

PART 1. PROLOGUE.

Show cloth. MUSIC. Enter EDENA R.

EDENA. Welcome to our tale of Jack from the dairy,
My name's Edena, the eco fairy.
I tend the soil and watch out for what grows -

(PYRO. SLIMEBALL jumps on L.)

SLIME. You lay on the muck and then hold your nose!
Slimeball's the name, I'm known all over town!

EDENA. **(indicating smoke)** I wish you'd keep your emissions down!

SLIME. Winge, winge, winge - **(to AUDIENCE)** let's hear your hisses and boos!

(AUDIENCE respond.)

Thank you, thank you; I knew just who you'd choose.
I serve the wicked Giant Blunderbore -
Of whom you'll all be hearing rather more -
She's just the mucky farmers' fairy friend!

EDENA. But I'll see you off to a sticky end!
(to AUDIENCE) And now let's hear your very best cheers!

(AUDIENCE respond.)

SLIME. Oh, belt up!

EDENA. Thank you all so much, my dears!

SLIME. One little cheer and you start to crow.

EDENA. Quite why you're here I really don't know,
Down on the earth *my* magic is stronger.

SLIME. **(producing wand)** But this time around, my wand it is longer!

EDENA. Slimeball, again you fall into the soup.
As once again, you've got magical droop!

(Waves her wand, MUSIC STING. SLIMEBALL'S wand collapses.)

SLIME. I suppose you think that's very funny.

EDENA. To see your face I'd've paid good money!

SLIME. I'm very glad, 'cos you'll see it again,
I'll get my own back to the power of ten!
You and your old fashioned, quaint country ways,
I'll break you all in a matter of days! **(Exits L.)**

EDENA. Oh, dear, he really does sound rather cross.
He'll just have to learn that he's not the boss!
But now it's time to meet up with our Jack,
And don't worry dears; I'll sort out the flak. (**Exits R.**)

(BLACKOUT and raise cloth or tabs.)

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The CHORUS enter in panic. The Giant's back! / He wants to marry the Princess! Etc.)

JACK. (entering) You see, everybody! We've got to fight him now!

DAME. Don't be ridiculous, Jack! Think of your poor old Mum!

GIANT. (off) Put 'em up! **(Roars with laughter.)**

(The KING runs on and is mobbed by the CHORUS.)

CHORUS. He's back, Your Majesty, tell him we need more time!

KING. We just need a little more time, Your Giantship –

GIANT. I WANT THE PRINCESS NOW!!

(PYRO. SLIMEBALL jumps on. ALL recoil.)

SLIME. Nice to see you all again so soon! You see, there's no keeping a good giant down. **(Off into the wing.)** Get down, big boy, get down!

(The GIANT chuckles with anticipation.)

SLIME. **(to KING)** That'll be one Princess if you please. Or else we'll lay your whole kingdom to waste and marry her anyway.

KING. We, um, er... We can't find her –

SLIME. No fibs now. You're not losing a daughter - you're gaining a son!

JACK. Never! **(Rushes at SLIMEBALL. He is restrained by the DAME and SIMON.)**

GIANT. **(off)** Start turning 'em to stone, Slimeball!

PRINCESS. **(running on)** I'm here!

KING &
JACK. Demelza!

PRINCESS. It's no use. I'll have to marry the Giant. Don't turn anyone to stone!

SLIME. Result!! Now there's a girlie with sense in her head.

(EDENA enters.)

EDENA. She may have sense, but she won't be wed.

SLIME. Edena!

EDENA. That's me. Now, no one panic.
I took my time, but then I'm organic.

SLIME. Now –

EDENA. Just shut up, keep still and don't fidget. **(Raises wand.)**
Or one wave of this and your boss is a midget.

SLIME. But –

EDENA. Off you go now - no Princess, no tax,
Or I'll use my magic, up to the max!

SLIME. Alright, alright. No need to get shirty.
But just remember, we like to play dirty.

(SLIMEBALL exits and the GIANT recedes, grumbling.)

ALL. Hooray!

KING. I say, well done! Can we sound the all clear?

EDNA. I reckon they're beat, so why not, my dear.

KING. Let's all celebrate in a special way!

JACK. Let's make today a public holiday!

PRINCESS. I'm up for a dance –

DAME. And a bit of a jig!

KING. You're up for a - ?

EDENA. Dance! Go on, who gives a fig!

(EDENA exits with KING. Celebratory NUMBER. BLACKOUT.)

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JACK. Look, Mum, I'm really sorry –

DAME. Alright, if you won't go, I'll go. A bag of beans, Jack! Whatever's going to happen to us in the morning? Our Daisy, sold for a bag of beans! (**Throws bag on the ground.**) There. That's what I think of that. I just can't believe it!

(She leaves. JACK and SIMON look at each other.)

JACK. Honestly, Simon. I don't understand.

SIMON. I think she's a bit cross.

JACK. But I saw the gold... I just - oh, well. Come on then. Maybe something will turn up in the morning.

(Dejectedly, they both go out.)

NB. The action can run on continuously. Alternatively, if you need a few moments to set anything up for the Beanstalk sequence, you may find it useful to treat Edena's speech as a little mini-scene and fly the tabs in briefly.

PYRO. EDENA enters.)

EDENA. That's true indeed, Jack, very true,
I'm planning on surprising you.
(indicating smoke) I hope that didn't make you cough,
I didn't mean to let one off.
I'll make old Slimeball rue the day,
He thought to come down here and play!
Prize winning veg is just my thing;
I'll give those beans some special zing,
And send them up into the skies,
Before we see the new sun rise!

**(Waves wand - fly out tabs if you have flown them in.
BEANSTALK GROWING SEQUENCE.**

**This could be a BALLET, or a NUMBER led by EDENA, with
the CHORUS as garden sprites, or fairies.**

**Alternatively, it could be staged very effectively as a UV
SEQUENCE.**

**At the end of the sequence, JACK enters yawning from the
cottage. He sees the beanstalk.)**

JACK. Wow...! Mum! Simon! Come and have a look at this!

**(SIMON and DAME enter from the cottage, they are both in ludicrous night
attire.)**

SIMON. Gosh!

DAME. Blimey. Those were some beans. You wouldn't want to eat beans like those.

JACK. Look how high it goes. Right up to the clouds.

(The KING enters.)

KING. Just as I thought! I've caught you red-handed. The Princess has disappeared and it's quite obvious to me that you lot must have kidnapped her!

JACK. But that's ridiculous.

KING. Don't contradict me, I'm the King!

EDENA. **(entering)** In that case I will - and I'm a fairy.
Though truth to tell, things have got hairy.

KING. Hairy? Hairy? How do you mean, hairy?

EDENA. I mean confusing and all contrary.

KING. All contrary? But first you said hairy,
This isn't contrary, it's all airy-fairy!

DAME. Then let's not argue outside the Dairy.

SIMON. **(helpfully)** I once knew a girl whose name was Mary.

KING. Oh, shut up!

EDENA. Let me speak plain and tell you true.

KING. That's all I'm asking you to do.

JACK. But where's Demelza, is she okay?

EDENA. It's true she has been taken away.

KING. Oh, no!

EDENA. Oh, yes.

SIMON. Oh, crumbs.

DAME. Oh, dear.

EDENA. Transported to the Giant, I fear.
But eco fairies make things grow... **(Gestures to the Beanstalk.)**

(A beat.)

KING. And your point is?

EDENA. You're all so slow!

JACK. I could climb there!

KING. What?

DAME. Oh no, Jack, not the beanstalk thing!

JACK. Why not? It's almost as if it's been put there on purpose.

KING. He's right. Up you go, lad and we'll say no more about the rent.

DAME. **(To KING)** He's my only son!

JACK. I'm sorry Mum – I've got no choice. I have to rescue Demelza!

DAME. But the giant is such a nasty man!

EDENA. Then I shall help Jack all I can,

(EDENA gestures with her wand. A little Fairy enters with a sword.)

This special sword has magic power,
To call on in a needy hour.

DAME. Oh, Jack!

JACK. Yes, Mum.

DAME. Must you go now?

JACK. I must.

KING. He must!

DAME. Alright then, ciao.

EDENA. So, climb to win a battle rare,
And claim for wife a maiden fair!

KING. I say!

EDENA. What is it you want to say?

KING. Not much.

JACK. **(starting to climb)** Then off I go without delay!

(MUSIC swells. CHORUS run on. NUMBER.

CURTAIN.)

SCENE 10.

A Grandstand View. Showcloth or tabs.

(EDENA enters. She carries lorgnettes.)

EDENA. Well, here I am with a grandstand view,
All set to commentate – just for you.
And so you know all that passes,
I've brought along my special glasses.

(Peers through lorgnettes.) And, oh my goodness, it's going to be a close run thing! They're all charging down the beanstalk like mad things! How a cow manages to run down a beanstalk I don't know, but Daisy's doing it! King Bertram's trying to barge in, but Daisy's having none of it! And - ooh! King Bertram got a well timed elbow in the face from Dame Trot there as she rushes down after her cow... Jack and Demelza are making steady progress and Simple Simon's getting a move on at the back – particularly as Blunderbore himself is now on the beanstalk...

GIANT. **(off)** Fi, fi, fo, fum!!!

SIMON. **(off)** Help me! Help me!

(EDENA leads audience response.)

EDENA. Goodness, that does seem to have put some lead in his pencil!
Simon's jumping down from branch to branch like a monkey! In fact,
they're all coming down at one heck of a lick. I just hope that they can all hold on!
They're all looking good... looking good... and Daisy's the first to reach the
ground, followed by all the others and finally Simon, who looks exhausted... And now
Jack's taken out his sword. He's hacking away at the beanstalk like a
demented lumberjack...! And he's cut right through – the beanstalk's coming down and
so is Blunderbore! There's going to be the most enormous crash – oh, my gosh -
TIMBER!!!

(HUGE CRASH. BLACKOUT.)