



JACK AND THE BEANSTALK – ONE ACT  
BY  
COLIN BARROW

Extract

A SMITH SCRIPT

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# JACK AND THE BEANSTALK

**ONE ACT**  
**ONE HOUR VERSION**

A PANTOMIME  
BY  
COLIN BARROW

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**Running time :-** One hour approximately depending on the song and dance that is included

## **Synopsis**

The script is written so that the Giants voice only is heard. The beanstalk can either be set before the scene opening or grows at the opening of the scene, this helps with venue logistics.

Mother Hubbard is threatened with eviction by Hemlock, the Giants agent. She is given forty-eight hours to pay up or get out. Hemlock has Tom the Piper and Miss Muffet as so-called henchmen, but in reality, a comedy duo. With Simple Simon, they deliver the usual mayhem expected. Jack meets the girl of his dreams, Princess Mary. The King promises Jack his daughters' hand in marriage and half the Kingdom if he can get rid of the giant. Daisy, the cow is given a makeover to be sold for the best price, but the bag of gold turns into beans. After the throwing down of some beans the Beanstalk grows. And so, Jack ventures to the Giants castle. With a little help from Fairy Snowdrop, the Giant is no more, and life becomes normal again in Merrivale - well, almost normal!

## **USEFUL INFORMATION**

**Casting:-** The casting can be quite flexible to suit your available performers. Although some are best played by male, it would be quite possible for them to be played by a female if your performer availability dictates to do so

**Chorus:-** This script can be used with or without a chorus. Where there are chorus speaking lines and you have no chorus, these can be delivered by performers or adult members as towns people or guards.

**General staging:-** The scenery and lighting can be as simple and easy as you wish, especially if tight budgets and logistics have a strong influence on your production. This also applies to costuming and properties, and yet still providing a brilliant pantomime. Of course, if budgets and logistics dictate otherwise, the skies are the limit!

**Scenes:-** The script is written with two full stage scenes and one front cloth scene. These are not set in stone and re-name some scenes if you wish to run more cloths. Likewise, if you are running with limitations. The full stage scenes could use the same back drop of a nondescript mottled effect. And dress each scene where needed to suit its title.

**Set dressing:-** Dressing for the scenes is entirely up to you and the stage space available. It will also depend on what type of back drops you are using too. Especially for those working with no chorus and have more stage space available.

## **MUSIC AND DANCE**

**Song/dance numbers:-** The script is written to allow the *maximum time* of **one minute to one and a half minutes** for each song or dance routine. In each case choosing and ending to give a natural finish. These can be shorter but watch if too many run longer as this could alter the pantomime's whole running time.

Not all character song slots need to be executed. They are there as ideal spots if you wish to use them. This helps those cast who do not feel comfortable to sing to opt out.

You don't need to use all the slots allocated for chorus dance numbers, especially if your chorus numbers are very low.

If you are working without a chorus and not using the song/dance slots allocated. You can add an extra cast member song or two or lengthen the other cast songs allocated slightly to make up the time.

The script does supply some song suggestions, but they do not need to be used. All other song/dance numbers are to your own choice. This allows the cast who are involved to select something that's comfortable for them and perhaps a little modern. It also prevents the repetition of music from recent past productions you may have staged.

**Song/dance not with time restrictions:-** The opening number, Principle boy and girl duet, the community song and finale song can take their own natural time length as they are important numbers. By keeping to these parameters, the production will run at a good pace, and be fresh and entertaining to your audience.

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### **CAST**

Mother Hubbard - Dame  
Simple Simon - Comic  
Tom the Piper - One of a comedy duo  
Miss Muffet - One of a comedy duo  
Jack Hubbard - Principle boy  
Princess Mary - Principle girl  
Hemlock - Villain  
Fairy Snowdrop - Fairy  
King of Merrivale - King  
Daisy - The cow  
Giant - Voice only

#### **Small parts for one scene only**

Boy Blue  
Polly

Chorus of Villagers and Guards

### **CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS AND COSTUME REQUIREMENTS**

*The general character costume is up to you, as are the amount of costume changes characters are given. Also, the scenes they are in, will dictate the costume types to suit the surroundings.*

**Mother Hubbard:** Dame. Can be male or female. Costumed in the traditional way for a Dame.

**Simple Simon:** A comic. Played by a male but could be female. Usual comic dress.

**Tom the Piper:** One of a comic duo. Played by a male but could be female. Usual comic dress.

**Miss Muffet:** One of a comic duo. Played by a female but could be male. Usual comic dress.

**Jack:** Principle boy. Played by a female. Costumed as a traditional Principle boy.

**Princess Mary:** Principle girl. Played by a female. Costumed as a tradition principle girl and daughter of the King

**King:** Best played by a male. Costumed as a King would be.

**Hemlock:** Villain can be male or female. Costumed as a traditional villain.

**Giant:** Male preferred voice, but if Hemlock is played by female, consider Giant as a female voice. Can be recorded or performed live

**Fairy Snowdrop:** Best played by female but could be male. Normal Fairy costuming

**Daisy:** Two people, male or female in a cow costume

**Boy Blue:** Male or female, a towns/local person

**Polly:** Best played by female but could be male, a towns/local person

**The chorus:** Towns folk, guards and costumed accordingly

### **SYNOPSIS OF SCENES**

Scene one - MERRIVALE - Full stage  
Scene two - OUTSIDE MERRIVALE - Front cloth  
Scene three - MERRIVALE - Full stage  
Scene four - OUTSIDE MERRIVALE - Front cloth  
Scene five - MERRIVALE - Full stage  
Scene six - OUTSIDE MERRIVALE - Front cloth  
Scene seven - THE GIANTS CASTLE - Full stage  
Scene eight - OUTSIDE MERRIVALE - Front cloth  
Scene nine - MERRIVALE - Full stage

## **JACK AND THE BEANSTALK**

SCENE ONE

MERRIVALE (full stage)

### **Song/dance:-**

The scene is opened by a chorus number if you have a chorus, they remain on stage after the number. If you have no chorus or it is very small, the cast can sing an opening number and exit at the end. Mother Hubbard and Simple Simon would need to either sing in the wings or be upstage and exit first. If the latter option is used, any members that are town folk remain on stage. An option for an opening could be that of two members holding a maypole and the cast/chorus use it for a routine. After which the two holding the pole can take it off stage. At one stage right entrance, there is a cottage doorway, the door opens on stage. If this is not possible, designate an exit/entrance which will be the cottage doorway.

*There are loud crashes and bangs heard off stage. Mother Hubbard and Simple Simon enter. She is sat in some form of dilapidated transport that Simon can push or pull. Mother Hubbard has a quantity of parcels with her and a shopping bag containing, flour, sugar, eggs and butter. It is your own choice as to what this transport is and the routine sequence of entering and Mother Hubbard alighting the transport. At the end of it Mother Hubbard coughs and splutters*

**Simon:** What's wrong, Mother? Got a cold?

**Mother:** I've been banged, bumped, shaken, rattled and rolled like the earth is ready to quake. (*Begins to gather up a few of the parcels*) And it's all your fault Simple Simon!

**Simon:** Can't see why. I only did the driving, it was you that did the riding.

*Choose a one or two on stage to remove the transport*

**Mother:** And the way you nearly took my head off under that low bridge.

**Simon:** I told you not to stand up.

**Mother:** Stand up! I was thrown up, you great lummoX.

**Simon:** It's better than being thrown out!

**Mother:** (*bends over to pick up more parcels*) Give me a hand, son?

**Simon:** With pleasure. (*Slaps Mother's posterior which knocks her flat on her face*)

**Mother:** (*getting up*) What did you do that for? (*Begins to hand all the parcels to Simon*)

**Simon:** (*facing the cottage doorway*) It was my way of giving you a hand!

*One of the villagers/chorus goes to the Cottage to open the door on cue*

**Mother:** Next time don't bother. Now, take this - take this - and this - and that - and this and that. (*Goes behind Simon and gives him a hefty kick on the bottom*) And take that!

*As Simon stumbles towards the cottage door, the door is opened by the villager/chorus member. Simon trips throwing himself and all the parcels through the door*

**Mother:** (*picking up the shopping bag*) And that supermarket is a right rip off. At the checkout I told the girl, these are the free ones from the buy ones get one free. She said, "I had to buy one to get the free one", and I said, "I only wanted one, the free one!"

**1<sup>st</sup>:** How do you put up with Simon, Mother Hubbard?

**Mother:** It's a burden I must bear, dear.

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** Your other son Jack has intelligence.

**Mother:** Naturally he gets that from me.

**3<sup>rd</sup>:** We heard you were Queen of the dairy?

**Mother:** Only when I have to milk the cow with gloves on.

**All:** With gloves on?

**Mother:** I was told always be kind to udders!

**4<sup>th</sup>:** You have a cow called Daisy?

**Mother:** Oh, yes. She's not as young as she was and we both age together.

**All:** Like two old cows!

**Mother:** (*to audience*) That's not nice is it boys and girls? I'm still in my near youth, and when I was young - last year, the boys would come just to gaze at my gorgeous figure.

**Song:-**

*All exit after the song*

*Tom and Miss Muffet enters*

**Muffet:** Now, where is Hemlock?

**Tom:** Dunno, and why should we do Hemlock's dirty work?

**Muffet:** Someone has too, so it may as well be us.

*Hemlock enters*

**Hemlock:** So, you are here! Right, it's rent day and anyone not forthcoming with the amount due, out in the snow they go!

**Tom:** What snow? It's May!

**Hemlock:** (*throws a hand full of torn paper over Tom*) This snow.

**Muffet:** Oh, that snow. It must be the chill factor!

**Hemlock:** Which reminds me, I thought we could go on the..... (*Current T.V singing/talent show*)

**Tom:** To do what?

**Hemlock:** To win you idiots.

**Song:** *Choose something that's fun but can be very off key*

**Hemlock:** (*to audience*) Well, what do you think?

*Audience reaction and any business*

*Tom and Muffet sneak off stage right*

**Hemlock:** May I introduce myself, I am Hemlock, landlord to the poor and agent for the Giant. (*Points to the cottage*) Mother Hubbard owes two months rent, and if I don't get it today, out she goes. (*Calls*) Tom and Miss Muffet get your bodies out here at the double! (*Looking off right*)

*Tom and Miss Muffet run on from the left. They collide into Hemlock from behind and he falls flat. Tom and Muffet pick him up. With Hemlock's hat Tom and Muffet dust each other off and puts the hat on Hemlock.*

**Hemlock:** Right men, and you Miss Muffet. Follow me and don't lag behind.

*Hemlock walks up to the cottage door with Tom and Miss Muffet close behind. Hemlock knocks on the door and the door flings open as Hemlock steps back to miss the door and cannons into Tom and Miss Muffet who fall over*

**Mother:** (*in the doorway*) Sorry we are not at home today. Come back again yesterday. (*Closes the door*)

*Hemlock helps Tom and Muffet up, he uses his hat to dust them off and puts it back on his head*

**Hemlock:** Mother Hubbard, I insist you come out at once!

**Mother:** (off) I'm about to have a bath and underneath my clothes I'm naked!

**Hemlock:** Slip on something at once.

*There is a loud scream and a crash off stage*

**Simon:** (*enters through the door with a large slice of bread, loaf cut lengthways or you might find a plastic replica better, with lots of butter and jam on it*) She's slipped on the soap!

*Mother enters adjusting her dress*

**Mother:** (to Hemlock) Yes?

**Hemlock:** Rent!

**Mother:** Spent!

**Hemlock:** Are you going to pay me rent or not?

**M & S:** (loudly) Not!

*Tom and Muffet fall over again with the loudness of Mother and Simon. Tom and Muffet get up grabs Hemlock's hat and quickly dust themselves off, polishes their shoes then puts the hat back onto Hemlock*

**Hemlock:** Men and you, Miss Muffet, do your duty.

*A short piece of incidental music can be played through the business. The choreography of the business will be set by the director around the following with any additional improvisations.*

*Hemlock retreats up stage slightly. Tom advances to Simon as Muffet advances to Mother. Simon slaps Tom in the face with the slice of bread as Mother pushes Muffet over. Hemlock rushes to pick up Muffet and quickly dusts her off with the hat and retreats. As that happens, Tom peels the bread off his face and slaps it onto Simon's face. In the meantime, Muffet chases Mother around the stage, or Mother gives Muffet a piggy back as Muffet tries to throttle mother. Simon peels the bread off his face goes to slap it on Toms face, Tom ducks and the bread lands square onto Mothers face. Muffet falls down again and Hemlock dusts her off as before. Mother slaps the bread into Toms face. Finally, Tom and Muffet seize Simon and force down on his knees*

*as Hemlock tries to get Mother in a strangle hold and she starts screaming loudly turning to Hemlock and start to throttle him and she shouts -*

**Mother:** Help! Help! Help! I'm being strangled.

*Jack appears to the stage side watching the fracas. Mother ends up pushing Hemlock into the cottage and she follows. Tom and Muffet hold down Simon and rubs the buttered bread well into his face. Jack moves to intervene as*

*mother comes out the door with a frying pan and just as she's about to swipe Jack, she realises who it is and stops. The incidental music stops and Hemlock cowardly comes out of the cottage*

**Mother:** It's my darling son, Jack. (*Embracing Jack*) Come into your muvver's arms.

**Jack:** What is this all about?

**Hemlock:** (*points to Mother*) If she doesn't pay her rent; I shall turn her out!

**Jack:** Not without the legal paperwork, you don't.

**Hemlock:** That will be easy to obtain. Now, if you'll excuse, I go. (*Moves to exit left then stops and turns*) But I shall come back! (*Exits swiftly*)

*Tom and Muffet move to exit left, stop and turn*

**T & M:** We go. But we come back too, also! (*Swiftly exits*)

**Mother:** (*to Simon*) Put the kettle on son, I need revitalizing.

*Mother and Simon exits into the cottage and closing the door*

**Jack:** Well folks, that's my family. A mother who thinks the four seasons are salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar and a brother who buys condensed milk because our kitchen is small! And me, well I'm the brains of the outfit, Jack Hubbard is the name. And I'll let you into a secret, I think I'm in love. I saw the Kings daughter this morning for the first time and she's beautiful. We spoke briefly and - well - I could feel my heart trembling and my knees weakening. I think I felt love for the first time, and if it was love that I felt, I say bring it on.

*Jack and Mother enters with Daisy*

**Mother:** Here she is boys and girls. This is Daisy. Say hello to the boys and girls, Daisy.

**Daisy:** (moos)

**Jack:** Is it time to milk Daisy, Mother?

**Mother:** Now we need a milking stool near the milking machine here. (*Points at the udder*)

*Simon gets a stool and puts it behind Daisy, Daisy sits on it, back end sits first with front end sitting on back ends lap, Daisy can 'moo' as and when it's appropriate during the following routine*

**Jack:** That don't look right.

**Mother:** That's because it's not. I sit on the stool, not Daisy.

*All realise, and Daisy stands as Mother sits on the stool. Daisy back end then sits on Mothers lap and the front end sit on the back ends lap*

**Simon:** Now what?

**Mother:** It's all wrong. Daisy you silly cow, you don't sit on me.

*Jack and Simon try to get Daisy to stand by pulling on the rope. Daisy doesn't budge, so Simon goes behind Mother and pushes Daisy as Jack pulls on the rope. Daisy stands, Simon quickly sits on Mother's lap and Daisy as before sits on Simon's lap*

**Mother:** Get off you great puddin'. You're squashing me.

**Simon:** I can't 'cause Daisy is sat on me.

*Jack pulls on the rope as they all topple over onto the stage. They stand, help maybe needed to get Daisy on her feet again but this will add to the routine. Jack keeps hold of the rope*

**Mother:** I sit on the stool, Daisy stands stood up and we put the bucket under the milking machine apparatus things. Simon, get the bucket?

*Simon get the bucket and places it under Daisy, as Mother puts the stool down beside Daisy to sit. Daisy kicks the bucket away*

**Jack:** Are you sure you know what you're doing?

**Mother:** It's always worked before. Let's do it again.

*Simon puts the bucket under Daisy and Mother places the stool down and about to sit, Daisy kicks the bucket away, A short burst of music, (something like the Twist or similar) Daisy, Jack and Simon start to dance vigorously. Mother stops them*

**Mother:** Stop! Stop! If we're not careful we'll get milkshake!

*Daisy drops a plastic bottle of milkshake from the udder area. Simon picks it up.*

**Simon:** You're right there, Mother. It's..... flavour.

**Mother:** Look, Jack to hold the rope, Simon you hold the bucket under Daisy and I'll pump the pumper.

*Jack hold the rope, Simon holds onto the bucket under Daisy and Mother goes*

*behind Daisy and start pumping the tail. A milk bottle/carton or two get dropped from the udder area of Daisy*

**Simon:** (*picking up the bottles/cartons*) Look at that! It's already packaged.  
(*Waves the bottles/cartons on front of Mothers eyes*)

**Mother:** Now what you doing?

**Simon:** Past your eyes the milk!

**Mother:** (*grabs the milk*) Sometimes you're as daft as I am.

**Simon:** I'm just better at it.

*Daisy drops a packet of butter. Simon picks up the butter*

**Simon:** I said better, not butter!

*Daisy whispers in Jacks ear*

**Jack:** Daisy just said, "can you be careful she feels a little fragile today".

**M & S:** What's wrong?

*Daisy whispers again to Jack*

**Jack:** Daisy was out last night and gave eight pints of low-fat yoghurt. Now she feels totally Mullered!

**Jack:** How do we get cream from Daisy?

**Mother:** You must whisper in her ear for that!

**Simon:** Daisy will have to bend down as I can't aim that high!

**Mother:** Not a wee wee whisper you twit, a wordy whisper. Like this. (*Whispers in Daisy's ear*)