

Act 2, Scene 3 – Giant’s Hallway

*[The Giant’s hallway is a massive place and everything is on a giant scale. On stage are several large **Candlesticks** and **Statues**. In the background is **Featherbottom** – a giant chicken who is currently sleeping.]*

Narrator In another part of the Giant’s castle, all seemed peaceful. Not a soul was stirring and all was calm. However this was not to last – for right at that very second, a large and dreadful presence was on its way. *[The **Dame** enters.]*

Dame Ha-ha (*narrator’s name*) – you’re absolutely hilarious. My sides have split. I’ll tell you what; seeing as you’re such a comedian, how about you come down and make all the jokes from here instead?

Narrator No thank you.

Dame That’s what I thought. *[Audience call-back]*

Well here I am now in the Giant’s castle – of all places. Jack has gone off to look for Jill and I’m supposed to wait here until he comes back. I hope he doesn’t take too long. This place gives me the creeps. The only interesting thing here is this chicken. Here-chicky-chicky-chicky. *[**Featherbottom** doesn’t move so the **Dame** gets closer.]*

Here chicky-chicky. *[Again nothing happens so the **Dame** goes face to face with her.]*

Here chicky-chicky. *[Suddenly, **Featherbottom** wakes up with a scream.]*

Featherbottom Book-book-book! *[The **Dame** jumps with fright and she goes back to sleep.]*

Dame Aargh! She almost gave me a heart attack. You know what? While I’m waiting here, I might as well catch up on some beauty sleep. But how will I know if someone tries to sneak up on me? If someone were to sneak up on me while I slept I’d be completely defenceless and they’d be able to have their wicked way with me. *[She considers it.]* Hmm... I’ll tell you what; would you be able to stand on guard for me while I slept a little?

Hello? I said; would you be able to stand on guard for me while I slept?

Good. All you have to do is start shouting if anyone tries to creep up from behind me.

Okay? Thank you. Now I’m going to rest my petite little derriere and get me some shut-eye.

*[The **Dame** lies down and as soon as she does so, **Lazycat** and **Firepuss** enter from behind her. The audience starts shouting.]*

What's the matter? What? Where? Behind me? Are you sure? [**Lazycat and Firepuss go off and the Dame turns around.**] Where? I don't see anything. Oh, I get it. You were playing a little joke on me. Very good – between (*narrator*) and you guys, we can start off a new comedy channel. Now I'm going to try and sleep again and this time, don't wake me unless there really is someone behind me.

[The Dame settles down to sleep for the second time as Firepuss and Lazycat enter from behind her. This time, she ignores the audience.]

You guys are unbelievable! As if I'm going to fall for this again. You may have fooled me the first time, but if you expect me to fall for it again, you must think I'm really stupid.

[Lazycat and Firepuss pounce on her.]

Ooh! What's this? Lazycat? Firepuss? *[to the audience]* Why didn't you tell me they were behind me? *[The Count enters.]*

Count Well, well, well. What have we here? Looks like we've netted ourselves a fish – what would you say Firepuss?

Firepuss I'd say she's more of a whale your greatness.

Count Good one. And what would you say Lazycat?

Lazycat Where do you think *you're* going? *[The Count sighs.]*

Count Well done. That's the line you should have said in the last scene. Poor Lazycat. The wheel is turning but the hamster has long since died.

Dame Count da Pennies, what a pleasant surprise. I was just about to go to sleep. Care to join me?

Count In your dreams.

Dame What are you doing here anyway? I thought you were terrified of this Giant

Count I am. But then I realised something that made me want to come here to try and save my Jill at all costs.

Dame How sweet – you realised that she's your only daughter and that deep down you love her very much.

Count Yes why not? But I also realised that the Giant has an immense wealth of treasure in his castle. If I find it, I will become even richer than I ever imagined. Instead of a billionaire – I'll be a multi-billionaire!

Dame Well, I'm so happy for you. *[to Firepuss and Lazycat]* I'll tell you what – let's show our happiness for the Count by giving him an impromptu Mexican wave.

Lazycat Okay.

Dame One, two, three –

Lazycat/Firepuss/Dame Yay! [*The do a Mexican wave and when Firepuss and Lazycat let go of the Dame she slips away.*]

Dame And thank you for letting me go.

Count Fools! When I'm a multi-billionaire, the first thing I'll do is replace you two idiots with (*topical reference*)!

Dame Look, you need to relax. My Jack has just popped off to rescue that daughter of yours. I'm sure they'll be back any second.

Count Do you really think it will be that easy? Do you honestly expect my Jill and that idiot boy of yours to suddenly show up here and say: 'Here we are guys, Jill has been rescued, there was no sign of the Giant at all, and now how about we all go home for a nice cup of tea and some chocolate cake?' Do you *really* think that's what's going to happen? [**Jack and Jill enter.**]

Jack Here we are guys! Jill has been rescued! There was no sign of the Giant at all. Now how about we all go home? Ooh, do you know what I fancy?

Count [*wearily*] A nice cup of tea and some chocolate cake?

Jack [*amazed*] How did you guess? [*The Fairy Godfather enters clapping slowly.*]

Fairy Godfather Well done. I knew you could rescue your sweetheart. But dear Jack, you can't go home yet. Your job is still unfinished.

Dame This guy is always popping up when you least expect him. He's like (*topical reference*) What do you mean by that?

Fairy Godfather Jack is the Chosen One – the legendary Giant Slayer. He is the one destined to rid the world from his evil. You must kill the Giant Jack.

Jack But I can't just go up to him and kill him. It's not nice.

Fairy Godfather Oh but you must. That is why you have been brought up here. You have to do your job.

Jack Brought up here? I wasn't brought here. I came to rescue Jill.

Fairy Godfather Think about it dear boy. The Giant only ever kidnaps children – and yet he also took Jill.

Jill Yes, I was wondering about that.

Fairy Godfather That necklace that you gave her is in fact a magic necklace. The Giant will always be attracted to whoever wears that necklace, and until Jill takes it off – the Giant will always find her.

Dame What? Take it off! Take it off! [**Jill tries to take it off but cannot.**]

Jill I can't! It's stuck!

Fairy Godfather Until the Giant dies – Jill will be unable to remove that necklace.

Dame Can't she just return it to (*local jewellery shop*) and get a voucher?

Fairy Godfather No.

Jack But... you tricked me into giving that necklace to Jill! You knew the Giant would take her and then I'll have to come up here to rescue her. [*to the others*] This was all the Fairy Godfather's doing!

Fairy Godfather Jack, it seems like you're smarter than you look. [*Everyone coughs awkwardly.*]

Jack Hey...

Fairy Godfather It is true – I arranged all this. But I tell you Jack, you have nothing to worry about. Giant Thunderpants cannot hurt the Chosen One. You will be quite safe. [*He takes out a piece of parchment and reads.*] It is said that 'the Giant Slayer Jack, need not fear the beast's attack.' [*The Count snatches the paper away.*]

Count Let me see that. That's not how you spell Jack. This is just J A C, and 'Jack' has a K at the end. [*Fairy Godfather snatches the parchment back.*]

Fairy Godfather It's poetic license. Anyway, if you need proof that he is indeed the Chosen One, it is said that he would also have a birthmark shaped like a heart on his left arm. [*The Fairy Godfather lifts up Jack's sleeve and we see that he has a birthmark shaped like a heart.*] Behold the Chosen One!

Jill Wow Jack! You really *are* the Chosen One!

Jack That's strange – I've never seen that there before!

Dame That's because it isn't a birthmark – that's a bit of dirt. [*She spits on her hanky and wipes it off.*] That's what you get from not having had a proper bath since your first day at kindergarten. All gone now.

Fairy Godfather Gone? What do you mean gone?

Dame I mean gone as in not there anymore. Like your sense of shame – if you expect to get away with that outfit.

Fairy Godfather Oh... Oops.

Dame Oops? What do you mean oops?

Fairy Godfather It means that I might have made a slight miscalculation.

Jill But is Jack still the Chosen One?

Fairy Godfather Not specifically – no.

Count Then if Jack isn't the Chosen One? Does he have any chance at all of defeating the