

JACK AND BELLA

FROM BEANSTALK TO BROADWAY

OR “JACK AND THE BEANSTALK”

Book and Lyrics by Bob May
Music by Chad Bradford and Karen Owings

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**JACK AND BELLA:
FROM BEANSTALK TO BROADWAY**
Book and Lyrics by Bob May
Music by Chad Bradford and Karen Owings

CAST OF CHARACTERS

BELLA
JACK
MOM
BEANMAN
DANCING TREES
LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD
WOLF
GRANNY
ALICE
PAUL BUNYAN
BABE THE BLUE OX
HANSEL
GRETEL
THE GIANT
HUMAN HARP
THE GOLDEN GOOSE

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

Scene One: Outside Jack and his mother's house, afternoon.
Scene Two: In the forest, immediately following.
Scene Three: The marketplace, just after 5 PM.
Scene Four: In the forest, immediately following.
Scene Five: Outside Jack and his mother's house, immediately following.
Scene Six: Outside Jack and his mother's house, the next morning.
Scene Seven: A castle in the clouds, later that morning.
Scene Eight: Outside Jack and his mother's house, immediately following.
Scene Nine: A stage, magic moments later.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

SONG #1	YOU'RE MY MOO	Jack and Bella
SONG #2	SHUFFLE OFF	Jack, Bella, and Trees
SONG #3	HARP JIG	Human Harp
SONG #4	NEVER GIVE UP ON YOUR DREAMS	Ensemble

AUTHOR'S NOTE

With the speaking animals, let the “moos,” “howls” and “snorts” almost sound like English. Even though there is only one “moo,” “howl” and “snort” written in the script for the animal characters lines, the actor can say as many “moos,” “howls” or “snorts” as needed to make the line make sense.

Special thanks to my sister/editor, Vicki May-York

SCENE ONE

AT RISE:

JACK and BELLA are discovered in front of JACK and his MOM's house.

**SONG #1: YOU'RE MY MOO
(JACK AND BELLA)**

JACK:
YOU'RE MY

BELLA:
MOO

JACK:
COW. I'M HERE TO TELL YOU WHEN YOU

BELLA:
MOO

JACK:
LIKE THAT, THEY'LL REMEMBER BELLA AND JACK.
I SING, YOU

BELLA:
MOO.

JACK:
IT'S A FACT, THEY'RE GONNA LOVE OUR

BELLA:
MOO - -

JACK:
- - SICAL DANCING ACT.
DON'T DOUBT A

BELLA:
MOO - -

JACK:

-- MENT, WE'LL GIVE A --

BELLA:

-- MOO --

JACK:

-- SEMENT TO ALL

JACK: Let's hoof it!

BELLA and JACK do a dance break.

JACK:

THAT WAS

BELLA:

MOO --

JACK:

-- V'LOUS AND OUGHTA PROVE IT.
WHEN WE

BELLA:

MOO --

JACK:

-- OVE LIKE THAT, THEY'LL
KNOW WE'RE LEGIT.
WE'RE FOR REAL.
THE

BELLA:

MOO --

JACK:

-- OONLIGHT'S NOT AS BRIGHT.
WE'RE

JACK AND BELLA: FROM BEANSTALK TO BROADWAY

BELLA:

MOO - -

JACK:

- - VING TO NEW HEIGHTS.

SOON WE'LL SEE

BELLA:

MOO

JACK:

OUR NAME IN LIGHTS.

Both bow to the applause.

JACK: We're a team. Who cares that you can't produce milk anymore? We'll make enough money singing and dancing to feed you, me, and Mama for years.

BELLA: Moo. *[And our name will be in lights.]*

Remember, BELLA can gesture to get her point across. Almost like a cow gone mad playing charades.

JACK: That's right . . . our name will be in lights.

BELLA: Moo, moo, moo. *[I love you.]*

JACK embraces the BELLA.

JACK: I love you, too.

MOM enters.

MOM: Jack, have you gotten any milk from that cow? *(She coughs.)*

JACK: Mama, that cow has a name, and it's Bella.

MOM: Naming farm animals is not a good thing to do. Now answer my question . . . have you gotten any milk from her?

JACK: No, not yet.

MOM coughs.

JACK: Mom, are you all right?

MOM: It's just a cough. I'm fine.

JACK: That cough seems to be getting worse.

MOM: I don't understand why the cow has gone dry.

BELLA: Moo. *[I need a man.]*

JACK: Bella, that is the one thing I don't understand.

BELLA: Moo. *[Never mind.]*

JACK: I'll figure it out eventually.

MOM coughs.

BELLA: Moo. *[She needs to see a doctor.]*

JACK: Bella thinks you should see a doctor, and I agree.

MOM: I've had enough your nonsense. Cows don't talk.

JACK: Bella does. Didn't you just hear her?

MOM: I heard, "moo," and that's all I heard.

BELLA: Moo. *[Moo.]*

MOM: What did she say?

JACK: Moo.

MOM: A young boy like you needs milk. It has protein and calcium . . . things you need to grow strong and healthy. A cow that doesn't produce milk is not worth very much.

JACK: Bella is worth more than milk. She and I will one day have our names in lights.

MOM: Oh, I've heard it all before. You sound like your papa, and that's how we got into this predicament. Show business.

JACK: Mama, why do you continue to hide the facts about Papa from me?

MOM: Because the man was crazy.

JACK: I'm twelve years old now. Papa being crazy is nothing I haven't heard from the people around town. Tell me something I don't know.

MOM: Balloons.

JACK: What?

MOM: He was fine until he went into the Magic Forest.

JACK: What happened?

BELLA: Moo. *[Yeah, what happened?]*

MOM: He said he saw a castle in the clouds. He sold everything we owned so he could buy a hot air balloon to get to this castle. And the only thing we have to show for it is the charm you wear around your neck.

JACK: This old thing . . . that you gave me?

MOM: Your father bought us a matching pair.

JACK: So what does that have to do with show business?

MOM: He sold tickets to the take off. The only reason people showed up was to laugh at him. He took off and that's the last anyone has ever seen of him.

JACK: Well, unlike Papa, Bella and I will make money with our act.

MOM: Let's pretend you're right. It takes money to produce a show. Where are you going to get it? We don't have anything to sell.

JACK: We'll find it somewhere.

MOM: Jack, I'm glad you have dreams, but we are out of food, and the cow isn't producing milk. You need to eat. You're nothing but skin and bones.

JACK: Mama, don't worry about me. I'm happy . . . and we have each other.

MOM: You can't eat happy. So what do we do . . . eat each other? I think the cow would taste better than me.

BELLA goes to her knees and hugs MOM's legs.

BELLA: Moo. *[Please don't eat me.]*

JACK: I'd rather die than eat Bella.

MOM: Then you must take her to market and sell her. *(She coughs.)*

BELLA: MOO. *[Okay, take me to market and sell me.]*

BELLA holds out her wrists like a sacrificial offering.

MOM: What did she say?

JACK: She said she's willing to be sold to help you get over that cough.

MOM: Don't tell any buyers that she is milk dry. And don't let those adults take advantage of you because you're a child.

JACK: Mom, are you finished telling me what to do? This child is not as naive as you think.

MOM: You should get a hefty price for her. If you hurry, you can get there before the market closes.

JACK: I can cut through the Magic Forest and get there and back before it gets dark.

MOM: NO! Promise me . . . you won't go into the Magic Forest.

JACK: I don't believe the stories about the Magic Forest being evil.

MOM: The Magic Forest is why your papa went crazy. Promise me.

JACK: Alright, I promise.

MOM: Thank you. *(She coughs and exits.)*

BELLA: Moo. *[She's very sick.]*

JACK: You're right; Mama does need some help fast. Let's cut through the Magic Forest.

BELLA: Moo. *[But you promised.]*

JACK: I know I promised . . . Are you scared?

BELLA: Moo. *[No.]*

Digs her feet in like a bull ready to charge.

JACK: Come on, then . . .

**SONG #2: SHUFFLE OFF
(JACK AND BELLA)**

JACK AND BELLA:

FIRST YOU JUMP TO THE LEFT, SHUFFLE WITH THE RIGHT.

PLANT A BIG FAT SMILE ON THAT FACE.

TAP THOSE HOOVES AS WE LEAVE THIS SITE.

SHUFFLE OFF, SHUFFLE OFF, SHUFFLE OFF OUT OF THIS PLACE.

They sing the above and dance as the set changes around them.

SCENE TWO

AT RISE:

JACK and BELLA stop dancing and are discovered in the middle of the Magic Forest. They are surrounded by the DANCING TREES.

JACK: Bella?

BELLA: Moo? [Yes?]

JACK: Where are we?

DANCING TREES: *(In a stage whisper.)* The magic forest.

JACK: Did you hear that?

BELLA: Moo. [Yes.]

JACK: Which way do you think is the way to the market?

The DANCING TREES point in different directions.

BELLA: Moo. [I don't know.]

JACK: I think we're lost.

BEAN MAN enters with a magical SOUND effect. This startles JACK and BELLA and the DANCING TREES. They all scream.

BEAN: Lost your way? Maybe I can help.

JACK: Where did you come from?

BEAN: From here, there, and everywhere.

JACK: Do you know your way around the Magic Forest?

BEAN: Maybe I do. And then maybe I don't.

JACK: You said you could help us.

BEAN: Did I? No, I didn't. I said, "Maybe I can help."

JACK: We need to get to the marketplace.

BEAN: Ah, yes, indeed you do. Don't you. To sell your cow?

JACK: That's right. How did you know?

BEAN: Magic may have told me. Maybe it told me. Yes, it did.

JACK: Magic doesn't really work.

The TREES laugh in a menacing high pitch a la the Munchkins in Oz.

BEAN: Sure it does. Only if you want it to. Do you want it to?

JACK: I want to get to the market.

BEAN: Magic works. It always works. I have magic beans to prove it. They do what you wish for.

JACK: If you have magic beans . . . give me a handful so I can forget this trip to the market, go home, and feed my mother so she won't be sick anymore.

BEAN: Give you the beans? I don't think so. I just don't give my magic beans away.

JACK: What do you want for them?

BEAN: Bella. The singing and dancing cow. I'll give you one bean for her.

JACK: How do I know the beans are really magic?

BEAN: Ah, very smart of you. Don't trust the adult. All right, let's test one.

JACK: And how do you do that?

BEAN: Rub the bean. Make sure it's in both your hands. Rub until it turns to powder. Then throw the powder in the air . . . and ask for the magic to happen. *(He rubs the bean in his hand.)* What do you want to ask for?

JACK: This is crazy.

BEAN: How about . . . Let Bella talk . . . but for only one sentence.

BEAN throws the bean powder in the air, the LIGHTS flash, and a spell SOUND is heard.

BELLA: Be careful, Jack, don't trust him.

BEAN: There, did you hear? Talk she did.

JACK: That's not magic. I always understand what Bella says.

BEAN: But others understood. Yes, they did. Want to ask them?

JACK: What are you talking about?

BEAN: Them. *(He points to the audience and claps his hands. A spell SOUND is heard as the house LIGHTS come up.)* See, them. They understood Bella this time. *(To the audience.)* Didn't you?

CHILDREN: Yes.

BEAN gestures, a spell SOUND is heard, and the house LIGHTS fade out.

JACK: If all you have to offer me is one bean for Bella, forget it. I don't need a magic bean to understand her, and besides I know I can get a lot more for her at market. Now, you offered your assistance earlier, is that offer still good?

BEAN: Stubborn you are. Yes, that's a fact. Just like your papa.

JACK: What? Did you know my papa?

BEAN: Maybe I did, and maybe I didn't. Here, kid, let me give you a bean. Use it when you need it . . . or throw it away. I think you'll use it. When you do . . . magic will convince you to sell me your cow.

JACK: Stop your double talk and . . .

BELLA: MOO. *[And leave us alone.]*

JACK: That's right, leave us alone. Just point us in the direction of the marketplace.

BEAN: Follow the yellow brick road.

JACK: Not funny.

BEAN: Here, kid. *(He flips JACK a bean.)* Take the road less traveled. *(He exits laughing crazily.)*

JACK: Bella, you're worth more than one bean. I don't care if the bean is magical.

BELLA: Moo. *[Thanks.]*

JACK: Let's just forget this trip to the market and go home. I don't want to sell you.

BELLA: Moo moo. *[But what about your mama?]*

She coughs like MOM as she says this.

JACK: Yes, Mama needs some food. All right, let's go.

**SONG #2: SHUFFLE OFF
(JACK AND TREES)**

JACK:

FIRST YOU JUMP TO THE LEFT,

JACK AND TREES:

SHUFFLE WITH THE RIGHT

PLANT A BIG, FAT SMILE ON THAT FACE

TAP THOSE HOOVES AS WE LEAVE THIS SITE

SHUFFLE OFF, SHUFFLE OFF, SHUFFLE OFF OUT OF THIS PLACE.

As JACK and BELLA sing and dance the TREES shift/dance to suggest a new locale in the forest. RED dances in.

JACK: Hi.

RED: Greetings, young man and cow. What are you doing in the Magic Forest?

JACK: We're on our way to the market so I can sell my cow. I'm Jack. And this is Bella.

RED: I'm on my way to my grandmother's house. This basket of food is for her. The name's Little Red Riding Hood.

BELLA: Moo. *[Maybe she'll trade you the food for me?]*

JACK: I'll trade you Bella for your basket of food.

RED: Why would I want a cow?

JACK: She's a singing and dancing cow.

RED: Naw.

JACK: We both are. We have an act. Our names will one day be in lights.

RED: I'll give you my basket of food if you sing and dance for me.

JACK: Let's do it, Bella. From the dance break.

BELLA and JACK do the dance break. When it is over RED and TREES applaud vigorously.

RED: That was great. I know your name will one day be in lights.

JACK: Thanks.

BELLA: Moo. *[Thank you.]*

RED: I'm a dancer, too.

JACK: Are you?

RED: I've been dancing since I was a little girl.

JACK: Show us.

RED breaks into a tap routine to “Give My Regards to Broadway.” When it is over, JACK, BELLA, and TREES applaud.

JACK: Have you ever thought about getting into show business?

RED: Every waking moment. But where am I gonna get the money?

JACK: Bella and I know that problem only too well.

RED: Here's your basket of food.

JACK: Thanks.

JACK and BELLA begin to exit.

RED: Hey, what are you going to do for a partner when you sell Bella?

JACK: With this basket of food, I won't have to sell her.

RED: Well, if you're ever looking for another partner, I'd love to be it.

JACK: I'll keep that in mind. Thanks for the food.

RED: Goodbye. *(She exits.)*

JACK: Come on, Bella, let's go home and feed mama.

**SONG #2: SHUFFLE OFF
(JACK AND TREES)**

JACK:

FIRST YOU JUMP TO THE LEFT,

JACK AND TREES:

SHUFFLE WITH THE RIGHT

PLANT A BIG, FAT SMILE ON THAT FACE

TAP THOSE HOOVES AS WE LEAVE THIS SITE

SHUFFLE OFF, SHUFFLE OFF, SHUFFLE OFF OUT OF THIS PLACE.

As JACK and BELLA sing and dance, the TREES dance once again to suggest a new locale in the Magic Forest. The WOLF enters with a growl. The TREES scream.

JACK: Hello, Mr. Wolf.

WOLF: Howl. *[Ms Wolf.]*

JACK: Sorry. Hello, Ms. Wolf.

WOLF: Howl. *[That cow looks good.]*

WOLF licks her lips. Remember she can gesture to get her point across.

JACK: Thank you, she is a fine looking cow.

WOLF: Howl. *[You understand me?]*

JACK: Yes, I can understand what animals are saying.

WOLF: Howl. *[Are you Dr. Doolittle?]*

JACK: No, I'm not Dr. Doolittle. The name's Jack.

WOLF: Howl. *[That cow looks delicious. I am so hungry.]*

She rubs her stomach.

JACK: You're hungry . . . we're all hungry. But Bella is not for eating. Here, you can have this basket of food.

WOLF: Howl. *[Where did you get that?]*

JACK: A girl in a red cape gave it to us, but it's yours now. Eat away.

WOLF: Howl. *[Which way did Red go?]*

JACK: Don't eat the little girl in red! You have her basket full of food, isn't that enough?

WOLF: Howl. *[I want her cape.]*

JACK: You want her red cape, too?

WOLF: Howl. *[Which way did she go?]*

JACK: She went that way.

JACK and the TREES point in the opposite direction that RED exited.

WOLF: Howl. *[Thanks.]*

WOLF exits.

JACK: Without the basket of food, I guess it's back to the marketplace for us.

BELLA: Moo. *[Do you know how to get there?]*

JACK: I don't have a clue how to get there.

BEAN MAN appears.

BEAN: Boo.

JACK, BELLA, and TREES scream because they are startled.

BEAN: I do.

BELLA: Moo. *[Get away.]*

JACK: Calm down, Bella. It's only the Beanman.

BEAN: Yes, the Beanman I am. Maybe I'm more. Do you want to know?

JACK: What do you want?

BEAN: I've told you. Your cow. I'll give you two magic beans for Bella.

JACK: No sale. Bella is worth more than two beans.

BEAN: Two's all I'm offering.

JACK: Look, you keep saying . . . you know the way to the market.

BEAN: I do. But so does the magic bean I gave you. Maybe you'll use it!

He vanishes.

JACK: Should we try the magic bean?

BELLA: Moo. *[What have we got to lose?]*

JACK: Okay. He said to rub it in your hands.

BELLA: Moo. *[That's right.]*

TREES: Yes.

JACK rubs the bean.

JACK: Until it turns to powder.

BELLA: Moo. *[Yes.]*

TREES: Yes.

JACK: And then throw the dust into the air as you asked for what you want to happen?

BELLA: Moo. [Yes.]

TREES: Yes.

JACK: Okay, here it goes. Please get us to the marketplace.

JACK throws the dust into the air. A spell SOUND is heard. The LIGHTS flash; JACK and BELLA begin to spin. SOUND accompanies this. When all is over, JACK and BELLA find themselves at the marketplace.

SCENE THREE

AT RISE:

JACK and BELLA are discovered in the middle of a deserted marketplace.

JACK: Did we make it?

BELLA: MOO. [I think so.]

JACK: This looks like the marketplace. But where is everyone?

BEAN enters.

BEAN: Gone. Everyone's gone. You wasted time . . . yes, you fooled around . . . too much time was spent in the forest as you made your decision to use the magic bean. Closed. The marketplace is closed.

JACK: Not you again.

BEAN: You're here, though. Magic bean must have worked. Or maybe you just found your way? Don't believe me. I should know.

BELLA: Moo. [He's crazy.]

She circles her finger around her ear.

BEAN: Maybe I am crazy, Bella. And then, maybe you both are the crazy ones. I'll give you three magic beans for the cow.

JACK: Why do you want Bella so much?

BEAN: I want to help you and your mama.

BELLA: Moo. *[No, he doesn't.]*

JACK: I agree with Bella. We don't trust you.

BEAN: Four beans.

JACK: Not for a hundred.

BEAN: Do you hear your mother coughing?

BEAN claps his hands, a spell SOUND is heard, MOM appears in a LIGHT special. She is coughing.

MOM: Jack, where are you?

JACK: Mom.

BEAN claps his hands; the LIGHT special fades out on MOM.

BEAN: What are you going to do? The marketplace is closed. You have to get something for your cow. You can't go home empty-handed.

JACK: Fifteen beans.

BEAN: Seven.

JACK: Ten.

BEAN: Seven. Take it or leave it.

BELLA: Moo. *[Take it.]*

JACK: Okay . . . I'll take it.

BEAN: Here ya go. *(He counts out the beans as he drops them into JACK's hand.)* One, two, three, four, five, six, seven. Has it been a pleasure doing business with you? I can't answer that question. Maybe it has, and maybe it hasn't. Come, my singing and dancing cow.

JACK: May I say goodbye before you take her?

BEAN: Goodbyes are expensive. Some more than others. It will cost you a bean.

JACK: What?

BEAN: Cow goodbyes . . . especially to Bella . . . will cost you a bean.

JACK: Fine. Here.

JACK give BEAN a bean.

BEAN: Don't take long . . . hurry up, please. Dark is on the way. It's getting late . . . or maybe early? Fog rolls in with night. A thick fog covers the Magic Forest once the sun sets.

BELLA and JACK move away from BEAN.

JACK: If these beans are really magical . . . I want you to have one.

BELLA: Moo. [No.]

JACK: Take it, or I'm not leaving you.

BELLA: Moo. [Okay.]

JACK gives BELLA a bean.

JACK: Use it to escape from this crazy guy.

BELLA: Moo. [Thanks.]

BELLA and JACK embrace.

BEAN: Don't make me cry. Enough of the affection. The cow is mine. Say, "moo," Bella.

BELLA: (Crying.) Moo. [Goodbye.]

JACK: Goodbye.

BEAN: Let's go, Bella. We're out of here . . . or maybe there . . . or could be anywhere.

BEAN drags BELLA off. BELLA cries as they exit.

JACK: Hey, how do I get home? This way? No, this way. I don't know. I guess I'll have to use a magic bean. (HE rubs a bean in his hands.) Help me get home.

JACK tosses the powder in the air. A spell SOUND is heard. The LIGHTS flash, SOUND accompanies this, JACK spins, the set changes back to the forest. The TREES surround him again.

SCENE FOUR

AT RISE:

JACK is discovered in the middle of the dancing trees.

JACK: Hey, I'm not home. Back in the middle of the forest and lost once again.

A TREE: You shouldn't have said, "help me get home," you should have said, "get me home."

RED enters crying.

JACK: What's wrong, Red?

RED: The wolf has stolen my red cape.

JACK: We can get you another red cape.

RED: She's also holding my Granny hostage.

JACK: Getting another Granny might be tough.

RED: We have to do something.

JACK: I can save her.

RED: How?

JACK: A magic bean.

RED: Magic doesn't work.

The TREES laugh in a menacing high pitch, a la the Munchkins in Oz.

JACK: Have you got a better idea?

RED: All right, try it.

JACK rubs a bean in his hand.

JACK: Save Red's Granny from the Wolf. *(An afterthought.)* And get her red cape back to her.

JACK tosses the dust into the air, the LIGHTS flicker. All spin. SOUND is heard. WOLF and GRANNY spin in, laughing.

GRANNY: Now give that red cape back to my granddaughter. I'll sew you one just like it.

WOLF: Howl. *[Do you promise?]*

GRANNY: I promise.

WOLF: Okay.

WOLF gives RED the cape.

JACK: All is safe in your world now.

RED: Thank you, Jack. Where's your cow?

JACK: I sold her for these magic beans.

RED: So I guess you'll be looking for another partner?

GRANNY: You can rehearse in my barn.

WOLF: Howl. *[And we can make the costumes.]*

GRANNY: Great idea. *(The WOLF and GRANNY do a high five.)*

And the wolf and I will make your costumes.

RED: What do you say, Jack?

JACK: Let me get over Bella's loss before I answer that.

RED: Understandable. Come on, Granny and Ms. Wolf.

WOLF: *(To RED.)* Have you ever thought about a yellow cape?

RED: Did I just hear you speak?

WOLF: Yellow would compliment your eyes.

RED, GRANNY, and WOLF exit.

JACK: Hey, how do I get home? Oh, well, I guess I better walk.

**SONG #2: SHUFFLE OFF
(JACK AND TREES)**

JACK:

FIRST YOU JUMP TO THE LEFT,

JACK AND TREES:

SHUFFLE WITH THE RIGHT

PLANT A BIG, FAT SMILE ON THAT FACE

TAP THOSE HOOVES AS WE LEAVE THIS SITE

SHUFFLE OFF, SHUFFLE OFF, SHUFFLE OFF OUT OF THIS PLACE.

As JACK and TREES sing and dance, the TREES move to suggest a new location. ALICE runs in.

ALICE: Have you seen a rather large white rabbit?

JACK: Don't tell me . . . you're lost in Wonderland.

ALICE: He was late for a very important date. And, oh, the sun is setting. I'll never find him once the fog envelops the Magic Forest. Please, can you help me?

JACK: Here, take this magic bean. You're going to need it.

ALICE: You're giving me a magic bean? Magic doesn't really work.

The TREES laugh in a menacing high pitch, a la the Munchkins in Oz.

JACK: We kids have to look out for one another in the Magic Forest.

ALICE: Okay, thanks.

JACK: You'll know when to use it.

ALICE: Thank you. *(She begins to exit.)*

JACK: Oh, and one more thing.

ALICE: Yes?

JACK: Don't trust the Queen of Hearts.

ALICE: I won't forget you.

ALICE runs off.

JACK: There sure are a lot of children in the Magic Forest.

The sun sets with a SOUND effect.

JACK: The sun just set.

The fog comes floating in.

JACK: And just as the Beanman said . . . as soon as the sun sets, the fog comes floating in. I'll probably have to use another bean to find my way home.

PAUL BUNYAN and BABE THE BLUE OX enter.

PAUL: Ho there, guy.

JACK: Paul Bunyan!?

PAUL: You betcha, that's my name. Do I know you, eh?

JACK: I've read all about you.

PAUL: Then you know Babe.

JACK: Babe the Blue Ox, sure I do.

BABE: Uh. Uh. *[It's nice to meet you.]*

JACK: It's nice to meet you, too.

PAUL: We're on the trail of a cow named Bella.

BABE: Uh. Uh. *[Yes, we are.]*

JACK: Bella's my cow. Or she used to be my cow.

PAUL: You sold her to a Beanman?

BABE: UHHHH. *[Don't like him.]*

JACK: Yes, how did you know?

PAUL: The dancing trees are my friends, and I heard their voices whispering through the winds.

TREES: *(Stage whisper.)* The Beanman is not to be trusted. The Beanman is not to be trusted.

PAUL: The Beanman is not to be trusted.

JACK: But he gave me magic beans.

PAUL: Yah sure, he's full of magic beans.

BABE: Uh. Uh. *[He sure is.]*

JACK: They seem to be working.

PAUL: You get home and take care of your mama. We'll save Bella from the Beanman.

BABE: Uh. Uh. *[Yes, we will.]*

JACK: Thanks; can you point me on the right path home?

PAUL: Oh for sure, that's one good thing about being this tall . . . I can see over this fog. Go that way. (*PAUL points and the TREES point in the same direction.*) Goodbye, young fella. Come on Babe, let's find Bella.

PAUL and BABE exit.

JACK AND TREES: Bye.

JACK: I hope he's right about the direction home.

**SONG #2: SHUFFLE OFF
(JACK AND TREES)**

JACK:

FIRST YOU JUMP TO THE LEFT,

JACK AND TREES:

SHUFFLE WITH THE RIGHT

PLANT A BIG, FAT SMILE ON THAT FACE

TAP THOSE HOOVES AS WE LEAVE THIS SITE

SHUFFLE OFF, SHUFFLE OFF, SHUFFLE OFF OUT OF THIS PLACE.

As JACK and TREES sing and dance the TREES move to suggest a new location. HANSEL and GRETEL run in.

HANSEL: Help us.

JACK: More children in need of help in the Magic Forest. What's wrong?

HANSEL: We just trapped an evil witch in her oven.

JACK: You must be Hansel and Gretel?

GRETEL: Ya, I am Gretel and this is my der Bruter, Hansel.

HANSEL: And we can't find our way home in all this fog.

JACK: Join the club.

GRETEL: Can you help us?

JACK: I have a magic bean that can.

HANSEL: Magic doesn't work.

The TREES laugh in a menacing high pitch, a la the Munchkins in Oz.

GRETEL: You would give up a magic bean for us?

HANSEL: If you do that for us, we will be in debt to you forever.

JACK: When you get home, don't go into the woods with your father.

GRETEL: Excuse me?

JACK: I'm beginning to see a theme among young people I've been meeting here in the forest.

HANSEL: And what is that?

JACK: Question authority. And don't trust all adults . . . just because they are bigger than you. But let's get you two home. (*JACK rubs a bean in his hand.*) Magic bean, get Hansel and his sister home . . . and why not, me too.

JACK throws the dust in the air. The LIGHTS flash. SOUND is heard. ALL spin off stage as the set is shifted. GRETEL yells as she spins.

GRETEL: You're a good person, Jack.

Thank you for reading this free excerpt from JACK AND BELLA, FROM BEANSTALK TO BROADWAY by Bob May, Chad Bradford and Karen Owings. For performance rights and/or a complete copy of the script, please contact us at:

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