

Jack went up to the great gate of the house, and there saw the Giant's wife, of whom he begged a little food and a night's lodging. The woman told him that she dared not let him in, for her husband ate human flesh, and had already killed two or three travellers; but Jack begged so hard that at last she took him in, fed him, and hid him in the oven. When the Giant came home he roared out, "Wife, I smell fresh meat;" but the woman said it was only a cat that had caught a bird. After supper the Giant called for his hen, and Jack peeping out of the oven saw that whenever her master said, "lay," the hen laid a golden egg. Presently, when the Giant fell asleep and shook the room with his snoring, Jack came out softly, and escaped with the hen. His mother was delighted to see him; but Jack was impatient to be up the beanstalk again; and the second time, after a great deal of trouble, he persuaded the Giant's wife (who had forgotten him) to hide him in a closet. After supper, the Giant amused himself with counting two great bags of money; and Jack contrived to take these away, although a little dog barked so loudly that he was afraid the Giant would awake. On his third visit Jack, who was disguised, hid in the copper, and saw the Giant's fairy harp, which would play by itself. It played the Giant to sleep, and Jack ran off with it; but not before the Giant was after him. Before he was half down the bean-stalk Jack was at the bottom, and cutting the roots with a hatchet let the Giant to the ground, where he was killed with the fall.