

Plays for Young Audiences

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2400 THIRD AVENUE SOUTH
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55404
612-872-5108
FAX 612-874-8119

JACK and Phil, Slayers of Giants INC.

By
Charles Way

JACK and Phil, Slayers of Giants INC. was originally produced by Imagination Stage in 2016.

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CHARACTERS

Jack Spriggan

Phil Coverall

Barbara Spriggan

Bill Coverall

Bean-Broker.

General 1

General 2

Chas Gravitass {reporter}

TV Interviewer.

President.

The Harp

The Giant

Minimum Cast Size 6.

4m/2f

Suggested Doubling:

Jack

Phil

Bill Coverall/ Voice of Giant.

Bean Broker/Chas Gravitass+ reporter/ General 1 {Male}

Reporter+ Presenter/ President/ Voice of Harp/ General 2 {Female}

Barbara Spriggan.

PART ONE. Scene 1

Phil Hi-my name's Phil and I kill giants. I know I don't look like a giant killer but who does? It all started a year ago when my best friend Jack came out of his house and I said----Hey Jack what ya doing? And he said-

Jack Got a hammer?

Phil Got fifteen hammers.

Jack One will do.

Phil What kind of hammer you want? You want a Joiner's hammer, Brick hammer, Mason's hammer, Dry Wall hammer, Nail Hammer, Club hammer, Claw hammer, Soft face-split face hammer. Sledge hammer?

Jack I want a hammer for knocking in this pole.

Phil That'll be a hammer called a Mallet. For knocking in poles and stuff.

Jack That'll be the one.

[Exit Phil while Jack raises the pole so that the 'For Sale' sign is visible. Enter Phil with Hammer.]

Phil For sale? What's for sale Jack?

Jack The house.

Phil Your house?

Jack Mom says we can't afford to live in Chewsville anymore.

Phil You mean-you're moving? But you've always lived here Jack-right next to me and Dad-since forever.

Jack Mom says there's nothing to be done- nothing. Give me some height here Phil.

Phil Sure thing.

[Phil kneels down and Jack climbs onto Phil's shoulders-from which height he strikes the pole.]

Phil Just then Dad comes home and he says—

Bill For sale?

Phil Jack's leaving.

Bill What? Leaving Chewsville?

Jack That's right.

Bill I don't know what to say about that Jack. Sure am sorry- You being Phil's only friend an'all.

Phil Dad.

Bill Well-you ain't gonna get far with that hammer. Got to dig a hole first. What you need is a spade.

Jack Ain't got a spade.

Phil We got fifteen.

Bill Got a short handled spade

Phil Long handled spade.

Bill Transfer spade.

Phil Drain spade.

Bill Californian trench spade.

Phil Rabbit spade-

Bill Diamond pointed spade.

Phil Cement spade

Bill With a fibre glass grip-

Jack Guess I'd need a spade for digging a hole in the lawn.

B+PH Garden spade.

 [Exit Bill]

Phil Where are your tools Jack?

Jack Mom took them to a pawn shop on the other side of town.

Phil A what?

Jack She gave a man our tools-and he gave her some- 'fast cash'.

Phil I don't want you to leave here Jack-I mean-It's not fair.

Jack That's what I said-but Mom said, 'we can't pay the mortgage so the bank wants to sell it to someone who can'.

Phil What's that mean?

Jack It's over Phil-we're leaving. Washed up-that's what we are.

Phil I had never seen Jack Spriggan looking so dispirited. His face was longer than a- a marathon.

 [Enter Bill with a spade]

Bill There you go. Never thought to see the day. Sure will miss you—and your mother.

Phil Just then Jack's Mom comes home and her face is even longer than Jack's-like she's gonna burst into tears any second- and she say's---

 [Barbara walks straight past them-into her home.]

Phil Nothing.

 [Barbara comes out of the house]

Barbara Where'd you get that spade Jack?

Jack Bill---

Barbara Where'd you get that hammer?

Jack Phil---

Bill It's alright Mrs—Barbara. Spriggan.

Barbara Give them back please.

Bill Really it's okay. I mean I can put up that sign for you-not that I want—and, and you can have those tools Mrs---Barbara.

Barbara That's neighbourly Bill-but we have no need of charity.

Bill I didn't mean—

Barbara And we're quite capable of putting up the sign ourselves-

Bill I know-it's just—I'm sorry to see this particular sign Mrs—Barbara.

Barbara ---I know. I know.

 [Barbara goes into her house and Bill goes into his.]

Phil What is it with those two?

Jack No idea.

Jack There's gotta be a way out of this.

Phil Gotta be.

Jack Maybe----

Phil What?

Jack We could raise enough money- you and me Phil to buy the house-

Phil You mean-like a sponsored swim or something?

Jack No--I mean-find something really worth something-

Phil Cos-I can't swim.

Jack And sell it.

Phil Like what?

Jack Something worth –thousands.

Phil Thousands?

Jack Come on Phil-you're the brain. What's worth something?

Phil ---Gold. That's what Dad said-he was reading the paper this morning and he said 'gold is fetching a good price at the moment'.

Jack Gold?

Phil But I don't have any.

Jack Wait there. [Jack runs into the house]

Phil So I waited—just long enough for me to consider how much we'd all miss Jack if he left town- cos he was always up to something-most of which got him into trouble.

 [Jack runs past his Mom and out again.]

Phil What is it?

Jack It belonged to my great, great, great, great grandfather.

Phil An antique?

Jack A watch.

Phil Yeah-an antique watch-you know- a really old thing.

Jack Right-look at the back. Gold right. Gotta be worth -

Phil Thousands?

Jack Gotta be.

 [Barbara steps out of the house]

Barbara Jack, supper's ready. What you boys up to?

P+J Nothing.

Jack I'll be right in.

 [Barbara goes in to the house]

Phil But won't your Mom be upset-you know if you sell a family old thing?

Jack Phil-this is mine. It hasn't been given to me directly-not yet-but it's been handed down from one male Spriggan to the next since the first male Spriggan came over from England in – in whenever and I'm the last of the male Spriggan's.

Phil Okay-

Jack Anyway I don't have to sell it. I can pawn it. And when you pawn something-there's a chance of getting it back right?

Phil I don't know- never pawned anything.

Jack Give me your I phone

Phil Where's yours?

Jack Pawned. Look at this-'A quick and easy way to raise money'.

Phil Quick and easy?

Jack There's the address.

Phil Jack? This doesn't feel right.

Jack Well I gotta do something-for Mom. I gotta-take action. You with me or not?

Phil I'm with you.

 [They do their secret handshake]

P+J Fame and Fortune. Fortune and fame.

Phil The very next day.

Scene 2

[Outside a Pawn shop.]

Phil I don't like the look of this place.

Jack Come on Phil-we've come all this way.

Phil Right out of town. Got a bad ----

[Jack pushes him into the shop. The shopkeeper is an old Hippy.]

Phil Feeling.

Broker What can I do you feller's for?

Jack Sir-I have to raise some money- like now.

Broker Fast cash huh? What you got?

[Jack hands over the watch.]

Nice looking time piece. Real nice, I am partial to pieces of time.

Jack What's partial?

Phil He likes it.

Broker Just one problem. [Turns over a sign-from now on this sign changes from one message to another-'magically'] 'You must be over twenty one'. Either of you fellers twenty one years of age? Or older? Nope. Then I can't do business with you. It's against the law.

[They turn away]

Broker What you want the money for?

Jack To save my house.

Phil And then he won't have to move away.

Jack Or my Mom.

Broker How much money you hoping to raise?

Jack Thousands.

Broker Against that old timer? [He laughs]

Jack But it's gold-Isn't it?

Broker Sure -but not enough to raise 'thousands'. A few hundred dollars maybe. That's just the way it is. The real world.

Phil Come on Jack-we're wasting our time.

Jack It's an antique you know.

Broker So am I boy-so am I.

 [They turn away]

Broker I am [The sign changes] 'Closed for business'. But I could be- [Sign changes] 'Open for exchanges.'

Jack What do you mean?

Broker No money can change hands. More like- a barter-a swap.

Jack A swap?

Broker I will swap that watch for something worth far more than money.

Jack Such as?

Broker What about you young man? You interested?

Jack Of course-he's my friend.

Broker A true friend?

Phil Yes sir.

Broker Because that will be relevant-before the end.

Jack And I'm his friend too.

Broker And whatever happens you won't forget that- will you. Or you?

 [They both shake their heads.]

 So-close your eyes.

Phil I'm not closing my-

Jack Close your eyes!

 [Music he brings out three magic beans]

Jack What are they?

Phil Guinea pig poo.

Broker BEANS. Dried beans. All they need is –planting. A bit of water.

Phil You want Jack to give you his great, great, great, great, granddad’s watch- which is worth a couple of hundred dollars-for some beans?

Broker Ain’t ordinary beans PHIL! Magic beans.

 [Silence]

Jack Magic beans?

Phil He’s making fun of us Jack. Let’s go. Come on. [Phil moves away]

Broker Had them for a long time Jack-waiting for the right person. With the right friend.

Jack What kind of magic?

Broker It’s not what you might call-easy magic. Whatever grows out of these beans will bring fame and fortune-and a whole load of other stuff. But whatever grows out of these beans will be your responsibility. Only you- and a true friend-PHIL- will be able to deal with it. You will need courage. [He grabs Jack by the collar-suddenly aggressive] You got courage son?

Phil Let him go.

Broker Yes or no?

Phil Jack’s the bravest boy in school. He’s so brave Mrs Arnold said he was stupid. That’s what she said.

 [The Broker releases Jack]

Broker So how about it Jack? Phil?

 [Jack shakes hands, and then reluctantly Phil. The watch is exchanged for the beans]

Broker Okay. You have my word that your item will never appear in my shop window- and if you manage to ‘survive with honour’-your item will be returned. If not I keep it. Now look at the beans. Look real hard. Both of you.

Scene 3

[They stare at the beans. Music. When they come out of their trance the shop has gone and they are standing once more outside their houses.]

Jack What just happened?

Phil Creepy guy. What did he mean if we- 'survive'?

Jack 'With Honour'? I got this great feeling Phil-like-like-

Phil Like trouble is coming our way.

Barbara Hi boys. Where ya bin?

Jack Oh –nowhere Mum. Where you been Phil?

Phil What?

Jack I mean-where you bin-not been.

Phil What?

Jack Cos I ain't got any—beans.

Barbara You boy's alright?

Jack Sure.

Phil Fine

Jack+Phil Cool.

Barbara Phil, you want to stay for supper?

Bill Hey boys. Oh Hi Mrs Sprig—Barbara.

Barbara Bill.

Bill Phil's ready supper. I mean Uh- got a nice T bone steak-size of Texas. You want to come over Jack?

Jack Uh [He looks at his mother] No- thanks.

Phil Later.

[The two boys go to their respective houses. Phil is given a huge steak and Jack a bowl of soup.]

Phil Thanks Dad.

Jack Thanks Mom. What is it?

Barbara What's left.

Jack It's really tasty.

Barbara No it isn't-but thanks anyway.

B+B You wanna watch TV?

P+J Sure.

Bill Hey-look who it is.

TV *Hi there my name is Bill Coverall owner of Coverall Hardware store. If you're like me than you like fixing things yourself- and if you like fixing things yourself-we're the store for you.*

[Barbara mimes along to this.]

We have every type of nail, screw, hammer, saw, spade you could possibly desire. If you want it- I've got it so come on down and see me. I'm Bill Coverall and when it comes to hardware, 'We've got it covered'.

[Bill and Phil do a high five.]

Barbara Of course-when your father was alive-he used to do all the fixing round here. He was a man of action. There wasn't a job he wouldn't tackle. It was a beautiful house then.

Jack And it will be again Mom.

Barbara Yeah?

Jack Yeah-because I'm going to save us. I'm going to 'ride to the rescue.'

Barbara What are you talking about?

Jack Promise me you won't get angry.

Barbara I do not. I enjoy getting angry.

Jack I won't tell unless you promise.

Barbara What are you up to? Alright, alright.

Jack Close your eyes. Go on. Open sesame.

Barbara What are they?

Jack Beans.

Barbara Oh good. I mean great. And?

Jack Magic beans.

Barbara Oh --- Okay-----And?

Jack In order to get them—I had to exchange something- a certain item—of value.

Barbara Jack----- tell me straight.

Jack Great, Great, Great, Great, Grandfather’s watch.

[Silence]

Barbara You sold the watch?

Jack No I exchanged it. A swap. Please don’t be upset Mom.

Barbara Oh I can’t be angry. I can’t be upset? ---- You sold a family heirloom-

Jack Exchanged.

Barbara For these?

Jack Yeah-I know it sounds crazy but all I have to do is deal with whatever grows out of them. Because-

Barbara They’re magic?

Jack Yeah and will bring fame and fortune.

Barbara Go to bed.

Jack Mom?

Barbara Go TO BED!

Jack I’m only trying to help.

Barbara Well-you’re not helping. You never help.

Barbara I didn’t mean-

Jack I know what you meant-but I’ll show you. I’ll show everyone.

Barbara Jack!

[Bill rings Barbara’s door bell.]

Barbara Oh!

[Jack goes upstairs to his room and Phil pushes a plank out between the two bedroom windows and crosses over- he sees Jack is downhearted.]

Bill Hello-Barbara.

Barbara Bill.

Bill Just wondered if you were okay?

Barbara No Bill, I'm not okay. I have fatherless and soon to be homeless boy who thinks he can save us with some dried beans.

Bill Well-who knows. I mean—life is strange. Look I got some cookies. Made them myself.

Barbara Please don't be nice to me Bill. It upsets me.

Bill Sure wouldn't want to-

Barbara Goodnight.

Bill Right—Goodnight Mrs—Barbara.

Phil What is it with those two?

Jack No idea. Magic beans-what was I thinking of?

Phil What are you doing?

Jack [Jack throws them down between the two houses] Stupid beans. Why didn't you tell me I was being stupid? Go away Phil. Go on. Go on home.

Phil Okay. If that's what you want.

I left Jack sitting on the end of his bed-wearing his marathon face. As I crossed over to my house I looked down and by the light of the moon I saw the beans lying on the ground-just lying there-as if butter wouldn't melt.. And for some reason I can't explain.

[He waters them]

And the beans sank into the brown earth.

Night Jack.

[Silence]

Scene 4

[Ominous music as the beanstalk grows up between the two houses. Birdsong. Jack wakes first and looks up.]

Jack Phil! Phil, Phil, Phil, Phil, Phil, Phil, Phil, Phil.

Phil When I woke the next day-there was like- a woodpecker on the inside of my head.

Jack Phil, Phil, Phil, Phil---

Phil [Out of his window] Enough Already. WHOA.

Jack It's a beanstalk Phil. The biggest beanstalk in the world- galaxy. Universe.

Phil Holy guacamole—you mean-the beans?

Jack Never doubted them for a second.

Phil Holy —

Jack Phil-look at me-look.

Phil I can't see the top of it.

Jack We gotta get going.

Phil Wrapped in some kind of cloud.

Jack Phil! Get your head on —

Phil What?

Jack We're going up.

Phil Up where?

Jack The beanstalk!

Phil What? Up- I mean —are you sure?

[Jack grabs a rucksack.]

Phil I mean-

Jack Grab what you'll need.

Phil How do I know what I'll need? Maybe we shouldn't rush into this.

Jack Phil-don't do this.

Phil What?

Jack You want me to go alone?

Phil No, but-it's –look at it Jack-It's--

Jack Amazing. Incredible. Exciting.

Phil And scary. I don't know if I can do this.

Jack What?

Phil It's not in my character.

Jack Phil. You don't have a character-

Phil That's so unfair.

Jack And you ain't gonna find one unless you come with me. Now.

Phil I don't know Jack- I really don't.

Jack I thought you were my friend.

Phil Alright alright. Can I grab a packed lunch or something?

 [Sirens in the distance.]

Jack No time. The first adult who gets here is going to tell us to get down.

Phil Don't rush me. Don't rush me.

Jack Ready?

Phil No.

Jack Good –

P+J Fame and Fortune. Fortune and fame.

 [Music. The boys climb. Exit. A kid on a bike rides by and throws newspapers on to the lawns. Enter Bill and Barbara in Night Robes.]

Bill Morning.

Barbara Oh hi Bill. You seen Jack?

Bill No. I thought Phil stayed over at yours last night.

[Enter Chas Gravitass-a TV reporter at pace.]

Chas G Oh my lord. Are we the first? Yes, yes, yes. Okay we're on in? Five? [TV theme music.]
Good morning Chewsville-though this is no ordinary morning-my name is Chas Gravitas
and I'm first on the scene of one of the most phenenonemona—Phenon. Can we start
over? Live? Good morning Chewsville- CBCTV is first on the scene of one of the most –
amazing sights ever to greet this town.

Bill What is going on?

Barbara I have no--

Chas G What appears to be some kind of tree- a tree of unbelievably gigantic proportions is
towering above this quiet neighbourhood.

Bill & Barbara [Looking behind they see the beanstalk] What the-- ?

Chas G And now things are really starting to move-the police are arriving-- with some yellow
tape. They always have tape- for this kind of situation. You probably can't get the full
scale of this on your TV but I cannot see to the top of this thing-which as I gaze up- a half
mile at least- seems to be covered in some kind of blue-ish cloud.

[Sirens break through their reverie- Bill and Barbara scurry inside]

And if you've just tuned in this morning-this is not some kind of Joke -or make believe
story. These pictures are real- and being brought to you live by CBCTV -and we'll be right
back at this phenomenal- scene after the commercial break. Darn.

PART TWO [Scene 5]

[Jack and Phil emerge through a trapdoor into an empty space.]

Jack Wow.

Phil What do you mean WOW? It's an empty room.

Jack Think someone lives here?

Phil There's no furniture. What kind of room has no furniture?

Jack A room at the top of a beanstalk.

Phil Don't like it. Smells-like bad breath.

Jack That'll be you Phil.

Phil I don't have bad breath- and don't go saying so.

Jack Joke Phil- lost your sense of humour?

Phil Yeah, somewhere on that beanstalk. [Tries his cell phone]

[Jack finds a bone-hides it from Phil]

Phil There's no signal. Must be the cloud. What's that?

Jack Nothing.

Phil Behind your back.

Jack Oh this—it's a bone.

Phil A bone?

Jack Yeah stinks. Must be this little piece of flesh here—hanging off. Smells like-lamb. It's kinda cooked-but not all the way through.

Phil Lets go home Jack.

Jack What? Cos of an old bone? No-we got to figure this place out. No windows-no furniture just---

Phil A bone. What's that?

[A haunting sound fills the air- as a golden egg on a plinth magically appears]

Jack Can I say WOW this time?

Phil Looks like-an egg.

Jack A golden egg. Must be worth-----.

P+J Thousands.

Phil Where are you going?

Jack That egg is the answer to all our problems. Let go.

Phil But where did it come from?

Jack Come from? It doesn't have to come from anywhere. It's magic.

Phil Wait, wait! That egg looks more like-a piece of cheese.

Jack What?

Phil T.R.A.P.

Jack Are you calling me a mouse?

Phil No no-it's just weird this whole—

Jack You're the mouse Phil- and you'll always be one-you know that.

Phil That's not fair Jack.

Jack Just stop holding me back.

Phil I'm not. Go on. Go-walk into a trap-

Jack It'll be okay.

[Jack sneaks up on the egg- and deftly picks it up.]

Jack You see.

[A cage falls / rises to trap Jack]

Phil Yeah-I see. I ain't the mouse-you the mouse.

[The sound of footsteps-becoming louder, closer-until they are huge sounding.]

Phil Oh. Oh.

Jack Phil. Hide. Hide.

[There is really nowhere to hide but luckily Phil squats in a place which in a moment will be literally beneath the Giant's nose.]

Phil Jack?

Jack Shh. Listen.

[Suddenly a great door or panel opens at the back of this 'room'- revealing only the Giant's huge face. The Giant looks in-sees Jack –caught. His breath his heavy and putrid.]

Jack Aw.

Giant Where did you come from –little one?

[Phil signs to Jack to say nothing.]

Giant Answer me.

Jack Nowhere.

Giant How did you get here- to my world? ANSWER!

Jack I don't know-I fell asleep-woke up and here I was.

Giant Are you alone?

Jack ---Yeah. All alone.

Giant Pity-I could eat more than one.

Jack Wha-what d'ya mean eat?

Giant What are you for little one, if not for eating?

Jack Please, Sir-I beg you-who-whatever you are—let me go.

Giant Go? Go where?

Jack Home.

Giant Where is home?

Jack I don't know-I mean [Phil is gesturing madly to him] I must have knocked my head. Yeah-lost my memory.

[The Giant roars]

Giant You lie! Once in a moonblue I trap a little one –like you. Your flesh is sweet, your meat a treat and I would eat more, more, MORE! But you always lie-lie through your teeth to save your skins.

Jack I'm not lying. I can't remember-on my life I swear it.

Giant I do not care about your life. You are a mere morsel.

Jack A morsel? What's a—wait. Wait. Please-why can't we be like-friends?

Giant Friends? I don't make friends with my DINNER.

[The Giant closes the shutter-and we hear him singing as he cooks]

Giant VO Fee, Fi, Fo, Fum, I smell the blood of a little one.

Jack Phil? Get me out of here.

Giant VO I catch them in my golden trap.

Phil Idea. Idea.

[He uses the bone to try and bend the bars of the cage back] .

Giant VO Bit off their heads for a salty snack.

Jack Come on.

Phil [The bone snaps]New idea.

Jack Hurry

Phil I got it. I got it.

[Phil gets the hammer and hits the peg on the lock.]

Jack Quiet.

Phil How can I be quiet-it's a hammer.

[Salt falls on Jack]

Phil What's that?

Jack Salt.

Phil Salt?

Jack Hurry it up Phil.

[Phil attacks the lock- the sound carries to the Giant]

Giant VO Huh?

[The footsteps come closer again. The lock comes free and Jack and Phil run to the trap door and go down through it closing it behind them. As it closes the huge panel opens

and the Giant looks in and on seeing the cage empty open his terrible Jaws and roars.
The door/panel closes.]

Scene 6

Phil We scrambled down as swiftly as we could. I nearly fell- a thousand feet. But Jack was nimble, Jack was quick and down the beanstalk he went, never looking back, not once and before I knew it he was far beneath me. I stopped- hiding in the leaves of the beanstalk and watched the scene below-----

[Enter Jack]

His Mother rushing to him and shouting-

Barbara I'm his mother. I'm his mother.

Phil Then I lost sight of Jack in the crowd-

Reporters What's up there Jack?

What's inside the cloud?

Where did it come from?

What did you see?

Is it safe up there?

Did you find anything?

Phil And then.

[Jack holds up the golden egg]

All Whoa!

Phil Last thing I see is Jack be pushed into a TV van.

Barbara I'm his mother. I'm his mother.

[Barbara follows Jack. Phil climbs down through his bedroom and out into the street.
Everyone has gone except his Father.]

Bill Hi son. You okay?

Phil I'm okay. Where's everyone gone?

Bill TV studio. Sure am glad to see you son. I was worried there you know-for a while.
[Bill hugs Phil]
So-whatever made you climb that thing?

Phil Jack needed me.

Bill Right. Understood. *You* uh-bring anything back from up there? Golden?

Phil No.

Bill Just as well. What would ol' Bill Coverall do if he didn't have to earn a living? You must be hungry son.

Phil Yeah. Did Jack tell them?

Bill What about?

Phil Guess he didn't.
[Aside] Next thing I know Jack's on TV.
Dad come see this.

Scene 7

[Lights up on Jack and Barbara in TV studio. Canned laughter.]

Presenter Ha Ha ha. I must say Jack you're quite a lad. But tell us why. I mean-what was going through your mind when you decided to climb this 'Beanstalk'?

Jack Well-it was there. I was there.
[Laughter]

Presenter Must have been quite a worry for you Mrs Spriggan?

Barbara Ha-Yes. [She throws back her hair and smiles.]

Bill That's odd.

Presenter Now Jack at the top you found that remarkable golden egg?

Jack I did.

Barbara He did-ha ha ha ha.

Bill Very odd.

Presenter And what are your plans for it?

Jack We're going to turn this egg into fast cash so we can buy our house back from the bank.

Presenter Is that right Mrs Spriggan?

Barbara Well I-

Jack Cos they were going to take it from us-

Barbara Jack that's -

Jack And turn us out onto the streets-

Barbara Enough.

Jack Cos we were down to our last jar of cookies.

 [Huge laughter]

Barbara HA HA! In front of everyone.

Presenter So you saved the day Jack?

Jack I guess.

Presenter Clap your hands if you think Jack saved the day!

Jack Yeah-I did.

Barbara He did.

Bill What is wrong with her?

Phil Shh!

Presenter Now what everyone wants to know is what else you saw up there? What's inside this mysterious cloud?

Jack Nothing really-just a room. A room.

Presenter And you went into that room-alone- all alone-and found your fortune.

Jack Yes Mam.

Presenter And fame will surely follow. One heckuva story. One heckuvahero.

 [More applause]

Now we turn our attention to other news---up next we have incredible footage of a baby elephant burping the alphabet.

[Phil turns off the TV]

Bill You okay Phil?

Phil Yeah.

Bill Strange he didn't mention you.

Phil Must've had his reasons.

Bill Still---- . I'm tuckered out son. Been quite a day. Didn't have this one planned-no sir.

[Sound of car-enter Jack and Barbara]

Hey they're back. You want to say hi?

Phil No.

Barbara You want to say Hi to Phil?

Jack No—Its' okay. I mean- I see him every day.

[Barbara goes to the *For Sale* sign- takes it out of the ground and stamps on it- destroying it as much as she can.]

Jack Mom-the neighbours are watching.

Barbara Good. [She kicks it again-throws it away.] You saved us Jack-you saved us.[Hugs him- and they go inside] But you have to promise me-you won't go climbing that thing again. It's just too high-too dangerous. I was wrong about the beans-I'll admit it- but going up there was reckless, foolhardy and no single mother in her right mind could give permission. Even if there was more gold up there-so don't ask.

Jack Right.

[Music.Both boys go up to bed. Enter General 1 who stands watching the house. He wears full uniform hat and sunglasses despite the fact that's its night time. He watches the house. Jack goes to the window and calls across to Phil.]

Jack Phil. Phil. Phil. Phil. Phil. Phil.

[Phil stays put.]

Phil What?

Jack Did you see me on TV? What's the matter?

Phil You didn't tell them.

Jack Well of course I didn't tell them. If anyone knew there was a giant up there who eats people they wouldn't let us go up again-would they?

Phil Again? Are you out of your mind?

Jack Look Phil. Look.

Phil You got a new phone already?

Jack Yeah-and I've got ten million Facebook friends. Ten million have friended me.

Phil So?

Jack I'm gonna wake up famous Phil.

Phil Is that what you want?

Jack Of course. It's what everyone wants- don't you?

Phil Never really thought about it--

Jack And all the time I was on TV-the likes were just growing. Shh someone's downstairs.

Bill Hi Barbara.

Barbara Hi Bill. Phil Okay?

Bill Yeah-bit sore I think-

Barbara About what?

Bill About Jack-he never mentioned Phil. Not once.

Barbara Oh. Well-being on TV you know kinda wipes the brain-you don't think straight. Not till you get used to it. He meant no harm-I'm sure of that.

Bill I know that. Anyhow I just wanted to say-that I'm glad you're staying. You ---and Jack.

Barbara Me to Bill. Me too. Goodnight.

Jack What is it with them?

Phil Why didn't you tell them---about me?

Jack Didn't plan not to. Next time I will. I promise.

Phil Cross your heart and hope to die?

Jack So you're coming?

Phil What? No.

Jack This time you can take a packed lunch. And some weapons.

Phil Weapons?

Jack Whatever you can get hold of. Well go pack and let's move out before it get's light.

Phil I can't believe I'm doing this.

[Jack prepares himself-Phil picks up some lunch and a small saw which he puts in his rucksack. He stops.]

Phil Jack?

Jack Are you my friend or not?

Phil That's so unfair. You know I am.

Jack Then let's do this. Fame and fortune?

Phil Fortune and fame.

[Jack climbs-Phil is about to follow with Rucksack]

Phil And so we climbed again, hour after hour, hand over hand into the night sky until all the houses down below looked no bigger than dolls houses- and then we disappeared into that other world-inside the cloud.

[The General 1 steps forward.]