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## **CHARACTER & PLOT SYNOPSIS**

**A tale of love, adventure and some beans! A gruesome Giant, a wicked Witch, a fabulous Fairy, a brave Hero, the obligatory village Idiot, a daft Dame and, of course, a cute and cuddly cow!**

The kingdom is in trouble! Giant Blunderbore and his partner in crime, the evil witch, Poison Ivy are blackmailing the royal family, forcing them to pay protection money or else the Giant will gobble them up! All that stands between the Royals and the Giant's dinner plate is collection of unreliable misfits!

There is the dizzy Dame Trott, facing eviction from her dairy, her son Idle Jack, a day dreamer who is waiting for his destiny to find him, Dozy Den, the incompetent village idiot and the lovable cow, Buttercup (who probably has more brains than the rest of them put together!).

Can this motley gang save the kingdom from destruction and beat the beastly Giant and the wicked Witch? What can Fairy Beansprout do to help them?

**An up-to-date, tried and tested script, jam-packed with jokes, slapstick, gunge, loveable characters and all the magic of traditional pantomime with enough audience participation to leave you hoarse by the end of the show!**

## **CHARACTER NOTES**

### **Idle Jack**

*Female*

The hero. An idle, dreamy fellow who climbs beanstalks.

### **Princess Rose**

*Female*

The leading female and love interest. Daughter of the King. The object of Jack's desires. Kidnapped by the Giant and the Witch. Not a wet girl!

### **Dame Trott**

*Male*

Jack's Mother. A penniless milk maid well past her prime. The traditional Dame.

### **The King**

*Male*

A ludicrous royal with little material means. Provides comic relief with his Prime Minister. Forced to raise taxes because of the Giant's demands so is not really a baddie! Ends up joining the others to climb the beanstalk when his daughter is kidnapped.

### **Fairy Beansprout**

*Female*

The 'good' supernatural element. Speaks in rhyme. Clever and dazzling.

### **Dozy Den**

*Male*

Simple Simon / link man character and the adopted foundling of the Dame. A total berk! His mother is the Housekeeper in the Giant's castle.

### **The Giant Blunderbore**

*Male*

The horrible Giant who lives in the castle in the clouds. Amplified voice – in costume. Appears in Act 2 only so can join the chorus in Act 1.

### **Poison Ivy**

*Female*

The evil supernatural baddie, in league with the Giant and a nasty piece of work. Will also speak in rhyme when sparring with the Good Fairy.

### **The Prime Minister**

*Male / Female*

The Kings Prime Minister. Part of the double act with the King. Since the Kingdom is so poor he performs all the royal servant and official duties wearing a range of hats / props for each.

### **Buttercup the cow**

*2 operators*

The loveable and cute cow. All mooing, all dancing! The players can join the chorus in 'non-cow' scenes if required.

### **The Giant's Housekeeper**

*Female*

The Housekeeper in the castle. She is the long lost mother of Dozy Den, separated a long time ago. Act 2 only. Can join the chorus in Act 1.

### **Chorus (Adults and Children)**

Villagers, Dancers, Prisoners, Animals, Guards etc. The script includes a number of small speaking parts and plenty of chorus lines that can be shared out. Chorus members will also need to play the Magic Harp and the Spider.

## THE PLOT

### ACT ONE

#### Prologue

Front of cloth

**Featuring:** *Poison Ivy & the Fairy*

A scene written in rhyming couplets. The evil witch, Poison Ivy appears and insults the audience and boasts about the Giant and their plan to take over the kingdom. The good Fairy Beansprout arrives to challenge her. There is a bit of banter and bravado. Poison Ivy goes promising evil and destruction. The Fairy then introduces first scene.

#### Scene One – The village Green

Main stage

**Featuring:** *The Chorus as villagers, Dozy Den, the Dame, Jack, the King, the Prime Minister & Princess Rose*

The main part of the show opens with a suitably rousing **song** and dance number featuring the Chorus. They are then interrupted by Dozy Den who tells them that they are disturbing the Dame who is trying to get ready for the Royal visit. We learn that the King is on his way to visit the village. Dozy Den introduces himself with some banter with the chorus and introduces his on-going routine with audience. The Dame comes on to introduce herself and then Jack arrives. He's been at the market but being an idle dreamer has sold nothing. He is berated by Dame. The King arrives with his Prime Minister and daughter, Princess Rose. He is a threadbare and obviously poor royal who is liked by the people but then blows it all by announcing a rake in taxes to pay off the Giant! The scene ends with a reprise of the opening **song**.

#### Scene Two – Somewhere in the village

Front of cloth

**Featuring:** *Jack & Princess Rose*

Jack enters bemoaning his lot in life. Princess Rose finds him. They chatter and it is obvious they fancy each other rotten! They sing a love duet **song**. Jack realises that to win her hand, he must do something impressive and brave.

#### Scene Three – Ext Dames Cottage

Main Stage

**Featuring:** *The Dame, Dozy Den, the Kid's chorus, Buttercup & the Prime Minister*

After a bit of comic banter between the Dame and Den, we meet Buttercup the Cow. They milk the cow with much hilarity. The kids chorus join them to sing a **song** but then the Prime Minister arrives with final demand on the rent. When the mortals have dispersed, Poison Ivy appears and says to audience that the cow would be a delightful treat for the Giant and she will get it. The Fairy appears to assure the audience that all will be well!

#### Scene Four – Elsewhere in the Village

Front of cloth

**Featuring:** *The King & the Prime Minister*

The King and the Prime Minister debate the royal finances and we have a comic routine between the pair to cover the necessary scene change behind!

### **Scene Five – Int Dames Cottage**

Main Stage

**Featuring:** *The Dame, Dozy Den, Buttercup, the King, the Prime Minister, Princess Rose, Jack & the Chorus as villagers*

The Chorus have come to Dame Trott's cottage for an auction to raise cash so the Trott's can pay the rent and we have another **song** and dance number. Jack has been asked to find rich people to attend the sale and brings along the King, the Prime Minister and Princess Rose to join the auction. Big auction scene with plenty of silly business, with Dozy Den assuming a bargain hunt 'David Dickinson' role. The rest of the villagers are just as hard up and they raise nothing of any value whatsoever. Ends with realisation that they are even worse in debt. All hopes hang on Jack selling Buttercup for a good price.

### **Scene Six – On the Way to Market**

Front of cloth

**Featuring:** *Jack, Buttercup, Poison Ivy, Princess Rose & the Fairy*

Poison Ivy appears to announce her intention to trick Jack and steal the cow. She hurries off to disguise herself. Jack arrives. He hasn't got very far to market and is dragging his heels. He and Buttercup have a bit of a natter (well, a rather one sided conversation!) and sing a **song**. Poison Ivy appears in disguise and tricks him (not difficult) into selling the cow for a bag of 'magic' beans (which do nothing). Jack delighted with the sale heads home leaving Poison Ivy to cackle triumphantly! Princess Rose discovers her and is horrified and shocked. Poison Ivy decides to grab Princess too as an appetiser for the Giant.

### **Scene Seven – Ext Dames Cottage**

Main stage

**Featuring:** *The Dame, Jack, Dozy Den, the Fairy, Chorus as villagers, the King & the Prime Minister*

Jack arrives back home to reveal the wonderful price he got for Buttercup! The Dame is horrified and berates him, throwing the beans into garden and drags him off inside the house. The Fairy appears to magic the beans, the beanstalk grows (the kids dance to a musical **instrumental number**) and Jack, Dame, Den come out again to see the stalk! The Chorus arrive to find out what all the commotion is about. The King arrives with the Prime Minister, all of a panic, to announce he has received a ransom letter revealing that Poison Ivy and the Giant have Buttercup and the Princess. Jack decides to climb stalk to be a hero and save the day. **Song** and dance number as Jack sets off up the stalk.

## **ACT TWO**

### **Prologue**

Front of cloth

**Featuring:** *The Fairy*

The Fairy welcomes everyone back and recaps the plot. Written in rhyming couplets

### **Scene One – Top of beanstalk**

Main stage

**Featuring:** *Poison Ivy, Buttercup, Princess Rose, Chorus as Prisoners, Kids as guards, Voice of Giant, Jack, the Dame, Dozy Den, the King & the Prime Minister*

**Song** and dance number as we discover the chorus dressed as prisoners and slaves of the Giant in Cloud land at the top of the beanstalk. They are being harangued and bullied by Poison Ivy, with Princess and Cow in tow. Some kids will be dressed as guards to pester the rest of the chorus. The Giant calls and the chorus, Princess and Cow are herded off by the guards and Poison Ivy. Jack arrives out of breath and is shortly joined by the Dame, the King, the Prime Minister and Den who have come to provide support. Jack charges off to find the Giant and the captives. The others head off in a different direction to mount a pincer attack.

### **Scene Two – Outside the Castle**

Front of cloth

**Featuring:** *The Dame, the King, Dozy Den, the Prime Minister Poison Ivy & the Spider*

The intrepid band of four arrives outside the Giant's castle and discuss their plan of attack in amusing ways. They sing a battle **song**. They are then spooked in a 'it's behind you' routine with a giant spider. The spider chases off the Dame and Den and then webs / nets the King and the Prime minister. Poison Ivy arrives to lead them off into captivity.

### **Scene Three – The Giant's kitchen**

Main stage

**Featuring:** *The Giant, the Housekeeper, Assorted Slaves, the Harp, Jack, Poison Ivy, Buttercup & Princess Rose*

The Giant's kitchen: The chorus as Slaves are cleaning with the Giant's Housekeeper watched by the Guards and sing a **song**. They disperse leaving the Housekeeper to introduce herself. Jack arrives and promises to rescue her. The Giant comes on but not before the Housekeeper has hidden Jack. Fi Fi Fo fum sequence. The Giant plays with his magic hen and harp and then goes to sleep. Jack creeps out and steals the hen and a sack of gold and runs. Poison Ivy arrives with Buttercup and Princess.

### **Scene Four – Outside the Castle**

Front of cloth

**Featuring:** *The Dame, Dozy Den, Jack & the Fairy*

Jack carrying his booty is heading to the beanstalk to deposit his stash before returning to look for Buttercup and the Princess. He meets the Dame and Den who reveal the King and Prime Minister have now been captured too. Jack tells them of the kitchen, the slaves etc. They are not sure how to proceed. The Fairy appears and gives Jack a magic sword to defeat evil. They hatch plan to save the day.

### **Scene Five – The Giant’s kitchen**

Main stage

**Featuring:** *The Giant, the Housekeeper, Assorted slaves, Jack, Poison Ivy, King, Prime Minister, Buttercup, Princess Rose, Dame, the Harp & Dozy Den*

The Giant’s kitchen again. The Dame, Jack and Den first rescue Buttercup and Princess Rose. Poison Ivy arrives just in time for a slosh/gunge /cook scene to a hoedown **song**. Poison Ivy is covered in goo and knocked out. They discover the King and Prime Minister in the oven and everyone is reunited. Another **song** with the Chorus before Den decides to steal the Harp, waking the Giant as everyone panics and runs.

### **Scene Six – Outside the Castle**

Front of cloth

**Featuring:** *The Dame, Dozy Den, Jack, the King, the Prime minister, Buttercup, Princess Rose, the Housekeeper & the Voice of Giant*

Heading off to the Beanstalk top. A silly scene to give the stage crew enough time to clear the Giant set and reinstate the village! The band are being chased back to the beanstalk and squabble about the order they are to climb down.

### **Scene Seven – The bottom of the beanstalk (ext Dame Cottage)**

Main stage

**Featuring:** *The Dame, Dozy Den, Jack, the King, the Prime Minister, Princess Rose, Buttercup, the Fairy, the Housekeeper, the Chorus, Voice of Giant & Poison Ivy*

The band have just arrived at the bottom of the beanstalk and the Giant is in hot pursuit. A bit of business before Jack chops the stalk with Poison Ivy who tries to stop them. The Stalk is chopped and Giant and Poison Ivy killed. All loose ends tied up!

### **Scene Eight – Else where in the Village**

Front of cloth

**Featuring:** *The Dame, Dozy Den*

**Song sheet** and final business

### **Scene Nine – Finale – Ext Cottage**

Main stage

**Featuring:** *Everyone*

Final Walk down, **song** and couplets