

**Jack and the Beanstalk – A new telling – By Thomas O’Leary
(irishpantoscripts.com)**

Act 1

Scene 1 – An Introduction

The gauze is in and on a height behind it stands Mother Nature in a beautiful gown of white festooned with Ivy and flowers, a crown of flowers on her head and a staff in hand. The lights are bright with hints of green. Bird’s song fills the air as beautiful music underplays her opening monologue.

Mother Nature Good evening friends and welcome to the our panto for this year,
I’m here to ensure it is full of happiness and cheer,

For I am your Panto Fairy, Mother Nature is my name, and I
oversee many magical worlds, like yours but not quite the
same.

Fairy-tale Land is one such domain and all is not well I fear, for
my evil sister Poison Ivy is wreaking havoc around here.

She’s teamed up with a giant and the people live in dread, if
they can’t pay their debts they will surly end up dead.

These people need a hero to defeat the giant all in black, but
do not fear dear people that hero’s name is Jack.

A brave young man who really doesn’t understand his fate,
with friends a plenty by his side and a Cow for a best mate.

Together they can do it, with girlfriend Jill and Dame Daisy by
his side, and Mother Nature will be there, evil will have no
place to hide.

So join us now good people, let imagination carry you from here, and
remember no matter what happens, we’ll have a happy ending again
this year.

The lights fade on Mother Nature and come up on Poison Ivy on a height on the other side of the stage. She is dressed in black with dark flowers and a sharp crown, she also carries a dark staff, the music changes to something more ominous and the lights are dark and scary.

Poison Ivy My name is Poison Ivy, I’m the baddie around here, My job’s to spoil
the party and spread terror, hate and fear.

I see you have met my sister, Mother Nature the silly mare,
she spends her time doing good, while me, I don’t really care.

All I want is money and I’ll get it wait and see, for I have
tricked an evil giant into working along with me.

Stomping is heard and the roar of the giant.

Mr Big FEE FI FOO FUM!

Lightning flashes and thunder roars and we briefly see the giant standing on stage.

Poison Ivy The people live in fear from just the stomping of his feet, I've told them that human beings are his favourite thing to eat, and as the show progresses their end they will surely meet.

I shall win do not fear in the end I'll be laughing still, and as for happy endings in Pantomimes that tradition I will kill.

Evil laughter fills the stage as the music ends and lights go out.

End of Scene 1.

Scene 2 – The Village Square of Fairy-tale Land

A traditional panto village square with Dame Daisy's Dairy a small cottage with a shed or barn attached to it. There is an old cart in front of the window. The dairy is run down and messy. Across the square is Little Miss Muffet's house a small pink cottage with a tuffet outside the door and Little Boy Blues sad little cottage.

Opening Number – Another Day of Sun – La La Land

As the opening begins the villagers pop out of their houses and the village comes to life. As the song finishes Dame Daisy is centre stage on the cart everyone around her.

Dame Daisy Boom! Well paint me pink and call me Daisy I haven't seen an opening like that since Super Macs came to Barntown. Oh nelly, I haven't moved that fast since that rat snuck into my bed last Saturday. Wasn't the first time I had a rat in my bed. Here help me down there, help me down. *(A chorus girl goes to help her)* Not you! *(Pushes her away and two of the gentlemen lift her up between them)* Oh boys, be gentle, I am but a delicate flower. *(They dump her on Miss Muffet's tuffet)* Ouff. Thanks.

Maisy Muffet *(Popping her head out the door)* What was that?

Daisy Only me Maisy.

Maisy Oh thank goodness it's you Daisy.

Daisy It is Maisy, it's me Daisy. Only Daisy, Maisy.

Maisy Hello Daisy.

Daisy Hello Maisy.

Maisy Daisy?

Daisy Yes Maisy.

Maisy Is it safe to come out?

Daisy Course it is Daisy.

Maisy I'm Maisy.

Daisy You are? Then who am I?

Maisy Daisy!

Daisy Yes Maisy.

Maisy Daisy?

Daisy ALRIGHT! THAT'S ENOUGH OF THAT.

Maisy Is it safe to come out? There aren't any spiders about are there?

Daisy No dear, come on out you're grand. *(To Audience)* We live in a land under constant treat of giant attack and this one is scared of spiders. I ask ya. Maisy Muffet, better known as Little Miss Muffet, favourite foods curds and way, favourite colour pink, fears - everything.

Enter Little Boy Blue, dragging himself across stage trumpet in hand.

Bobby Morning everyone.

Daisy Oh look here, here's another one, Little Boy Blue come blowing your horn, blue by name and nature, and I don't mean blue in a good way. Behave. No he's just blue, pure miserable. Hello Bobby, how are you?

Bobby Well actually Dame Daisy since you asked, I have a nasty ache in my left ear, and I woke up with a twinge in my elbow this morning and the ingrown toenail on my left little toe is quiet painful and

Daisy Why do I do this to myself? Yikes!

Maisy What is it?

Bobby Probably something serious.

Daisy This village, I tell you if you threw up a stone it would come down and hit a loon.

Bobby I never threw up a stone, I threw up my tea yesterday. Probably a viral infection of some kind.

A stone flies in and hits Daisy.

Daisy OUCH! Who threw that?

Maisy Agggggghhhhhh an avalanche!

She runs for cover

Bobby We are probably under attack, best to act dead I find.

He collapses to the floor

Daisy The Cuckoo's nest is running on empty tonight. Anyway who threw that stone?

Enter Dougie, he is a cow who walks around on two legs and speaks.

Dougie STONE!

Daisy Ahh here's the talking cow, just when you thought it couldn't get any wackier.

Dougie My stone, I got it.

Enter Jack

Jack DOUGIE!

Dougie JACK!

Daisy Oh you never get one without the other, here he is now my no good wastrel son Jack. Ah no he's not completely useless he can always serve as a bad example.

Jack DOUGIE!

Dougie JACK!

Jack Dougie Ugie Ugie

Dougie Oy Oy Oy

Jack Dougie Ugie Ugie

Dougie Oy Oy Oy

Jack Dougie

Dougie Oy

Jack Dougie

Dougie Oy

Jack Dougie Ugie Ugie

Dougie Oy Oy Oy

Jack Doooooooougggieee

Dougie Jaccckkkkkkkkkkk

They meet centre stage and exchange a crazy ritual handshake.

Musical Number – Fresh Prince

Dame Daisy catches them both by the ears.

Daisy Well well well, if it isn't dumb and dumber, or as I like to call them, Donald and Boris. What are you two tools doing firing stones about?

Jack Mum let go!

Dougie Yeah woman! We was playing fetch.

Daisy With a stone!

Jack I couldn't find Dougie's ball.

Dougie BALL!

Daisy Didn't you ever hear that saying?

Jack People in glass houses shouldn't throw stones.

Daisy Yeah that one too. Where have you been all morning.
Jack Eh! In bed!
Daisy Sleeping?
Jack Eh! Yeah what else would I be doing in bed?
Daisy He's a fool, but he's an innocent fool.
Jack Sleep is my favourite thing in the world, it's the reason I get out of bed in the morning.

Enter Maisy

Maisy Oh thank goodness Jack it's only you.
Jack Hi Maisy, yep, me and Dougie.
Dougie What's upppppp!
Maisy Oh dear, I'm a bit scared of cows.
Daisy Bovinophobia.
Jack Impressive Mum,
Daisy Not just a pretty face.....no body say it!
Bobby Is it safe to get up yet?
Jack Alright Bobby boy get up here and give me five.
Bobby Alright but I do have a weak wrist so can we do it gently.

A weak high five is exchanged.

Bobby Thank you.
Dougie Weak.
Jack How are you doing anyway Bobster?
Bobby Well actually Jack since you asked, I have a nasty ache in my left ear, and I woke up with a twinge in my elbow this morning and the ingrown toenail on my left little toe is quiet painful and
Jack Good to catch up Bob, keep living the dream.
Bobby And someone stole my anti-depressants, whoever they are I hope their happy.
Jack Alright Mum what's going down in Fairy- tale town?
Dougie What's to story Rory?
Bobby Bobby.
Daisy What's the story, what's the story he asks. Hold onto to your knickers one minute and I'll run you through it.

She takes out a massive book of fairy stories and begins beating Jack and Dougie around the place with it.

Daisy Once upon a time...

Whack

Daisy In a land far away...

Whack

Daisy There lived a beautiful lady who was far too attractive and exuding sex appeal to be a mother.....

She poses

Daisy But unfortunately she did have a wastrel son....

Whack

Daisy Who had a stupid cow.....

Whack

Daisy And they were soooooo poor. Oh they were soooooo very poor. Her Dairy Farm was failing and was down to its last cow.

Dougie That's me!

Daisy And you'd get more milk out of a laughing child's nose than him.

Dougie Harsh.

Daisy So the poor put upon but yet amazingly desirable old.... I mean middle aged lady.

Dougie HA! Middle aged if you are planning on living to 160.

Whack

Daisy That poor mother was at her wits end with her half-wit son.

Whack

Daisy And no one lived happily ever after.

Whack

Daisy The...

Whack

Daisy End.

Bobby Sad story.

Maisy I found it a bit scary.

Jack Well it definitely could have been rated 18's due to the violence level.

Daisy Well you asked what the story was and that's it. We are broke with only one cow. We can't pay the rent and the Baron is due any minute to collect.

Maisy And if we don't pay the Baron, then he can't pay Poison Ivy and and and...

Bobby Someone is going to get eaten.

Maisy AGGGGGGGHHHHHHHHHHHHH!

Jack Everybody calm down, nobody's getting evicted and nobody's getting eaten. I'm Jack see! And the Baron loves me because I love his daughter Jill. We are Jack and Jill like. The hill? The pale of water? Come on people I can tell you now there is no way the Baron is going to evict us. Anyway he's a nice old codger really. What's he going to do call the Guards?

Suddenly the sound of a Garda car is heard and blue lights and a search light flash around the stage. Voices are heard off and there is banging from inside Dame Daisy's house.

Nuala Alright open up there now. Open up in the name of the law.

Niamh We are the law.

Daisy Jack get that door and if it's the invisible man tell him I can't see him now.

Maisy What's going on?

Dougie It's a raid. Hide everything.

Nuala Open up this door and let us in, in the name of the law.

Everyone is looking very confused at the door of the house.

Bobby Eh? But you are in?

Niamh What?

Jack You are already in, we are the ones outside.

Niamh Nuala?

Nuala Yes Niamh.

Niamh Apparently we are already inside.

Nuala How the hell did that happen?

Niamh I don't know, we must have come in the wrong wing or something.

Nuala Ah Jaysus! Just open the door.

Niamh Drop your weapons, we are coming in, I mean out.

Nuala Just get out.

Enter Officers Niamh and Nuala.

Nuala Alright which one of ye is Dame Daisy Downtrodden?

Daisy *(Pointing at Maisy)* Her?

Jack No its not, now listen officers there must be some mistake here. This is Dame Daisy and I'm her son Jack. Under whose orders are you working?

Nuala We have been called by one Baron Backstop to call on one Dame Daisy Down-trodden. Is that you?

Daisy By name and nature.

Nuala As she is in arrears with her rent.

Niamh We've come for her ears.

Daisy My ears.

Nuala Arrears.

Daisy You keep your eyes of my arrear.

Dougie Well you is wasting your time anyway, because we don't got no arrears, we don't got no nothing, especially money.

Niamh Did that cow just talk?

Maisy Yes, scary isn't it.

Niamh That's alright I thought me hangover had gone to a new and strange level.

Nuala Madam if you can't pay I'm afraid we will have to evict you.

Daisy Evict little old me! But you can't, you mustn't, where will I go, what will I do?

Enter Barron Backstop

Baron Frankly my dear, I don't give a damn.

Everybody Baron Backstop!

Daisy *(She sings the start of the EastEnders theme unaccompanied)* Dun dun, dun dun dun dun anyone can fall in love... No not the time.

Jack Baron Backstop is it true, did you call the police?

Baron I'm sorry Jack my boy, I had to.

Enter Jill

Everybody Jill Backstop!

Daisy *(She sings the start of the EastEnders theme unaccompanied)* Dun dun, dun dun dun dun anyone can fall in love...

Jack *(To his Mother)* Will you stop that. Jill!

Jill Jack!

Jack I'm so happy to see you.

Daisy GET A ROOM!

Jill I'm so sorry Jack, Dame Daisy. I tried to argue with him but he won't listen.

Baron You know I have no choice my dear. I have that wretched Poison Ivy on my back for the money and I simply need all the rent brought in or she will do terrible things. She's in league with the Giant you know.

Thunder roars and lightning flashes

Maisy AGGGGGGGGHHHHHHHHH!

Bobby There goes my ear drum.

Maisy I'm scared of giants you know.

Daisy Fe Fi Phobia.

Jill Oh hello Maisy, Bobby, how are you?

Dougie Don't even go there.

Baron I am sorry Dame Daisy, Jack, I know we are almost family but...

Daisy Is that a proposal?

Jack He means me and Jill.

Daisy Does he??????

Jack Yes.

Daisy Dooooeeess heeeee????????

Baron Yes.

Daisy Well you can't blame a girl for trying.

Baron I simply must have the rent. Or something terrible will happen.

Bobby Something terrible always happens.

Jill I don't understand what you mean Daddy? We have to stand up to this Giant.

Thunder roars and lightning flashes

Maisy AGGGGGGGGHHHHHHHHHHHHH!

Bobby There goes my other ear drum.

Baron Please dear trust me we have to pay. I'm sorry but I'm afraid I either get the rent today or the eviction goes ahead. Sorry for delaying you officers.

Nuala Begaw'd we're alright, sure we're not on the clock.

Niamh Just nice to be here again.

Jack Listen Baron please give us a few more days. We will come up with the money somehow.

Baron Oh I don't know.

Jill Please Daddy, for me.

Baron Oh alright. You have twenty four hours to come up with the money. I'm putting my neck on the line for you here.

Daisy Oh thank you you're Baronship and a beautiful neck it is too. I'm sure my boy has a brilliant idea.

Baron I certainly hope so. For all our sakes. Officers stand down.

Exit Baron Backstop

Nuala Alright Niamh stand down.

Niamh What does that mean?

Nuala It means our cameo is over, now come on we'll be first to the pub.

Exit Niamh and Nuala.

Daisy Ha! The neck of that fella looking for rent for this dump, he should be paying us to live here. The kitchen is so small we have to use condensed milk, if we order a large pizza we have to eat it outside, the rising damp is so bad I caught a fish in one of the mouse traps the other day. Anyway, I'm sure Jack has a brilliant plan to save our beautiful home.

Maisy & Bobby Oh yes I'm sure Jack has a brilliant plan.

Jill Oh yes I'm sure Jack has a brilliant plan, right Jack?

Dougie He ain't got Jack Shi.....

Jack Actually I do have a No wait, I got nothing.

Daisy Well then it's up to me. I'm afraid we are going to have to sell the one thing we have.

Bobby Our dignity.

Daisy Oh lord no that's long gone.

Maisy Your clothes?

Dougie Hells no, no-body wants to see that. Haaaaaaa

Daisy Haaaaa haa, now let me see, what is the one thing this failing dairy farm has left that we could sell?

Dougie I don't like the way that woman is looking at me!

Jack Mum you can't be serious.

Bobby Being serious is frowned upon in panto.

Jill Dame Daisy no.

Daisy What are you grumbling about, he's been a spare raspberry in your relationship for years. Jack and Jill went up a hill to fetch a pail of water, all was well till his cow came along and the rhyme turned into a disaster.

Dougie Am I but a possession to be pawned in some power game?

Daisy Yes.

Dougie Harsh.

Daisy I'm sorry Dougie but we are really in the soup. We have no choice, if you keep your mouth shut someone will pay good money for you and that will get us out of this hole.

Jack Mum this is out of the question. No way are we selling...

Dougie No! I'll do it.

Jack What?

Dougie My man is in trouble and everyone knows that cow is man's best friend. I'll do it for my family. Get your thirty pieces of silver, I will drink this poisoned cup.

Jill Oh Dougie, you are a real hero.

Dougie You better believe it woman. Remember me!

Bobby I will think of you every time I wake up and there is no milk for my cereal.

Maisy You shall live on in my nightmares.

Daisy Jack I want you to take Dougie to market and sell him.

Jack What! Walk to market? Can I not stick him on EBay?

Daisy No. Stupid boy.

Bobby We'll go with you Jack, won't we Maisy?

Maisy Eh? Why?

Bobby Could be dead tomorrow.

Maisy And going to market seems like the way to test that theory.

Daisy Go on Maisy face your fears, leave the house. Besides I wouldn't trust these two to sell sand to an Eskimo.

Jack What would an Eskimo want with sand.

Daisy Don't back chat me, now hit the road. Hit the road? Hit the road Jack? Wait a minute!

Jack Please don't.

