

Jack and the Beanstalk

Jack looked out of the cottage window. The tiny brown seed that he had held in his hand last night had gone. In its place was an enormous beanstalk!

He ran into the garden and stared up into the sky. The beanstalk was still growing! It was growing up through the clouds! It was growing up towards the stars!

Jack decided to climb the beanstalk. He pulled himself up into the lower branches. He climbed higher and higher, and when he looked down, the ground seemed a long way away. The cottage looked like a box and his mother was just an ant scurrying in circles.

Suddenly a seagull swooped towards him. 'Don't climb any higher,' the seagull called. 'It's terribly dangerous up there!' But Jack kept climbing. He climbed until the sky grew dark and the stars seemed very near, and at last he could see the top of the beanstalk.

A huge woman was watching him as he scrambled off the plant.

'You've climbed a long way,' she said. 'You must need something to drink.' She gave him a teacup full of steaming green liquid. It smelled terrible and Jack was sure it would be undrinkable.

Just then Jack heard footsteps. They were so loud he had to put his hands over his ears and shut his eyes.

'Oh no!' exclaimed the huge woman. 'It's my husband! He is a giant and he will be furious to find you here!'

She snatched the teacup out of Jack's hands, and the footsteps got louder and louder.

by Fiona Freer

