

PLAYS FOR
New Audiences

A Division of Children's Theatre Company

***JACK and Phil,
Slayer of Giants INC.***

by Charles Way

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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 iPhone

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.

PURCHASE PERUSAL FOR FULL SCRIPT