

Jack

and
the

Talkback Beanstalk

a musical play for children in one-act

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Dramatists personae

Jack - a very creative young boy, director, performer and sole proprietor of Master Jack's Bread and Puppet Theatre

Mother - Jack's Mother, a caring and kind lady

Benny Zee - The talking beanstalk, a lively, flamboyant Frenchman with a distinguished passion for the theatre

Giant - the rather large yet harmless and very lonely giant who lives in the kingdom in a castle above the clouds

Harpy - The magical, music maker and Giant's only friend, a tender and kind little character who knows nothing but harmony

Goldie Goose - The infamous goose who lays the golden eggs, who acts she's a little girl but has the wisdom of a wise old sage, the voice of truth

Simple Set Design

Act I Scene 1

Prologue {Lights come up on Benny Zee sings the opening song, dances, spins, and ends up center stage then recites }

Benny Zee:

Once upon a time, long ago in the garden
Of a boy, named Jack
Sprouted a rather large and lively beanstalk...
Lively, much like the Lively arts
Performing Arts, that is.
Jack was a puppeteer.
Oh! Jack dreamed of having a successful puppet theatre.
One that could help his family make ends meet,
For they were poor, and grew poorer with each passing day!
But lo!
And behold!
Jack believed in the magic of the theatre...
In the lively arts...
And one day, one very special day, once upon a time,
His dream came true!

*{Benny Zee takes his place in the garden, then freezes.}
SCENE 1 in the garden*

{Lights up on Jack, an energetic young lad working in the garden, Tossing things all about the stage.}

Jack: Yes! Yes! This is going to be great. Stand back, world! Here comes another wonderful, fantastic, imaginative creation from “Jack, the Master Puppet maker!”

Mother: *{OFFSTAGE}* Is that you, Jack?

Jack: Uh, uh! Yes, Mom. I mean... I didn't leave yet. I wanted to finish this puppet for my show tonight, it's a beanstalk.

Mother: *{SCOLDING}* Jack!

Jack: I'm going. I'm going right now!

{Jack's puppet starts to come to life.}

Mother: *{OFFSTAGE}* Jack. I told the grocer that you would bag for him today, Jack. We really need the money now, honey. Please.

song # 1 MY SON WILL SHINE

Duet sung by Mother and Jack:

Mother: *{ENTERS, YET IN A SEPARATE REALITY}*

My son, Jack, is quite a bright boy
My son, Jack, his mind can be his toy
My son, Jack, makes me glad to be his Mother
My son, Jack, he's just not like any other

Jack: *{SPINNING IN CIRCLES}*

Oh My! Mom! This puppet is alive!
Oh My! Mom! This really is no jive!
Oh My! Mom! I think I'm gonna faint!
Oh my, oh my, oh my! Was it something in the paint?

Mother:

My son, Jack, sometimes overacts
My son, Jack, exaggerates the facts
My son, Jack, got his head stuck in a cloud
My son, Jack, someday he'll make us proud

CRESCENDO

Mother : My son will shine, like the stars up in sky

Jack: Mom! It's unbelievable !

Mother : My son will shine, like an angel, he will fly

Jack: Mom! It's really unbelievable !

Mother: My son will shine, shine, shine ! And bring light to us all!

Jack: Mom! Mom! Mom! You are not going to believe this one at all!

{Mother exits offstage, so Jack stops with the music and responds to his mother.

Suddenly Jack jumps BACK, as Benny Zee Beanstalk stretches and stands tall, bows, and cordially introduces himself to Jack who slowly backs away.}

Benny Zee: Well, well, well! Hello, hello, hello. It is my honest pleasure, sir! Why you look like such a lovely young fellow. You are my creator, no? I am Benny Zee Beanstalk. *{BOWS}* At your service.

Jack: Wowie- zowie! A talking beanstalk!

Benny Zee: I am Benny Zee Beanstalk. *{BOWS}* At your service.

Jack: What? Wowie- zowie! Holy cow! How did you come to life?

Benny Zee: Ah, yes! The magic of theatre! *{TO Jack}* You are the director of the theatre, yes? You may call me Benny Zee, short for Benny Zee Beanstalk.

Jack: Yes! I'm Jack, and yes, I am the producer, director and sole creator of The Master Jack Bread and Puppet Theatre ... How did you become real? Am I dreaming? I must be dreaming.

Benny Zee: *{LAUGHING}* No, no, no! Jacques. I do not make meaningless little personal appearances in people's dreams anymore! I am a giant in the theatre! Ha! What do you take me for? I'm not your ordinary guy, Jacques! *{BOWS}* I am a trained acteur! Le directeur! An artiste! I am a professional and I have arrived solely for the creation of art!

{Music swells. Benny cues the music then takes Jack by the hand into the enchantment of the song.}

song # 1 The Magic of Theatre, The Miracle of Life
sung by Benny Zee and Jack

The Magic of Theatre, The Miracle of Life
You say you want an explanation
You say you want advice
The Magic of Theatre, The Miracle of Life
But let me tell you, my young friend
It's just it's own device

The Magic of Theatre, The Miracle of Life
You say you want to know the answer
You say you want the scoop
The Magic of Theatre, The Miracle of Life
I must advise you, my young friend
Life's one big hula hoop

The Magic of Theatre, The Miracle of Life
You say you need to know the secret
You say you can't survive!
The Magic of Theatre, The Miracle of Life
But I must warn you, my young friend
When we become alive...

The more we know the more we grow
There's really nothing to it
We've simply got to do it
And so and so and so
We must get on with the show!

{As the music ends, benny takes Jack's hands making him clap and he takes he takes a bow.}

Benny Zee: So? I will be your partner, no? We will be fantastic together! Like Stanislavski and Danchenko! *{BOWS}* And, now, Jacques... I come, I come here to help you! The magic of theatre, pure and simple! *{BOWS}* For it shall come alive in you today!

Jack: *{LAUGHING}* Well, to tell you the truth, I could use some help. It is hard starting a theatre all by yourself. I need to make some money so that we can keep our home together. *{SHAKES BENNY'S HAND}* Okay, Benny Zee... I think we can work together. And I think we can create a little magic in this business of art, I believe in that. But we've got to make money while we're at it!

Jack: But we've got to make a profit, or we'll have to move to my Uncle Zeke's farm. *{SHIVERS}* And I just can't go there. Uncle Zeke asked me to help him chop up the pigs to make pork chops!

Benny Zee: Make pork chops? And you don't like making pork chops?

Jack: The thought of it disgusts me. *{SHOUTS}* Why I don't even eat meat! I'm a vegetarian!

Benny Zee: Oh no, Jacques, please! *{SHUDDERING}* Arrgh! Don't even say that word! The thought of that disgusts me!

Jack: What?

Benny Zee: *{WHISPERING}* Vegetarian!

Jack: Why?

Benny Zee: Because I'm a vegetable!

Jack: I'm sorry. I really meant no harm! Sometimes I do things without thinking. Then, when I think about it, I've already done the wrong thing.

{TO BENNY} I meant no offense!

Benny Zee: Voila! None taken. It's okay, Jacques. I get over things fast! Simply change your focus, and you get a whole new outlook on life! I came here to help you! And help you I shall! This was your first lesson, Jacques!

Jack: Lesson?

Benny Zee: Acting principle number one! Change your focus - get a new view! *{PATS HIM ON THE BACK}* Ah, Jacques, I can take you to new heights! Your imagination will soar beyond the clouds!

Jack: *{WITHDRAWING}* I must be dreaming! A talking Beanstalk...

Benny Zee: No! No! No! Jacques! This is no ordinary dream. This is theatre! Theatre is but a dream you can share with others while you're awake. That's why it is so magical.

Jack: Yes, I do believe in the magic of theatre! It makes people laugh. It makes us happy.

Benny Zee: Yes, Jacques! A noble cause! *{PACING WITH HIM}* But you need a teacher with experience... and voila! Here I am! Benny Zee Beanstalk bringing your theatrical dreams to life! Well, what do you say, Jacques? No? Yes?

Jack: What do you expect from me?

Benny Zee: I expect nothing, Jack. Well, nothing but honesty and hard work. For that's what theatre is all about! Is it not? Climb with me, Jack... beyond these clouds!

Jack: You want me to actually climb up your beanstalk? *{POINTS UP}*

Benny Zee: You seem afraid? No?

Jack: Yes. Uh, no. No. Well, I... *{LOOKS UP}* You honestly expect me to really climb up there into the actual clouds? No one can walk on the clouds.

Benny Zee: Lesson number two, Jacques... Every actor who wishes to grow creatively must expand his horizons. Set his sights higher!

Jack: Oh, I don't know. You don't look like a very stable character to me. I don't think so. I'm sorry. I'm afraid that I'm afraid.

Benny Zee: Face your fear, and zat fear shall dizappear!

Jack: I wish it was that easy.

Benny Zee: It really is, Jack. You must look beyond your fears!

Jack: You're right! And I will... B-b-b-ut not just yet. When I grow up I promise not to be afraid anymore... of anything, yes, why I won't be afraid of anything at all ever again when I grow up!

Benny Zee: Alright, Jacques. But remember, as you grow, and keep your fears, your fears will grow too. And someday they may be bigger than you! *{STARTS OFF}* But alas, I can say no more. *{BOWS}* Farewell, Jacques and au revoir!

Jack: Wait, wait! Maybe... Stop. Don't go. *{RUNS AFTER BENNY}* Maybe, well, I'll give it a try. *{EXAGGERATED WHISPER}* But Benny, what is up there?

{Music swells. Jack sings with his back to Benny Zee.}

song # 2 Beyond the Clouds

sung by Jack and Benny Zee Jack What's beyond the clouds?

What's so fascinating...
What's beyond the clouds?
And who will be there waiting for me.

Benny Zee: Look beyond the clouds!
They're so fascinating...
Way beyond the clouds!
The mys'try is there waiting, you'll see.

Jack: What is it with the clouds?
What makes them so divine
What's going on up there?
And what's a kid like me supposed to find?
Oh, no. I can't go
I really must stick around
Can't you see, they need me here
And I've got to be able to get both feet on the ground.

Benny Zee: I'll lift you to the clouds....
You see there, life is magic
What's going on down here
It's really not so tragic

Jack: What's beyond the clouds? What's so fascinating...
What's beyond the clouds? And who will be there waiting ...

Benny Zee: Oh, say you will climb it
You've got to rise above this
Can't you see, you need to be
An artist who can rhyme it
and make a joyful sound abound on the earth once again.

Jack: What's beyond the clouds?
What's so fascinating...
What's beyond the clouds?
And who will be there waiting ...

Benny Zee: There, there will be castles on air, there
There, there is a giant who cares there
There is a HARPY on a shelf
And it plays
True Harmony
All by itself
And there a goose
That lays golden eggs loose
There is truly a fortune in gold...
But what's better than ever is the beauty you can see,
That never oh never can be told.

Jack: So go beyond the clouds
Stop procrastinating...
Far beyond the clouds
I'm not so hot at waiting ...

Benny Zee: Okay, Jacques! Cling to my beanstalk and climb.

Jack: Oh.... It's just tough getting started...

Benny Zee: Okay, Jacques.... Let's try this.... Take a deep breath... And let's count to one hundred by fives. In fact, why don't you ask them

to count with you! Your audience counts!

Jack: Yes! I believe the audience counts.... A show without an audience is like no show at all. Think you can help me count? Let's try it like this... {CLAPPING, AUDIENCE COUNT-ALONG} Okay, count! Five, ten, fifteen, twenty, twenty-five, thirty, thirty-five, forty, forty-five, fifty, fifty-five, sixty, sixty-five, seventy, seventy-five, eighty, eighty-five, ninety, ninety-five, a hundred!

{Lights fade}

Act I SCENE 2 AT THE CASTLE

{Lights come up on Jack, who is sneaking around in the dark with a candle. suddenly a rooster crows and the sun comes in lighting the room in full, all kinds of farm sounds are heard.}

Jack: *{BLOWING OUT HIS CANDLE}* Wowie-zowie! Things sure happen fast around here!

Benny Zee: *{OFFSTAGE}* It's theatre! Use your imagination, Jacques. Now, look around. Be careful but look around. *{PAUSE}* Tell me what do you see?

Jack: Wowie-zowie! It's really a neat place, this castle. I see the little Harp. Wow! She's radiant! She's sleeping so peacefully over in the corner... Next to that big, ugly giant! What! *{SCREAMS}* Giant! Yikes! *{FREEZES}*

Giant: *{HALF AWAKE}* Uh! *{YAWNS}* Did somebody just call me? *{SITS UP}* Huh? *{SCRATCHES HIS HEAD}* Oh well! *{YAWNS}* I guess that... I must be *{STUTTERING}* imag- imag- imag *{HICCUPS, SNEEZES AND COUGHS ALL AT ONCE}* day dreaming again. *{ASIDE}* I do that a whole lot. There's nothing else to do here... Nobody to play with... Time to go back to dreamland, I guess. *{GIGGLES}* Ha-ha! Well, I guess they don't call me the Sleepy Giant, for nothing. *{HEARTY CHUCKLE}* Back to beddy-bye! *{ROLLS OVER AND BLOCKS THE CASTLE DOOR}*

Jack: *{SHUDDERING}* Oh, man... Is that guy for real?

Benny Zee: *{OFFSTAGE}* Sure. He's as real as you and me.

Jack: So how do I get past him now?

Benny Zee: *{OFFSTAGE}* Just slink out behind his head... You're small, you can fit through, just trust your instincts.

Jack: Wowie-zowie! Solid golden nuggets!

{A little golden goose pops out from behind the giant's bed.}

Goldie Goose: I wouldn't touch them if I were you! And besides they are eggs, not nuggets, eggs!

Jack: Ohhh! *{STARTLED}* And just who are you?

Goldie Goose: Who do you think I am?

Jack: No clue.

Goldie Goose: Okay, I'll give you two.... I'm a goose and I lay golden eggs.

Jack: And... That's supposed to tell me something?

Goldie Goose: Yes! I'm the goose that laid those golden eggs that you're about to steal! You'd better get going... The Giant will eat you alive... He's always cranky if something wakes him up early! I don't even want to be around here if...

Jack: *{GRABS THE GOOSE}* Then come with me, kid! I can show you a better life and you can bring constant cash flow to my family now and forever more, we will not be poor!

Goldie Goose: Hey... Let me go, you silly boy! I can't go with you. I belong here at the castle with the Giant.... It just won't work if you take me from my scene.... It's like an actor being cast in the wrong part....

Jack: Sssshhh! Come on...

Goldie Goose: No way! You can't just ask Little Red Riding Hood to play the Big Bad Wolf.... People are like characters.... They are where they are, and they do what they do for a reason.

Jack: Come on... Will you please be quiet. We can talk later! You're making it hard!

Goldie Goose: *{SHOUTS ALOUD}* Me? Me? You're the one trying to kidnap me! You have got some nerve! You're making it hard! The way I see it, it's pretty simple, kid... It's like you're taking pieces from Chess to play Checkers! And guess what? You're going to lose.... There are rules to this game of life.... That's the problem... People think they can re-invent the rules as they go along. Life is simple if we play by the rules....

Benny Zee: *{OFFSTAGE}* Jacques! Jacques! Who is that yelling? Sounds like trouble! What are you up to now, Jacques?

Jack: Wowie-zowie! Now just look at that treasure pile over there! I could be a millionaire! I could buy my own theatre on Broadway!

Goldie Goose: *{BREAKS FREE}* I warned you, boy.... I wouldn't touch them if I were you!

Benny Zee: Focus Jack! Focus on getting out of the castle.

Goldie Goose: *{RUNNING ABOUT}* Stop! Thief!

Jack: Holy cow! There must be over a hundred bags of gold in that little tiny closet! Wowie-zowie!

Benny Zee: *{OFFSTAGE}* Jack! Don't even think about it. That's the giant's gold. It's not for us. We came up here for inspiration. For ideas for your theatre... Not to rob the poor fellow.

Goldie Goose: *{SHAKING THE GIANT}* Giant wake up! Thief! Thief! Thief!

Jack: He's anything but poor!

Benny Zee: *{OFFSTAGE}* It all depends on how you define wealth, Jack.

Jack: Oh, just a bag or two. Come on, he'll never know.

Benny Zee: *{OFFSTAGE}* Oh, but I will. You forget so soon Jacques, I entertain angels. I can't do things like that. Stealing is wrong, Jacques. Where I come from, stealing is very, very wrong!

Goldie Goose: *{RUNNING ABOUT AGAIN}* Stop! Thief! Silly boy! You can't get away with it! *{LAUGHS}* Just wait and see what happens to you!

Jack: *{ANGRY}* But I need it! He doesn't! Just look! He's loaded! And where I come from if you don't pay your mortgage, they throw you out on the streets! Or to the pig fields! *{MORE ANGRY}* I'm taking some money back to my mother!

Benny Zee: *{OFFSTAGE}* Jacques, Jacques, Jacques! *{LAUGHING NERVOUSLY}* You mustn't now, really! Come on now, Jacques! You mustn't steal from him!

Jack: *{GRABBING TWO LARGE BAGS OF GOLD}* This cash can pay the mortgage and buy us the most beautiful new black curtains for the theatre.

Benny Zee: *{OFFSTAGE}* No, Jacques, no. Please put it back!

{Jack drags the bags over the giant, one bag gets stuck, and tears open spilling the coins all over the giant's face. startled, the giant awakes, bellowing in alarm and starts to chase after Jack.}

Giant: *{BELLOWING}* Hey! *{STAMMERING}* W-W-What's going on around this pl-pl-pl... *{HICCUPS, SNEEZES AND COUGHS ALL AT ONCE}* palace! *{SIGHS}* A thief!

Jack: Help me, Benny. Help me!

Giant: Fe, Fi, Fo, Fum... Who's stealing my money?

Benny Zee: Quick, Jack.... Down the stalk. Leave the money and come down the stalk now!

Giant: Fe, Fi, Fo, Fum... Hey, come back here, you little bum! Give me back my *{STUTTERING}* m-m-m-m- mon...*{HICCUPS, SNEEZES AND COUGHS ALL AT ONCE}* Hey could ya stick around for a little snack, maybe? *{RUBS HIS BELLY}* Yep, yepper! Time for supper, maybe.... I'm getting kinda hungry again!

Jack: Oh, noooo! Yikes! He's gonna eat me alive!

Giant: Hey, wait... Come back! Ya know, it gets really lonesome up here. *{BELLOWING}* Awww! C'mon! *{BLUBBERING}* Wait! Where are you going? Wait for me!

{The music swells for the chase scene, the giant chases Jack offstage, and the following dialogue is heard in the dark along with thunderous steps.}

Jack: What now? He's following me! What do I do now?

Giant: Oh, how comes everyone's so scared of me! Am I that ugly? Oh, come on back. Or can I come down to your house to play? Yep, yepper! That's it! I'll come with you!

Benny Zee: Quick Jack! Break off my stalk below the clouds. The giant will land safely in the clouds.

Jack: Oh no! Won't that hurt you?

Benny Zee: Jack, just do it!

Giant: *{RUNNING SLOW MOTION IN THE CLOUDS}* Hey, hey, wait guys! Be my buddy! C'mon w-w-w-wait for m-m-m- *{HICCUPS, SNEEZES AND COUGHS ALL AT ONCE}* I'm a fun guy! Yep, yepper! I am!

Jack: *{To Benny Zee}* Okay, okay! I don't like to have to hurt people!

Giant: *{MOONWALKS BACKWARDS OFFSTAGE}* H-H-Hey, wait for me! *{VOICE FADING OFF}* W-w-w-ait!

Jack: *{REACHING BELOW THE CLOUDS}* Oh, I'm telling you, I really don't like to hurt people!

Benny Zee: Just do it!

Jack: I can't.

Benny Zee: *{SHOUTS}* Do it! *{GRINNING AND BEARING THE PAIN TO COME}* I'm already hurt that you used me to steal. Do what you have to do and break it off now! Before he falls from the sky!

Act I Scene 3 • BACK IN THE GARDEN

Benny Zee squeals and YELPS IN PAIN as Jack cracks his stalk, we hear the giant moaning offstage as he falls. THE lights come back up in the garden.

Benny Zee: So! Where's all that money going to get you! You almost got us both trampled to death! Stealing can only lead to trouble.

Jack: I'm sorry.

Benny Zee: It's only my beanstalk... It'll grow back. No more stealing, my young friend, eh?

Jack: No! You are right! In fact, as soon as you grow the top of your stalk back... I will climb right up there and apologize to that big, lonely Giant

Benny Zee: Yes! Yes! Tis wonderful to hear you talk like that, Jaques! Now there's that noble character I saw before! Let me see if I can grow it back for you right now!

Jack: You can grow it back just like that?

Benny Zee: I think I'm are ready! *{TO THE AUDIENCE}* Let's do a sing-along about growing together. Ready? Just repeat after me!

song #3 The Grow Song a sing-along

Benny Zee: {CLAPPING ALONG, SINGING}

One, two, three, four

Can I grow a little more?

REPEAT

Five, six, seven

When can I reach heaven?

REPEAT

Eight, nine, and ten

Then I'll come back to play with you again.

REPEAT

REFRAIN

Growing, Growing, Growing, Growing

Where's all the time here going?

I guess it's know use knowing

So let's just keep on growing,

And Growing, Growing, Growing!

{Musical interlude. Benny takes Jack and starts a chain dance with the audience, the music of a flute, continues with the simple melody until everyone in the audience has had a chance to dance.}

Benny Zee & Jack: {CLAPPING ALONG, SINGING}

One, two, three, four

Can I grow a little more?

REPEAT

Five, six, seven

When can I reach heaven?

REPEAT

Eight, nine, and ten

Then I'll come back to play with you again.

REPEAT

Growing, Growing, Growing, Growing

Where's all the time here going?

I guess it's know use knowing

**So let's just keep on growing,
And Growing, Growing, Growing!**

{Benny and Jack end with a bow as the music stops, prompting the applause from the audience.}

Benny Zee: Well, Jacques! You can see for yourself... the magic of theatre right here and now!

Jack: Why, yes! Look how you've grown!

Benny Zee: Yes, but of course! The magic of theatre! The miracle of life!

Jack: There is so much magic right here before our very eyes! Everyday!

Benny Zee: And it is always there, Jacques! *{POINTS TO HIS HEART}* The magic lives in your heart! In everyone's heart. And when we share... a song, a story... Voila! We make the magic happen! Well, Jacques! Ready to move on...

Jack: I guess I said that I'd go back up again, didn't I?

Benny Zee: Yes. And your duty calls you, Jacques! If you want to shine in the theatre, you must not carry any shadows in life!

Jack: *{STALLING}* But I almost fell the last time! I'll never make it back up with the bag of money!

Benny Zee: *{ESCORTING JACK OFFSTAGE}* Come on, Jacques! You are a most noble character! You can do this! I know!

Jack: I know. I know. I know. I just have to convince myself... I can do this, I can do this, I can do this! *{EXAGGERATED WHISPER, ASIDE}* Hey, you guys... Think you could help me out on this one? I mean, well, can I still count on your support? *{CLAPPING, AUDIENCE COUNT-ALONG}* Okay, ready, set, count! *{RAPID-FIRE DELIVERY, ALL IN ONE BREATH}* Five, ten, fifteen, twenty, twenty-five, thirty, thirty-five, forty, forty-five, fifty, fifty-five, sixty, sixty-five, seventy, seventy-five, eighty, eighty-five, ninety, ninety-five, a hundred!

Act I SCENE 4 • BACK AT THE CASTLE

{Lights up on the castle. The giant lies there in the corner snoring. this time the HARP is awake, and is softly playing a lullaby.}

Jack: *{ENAMOURED BY THE HARP'S SWEET MELODY}* Ah! Such beautiful music! *{HUMMING ALONG}* Oh, I just have to bring you back to my theatre! Oh! Please! Come away with me little harp! *{HE DROPS THE BAG OF MONEY ON THE GIANT'S FACE AS HE TRIES TO GRAB THE HARP, SHE SCREAMS}* Please, come back home with me! *{HE GRABS THE HARP}* I need you for my theatre! You'll be a star!

Harpy: *{CRYING}* Oh, no! Let me go!

Jack: Oh but, I have to take you with me! I love your voice! I have to have it!

Harpy: Never!

song #3 Harpy's- Ballad For My Friend **sung by Harpy**

This music plays in me though you may never ever see
The why- here... This melody's alive
It never would survive Without- him...
This... is a ballad.... Oh, oh, oh, oh.
Such a pretty ballad....
Oh- oh.... Oh, oh, OOOOOOh.
A simple, pretty melody- a ballad for my friend
You expect a song from me and You expect a dance
You expect my sharing.... But it don't stand a chance...
You've got quite a lot to learn, boy
You.... Can't say you love me ... this is not a song.
You... just want own me, show me off, tagging me along
But you'll never know me, or know just how I feel
You don't even see me, thinking I'm not real...
I am very happy... here I'm with my friend
I would like to stay forever.... And ever without end.

Giant: *{BELLOWING}* Hey! *{WAKING UP}* W-w-w-what's going on here?

Harpy: Help me, Giant. Help me!

Giant: Fe, Fi, Fo, Fum... Who's stealing my happy HARPY? H-h-h-har *{HICCUPS, SNEEZES AND COUGHS ALL AT ONCE}* Aw! Heck! *{ASIDE}* This is starting to become a pretty darn lousy bad day, huh? Whadayathink? *{STANDS UP AND SHAKES LIKE A DOG}* Oh, I gotta

get my little happy harp back! She's my buddy! She is. She is! She puts me to sleep all the time! Yep, yepper! She tucks me in with her tender melodies! Now it's my turn to help her! Yep, yepper! I just got to save her!

song #4 **GIANT Lament** sung by **The Giant**

Giant:

Sometimes I get the great Big Blues
Sometimes I wanna cry
Sometimes I feel like, sorta, lonely
And y'know I don't know why?
But I gotta tell ya
Something always pulls me thru
Cause I gotta buddy that's true.

REFRAIN

Harpy, Harpy, Harpy: Makes me so hap-hap-happy
Harpy, Harpy, Harpy: Even if I'm feelin' crabby
It's really not the end
Harpy comes around and bees my friend

Sometimes I get these great Big Blues
Sometimes I wanna scowl
Sometimes I feel like running away
Although I don't know how
But I gotta tell ya
Something always pulls me thru
Cause I gotta buddy that's true.

REFRAIN

Sometimes I feel like worn-out shoes
Sometimes I feel like an old hen
Sometimes I feel like I blew a fuse
Although I don't know when
But I gotta tell ya
Something always pulls me thru
Cause I gotta buddy that's true.

REFRAIN

Benny Zee: Quick, Jack.... Down the stalk. Come down the stalk right now. And leave that little Harpy alone!

Jack: No, she's coming back with me!

Harpy: Help, he's hurting me! Help, help!

Giant: Fe, Fi, Fo, Fum... Hey, come back here, you little bum! HARPY, HARPY! Come back, you're all I have. *{BLUBBERING}* Harpy, my pretty, little pal!

Harpy: I must live here!

Giant: Harpy! My Harpy!

Jack: I love your music, and I must have you for my theatre!

Harpy: I love the giant!

Benny Zee: Let her be, Jack!

Giant: Harpy! My Harpy!

Harpy: Don't take me away from my home!

Jack: I need you. I really need you, little harp.

Harpy: I'll be homesick! Oh, please don't do this!

Jack: Please cooperate!

Harpy: No, it will never work; I'll be too blue to play for you.

Jack: I will make you a big star, little harp! You'll see! You'll have fame! Fortune! You won't even miss that ugly old Giant! You'll see.
{RUNS OFF WITH THE HARP}

Giant: Harpy! *{ASIDE}* Hey, wait a dang minute! I may be ugly but I'm not certainly not old! *{EMBARRASSED}* I'm just a little *{GULPS}* large for my age, y'see I was a big baby! *{JUMPS WHEN HE HEARS HARPY SCREAM}* Oh, no! I almost forgot myself again. *{GULFS AND GUFFAWS}* I'm coming, little buddy! *{RUNS OFFSTAGE AFTER THEM}* I'm coming to help.... Yepper! Here I come...

Harpy: *{CROSSING HER ARMS}* I shall never play a another harmonious again!

{LIGHTS FADE}

Act I SCENE 5 • back in the garden

{Benny Zee squeals as Jack breaks off the tiptop of the stalk again, short fade as they run offstage, and they're back in the garden again. Benny Zee, lies on his side, moaning, his head all bandaged up. The HARPY sits in the corner weeping gently.}

Jack: What do I do now? *{BANDAGING Benny Zee'S HEAD}* Uh-oh. Wow, I'm sorry.

Benny Zee: Ouch, ouch, ouch!

Jack: I think you might need a stitch of two!

Benny Zee: Oh, my head hurts!

Jack: I am soooooooo sorry!

Benny Zee: I just need to rest, I'll be alright, Jack. It's okay.

Jack: I've made such a mess of things... Help me, Benny!

Benny Zee: Jacques, I can not even stand up.

Harpy: *{HITTING A SOUR NOTE}* Oh no! So bold before! Look at the brave boy now! Hmmmph! *{DEMANDING}* Take me home at once! You fool, I can not play for you! I play only for the giant!

Jack: But Benny the beanstalk, he's all broken down, your strings cut his head. Why he can't even stand up... I can not take you back without him! Oh, now it's raining...

{The sound of the giant blubbing becomes even louder, and his tears start to fall as rain.}

Harpy: Now, you've done it, Jack! That's not rain, that the Giant, he's crying! There's no stopping him once he starts to cry! Either get me back to him or we will all drown in his tears of sorrows!

Jack: Benny! What should I do?

Benny Zee: Well, Jacques, it's sad to say, but the little harp is right! We will drown... If he's that unhappy, even the clouds can't hold back his tears! We will all be submerged in the salts of his sadness sooner or later if he doesn't stop!

Jack: Oh, I know it's all my fault! I shouldn't have been so greedy! Please, Benny, give me one more chance... I know that I hurt you. I am really, really sorry. Truly I am.

Benny Zee: Jacques, I forgive you... *{HUGS JACK}* But I must tell you something, Jacques, you can not continue this, this, this hurting people. Especially Jacques, when you know that what you are doing is hurting them.

Jack: *{FILLED WITH REMORSE}* I know. I know.

Benny Zee: Too many times we act without thinking of other people's feelings.

Jack: I am sorry. Oh, Benny, think! There must be something we can do...

Benny Zee: Hmm... Funny, my head stopped hurting and I suddenly got this idea.

Jack: What? What?

Benny Zee: Well, it is certainly worth a try.

Jack: What is it? I'll try anything! Anything!

Benny Zee: Well, I can't help you. *{POINTS TO THE AUDIENCE}* But maybe they can... *{SMILING}* Ask them to help you again.

{The giant's cries grow louder and are heard offstage with the rain sounds increasing with thunder, everyone and everything is shaking and quaking.}

Harpy: Oh, no! He is throwing a tantrum! Our whole world will fall apart! Everything will start to crumble!

Jack: Benny, help! How can I get the Giant reunited with the harp if I can't get back up the beanstalk?

Harpy: *{TO JACK}* Everyone's counting on you now!

Benny Zee: *{POINTING TO THE AUDIENCE}* Get the audience to help you call the Giant down from the clouds! Ask them to just repeat this little rhyme.

Jack: *{TO THE AUDIENCE}* Repeat this little rhyme. *{PACING}* Repeat this little rhyme. *{TO BENNY}* What rhyme? What rhyme?

Benny Zee: Giant, Giant, in the sky

Jack & Audience: Giant, Giant, in the sky

Benny Zee: Please come down and do not cry!

Jack & Audience: Please come down and do not cry!

Benny Zee: We will love you as you are

Jack & Audience: We will love you as you are

Benny Zee: You will be our biggest star!

Jack & Audience: You will be our biggest star!

{With a very big, thunderous rumble, and bellowing cry, the giant tumbles out on stage, he jumps to his feet and rushes into the arms of his HARPY, hugging her dearly, He is followed by Goldie Goose.}

Giant: Harpy! *{HUGS HER}* My Harpy!

Goldie Goose: What did I tell ya, Giant! But ya' never listen to me! No! "Oh ye of little faith!" Good to see you're okay, Harpy! You had the big guy here a nervous wreck.

{Goldie goose Approaches Jack wagging her finger at him, who tries to hide from her, then he tries to be amiable.}

Jack: *{PUTS OUT HIS HAND}* Hi, My name is Jack! You look sooo familiar. Have we met before? Another time, another place perhaps?

Goldie Goose: And what did I tell you! Did you listen to me either? Nooooo! Oh, it's amazing how easy it is to just travel your path in peace.... But you guys.... Take the wrong road.... What do you expect? I hope you've learned your lesson, Jack.

Jack: Yes, I sure did. I didn't mean to upset the Giant.

Goldie Goose: The big guy here... He's not so bad.... In fact, he might make an interesting attraction to your theatre... He's pretty big... He's got the big name, and he just loves to play. You should ask him.

Harpy: Oh, my giant! My noble, brave giant! *{SIGHS}* I missed you.

Giant: *{SMILES}* I'm so happy now, huhuhh! Yep-yepper! *{GLANCES AROUND}* Hey, Harpy! Look! Buddies! Buddies to play with! Are these guys your friends, Harpy? D'ya think they would they let me play with them too? Huh? D'ya? *{TO Jack}* Would ya? Huh? Huh?

Jack: *{SLAPPING THE GIANT ON THE BACK}* Sure! Sure! Absolutely there buddy boy! You can play here anytime!

Giant: *{HUGGING HARPY}* Why, we'll never have to be lonely again!

Jack: *{SCRATCHING HIS HEAD}* Say there... Uh... Say, Mr. Giant? I, uh, I owe you an apology and I believe this belongs to you.... *{RETURNS THE MONEY}* I'm sorry I took your money, and kidnaped your friend. I know now what I did was wrong and I want to make it up to you. How would you like to stay and play here in my theatre?!

Giant: Would I! Oh boy, oh boy, oh boy!

Jack: Why, Mr. Giant, you'll be my biggest star! *{TO AUDIENCE}* And I do mean the "BIGGEST" star ever to set foot in my theatre! And your Little Harp will make music that will bring in crowds from all around! Come on get started, let's make up another play today!

Goldie Goose: And I'll be the box office manager!!!!

Benny Zee: Ah! *{STANDING UP SLOWLY}* Just what I like, no? A happy ending!

Giant: Oh, boy! Oh, boy! Oh boy! I can't wait to play!

Benny Zee: *{HUGS JACK}* You learned a very big lesson Jacques! The magic of theatre is the miracle of life! Your love for the theatre, for your family and friends is what makes the magic happen.

Jack: It is love.

Benny Zee: And that love is right there in your heart, all the time... Waiting to be shared in theatre and in life!

Mother: *{HUGS JACK}* Jack! It's the most wonderful news! Mr. Kerns called. He brought his sons to see your puppet show, and he was so excited that he wants you to help with the shows downtown at his theatre!

Jack: *{SCREAMING}* Wowie-kazowie! *{ASIDE}* Talk about magic!

Mother: *{JUMPING FOR JOY}* And.... when he got to talking with Daddy.... Well, he offered Daddy a job, too! He'll be doing all of his programs and flyers and posters! A full-time position! *{SPINS}* Isn't life just grand? *{HUGS Jack}* And to think, Jack! It's all because of you! *{RUNS OFF}* I've got to go help Daddy... Why, he's starting today!

Jack: The magic of theatre is the miracle of life! Thank you, Benny. *{SMILES AT THE AUDIENCE}* And I must thank you, *{BOWS}* thank you one and all! You really made this show count!

REPRISE: THE MAGIC OF THE THEATRE -ensemble
all clap, and prompt the audience to clap with them as the lights fade, they bow and exit.

The End

Jack & the Talkback Beanstalk