Tumbling After

By Patti Veconi

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DEDICATION

To the drama students of Bay Ridge Prep's
Little Black Box Theatre

SYNOPSIS

Following his shenanigans up the beanstalk, Jack has built a real estate empire in Goosetown, and now his ambitious mother is determined he should solidify their fortune by developing an amusement park and condo complex. But one property owner is refusing to leave, and Jack soon finds he's up against more than just the old woman who lives in a shoe and her many clever children. No amount of golden eggs are enough to withstand the growing forces that line up against Jack: Pressures from Old King Cole; a dodgy partnership with the not-so-Noble Duke of York; the Giant's wife, who is pursuing that young man who stole the harp and goose from her late husband; and Mr. Bean, who is looking for a cut of the riches his magic beans made possible. And then there's Jill, the ex-girlfriend Jack has never stopped pining for. *Tumbling After* is a full-length ensemble play with two-dozen distinct and delightful characters. Directors and educators will appreciate its many contemporary themes including gentrification and eminent domain, abuse of power, the effect of grassroots organizing, and most of all, the consequences of our choices. Approximately 75 minutes.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(7 - 16 m, 12 - 21 w, 11 flexible.
Total roles 28 depending on doubling.)

(In order of appearance.)

GEORGY PORGY: (M) Bratty town kid who turns out not to be so mean after all.
POLLY: (W) Town kid. Helps to keep the peace between Georgy, Mary, and Muffet.
MARY: (W) Town kid. Quite contrary. Loves to tease Georgy.
MUFFET: (W) Town kid. Suffers from severe arachnophobia. Has a crush on Spruce.
MOTHER: (W) Mother Goose, but she doesn't like the attention and just goes by Mother now.
INSPECTOR: (Flexible) Civil service employee.
JILL: (W) Works for Mother as a plumber. Jack's ex-girlfriend.
CIRRUS: (W) The Giant's widow. She is searching for her stolen harp and goose.
JACK: (M) In over his head with problems.
HARP: (W) A magical creature with the wit of a human.
SHELLY: (W) A temporary office assistant working for Jack.
JACKLYN: (W) Jack's mother. Ambitious.
FENNEL: (Flexible) The oldest Goose child. Looks out for Sweet Pea.
EUCALYPTUS: (Flexible) Second oldest Goose child. Brainy, loves to use big words.
STEM: (Flexible) A Goose triplet.
SPROUT: (Flexible) A Goose triplet.
SPRUCE: (M) A Goose triplet. Has a crush on Miss Muffet.
SWEET PEA: (Flexible) The youngest of the Goose children.
KING COLE: (M) A very childlike old soul who needs to be constantly entertained and has no head for business. Usually playing with his toys.
CHESTER / SECRETARY: (Flexible) Chester is the king's jester. The Secretary handles the king's business and is dry and decidedly unlike the Jester. They are played by the same person for comedic effect.
FIDDLERS THREE: SIS (W); **BOOM** (W); **BAH** (Flexible) Inherited the gig from their fathers. Although they have kept the group's original name, they are no longer fiddlers but rather King Cole's personal cheerleaders.

MR. BEAN: (M) Back after some time spent traveling around with a cow that doesn't milk.
LAZY BELL: (Flexible) A cow that walks on two feet and naps a lot. A non-speaking part. (If played by a girl, two lines by Sis and Boom in Scene 6 about the cow not being lazy should be cut.)
GUARDS 1 & 2: (Flexible) Fancy steppers who can hum. They can double as townspeople.
NOBLE DUKE OF YORK: (M) A shrewd businessman with few scruples.
TOWNSPEOPLE: Optional extras for final scene. Can double as Inspector, Shelly, Guards.

Casting Note: INSPECTOR can double as LAZY BELL, BEAN, GUARDS or NOBLE DUKE. SHELLY can double as a GUARD.

SETTING

A single set can be used with moveable stage cubes and implied set pieces, or a more elaborate scenic design can be employed. All scenes take place in the village of Goosetown. Settings include outdoors in front of Mother Goose's shoe house, the office of Nimble Properties, Old King Cole's playroom, the Noble Duke of York's palace, and the town square.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT I

Scene 1	The Shoe House
Scene 2	Notice of Violations
Scene 3	Office of Nimble Properties
Scene 4	What Does it Mean?
Scene 5	Old King Cole's Playroom
Scene 6	The Fiddlers Three
Scene 7	The Children Plot
Scene 8	Money Matters
Scene 9	Jack and Jill

ACT II

Scene 1	The Not-so-Noble Duke of York
Scene 2	Breaking and Entering
Scene 3	Keeping Old King Cole Merry
Scene 4	Founder's Day

ACT 1
Scene 1

(AT RISE: The outside of the shoe house. There is a door and one window. MARY runs on holding a cap. She is chased by GEORGY, who is followed by POLLY and MUFFET.)

GEORGY: Give it back, Mary! Give it back!
POLLY: Mary, throw it here!

(MARY tosses the cap to POLLY, who passes it to MUFFET.)

GEORGY: Give it, Polly.
POLLY: I don't have it.
MUFFET: Mary, catch!

(The GIRLS continue tossing Georgy's cap between them.)

GEORGY: Come on, girls, give it back. Give it or else!
MARY: Or else what, Georgy?
POLLY: Yeah, Georgy, what're you going to do?
GEORGY: I'll kiss you all and make you cry! *(GEORGY makes fishy kiss face gestures to THEM.)*
MARY: More like gag!
MUFFET: You're gross!

(MUFFET gets the hat. GEORGY points to something behind her.)

GEORGY: Look out, Muffet, there's a spider.

(MUFFET shrieks and tosses the hat, which GEORGY grabs.)

MUFFET: Where? Get if off me! Get it off me!
POLLY: There's no spider, Muffet.
MARY: *(Moaning.)* I can't believe you fell for that.

(MOTHER peers out of the window.)

MOTHER: Oh, my goodness…

(TOWN KIDS freeze.)

MOTHER: *(Cont'd.)* I thought I heard voices. Aren't you sweet? *(Turning her head back inside the shoe and calling.)* Children! It's time to get ready for school! Up and about. Up and about! Oh, what shall I do with you all? *(Looking back at the town kids on stage and clapping her hands.)* And off to school with you as well!

(TOWN KIDS unfreeze as MOTHER leaves the window.)

GEORGY: Did we have to stop in front of the shoe house? That lady is crazy, and her kids are–
MARY: *(Smacking HIM.)* Don't be mean.
GEORGY: Are you kidding? You made fun of them all last week.
MARY: Well this week I'm being nicer.
POLLY: They can't help it if they're orphans.
MUFFET: They aren't orphans. The old lady adopted them.
MARY: They are a little strange, though.
MUFFET: Strange how?
MARY: For starters, they live in a shoe.
GEORGY: You wouldn't catch me living in a shoe.
MUFFET: You have hang-ups.
MARY: Says the girl with the irrational fear of spiders.
MUFFET: It's not irrational.
GEORGY: *(Starts to sing, teasing HER.)* The itsy-bitsy spider climbed up the—
MUFFET: *(Getting upset.)* Stop teasing me!

(GEORGY turns to look at the shoe house.)

MARY: How about some curds and whey?
MUFFET: You said you were being nice this week!
POLLY: Muffet is lactose intolerant.
GEORGY: There was an old woman who lived in a shoe.
MARY: With so many children, oh what could she do?

End of Freeview

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