



Jack and the Beanstalk

By Richard Walker

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The cupboards are bare, so Jack's mum sends him to market to sell Daisy the cow. On the way, Jack bumps into a funny little man who offers him six bewitched beans - but the man has lost the instructions for them. Jack loves nothing better than magic and adventure, so he swaps Daisy for the beans and sets off home. And this is just the beginning of his story. This is a classic story that should be part of every child's collection can now also travel with them in the form of a story CD.

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Jack and the Beanstalk By Richard Walker Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Oh, that interminable, lovable dunderhead Jack. With nothing left in the cupboard, his mother sends him out to sell the cow, and what does Jack return with? That's right. Six puny beans. Magic beans, according to the funny little man who made the trade with Jack. In a huff, Jack's mom tosses them out the window. The rest is history. A beanstalk grows to the sky; Jack climbs to the land of the clouds; a goose lays golden eggs; a giant rages, "Fee, Fi, Fo, Fum!"... you may know the story, but you've never seen a version like this before!

Professional storyteller Richard Walker retells the classic tale with an extra measure of nonsense and rakish humor, as when the bean barterer explains that although he knows the beans are magic, he's not quite sure what they do: he's lost the instructions for them. Award-winning illustrator Niamh Sharkey presents unique, quirky images of Jack and the rest of the gang that will quickly replace any traditional mental pictures readers may have been nursing until now. This creative team has laid a golden egg. (Ages 4 to 8) --*Emilie Coulter*

From Publishers Weekly

Like Beneduce and Spirin in their adaptation of this staple (reviewed above), Walker (The Barefoot Book of Pirates) and Sharkey (The Gigantic Turnip) try to mediate its violence. But where Beneduce and Spirin lessen the impact of the violence by providing Jack with a motive, Walker and Sharkey soften the tale itself. The plot follows tradition; the big change comes in the giant's refrain, now "Fee, fi, fo, fum! I smell the blood of a stinky man!" The giant speaks these words just once, rather than in a terror-heightening sequence, and he certainly never threatens to grind Jack's bones to make his bread. Having removed much of the suspense, the text proceeds to a tepid conclusion in which Jack uses the stalk to catapult his foe "into space.... And, as far as I know, he's still there." Sharkey, working in semitransparent earth-tone oils, envisions the giant as a flat-headed Frankenstein with an oversize jaw and a serrated underbite, and Jack as an elfin type with an eggshell-white face and a cranberry-red jester's cap. It's a contemporary, puckish look, one that tells the audience not to take the story too seriously. Ages 4-8. (Oct.)

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From Library Journal

Kindergarten-Grade 3-This retelling of the English folktale departs in many ways from the well-known version by Joseph Jacobs, and although Walker tells a consistent and humorous story, it is ultimately devoid of much of the suspense and characterization of the original. Jack trades his cow to a strange man for six magic beans, for which he's "lost the instructions." They do what readers expect them to, and Jack climbs the beanstalk to a castle inhabited by a giant and a "little old woman." In a single visit, the boy steals a sack of gold, taking along the golden-egg-laying goose and the little old lady because they ask to come, and the singing harp that gives him away. At the bottom, he uses the rope that he used to lower the bag of gold (a complicated addition to the plot) to catapult the giant into outer space. Jacobs's Jack was not altogether a good child-but the giant was many times worse, and it took a devious mind like Jack's to get the better of him. Walker's Jack is very nice, but lacks motivation and is not very interesting. The book is nicely designed, and Sharkey's oil-and-gesso illustrations in a muted palette are well composed, but the figures (with big heads and feet, and dot-and-line faces) are flat and expressionless. Steven Kellogg's illustrated retelling (Morrow, 1991) is still available for those who need a picture-book version of the tale; this one is pretty but unsatisfying. Think twice before you trade your cow for it.

Nina Lindsay, Oakland Public Library, CA

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Robert Glass:

The book Jack and the Beanstalk make one feel enjoy for your spare time. You may use to make your capable considerably more increase. Book can to get your best friend when you getting strain or having big problem along with your subject. If you can make looking at a book Jack and the Beanstalk to be your habit, you can get much more advantages, like add your own capable, increase your knowledge about a number of or all subjects. You could know everything if you like open and read a guide Jack and the Beanstalk. Kinds of book are several. It means that, science guide or encyclopedia or other people. So , how do you think about this e-book?

Lidia Hill:

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Gloria Robey:

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Thomas Rinaldi:

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