

Jack and the Beanstalk

A pantomime by Gavyn Lugsden

ACT 1

Scene 1

A path in the forest

(Front of curtain)

(Nasty Nick enters Front Left)

Nick *(Moaning)* Bah, it's not that time of year again is it? That time where all you Nasty kiddies expect to be entertained with fun and laughter with a Pantomime? I thought as much! Well don't expect any fun tonight because I'm not in the mood. You see, I am in charge round here, and if I want to cancel the show, I will. *(Rubbing his hands together)* I've got your money now and there's no refund...!

(The lights flash)

Giant *(Off)* Fe – Fi – Foe – Fum

Nick *(Looking to the sky)* Oh Master and Graciousness I am here to serve you, what is your command?

Giant *(Off)* Double the rent of all the villagers and make them unhappy.

Nick Of course, your Evilness. I'm glad to see you are feeling particularly nasty today... Are you still there?

Fairy No, he's gone...!

Nick Who are you...?

Fairy I am a fairy with lots of ambition,
I enter from the Left,
Cos' that's the tradition...!

Nick I don't care which way you came, just leave the same way if you don't mind...!

Fairy Mind I do, and here I stay,
If you want rid of me,
You'll need another way

Nick What other way...? How can I make you go.

Fairy When you turn good, and your evil ways cease,
My job will be done, and I'll be off.... If you please.

Nick Nobody can make me good, not even a stupid old fairy like you.!

Fairy Less of the old, you nasty 'little' man,
And if anybody could cure you, then I'm sure... I can...!

Nick Be off with you, you're wasting my time...

Fairy I'll go for now, but I'll be back,
And you'd better behave, or you're in for a smack...!

(Fairy exits)

Bah, silly old woman. Who does she think she is...? Anyway, let me introduce myself. My name is Nasty Nick and I am the servant to the Giant and Town Mayor here in the village of Little Windy. I love my job. All I do, day in and day out is take as much money off all the poor towns people as I can, and if they don't pay, I throw them out of the homes *(laughing)* Isn't that good...? *(To audience)* Who said no...? You see, I am also the rent man, the taxman, the debt collector and the bailiff *(to himself)* I don't know why nobody likes me much...! Right, that's enough idle chit-chat with you horrible lot, I have got rent to collect and people to make miserable. I know, I'll start with that awful Dame Eileen Scoff-a-lot and her idle sons Jack and Simon, they owe me two weeks rent and if they don't pay today they will be homeless by tomorrow. *(he starts to exit)* *(to audience)* Come on then you lot, give me a big cheer..! *(Audience react)* Any more nonsense from you horrid bunch and I'll come down there and confiscate your sweets. *(He exits)*

Scene 2 – The Village of Little Windy

Market Scene

(Curtain)

Villagers and children are 'frozen in action' the lights come up and as the song Starts, they come to life.

SONG 'Happy Talk'?

*After the song the Villagers go about their business in the Market.
Sarah Enters Back Left*

Sarah Here! Listen up everyone. Have you heard the news?

Villagers News? What news?

Sarah The King is coming to Little Windy to select a suitable husband for his daughter.

Molly And he thinks he will find somebody here?

Sarah I suppose so, you see Princess Daisy is now 18 and the King is looking for a young man to take her...

Lucy Innocence...?

Sarah *(Laughing)* No silly, the King would like a man...

Molly The King would like a man...???

Lucy It's nothing unusual for the Royal Family dear, just look at Prince Edward, we all think he's a bit... you know!

Sarah Would you please let me finish?

Molly Sorry, carry on.

Sarah You see, the King would like a man to bring into his family in preparation for his retirement and his Daughter becoming the new Queen.

Vera But there aren't any young handsome men in the village... Are there?

Jack enters Back Right holding a shoe box.

Jack Hiya kids...!

Children Hooray it's Jack...

Jack Did somebody call?

Molly No, why?

Jack Well, somebody mentioned handsome, young and man, so here I am
(*Slaps thigh*).

Lucy Have you heard the news?

Jack What, the news about the King coming to Little Windy to find a suitable young man to marry his Daughter?

Vera Yes. That news.

Jack No, I haven't...! Only kidding, (*to children*) so what do you think kids, do you think I could be the new 'Prince Jack' of Little Windy?

Children (*Excitedly*) Yes, go on Jack. Marry the Princess...

Jack (*To the children*) Here, can you all keep secret...?

Children Yes...

Jack Well, I'm really good friends with the Princess (*being coy*) and I think she's lovely...

Child 1 Have you kissed her yet...?

Jack No. But I only wish I could, you see every time we get close, the King or that other funny bloke that's always with him calls her back...

Child 2 So are you going to marry her then...?

Jack I only wish it was as simple as that, the King isn't just looking for any old boy, you see he wants somebody rich and powerful...!

Sarah You must be rich, your Mum runs one of the best Dairy's in the land, surely that must make a fortune...?

Jack Don't make me laugh! We have only got the one cow, and any money we do make goes on feeding me, Mum and my brother.

Vera Surely you don't eat that much...?

Jack No, *I* don't. It's that Mother of mine she's got a really strong appetite.

Molly A strong appetite?

Jack Yeah, she's always munching on something. She spends half her life shopping in Tesco's and the other half writing the list out!

Sarah I know your Mum, and she's not that bad...

Jack Speaking of Mum, has anybody seen her?

All No...

Jack *(To audience)* Have any of you seen her?

Lucy She's probably back at the Dairy with your brother Simon.

Jack I need to see her, because I have a little present for her *(holds up box)*

Vera Oooh what is it?

Jack *(Shaking his head)* It's a surprise.

Sarah Go on, give us a look?

Jack No, and just to make sure nobody touches my Mum's present, I am going to put it over here *(he places the box on a table at the side of the stage)*.

Lucy *(To Molly)* Quick have a sneaky look...

Sarah Don't be so mean, the box is for Eileen...!

Jack That's a great rhyme! *(To audience)* I'll tell you what kids; will you help keep an eye on my Mum's present? Great! *(pointing to box)* Now, if you see anybody try to take that box I want you to shout...

All Don't be so mean, the box is for Eileen...!

Molly Shall we have a little practice?

Jack Good idea, Molly. *(To audience)* I will pretend that I am somebody trying to touch Mum's box, but before I do you all have to shout...

All Don't be so mean, the box is for Eileen...!

Jack That's it..! Right, here we go. *(He walks around and heads back to the box)*

All *(Encouraging audience)* Don't be so mean, the box is for Eileen...!

Jack *(To audience)* Did you say something?

Vera *(To Jack)* They're not very loud are they?

Molly I think we should try that again

Jack Good idea. *(To audience)* And this time shout as loud as you can, and kids make sure your Mums and Dads are joining in, OK?

Sarah Right, re-run...

(Jack repeats his journey to the table in reverse)

Jack O.K take two...

Vera *(To audience)* And don't forget to shout...

(Jack walks towards the table ready to grab the bag)

All Don't be so mean, the box is for Eileen...!

Jack That's much better, and remember to shout if anybody tries to touch that box...

(Simple Simon enters Back Left on a scooter)

Simon Out the way gang, coming through...

Lucy Careful, you'll have somebody's eye out with that!

Simon Hiya Gang!

All Hiya Simon

Simon *(To audience)* Hiya Gang! *(audience react)* I don't think all of you have quite got the gist of this have you? You see, I shout Hiya gang and you shout back Hiya Simon, OK? Hiya Gang... *(audience react)*

Jack Hello Simon. *(To audience)* This is my brother Simon, we all call him Simple Simon because he's well...

All Simple...!

Simon *(To audience)* Don't listen to them, I'm not really simple I'm just a bit silly, and forgetful, and undereducated...

Sarah So basically, you're a bit simple then?

Simon Exactly! I couldn't have put it better myself.

Vera I like your scooter Simon, is it new?

Simon New? Don't be so silly, we can't afford anything new *(Overacting sad)* You see, we come from such a poor family, we hardly have any money, the Dairy isn't producing as much milk since Princess the cow lost one of her teats in a tragic accident involving a pair of garden shears... and I'm *so* hungry. *(To audience)* It's sadder than that!

Molly So how did you afford the scooter?

Simon Well, I was on the computer looking for an auto-router and came across this scooter with a hooter!

Jack But we haven't got any money...

Simon You don't say. But there was a way, to save the day, to allow me to pay...

Lucy How?

Simon eBay...! *(To Jack)* It was so cheap, and I had little bit of money left in my PayPal account, and I thought why not...?

Jack *(To Simon)* Can I have a go on your scooter?

Simon Yeah, but be careful... *(Seeing box)* Ooh, what's that?

(Simon hands the scooter to Jack and starts heading towards the box)

All Don't be so mean, the box is for Eileen...!

Simon You what...?

All Don't be so mean, the box is for Eileen...!

Simon You what...?

All Don't be so mean, the box is for Eileen...!

Simon You what...?

All Don't be so mean...

Simon Alright, alright keep your hair on, I heard you the first time...!

Jack *(To Simon)* Hey, Simon. Leave that box alone.

Simon *(Singing)* All in all you're just another brick in the wall. What's in it?

Jack It's a present for Mum, so keep your hands off.

Simon Is it something to eat? Because she won't miss a little tiny bit will she, I'm starving...

Jack No, it's nothing you can eat...

Simon Has anybody got something to eat around here?

Molly I have got some fruit you can buy...

Simon No thanks, *(To Lucy)* What have you got in your basket?

Lucy Party food.

Jack Ooh, I love party food, have you anything on sticks?

Lucy Sorry, no...

Simon You should have been here last night, half the audience were on sticks, you could have ate them...!

Sarah Not if you'd seen them...!

Simon Yeah, all bone and no meat. Anyway, where's Mum has anybody seen her?

All No.

Simon *(To audience)* Have you see her? Her name is Eileen Scoffalot you can't miss her, she stands out like a sore bum...!

Jack Last I heard, she was off to Tesco's to get some shopping.

Simon She won't be long then. *(To villagers)* Who wants a go on my scooter while we're waiting?

All Me, I do...

Simon First to catch me, gets first go...

(Simon exits on his scooter followed by all the villagers)

Jack *(To audience)* I'll see you later and don't forget to keep an eye out for Mum's present...

(Jack exits)

(There is the sound of thunder as Nick enters Front Left)

Nick So, here I am, the village of Little Windy. *(Looking around)* Where is everybody? I bet they're all off enjoying themselves and having fun, well I'll soon put a stop to that...! *(Seeing audience)* You lot still here? I was hoping that you'd all be fed up and gone home! Never mind, you horrible lot are the last thing on my mind, I am here for one thing and one thing only... Money! And the more the better...

(Lights Flash)

Giant *(Off)* Fe – Fi – Foe – Fum.

Nick *(Scared)* Hello again Master.

Giant *(Off)* Where's my money?

Nick *(To the Giant in the sky)* I haven't had chance yet oh Magnificent one, I will, I'll get straight on to it... Are you still there? Oh, he's gone
(Noticing box) Ooh I wonder if there's any money in that box...?
(Audience react) Eileen eh? That wouldn't be Dame Eileen Scoffalot would it? That's the very person I have come to see, her and those stupid sons of hers. She owes me rent money and if she doesn't pay today then I will kick her and all her family out on the streets. *(To himself)* I need to think of a plan of how to get all their money and still kick them out...

(Marsh, Alan and Titch enter. Marsh is carrying a bottle)

Marsh Here looks a nice place to earn some extra cash.

Alan Bit quiet, ain't it?

Titch *(To Nick)* Oi you. Do you want any gardening done?

Nick Gardening? Why would I want any gardening done?

Alan Coz yer might have weeds an fistles an stuff...

Nick Don't you mean thistles?

Alan Yeah, that's right, fistles.

Marsh You see, we are quality gardeners looking to earn some extra money.

Titch We're really good. We can cut your grass, weed and...

Alan Stuff...

Nick Er, no thanks I don't have a garden.

Marsh No garden?

Nick No! I live in a dark cave with no light where nothing could possibly grow...

Titch Not even weeds?

Nick Not even weeds!

Alan Or fistles?

Nick Or fistles...! (*Noticing bottle*) What's in the bottle?

Marsh It's a mixture of Whisky, Gin, Vodka, Brandy...

Alan And beer (*to Titch*) We like beer, don't we?

Nick That must make you feel sick?

Marsh No, we don't drink it.

Titch It's for the garden.

Alan We tip it on the lawn.

Nick On the lawn?

Alan Yeah, coz when the grass grows, it's already half cut!

Titch (*To Alan*) Tell him about the time I accidentally drank some of the special mixture.

Alan Yeah, Titch here drank some the other week, so I had to stick my finger in his waxy ear to make him sick.

Nick That won't make him sick...!

Alan It did when I shoved it down his throat after...!

Marsh (*To Nick*) Who are you anyway?

Nick I am the Mayor of this village and servant to the Giant, and I am currently doing some friendly tax and rent collecting.

Titch Did you say Giant?

Nick Yes...

Titch Ooh, I don't like Giants much, is he friendly?

Nick No. He's pure evil.

Alan Pure evil.

Nick He's a very nasty man.

Alan Nasty man.

Nick He wants to come down from the clouds.

Alan The clouds.

Nick And take away our souls.

Alan 'R' souls...!

Marsh Taking all that money from people doesn't sound very friendly, does it?

Nick Doesn't sound very friendly? Goodness me, I'm one of the friendliest people you could ever meet. Just think, if all the people in this village kept all their money, they would become greedy and selfish. Now, we wouldn't want that now, would we?

Titch No, we wouldn't.

Alan Yeah, but then you'll have all their money, won't ya?

Nick Quite right, but I am careful how I spend it.

Marsh So, what do you spend your money on?

Nick Well, I spend a third on alcohol and cigarettes, a third I gamble...

Titch What do you do with the other third?

Nick Oh, I just squander that...!

Alan I wish I was as careful as you with money...

Nick You can!

Marsh Can what?

Nick I can teach you. You can work for me and the Giant.

Alan How much?

Titch What do we have to do?

Marsh When can we start?

Nick If you listen, I will tell you.

Titch Right, we're listening aren't we?

Marsh Yep, my ears are yours.

Alan If it's all the same to you, I will keep my ears coz I need to hear.

Marsh You've got two ears!

Alan I said I need to hear, not I need two ears!

Nick Will you lot shut up?

Alan Yeah, alright I'll shut up, I'll keep really quite now, in fact you won't be able to hear a word I'm saying. You think that I won't be able to stop talking, but I can, my Grandfather once said...

Nick (*Shouting*) Thank you! (*Calming down*) Right, I am looking for three new helpers to assist me in collecting money from the villagers...

Marsh Oh, and do we keep the money?

Nick No! Don't be silly. You give the money to me and I will pay you for doing it.

Titch How much?

Nick Well, Dame Eileen Scoffalot and her two sons owe me £100, now if you can succeed in obtaining that money and bring it to me I will give you...

Alan £6000...?

Nick Don't be so daft, how can I give you £6000 for collecting £100?

Alan You could give us a cheque...

Nick I'll give you a clip round the ear...

Titch Yeah, that would look pretty, one with a flower in...

Nick Not that sort of clip!

Marsh So, how much money will you give us if we get this £100 from Dame Scoffalot?

Nick I'll give you something far better than money.

Alan What, a trip to Euro Disney?

Nick No! But you won't be disappointed.

Titch Go on, give us a clue.

Nick All I will say, is that what I will give you will change your lives forever.

Marsh Sounds exciting, come on guys, lets go... *(To Nick)* Where does she live?

Nick Right here in this very village. *(Pointing)* Down the road at the old Dairy. And don't come back without the money...

Alan Come on, let's go...

(Alan, Titch and Marsh exit Back Left)

Nick Now, don't let me down. *(To audience)* And you lot better stop booing me...!

(Nick exits Front Left)