

Chapter 4

A Beanstalk Appears

When Jack woke up the next morning he was very hungry. He also felt bad that he had made his mother sad. He did not know what he could do to help her.

He looked out of his bedroom window—and what a shock he got! In the garden, where his mother had thrown the beans, there was a giant beanstalk. It grew right up to the sky!

‘Wow!’ said Jack. ‘The old man was telling the truth!’

He jumped out of the window and looked up at the beanstalk. It went right up to the clouds.

‘I wonder what is up there,’ Jack said. ‘I’m going to climb up and see!’

So Jack began to climb up the beanstalk. He climbed, and he climbed, and he climbed, and he climbed. When he looked down his house was very small, and he could see way over the hills to the city. Up and up he kept going, until he got to the clouds.

Up on the clouds there was a road. Jack jumped off the beanstalk and started to walk along the road. Soon he got to a very big house. On the front steps there was a very tall woman.

Jack went up to her. ‘Hello,’ he said. ‘Could you give me some breakfast’ please? I am very hungry.’

‘You want breakfast,’ said the huge lady, ‘but you will *be* breakfast if you are not careful! My husband is a giant, and he loves to eat little boys. There he is, over there.’

The woman pointed. Far away, sitting on a cloud, was the giant. He had a long fishing rod.

‘What is he doing?’ said Jack.

‘He is fishing for boys,’ said the woman. ‘He puts sweets on a hook, and little boys find them and pick them up. Then he pulls them up here and eats them! Now you run along, before he comes back!’

‘O, please!’ said Jack. ‘I am so hungry. Please give me something to eat.’

The giant’s wife felt sorry for Jack. ‘Alright, come in quickly, and I will get you something.’

¹ *breakfast*—sounds like ‘**brek**-fest’.