

# **Jacks and the Beanstalk**

## **A Retelling of Jack and the Beanstalk**

**by Brandy Woldstad**

If you are a school, church, homeschool group, or non-profit you are welcome to use my script for your budding actors.

### **CHARACTER LIST:**

Narrator	Mom	Giantess
Jacqueline	Merchant	Goose
Jack	Donkey	Harp
Jackie	Butler	

**NARRATOR:** On a small farm tucked in the backwoods of Ren in the Glenn lived poor farmers named Jacqueline, Jack, Jackie, and Mom. They worked hard from sun up to sun down.

**MOM:** I'm so exhausted.

**JACQUELINE:** Maybe we could make our living doing something else.

**MOM:** We can't. Farming is what our family has always done. It's tradition.

**NARRATOR:** One evening, the three Jacks: Jacqueline, Jack, and Jackie came in from their chores to find their mother crying.

**MOM:** Oh, this is terrible!

**JACQUELINE:** What? What is it?

**MOM:** The rabbits and deer got into our garden and took a bite out of everything.

[JACK TAKES A VEGETABLE OUT OF THE BASKET AND EXAMINES IT.]

**JACK:** This one looks okay.

**MOM:** That was the only one.

[JACK TAKES A BITE.]

**JACK:** Mmm. We could sell this at the farmer's market.

**MOM:** Jack! What are you doing?

**JACK:** Oops. Sorry.

**MOM:** Oh, this is terrible. If I don't have money by the end of the week, we'll lose everything!

**JACQUELINE:** Even the farm?

**JACKIE:** And my pants?

**JACK:** And my shoes? I can't go anywhere without my shoes.

**MOM:** That's part of everything isn't it?

**JACKIE:** Maybe we can sell something... like... like... Our table.

**MOM:** That's it! Jackie, you're brilliant!

**JACKIE:** I know. This table is older than me... which means it's an antique. How much do you think we'll get for it?

**MOM:** We're not selling this table. It's not worth anything. However, if we sell donkey, we might get enough to pay the bills.

**JACK:** Not donkey! Anything but her!

**MOM:** Tomorrow morning, I want Jacqueline to take Donkey to the market and get the best price you can for her.

**JACQUELINE:** How come I have to sell her?

**JACKIE:** Because you're the oldest.

**NARRATOR:** From past experience, Jacqueline knew there was no way she could change her mom's mind, which is why the next morning Jacqueline walked donkey to the market.

**JACQUELINE:** Come on Donkey. It's time to go.

**DONKEY:** [Sad]

**JACQUELINE:** I know. I don't want to sell you, but don't worry... I'll find you a good home.

**MERCHANT:** Excuse me, did I hear you say you're going to sell your donkey?

**JACQUELINE:** Yes. She's a real bargain.

**MERCHANT:** Well, let's make a deal. I'll give you a miracle in exchange for your donkey.

**JACQUELINE:** Yeah right.

[MERCHANT PULLS OUT BEANS.]

**MERCHANT:** These are magic beans.

**JACQUELINE:** Magic is real?

**MERCHANT:** Of course magic is real. So here's what I'll trade you. These beans for your donkey.

**JACQUELINE:** Hmm. I don't know.

**DONKEY:** Hee-haws 'no'.

**MERCHANT:** They come with a donkey back guarantee... if these beans don't work, bring them back, and you'll get your donkey back.

[DONKEY GIVES NON-VERBAL PROTEST.]

**MERCHANT:** What have you got to lose?

**JACQUELINE:** A donkey back guarantee?

**MERCHANT:** Absolutely.

**JACQUELINE:** All right. It's a deal.

**MERCHANT:** You won't be sorry. Come along, Donkey.

[DONKEY PROTESTS AND THEN GOES ALONG RELUCTANTLY.]

**NARRATOR:** Before Jacqueline could change her mind. The merchant disappeared.

[JACQUELINE SHRUGS AND RACES HOME.]

**JACQUELINE:** Mom! Jack! Jackie! You won't believe this! I made a trade that guarantees we won't lose the farm!

**MOM:** That's wonderful! What did you get?

**JACK:** Diamonds?

**JACKIE:** Rubies?

**JACQUELINE:** Look!

[OPENS HER HAND SO EVERYONE CAN SEE.]

**MOM:** I don't see diamonds or rubies... just... beans.

**JACQUELINE:** Not *just* beans *magic* beans.

**MOM:** Beans?

[JACQUELINE NODS]

**MOM:** Beans! You sold donkey for 3 measly beans?

**JACQUELINE:** Magic be-

[MOM GRABS THE BEANS AND THROWS THEM OUT THE WINDOW.]

**MOM:** I hope you're happy. Because of you we've lost everything including Donkey!

[MOM STOMPS OFF.]

**JACQUELINE:** Even our shirts?

[DOOR SLAMS OR POT GETS THROWN BEHIND STAGE? JACQUELINE SIGHS.]

**JACK:** Way to go.

**JACKIE:** You're in trouble.

**JACQUELINE:** I guess I better find those beans and get donkey back.

**NARRATOR:** Jacqueline searched for those beans like her life, or at least their farm, depended on it.

**JACQUELINE:** I'll have to search more in the morning. [FALLS ASLEEP.]

**NARRATOR:** While everyone slept, the magic beans did their magic.[JACQUELINE WAKES.]

**JACQUELINE:** What in the world? Mom, check this out!

**MOM:** What are you jabbering about- [EXAMINES BEANSTALK] is that a beanstalk?

**JACQUELINE:** [JACQUELINE nods.] I'm going to climb it to see how high it goes. I'll bet it has some large beans. [STARTS TO CLIMB.]

**MOM:** Be careful!

**NARRATOR:** So Jacqueline climbed... and climbed... and climbed.

**JACQUELINE:** [PANTING] Wow everything looks so tiny up here.

**NARRATOR:** Jacqueline climbed... and climbed... and climbed some more.

**JACQUELINE:** I wish it wasn't so cloudy up here.

**NARRATOR:** She climbed all the way to the top of the clouds.

**JACQUELINE:** Whoa! A house in the clouds? That house is big enough to hold at least ten of our farms inside!

**NARRATOR:** Just then Jacqueline 's stomach grumbled. [Make a really loud grumbling noise.]

**JACQUELINE:** [GRABS STOMACH.] Oh, I forgot to eat breakfast. I'll bet that place has some food to share. [WALKS TO THE DOOR AND KNOCKS.]

**BUTLER:** Welcome to the giantess' residence. May I help you? [LOOKS EVERYWHERE, BUT AT JACQUELINE.] Hello? [SHRUGS AND CLOSSES THE DOOR.]

**JACQUELINE:** [KNOCKS AGAIN. WHEN DOOR OPENS.] Good morning! I'm down here.

**BUTLER:** Oh! My you're such a tiny little thing.

**JACQUELINE:** I'm starving. Do you have any breakfast to share?

**BUTLER:** Breakfast? It's breakfast you'll be if you don't get out of here. The giantess of this house eats girls on honeyed toast.

**JACQUELINE:** [DRAMATICALLY] Oh, please. I haven't eaten since yesterday. I may as well be eaten as die of hunger.

**BUTLER:** Hmm. Let me see what I can do. Come along.

**NARRATOR:** The butler led Jacqueline into the kitchen and gave her some food. [THUMP! THUMP! THUMP!]

**BUTLER:** I think it's best if you hide. [BUTLER LIFTS LID OF COOKIE JAR FOR JACQUELINE TO HIDE IN. JACQUELINE JUMPS INTO A COOKIE JAR. ]

**GIANTESS:** Fee-fi-fo-fum, I smell... bubble gum. Be she live or be she dead, I'll have her bones to grind my bread.

**BUTLER:** My dear, Giantess. I fear you are mistaken. Perhaps you smell the little girl from yesterday's dinner?

**GIANTESS:** [Sniffs] Do you doubt my beautiful giant nose?

**BUTLER:** Absolutely not. Your nose is much more sensitive than mine which is why you may be smelling your meal from yesterday. [USHERS THE GIANTESS TO A CHAIR.] Have a seat and I'll fetch you some breakfast.

**GIANTESS:** Thank you. [THUMP! THUMP! THUMP! SITS AT THE TABLE. JACQUELINE PEEKS OUT OF THE JAR, LID ATTACHED TO HER HEAD.]

**BUTLER:** Here you go. [SETS A PLATE OF FOOD IN FRONT OF GIANTESS.]

**GIANTESS:** [FROWNS.] No cookies? [SHE LOOKS OVER AT THE JAR. JACQUELINE LOWERS THE LID WHILE GIANTESS LOOKS AT THE JAR.]

**BUTLER:** Let me get you one. [LIFTS LID OF JAR. JACQUELINE HANDS HIM A COOKIE.]

**GIANTESS:** Thank you. Now please get me my gold.

**BUTLER:** As you wish. [BUTLER RETURNS WITH A SACK OF GOLD AND SETS IT ON THE TABLE. BUTLER LEAVES.]

**GIANTESS:** [YAWNS.] There is nothing like a giant fortune for the biggest giant around. Let's see, I left off at... oh yes 9,223... 9,224...[STARTS COUNTING GOLD AND FALLS TO SLEEP.]

**JACQUELINE:** ["SNEAKS" OUT OF THE JAR AND MAKES NOISES THAT WOULD WAKE A HUMAN, BUT NOT A GIANTESS. GRABS THE BAG OF GOLD WHICH JINGLES AS SHE TAKES IT.] This will be enough gold to save the farm and grow it. [JACQUELINE RUNS TO THE BEANSTALK AND RETURNS HOME.] Hey everyone, look what I got for us!

**MOM:** It better not be beans!

**JACQUELINE:** Nope, but just as good. [JACQUELINE OPENS THE BAG. EVERYONE PEERS IN.]

**MOM:** Gold!

**JACK:** Where'd you find it?

**JACKIE:** That's awesome.

**JACQUELINE:** There's enough gold here to save the farm.

**MOM:** That's my girl. I knew you'd figure something out.

**NARRATOR:** The sack of gold drew so much attention from everyone that Jack found himself getting a little jealous.

**JACK:** I bet I could find something even better up there.

**NARRATOR:** So JACK climbed... and climbed... and climbed.

**JACK:** [PANTING] Yikes, everything looks so tiny down below.

**NARRATOR:** Jack climbed... and climbed... and climbed some more.

**JACK:** I wish it wasn't so cloudy up here.

**NARRATOR:** He climbed all the way above the clouds.

**JACK:** Whoa! A house in the clouds? That house is big enough to hold at least ten of our farms inside!

**NARRATOR:** Just then Jack's stomach grumbled. [MAKE A REALLY LOUD GRUMBLING NOISE.]

**JACK:** [GRABS STOMACH.] Oh, I forgot to eat lunch. I'll bet that place has some food to share. [WALKS TO THE DOOR AND KNOCKS.]

**BUTLER:** Welcome to the giantess' residence. May I help you? [LOOKS EVERYWHERE BUT AT JACK.]

**JACK:** Hi! I'm down here. I'm hungry. Do you have any lunch to share?

**BUTLER:** Are you crazy? It's lunch you'll be if you don't get out of here. The giantess of this house eats boys on bread like butter. Be gone. [SLAMS THE DOOR.]

**JACK:** [KNOCKS AGAIN.] I'm sorry, I forgot my manners. Please, may I have some lunch?

**BUTLER:** Alright. But make it quick. If the giantess catches you, you'll be her lunch.

**NARRATOR:** While the Butler grabbed some food, Jack noticed a goose sitting in the corner of the dining room.

**JACK:** Butler, why is there a goose sleeping in the dining room? Shouldn't it be outside?

**BUTLER:** Not that goose. That goose is worth more than its weight in gold. Here you go. Eat up. [BUTLER SETS A LARGE SANDWICH IN FRONT OF JACK. JACK STUDIES IT. TRIES TO EAT IT LIKE A NORMAL SANDWICH (WHICH HE CAN'T GET HIS MOUTH AROUND), SHRUGS AND EATS IT IN TINY BITS.]

**JACK:** This sandwich is absolutely delicious.

**BUTLER:** Thank you. Now, you really must be go-

**GIANTESS:** [THUMP! THUMP! THUMP!] Fee-fi-fo-fum. I smell the blood of... of... a boy? Be he live or be he dead. I'll have him like butter on my bread.

**BUTLER:** Oh bother. Hide. [BUTLER HELPS JACK INTO COOKIE JAR.] Really? [SNIFFS THE AIR.] I don't smell a thing. Did you wash your hands? Maybe it's your hands you smell.

**GIANTESS:** Of course, I - [SNIFFS HER HANDS AND MAKES A FACE.] I'll be right back. In the mean time, fetch my goose and lunch.

**BUTLER:** As you wish. [BUTLER RETRIEVES REQUESTED ITEMS. GIANTESS RETURNS, SITS DOWN, AND STROKES THE GOOSE'S FEATHERS. JACK'S HEAD IS PARTIALLY STICKING OUT OF THE JAR SO HE CAN SEE WHAT'S GOING ON.]

**GIANTESS:** I love this goose. Goose... lay! [THE GOOSE LAYS A GOLDEN EGG. THE GIANTESS PICKS IT UP AND EXAMINES IT.]

**JACK:** It's gold! [REALIZES HE SPOKE ALOUD AND DUCKS LOWER INTO THE COOKIE JAR.]

**GIANTESS:** [FREEZES.] Did you hear that? [SHE GETS UP AND WALKS OVER TO THE COOKIE JAR.]

**BUTLER:** I'm sure it was just the wind chimes in the garden.

**GIANTESS:** [LIFTS THE LID OF THE COOKIE JAR. JACK THRUSTS A COOKIE INTO HER HAND. GIANTESS TAKES IT, PUTS THE LID BACK ON, AND WALKS BACK TO TABLE.] My beautiful large ears must need a rest. [SHE RESTS HER HEAD ON THE TABLE AND GOES TO SLEEP.]

**BUTLER:** [GLARES AT THE COOKIE JAR.] I'm sure they do. [BUTLER CLEARS THE TABLE AND WALKS OFF STAGE.]

**GIANTESS:** [SNORES LOUDLY.]

**JACK:** I want that goose. [JACK SNEAKS NOISILY OUT OF THE JAR AND GRABS THE GOOSE.]

**GOOSE:** Squawks [GIANTESS STIRS, BUT DOESN'T WAKE. JACK RUNS OUT OF THE HOUSE WITH THE GOOSE IN TOW AND CLIMBS DOWN THE BEANSTALK.]

**JACK:** Mom! Look what I found!

**MOM:** How nice... a goose. What are you going to do with it?

**JACK:** This is a magic goose.

**MOM:** [SIGHS] Everyone knows magic doesn't-

**JACK:** Lay! [THE GOOSE LAYS A GOLDEN EGG.]

**MOM:** [PICKS UP THE EGG AND TAPS IT.] It's gold.

**JACQUELINE:** [JACQUELINE TAKES IT AND BITES IT.] Definitely not edible.

**JACK:** Now our gold will never run out.

**JACQUELINE:** Nice job.

**NARRATOR:** While Jack was showered in praises. Jackie felt a bit left out.

**JACKIE:** I'll bet there is something I could find up in the sky that's even better than the sack of gold and the goose.

**NARRATOR:** So Jackie climbed... and climbed... and climbed.

**JACKIE:** [PANTING] Wow, everything is so tiny!

**NARRATOR:** Jackie climbed... and climbed... and climbed some more.

**JACKIE:** Too bad it's so cloudy up here.

**NARRATOR:** She climbed all the way above the clouds.



**JACKIE:** Whoa! That house is big enough to hold our entire town!

**NARRATOR:** Just then Jackie's stomach grumbled. [MAKE A REALLY LOUD GRUMBLING NOISE.]

**JACKIE:** [GRABS STOMACH.] Fiddlesticks. I forgot to eat dinner. I'll bet that house has some food to share. [WALKS TO THE DOOR AND KNOCKS.]

**BUTLER:** Welcome to the giantess' residence. May I help you? [LOOKS EVERYWHERE BUT AT JACKIE. THEN LOOKS DOWN.] My we're getting a lot of small visitors.

**JACKIE:** Hello, I forgot to eat dinner. Do you happen to have any to share?

**BUTLER:** Dinner? Dinner! Does this place look like a restaurant? I'll have you know that the previous two visitors I fed disappeared along with some of the giantess' treasures. You wouldn't happen to know anything about that... would you?

**JACKIE:** [SHAKES HER HEAD NO] I'm sorry to hear of your loss. I hope the giantess isn't blaming you.

**BUTLER:** Of course, she's blames me. She blames me for everything that goes missing. [JACKIE'S STOMACH GRUMBLES AGAIN.] What is that awful noise you're making?

**JACKIE:** I'm hungry.

**BUTLER:** [SIGHS.] Alright, I'll get you a small snack. But don't touch anything. [IN THE DINING AREA THE BUTLER HANDS JACKIE A LARGE DRINK AND A BIG SNACK.]

**JACKIE:** [SLURPS LOUDLY.]

**GIANTESS:** [THUMP! THUMP! THUMP!] Fee fi fo fum... I smell a girl that should be dinner.

**BUTLER:** [MOTIONS FOR JACKIE TO HIDE IN COOKIE JAR.] Are you sure?

**GIANTESS:** Of course, I'm sure. As the biggest giantess around I know what I smell!

**BUTLER:** Perhaps your paranoia is making you smell what isn't there. Make yourself comfortable and I'll fetch you your harp. [BUTLER GRABS THE HARP WHILE THE GIANTESS SITS AT THE TABLE.]

**GIANTESS:** Thank you, Butler. [POINTS TO THE HARP.] Sing!

**HARP:** Sings or hums.

**JACKIE:** Oh, that is so beautiful.

**GIANTESS:** Stop. [GETS UP AND WALKS TO THE COOKIE JAR. JACKIE LOWERS LID QUICKLY. WHEN THE GIANTESS LIFTS THE LID JACKIE HOLDS UP TWO COOKIES. GIANTESS SHRUGS AND TAKES BOTH COOKIES. THEN SHE WALKS BACK TO THE TABLE.] Harp, Sing.

**HARP:** Resumes singing.

**GIANTESS:** [SNORES LOUDLY.]

**JACKIE:** That harp is perfect. [JACKIE NOISILY CLIMBS OUT OF COOKIE JAR. SHE GRABS THE HARP AND RUNS FOR THE DOOR.]

**HARP:** Mistress! Mistress!

**GIANTESS:** [SNORTS AS SHE WAKES. RUBS HER EYES AND SEES JACKIE RUN OUT THE DOOR.] Get back here!

**HARP:** Help! Help!

**JACKIE:** Shh. [JACKIE CLIMBS DOWN THE BEANSTALK.]

**GIANTESS:** That's mine. Give it back!

**HARP:**[CONTINUES TO CRY FOR HELP]

**JACKIE:** Jacqueline! Jack! Grab some axes. Hurry!

**GIANTESS:** I'm going to smash you flatter than a pancake! [ALL THREE JACKS CHOP AT THE BEANSTALK AS THE GIANTESS COMES DOWN.]

**NARRATOR:** All three Jacks swung their axes with mighty blows. The beanstalk swayed as the Giantess scrambled towards them.

**JACKIE:** One more swing. [MAKE A LOUD THUD OR SNAP. THE BEANSTALK FALLS.]

**GIANTESS:** [SCREAMS AS SHE FALLS TO THE GROUND. WHEN SHE LANDS ALL CHARACTERS ON STAGE COULD PRETEND THERE WAS AN EARTHQUAKE.]

**JACKIE:** Whew! That was a close one! Here's what I got. [PULLS OUT HARP.]

**JACQUELINE:** It's beautiful.

**JACKIE:** Sing!

**JACK:** The music is gold to my ears.

**MOM:** I always knew those magic beans would bring us good fortune. [ALL THREE JACKS ROLL THEIR EYES.]

**JACQUELINE:** Hey Mom, do you think we could buy Donkey back?

**MOM:** Absolutely.

**NARRATOR:** So Jacqueline bought Donkey back from the merchant who was more than happy to sell her. It turned out donkey wouldn't work for anyone who wasn't named Jack. The farm was saved and the Jack family lived peacefully for now.