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opening extract from

# Jack and the Beanstalk

written by

**Richard Walker and  
Niamh Sharkey**

published by

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In memory of Richard Walker

For my Grandparents  
May and Grania  
and in memory of  
Richard and Joe — N.S.



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retold by  
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Barefoot Books  
Celebrating Art and Story



*I'm not going to start by saying that Jack was lazy. When there was an adventure in the offing, he was not lazy at all. But most of the time, he just did a little bit of this and a little bit of that.*

Jack lived with his mum and Daisy, the cow, in a tumbledown farmhouse, a little way out of town. Jack's mum liked to do just a little bit of this and a little bit of that as well. They didn't have very much money, but they didn't much care.





Then one day there was nothing left to eat, not even a crust of old bread, and no money left either to buy anything.



'It's no good, Jack,' his mum said. 'We'll have to sell poor old Daisy. You had better get up early tomorrow morning and take her to market. Make sure you get a good price for her!'