

CLEVER JACK and the Magic Beanstalk

*Story by Meridee Stein and Ian Elliot
Music and lyrics by Judie Thomas and John Forster*

*Dedicated to the children of the
First All Children's Theatre Co., NY, NY*

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

MOTHER: Jack's mom, poor, hard-working.
HARDBARGAIN: Landlord.
JACK: Clever boy.
GRANNYSHOO FLY: Family cow, Jack's best friend.
PEDDLER: Trades magic beans for Granny.
LIGHTNING: Peddler's mule, non-speaking.
MURDLE: Castle elf.
ELVIN: Another.
GIANT: Huge, mean guy.
MONEY BAG #1: Singing bag of gold coins.
MONEY BAG #2: Another.
STATUES: Children captured by Giant, any number.
GOOSE: Lays golden eggs.
HARP: Must play for the statues.
CHORUS: Children and townspeople, any number.

Playing Time: About an hour.

BEANSTALK: The beanstalk is a 60 to 70-foot long, green colored rope with cloth leaves attached every few feet. It "grows" (*horizontally.*) as Chorus members, standing on various platforms and crates of different heights, pass it along to each other. When Jack mimes climbing it, Chorus members raise their arms above their heads holding up the rope.

SET DESIGN

Multiple platforms and crates of varying heights around the perimeter of the stage are all that's needed to stage this musical. Multiple stairs or ramps bolted securely will allow actors to move up and down quickly rather than wait in any kind of line. Chorus members linking arms can form any doors or windows necessary for Jack's shack or the Giant's castle. A large kettle and box are needed in the castle scene but even these could even be mimed by Chorus members.

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PROPS

Magic beans, golden egg, box for egg, delivery boy cap, receipt, delivery boy hat, cane, lunch bag with food inside, large stuffed animal for mule (*if not played by an actor*), wagon full of wares, big kettle with lid and spoon, microphone, large box, cloak for Jack, corn kernel, basket of flowers, apron and cape for Giant.

SONGS

1. OVERTURE
2. LONGAGO
3. HEY GRANNY
4. PEDDLER'S SONG
5. WONDERFUL MAGIC BEANS
6. CLIMBIN' HIGHER
7. ThE GIANTS SONG
8. TWO LITTLE LONELY BAGS of MONEY
9. MONEY BAGS CHASE
10. CLIMBING
11. I AINT GONNA LAY NO GOLDEN EGG
12. HARP'S SONG
13. ANYONE CAN DO IT
- 13B. DANCE MUSIC
14. FINALE

COSTUMES

JACK: Striped socks, shorts, shirt, suspenders.

MOTHER: Dress with full skirt, pantaloons, shawl, cap.

GRANNY: Cow costumes, knee pads, pantaloons.

PEDDLER: Knickers, long sleeved shirt.

LIGHTNING: Mule costume, knee pads.

HARDBARGAIN: Pin striped pants, shirt, vest.

ELVES: Brightly colored layers, as leotards, shorts, vests, ties
etc.

MONEY BAGS: Yellow leotards, striped tights.

GOOSE: White leotard or warm-up suit with red or orange skirt
and vest.

GIANT: Brown shorts, striped tights, shirt, cap and scarf. Also
wears bobcap, apron and cape when in disguise as Little Red
Riding Hood. Cape should be bright red on one side for Giant
and green with a yellow fabric ear of corn on the other for Jack.

HARP: Pink leotard warm-up suit.

STATUES: Gray leotards or warm-up suits.

OVERTURE

(AT RISE: LIGHTS come up, as overture begins. CHORUS enters, spirited and informal, creating a play-like atmosphere which builds and then winds down to a freeze. A group of children singing "London Bridge Is Falling Down" continue to play until song begins. JACK, MOTHER, and HARDBARGAIN enter as they are sung about.)

LONG AGO

Chorus, Jack, Mother and Hardbargain

(Finger snaps.)

SOLO: LONG AGO IN A FAR OFF LAND
LIVED A BOY NAMED CLEVER JACK.

DUET: HE LIVED WITH HIS WIDOWED MOTHER IN A ONE ROOM
WOODEN SHACK,
IN A ONE ROOM WOODEN SHACK.

TRIO: THEY WERE VERY POOR, BUT
THAT THE BILLS WERE PAID ON TIME.

TILL ONE DAY THE LANDLORD CAME FOR THE RENT
AND THEY DID NOT HAVE A DIME. NO, THEY DID NOT HAVE A
DIME.

CHORUS: HEY, JACK, HEY JACK, WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO?
EVERYTHING'S DEPENDING ON THE ONE AND ONLY YOU!

(JACK is between MOTHER and HARDBARGAIN as they speak, looking from one to the other, like a tennis match.)

MOTHER: Oh, kindly sir, I need more time to pay you what I owe.

HARDBARGAIN: If I'm not paid within the hour, out the door you
go! *(HE exits.)*

MOTHER: NO!

CHORUS: OUT THE DOOR YOU GO! HEY JACK, HEY JACK,
WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO?

EVERYTHING'S DEPENDING ON THE ONE AND ONLY YOU—000

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(Dialogue over MUSIC.)

MOTHER: Ja-ck, Ja-ck! Now where is that boy?

JACK: *(Behind HER.)* Right here, Mother!

MOTHER: *(Startled.)* Oh!

JACK: Why did you call?

MOTHER: Jack, I have some bad news. We can't afford to keep
Granny Shoo Fly any longer.

JACK: But, Mother, we can't sell Granny. She's my best friend.

MOTHER: We have to. Our landlord, Mr. Hardbargain, wants
the rent in an hour. I'm afraid you'll have to take Granny to the
market right away.

JACK: But Mother, couldn't we ... I mean ... *(Song returns over
JACK'S protesting.)*

CHORUS: HEY JACK, HEY JACK, WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO?
EVERYTHING'S DEPENDING ON THE ONE AND ONLY SOME
VOICES: YOU...

SMALL GROUP: LONG AGO IN A FAR OFF LAND LIVED A BOY
NAMED CLEVER JACK. HE LIVED WITH HIS WIDOWED MOTHER
IN A ONE ROOM WOODEN SHACK.

IN A ONE ROOM WOODEN SHACK.

ALL: IN A ONE-ROOM-WOOD-EN SHACK...*(ALL FREEZE.)*

MOTHER: Here, Jack, I've packed a small lunch for you.
(MOTHER fusses over HIM.) Now remember, Jack, I'm
depending on you to strike a good, fair bargain.

JACK: *(Brightens.)* I'll do even better than that.

MOTHER: I'm sure you will, you're so clever. *(#2A MUSIC
Underscore begins.)* Now run along.

JACK: Good-bye, Mother.

MOTHER: Good-bye. *(SHE exits USR.)*

JACK: Granny!

GRANNY: *(Has entered and is hiding behind CHORUS.)* MOO!

JACK: I'll find you.

GRANNY: No, you won't.

JACK: Oh yeah? Okay, you guys ... have you seen Granny?

CHORUS: *(Crossing arms, pointing both ways.)* Sure! She
went thataway!

End of Freeview

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