AUDIENCE

ENTER PRINCESS JASMINE DREAMILY STAGE LEFT

ENTER MARY STAGE RIGHT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**MARY:** And what became of her little daughter?

**PRINCESS:** You're looking at her!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**MARY:** And does Jack believe the Giant exists?

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

**MARY:** I won't argue with that!

FOOTMAN ENTERS

**FOOTMAN:** (ANNOUNCING)...Their Royal Highnesses the King and Queen of Aireboria!

ENTER KING AND QUEEN....BEING QUITE DODDERY THEY FLOP DOWN ONTO THEIR RESPECTIVE THRONES....THE QUEEN USES AN OLD FASHIONED EAR TRUMPET THROUGHOUT....MARY GIVES A CURTSY TO THE KING AND QUEEN AND EXITS

**KING:** (TO PRINCESS)...Ah...my dear Jasmine...and what have you been doing today?

**PRINCESS:** Not a lot Father...I got up this morning, got washed, did my hair....and since that, I've done absolutely nothing!...oh why can't I do something exciting!?

**KING:** (TO HARD OF HEARING QUEEN)....Did you hear that my dear?...that child wants something exciting!

**QUEEN:** (LISTENING WITH EAR TRUMPET)....What's that you say? ...she wants to do some writing??....what on earth for?...the court scribe sees to all that sort of thing.

**KING:** (SHOUTING INTO EAR TRUMPET)....No!...not writing!...exciting!... (REFERS TO HER EAR TRUMPET)....can't you get a new battery for this thing?

**QUEEN:** Flattery?....flattery gets you nowhere!

**KING:** Oh forget it...(QUIETLY ASIDE)....silly old fool!

**QUEEN:** Don't you call me a silly old fool!!...(HITS HIM WITH EAR TRUMPET)

**KING:** (TO PRINCESS)...She can hear when you don't want her to!

FOOTMAN ENTERS

**FOOTMAN:** (TO KING)...Excuse me your Highness, are you at home to Dame Trot and her son Jack?

**PRINCESS:** (EXCITED)....Oh say yes Father!...please!

**KING:** What?...er...(TO FOOTMAN)...er...it would appear that I am at home to them....please show them in.

ENTER JACK AND DAME TROT.....JACK GOES STRAIGHT OVER TO PRINCESS.....DAME TROT ATTEMPTS A CLUMSY CURTSY...

FOOTMAN EXITS

**DAME:** Thank you for seeing me your Majestynesses...you haven't had the pleasure of me before....my name's Dame Trot, I'm one of your tenant farmers.

**KING:** And what do you do on this farm of yours Dame Trot?

**DAME:** (INDICATES TO JACK)...My son over there looks after the dairy side.....and I'm just arable.

**QUEEN**: What did she say?

**KING**: She's arable!

**QUEEN**: She certainly is horrible!...and what is that young man doing over there with our daughter Jasmine?...do you know the fellow?

**PRINCESS**: Of course I do Mother!..this is Jack...we have been sweethearts for such a long time, since we were children in fact...I didn't tell either of you because...well...I knew that neither of you would approve.

**KING**: Well you're right on that score!...and just how did you come to meet?

**PRINCESS**: When you used to send me down into the fields as a girl...you remember, you said that I had to gain the common touch!

**DAME**: (INTERRUPTING)...Oh yes...and she came to the right place ....there's nobody to touch us for being common!...and we are also very poor your Highupnesses....what with all these taxes that we have to pay... I wonder if you could see your way to reducing our rent?...I'm appealing to you!!

**QUEEN**: She's what?

**KING**: She's appealing!

**QUEEN**: She certainly is appalling!!

**KING**: And how much rent do you actually pay us Dame Trot?

**DAME**: Nothing!

**QUEEN**: In that case we will halve it!

**DAME**: Oh thank you your Generositynesses....now I can sleep nights... (OVERDOING IT)...and may I say what a pleasure it is to meet you your Kingswifeness....(REFERS TO EAR TRUMPET)...and if you do requests on that fine instrument, my particular favourite is "Oh my Papa"!

**QUEEN**: (TO KING)...Who is this person Frederick?

**KING**: Dame Trot my dear....Dame Trot!

**QUEEN:** What's that you say?...she's a Scot?...she doesn't sound like one!

FOOTMAN ENTERS

**FOOTMAN:** Excuse me your Highness...but there is a Mr. Fleshcreep outside, wishing to speak to you about your Subjects' taxes.

**QUEEN:** Taxi!...I didn't order a taxi!

**JACK:** (TO KING)...Sir!...this is not a good time for my Mother and I to see Mr. Fleshcreep....and we would consider it a great favour if you saw him elsewhere.

**KING:** Very well....(TO FOOTMAN)....show him into the library, I'll see him there....(HE MAKES TO LEAVE...THEN TURNS TO JACK)....and by the way young man...if you have any romantic intentions towards my daughter, well you can forget it!..for when she does marry, it will be to a gallant man of means and property.....now, where was I going?...ah yes, the library.

KING EXITS

**DAME:** Oh the library!...I'm into books you know?...I love to put pen to paper....I'm on my fourth book at the moment.

**QUEEN:** (IMPRESSED)...Really?

**DAME:** Yes, I made a really good job of colouring in the first three...my latest one is where you join up the dots....just call me "Dot-to-Dot Trot"!

**PRINCESS:** (TO QUEEN)...You're always boasting about the castle gardens Mother....why don't you show Dame Trot around?

**QUEEN:** What?...er...oh no...I have a better idea than that....I'll show her around the castle gardens!...come along Dame Scot....(AS THEY MAKE TO EXIT)...have you got an herbaceous border?

**DAME:** We used to have one, but we got rid of him, he wouldn't pay the rent!

**QUEEN:** Well have you got a kitchen garden?

**DAME:** Actually no, you see, we haven't actually got a kitchen yet!

QUEEN AND DAME TROT EXIT

**JACK:** (LAUGHS)...I don't know who will finish up being most confused between those two....but at least it's given us a few moments alone

THEY MOVE FORWARD FOR TABS TO CLOSE BEHIND THEM

**PRINCESS:** Yes...but if my Father has his way, we don't seem to have much of a future together.

**JACK:** Well...he wants you to marry a gallant man of means and property....so just be patient my dearest Jasmine...time is on our side.

♪ **....MUSICAL ITEM No 4....BOY/GIRL DUET....AFTER DUET JACK AND PRINCESS EXIT**

FAIRY ENTERS ON TABS

**FAIRY:** Night has fallen over this tiny realm,  
And the farm workers rest from their labours.  
For them, another days toil lies ahead,  
These friends and relations and neighbours.

And now, as the harvest moon shines down,  
With its mystical silvery light,  
Another world now comes to life.  
So meet my friend, the creatures of the night.

TABS OPEN FOR.....

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**ACT 1....SCENE 3..."OUT IN THE MEADOW":**

SET:....CLOTH DEPICTING FIELDS/COUNTRY LANDSCAPE  
DIMLY LIT TO START...WITH MOON GLOW EFFECT

♪ **....MUSICAL ITEM No 5....DANCE ROUTINE FEATURING FAIRY AND SUNBEAMS DRESSED AS SMALL CREATURES OF THE NIGHT.....AFTER ROUTINE THEY EXIT**

**F/X:**....COCK CROWS.....LIGHTS SLOWLY UP AS DAY IS BREAKING

ENTER FLESHCREEP

**FLESHCREEP:** The early bird catches the worm so I'm told,  
And today I detect some rich pickings.  
Soon they'll be paid and planning to spend.  
I hope they're not counting their chickens!

The Giant will be pleased with my efforts today,  
For the taxes are coming in faster.  
Perhaps I could keep a percentage myself.

(GIANT'S ANGRY VOICE OFF)...Fleshcreep!..

**FLESHCREEP:** I'm only joking, Master!

I've come here at dawn before the workers arrive,  
To make a list of the folks who'll be earning.  
I'll take all my dues from the pittance they get,  
Before a hole in their pockets it's burning!

FLESHCREEP STANDS CHECKING A LIST

ENTER JETHRO YAWNING AND STRETCHING...HE SEES  
FLESHCREEP

**JETHRO:** (REFERRING TO FLESHCREEP)...Ooooo arrrrr!...  
that's funny....I don't remember putting a scarecrow in this field!?

**FLESHCREEP:** Ah...Mr. Jethro...(JETHRO STARTLED)...you are just one  
of the people I wish to speak to....tell me, are your assets liquid?

**JETHRO:** Well, I could let eee have a couple of bottles of me parsnip  
wine....would that be liquid enough for eee?

**FLESHCREEP:** you misunderstand me...it's money that I require.

**JETHRO:** Oh?...we don't get paid 'til the hay's in.

**FLESHCREEP:** And won't that be today?

**JETHRO:** Oooo arrrr...but that be depending on the weather.

**FLESHCREEP:** I see....oh well, I won't be far away...I'll be back for my  
remuneration.



FLESHCREEP EXITS

**JETHRO:** (TO AUDIENCE)...Remuneration?...that sounds painful he should rub some liniment on that!

ENTER MAJOR RODEWERKS....HE JOGS ON SMARTLY TURNED OUT IN KHAKI SHIRT AND SHORTS AND CARRYING A SMALL BACK PACK

**MAJOR:** (AS HE JOGS ON)...Left right left right left right etc....(HE DOES A COUPLE OF CIRCUITS JETHRO AND COMES TO A HALT BY HIS SIDE)...good morning Jethro.

**JETHRO:** Morning Major Rodewerks....and what might you be doing at this early hour?

**MAJOR:** What am I doing lad?!...I'm on secret manoeuvres!

**JETHRO:** Oh aye...and what are you supposed to do on these 'ere secret what ever yer calls 'em?

**MAJOR:** I'm blowed if I know....they're secret you see!

**JETHRO:** And do you do these secret removals on yer own?

**MAJOR:** Oh no lad...I've got somebody covering my rear!

**JETHRO:** (ASIDE)....Aye, well it needs covering!

**MAJOR:** My back up is on his way now....a finely honed...top of the range....state of the art fighting machine!

ENTER PRIVATE ACCESS....HE STAGGERS ON AS IF EXHAUSTED WEARING DROLL LONG BAGGY SHORTS...BIG BOOTS...PITH HELMET....AND CARRYING A MASSIVE BACK PACK

**JETHRO:** (INDICATING TO PRIVATE ACCESS)...Yer say this is a fighting machine?

**MAJOR:** Don't let appearances fool you...he is one our elite troops, from the Pansy division!!