

# The History of John Giller, The Giant Killer

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**By Thurlo Grumbo**

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THE  
SURPRISING AND INTERESTING  
*History of*  
**JOHN GILLER,**  
**THE GIANT KILLER:**

CONTAINING AN ACCOUNT OF HIS  
ASTONISHING ADVENTURES AND NUMEROUS EXPLOITS

AGAINST

**GIANTS**

WITH TWO AND THREE HEADS;

AND HIS

Marriage with the Duke's Daughter,

WHOM HE HAD DELIVERED FROM HER

**ENCHANTMENT.**

*Written in Verse for the Amusement of all good*

LITTLE GIANTS AND GIANTESSES,

BY

**THURLO GRUMBO.**

*Embellished with 14 Beautiful Coloured Engravings.*

A Giant-killer was our Jack,  
Who never did true courage lack;  
Whether they two heads had or three,  
'T was all the same to Jack, you'll see;  
He did all obstacles remove,  
At last was blest with faithful love.

LONDON :

ORLANDO HODGSON,



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LOS ANGELES

The Olive Percival  
Collection of  
Children's Books





*The Giant pursues Jack.*



*Jack's arrival at the Giant's House.*

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# JACK, THE GIANT KILLER!



*Jack kills the Giant in the Pit.*

IN Cornwall, in king Arthur's days,  
A Giant there was found,  
Who contributions large did raise  
From all the country round.

Within a cave this Giant dwelt,  
Upon Saint Michael's mount,  
And CORMORAN his name he spelt,  
His deeds we here recount.

Eighteen feet high this Giant stood,  
And three yards measur'd round;  
'The largest head of since the Flood,  
Or seen on English ground.

He half an ox each meal did eat,  
Or else two good fat sheep;  
He kill'd all those he chanc'd to meet,  
Folk were afraid to sleep.

Of sheep, or hogs he'd nothing make,  
Tie twenty round his waist;  
Six oxen on his back he'd take,  
And to his cavern haste.

At his approach the people fled,  
Both house and home they left;  
For well this Giant they might dread,  
Their cattle off he swept.

At the Lands-end there liv'd a lad,  
Whose name, was JOHN GILLER;  
They call'd him, he such courage had,  
"JACK THE GIANT KILLER."

Jack vow'd, as sure as he was born,  
This Giant he would slay;  
He took his pickaxe, spade, lanthorn,—  
And bugle-horn to play.

On a dark night, instead of sleep,  
He to the mount did hie;  
Ere morn he dug a pit quite deep,  
The Giant's cave close by.

## THE GIANT KILLER.

He cover'd it with sticks and straw,  
And over them earth laid;  
So that the Giant never saw  
The pit that Jack had made.

Jack then drew forth his bugle horn,  
A blast blew loud and shrill;  
The Giant he began to storm,  
And swore he Jack would kill.

Jack laugh'd and said, "I'm not afraid;"  
He fiercely then Jack sought,  
But ere a dozen yards he made,  
He in the pit was caught.

"Ha! ha!" says Jack, "My Giant bold,  
How do you feel just now?  
You'll roast and eat me ere I'm cold,  
But first you must learn how."

The Giant roar'd, the mountain shook,  
No fear Jack's mind e'er fill'd;  
Good aim he with his pick-axe took,  
One blow the Giant kill'd.

The justices, soon as they heard  
Of Jack's adventure bold,  
With sword and belt did him reward,—  
On which in letters gold,—

"This is the valiant Cornish man,  
Who slew the Giant CORNORAN."



*Giant Thunderbore carries Jack into his cave.*

Another Giant heard the tale,  
 His name was THUNDERBORE;  
 He sorely 'gainst poor Jack did rail,  
 To be reveng'd he swore.

Enchanted castles, in a wood,  
 Old THUNDERBORE he kept;  
 Where he confin'd some ladies good,  
 Whose friends their absence wept.

Jack into Wales a journey went,  
 And thro' this wood did pass;  
 He thirsty was,—his strength was spent,  
 He rested on the grass.

'Twas near a well, himself he stretch'd,  
Awake he could not keep;  
The Giant thence his water fetch'd,  
There found Jack fast asleep.

That it was Jack, the Giant knew,  
By looking at his belt;  
Then on his shoulders Jack he threw,  
And great delight he felt.

For he determin'd Jack to eat,—  
And told him, with a grin,  
His heart would be most dainty meat,  
When pepper'd it had been.

The castle floors were cover'd o'er  
With human skulls and bones;  
And huge tubs full of human gore,  
Stood on the kitchen stones.

A brother giant he would treat,  
To fetch him went straightway,  
That they together Jack might eat,  
And on him dine that day.

But first, he in his slaughter room  
Poor Jack did fast restrain,  
Where limbs and hearts of men were strewn,  
Who were but newly slain.

Loud shrieks, deep groans, and horrid cries,  
Now poor Jack's ears did meet;  
And then he heard, with mournful sighs,  
A voice these lines repeat:

“Haste! valiant stranger, haste away,  
Lest you become the Giant's prey:  
On his return he'll bring another,  
Still more savage than his brother,—  
A horrid cruel monster, who,  
Before he kills, will torture you;  
Oh! valiant stranger, haste away!  
Or, you'll become the Giant's prey.”

Distracted, Jack the window sought,  
It stood right o'er the gates;  
Now death or freedom, poor Jack thought,  
This hour my fate awaits.

Two strong thick cords then Jack did view  
A slip knot made in each;  
These o'er the Giants' heads he threw,  
When they the gates did reach.

These ropes he fasten'd in a trice  
Unto the cieling beam;  
They strangl'd were by this device,  
Of which they did not dream.



*Jack relieves the Ladies from Giant Thunderbore's Castle.*

Soon as Jack saw the Giants dead,  
 He slid down by the rope ;  
 Then he from each cut off the head,—  
 The castle gates did ope.

He search'd the castle all around,  
 No room but was disgrac'd ;  
 And hung up by their hair, he found  
 In one, three ladies plac'd.

The Giant did their husbands slay,  
 Of their flesh made a treat ;  
 Their wives he punished thus,—'cause they  
 Their husbands would not eat.

For this offence they were condemn'd  
Thus without food to be;  
Jack's heart with grief was overwhelm'd,  
When he their state did see.

The ladies quick Jack did release  
From their appalling state;  
Politely offer'd them the keys  
Of castle and its gate.

The Giant there great wealth had got,  
This Jack the ladies gave;  
The castle also was their lot,—  
Himself he'd nothing have.

Then Jack his journey did pursue,  
His cash not long would last;  
Best thing, he thought that he could do,  
It was, to travel fast.

When night came on, Jack lost his way  
Between two mountains steep;  
Where he for many hours did stray,  
In a lone valley deep.

At last, he thought his fortune good,  
When a large house he spied;  
He knock'd, then at the portal stood;  
Nor entrance was denied.





*Jack eats hasty-pudding with the Giant.*

A Giant huge came to the door,  
 Gave welcome for the night ;  
 Two large and ugly heads he wore,  
 Which Jack did much affright.

Jack weary was, and went to bed,  
 But no sleep could he meet ;  
 He heard the Giant next room tread,  
 And to himself repeat:—

“Tho’ here you lodge with me this night,  
 You shall not see the morning light ;  
 My club shall knock your brains out quite,  
 And then I’ll eat you with delight.”

“Hah! say you so? thus do you do?  
And travellers so serve?”

Cries Jack, “I’ll cunning be as you,  
My life try to preserve.”

To get up then poor Jack he sped,  
Of wood a billet found;  
With that supplied his place in bed,  
And lay down on the ground.

The Giant, he at midnight goes  
To where he thought Jack slept;  
Laid on the bed such heavy blows,  
No life he thought was left.

The Giant scarce his eyes believ’d,  
Next morn when Jack he saw;  
He never had been so deceiv’d,  
Since he had us’d club law.

He Jack to breakfast did invite,  
And hasty-pudding take;  
A trick to play, Jack thought it right,  
Fool of the Giant make.

A leathern bag beneath his clothes,  
Jack cautiously did hide;  
And into this the pudding throws,  
And from his mouth did slide.

The Giant star'd to see him eat,  
With wonder him survey'd,  
Had no suspicion of the cheat;  
Right well his part Jack play'd.

When they had done, says Jack, "A trick  
To you I'll quickly shew ;"  
He in his bag a knife did stick,  
The pudding out did flow.

"Splutter hur nails," the giant cried,  
"Hur can do that as well ;"  
His knife into his guts did glide,  
When out his bowels fell

The Giant thus brought to his end,  
Jack travell'd gaily on ;  
As he to Wales his way did wend,  
He o'ertook the King's son.

From a Magician's wicked arts,  
A lady to rescue,  
King Arthur's son did in those parts,  
Like Jack, his way pursue.

No servants did the Prince attend,  
Jack offer'd for the place ;  
The Prince felt pleas'd, did Jack commend,  
His offer did embrace.



*Jack arrives at the Castle of the Giant with Three Heads.*

The Prince was gen'rous, freely gave,  
 None from him empty went;  
 At length the fates it so would have,  
 He his last shilling spent.

"What shall we do for food?" said he,  
 As he to Jack apply'd;  
 Jack briskly said,—“Leave that to me,  
 “I'll for my Prince provide.

“A Giant, two miles from this spot,  
 Five hundred men who'll fight;  
 My cousin is:—three heads he's got,  
 Lodge there we will this night.”

"Alas! alas!" the Prince replied,  
"Ne'er born we'd better been,  
Than with such monsters to reside,  
They children are of sin."

"Leave all to me, my lord," says Jack,  
"I value not his spell;  
If you'll wait here till I come back,  
I'll warrant all is well."

Jack rode full speed, the castle reach'd,  
And loud knock'd at the door;  
"Who's there?" the Giant thund'ring screech'd,  
"'Tis Jack, your cousin poor."

"What news? what news?" the Giant cried,  
"What news have you for me?  
"I've heavy news," then Jack replied,  
"Coz, heavy news for thee."

"For me, you say! what is it then?  
It can't to me apply;  
You know I'll fight five hundred men,  
Before me make them fly."

"To seek your life King Arthur's son  
Two thousand men doth bring;  
'To tell you this," says Jack, "I've run,  
It is a fearful thing."

“ Oh ! cousin Jack,” the Giant cried,  
“ This news does me confound ;  
I think I'll in my cellars hide,  
They lie deep under ground.

“ And you, friend Jack, shall make all fast,  
With lock, and bolt, and bar ;  
Until the king's son shall have pass'd,  
Away have travel'd far.”

To fetch his Prince, Jack back did run,  
That they might merry make ;  
They pass'd the night in mirth and fun,  
The Giant sore did quake.

Next morn Jack gave to the king's son  
Of gold an ample store ;  
The Prince, light hearted, journey'd on,  
Jack op'd the cellar door.

The Giant said, “ Your cunning chap,  
How shall I you reward ?”  
“ Good coz,” says Jack, “ give me that cap,  
Old coat, and rusty sword.

“ Those slippers too, I fain would take,  
I nothing further mind ;”  
“ Take them, and keep them for my sake.  
Great use in them you'll find.”

“The shoes of swiftness sure partake,  
The cap will knowledge bring;  
The coat invisible will make,  
The sword cut any thing.”

The lady's house they soon came to,  
She made a noble feast;

“The custom of my mansion you  
Conform with, must at least.

“This handkerchief, where I bestow,  
Unto the Prince” she said;

“To morrow you must tell or know,  
You then must lose your head.”

The Prince was sad, his grief he hid;  
Jack put his cap on right;  
He learnt th' enchanted lady did  
Her tyrant meet each night.

Within a forest it took place,  
His coat did Jack surround;  
His shoes gave him so swift a pace,  
He there the first was found.

The lady came, Giant also,  
The handkerchief she gave;  
Jack struck his head off at a blow,  
And thus his Prince did save.



*Jack releases the knight and his lady, and slays the Giant.*

The Prince and lady married were,  
 The King did Jack invite ;  
 Of " the Round Table " did declare  
 Jack a most worthy knight.

Then Jack to seek more Giants went,  
 That he the King might please ;  
 To clear the kingdom his intent,  
 Of monsters such as these.

As thro' a wood Jack bent his way,  
 He piercing shrieks did hear ;  
 He sought the cause without delay,  
 Jack never had known fear.



A monstrous Giant there Jack saw,  
Full twenty feet in height,  
Who by their hair along did draw  
Fair lady and her knight.

His coat of darkness now wore Jack,  
His trusty sword did wield,  
Then at the Giant's legs did hack,  
Resolv'd that he should yield.

At last one stroke, with all Jack's strength,  
Cut thro' the Giant's thighs;  
The monster fell at all his length,  
With the most hideous cries

“For thy foul crimes, this thy reward,  
Thou savage wretch,” Jack cried;  
Then in his body plung'd his sword,  
The Giant groan'd and died.

The court'ous knight, and lady fair,  
With thanks to Jack now came,  
Invited him their house to share,  
But Jack had other game.

“I'm not at ease” cried Jack the brave,  
“Until I meet the other,  
I must seek out this Giant's cave,  
And there destroy his brother.”



*Jack slay another Giant near the entrance of his Cave.*

Jack swift rode on, and soon did spy  
 The cavern that he sought;  
 The Giant with his club close by,  
 Was sitting deep in thought.

His eyes like balls of fire appear'd,  
 And in his head did stare;  
 Like wire the bristles of his beard,  
 Like curling snakes his hair.

His coat again put on did Jack,  
 And felt himself quite bold;  
 "Oh, monster! are you there? good lack,  
 Your beard I'll soon fast hold."

The Giant could not Jack behold,  
Altho' he felt his blows;  
Jack miss'd his aim, yet well it told,  
Cut off the Giant's nose.

The Giant did with fury glow,  
His club he laid about.  
"Nay, nay," says Jack, "I can't, you know,  
Now take you by the snout."

"Ha! will you so? oh! Giant, oh!"  
Then sneeringly cried Jack,  
"Is this the case? then take it so;"  
Jack stabb'd him in the back.

Jack search'd the cave, the treasure took,  
And at the farthest end,  
Thro' bars, did wretched captives look,  
Who did their fate attend.

When Jack they saw, they all cried out,  
"Ah! wretched poor young man!  
You one of us will make, no doubt,  
Escape you never can."

"What brings you here?" then Jack did say,  
"You twenty are at least."  
"The Giants keep us here," said they,  
Until they make a feast."

“Two days ago they roasted three,  
And on them then did dine;  
To-day they'll kill some more, you'll see,  
May be your fate or mine.”

“Well then,” said Jack, “they've dinner got,  
Will last, I think, some time;  
They'll kill no more of you, I wot;  
You therefore now are mine.

“I've finish'd both their lives and sport;  
Their heads have cut off close,  
And sent them to King Arthur's court;  
In short, they've got their dose.

“The truth of what I say, I'll shew;”  
He then unlock'd the gate.

“But dine you shall before you go,  
Some money with you take.”

Then Jack set off, the knight to see,  
Likewise his lady bright,  
And tell them the success that he  
Gain'd in the giant fight.

The knight, to see him was right glad  
So was his lady fair,  
A handsome ring for Jack they had,  
This motto work'd in hair:—

“Behold in dire distress were we,  
Under a Giant’s fierce command,  
But gain’d our lives and liberty,  
From valiant Jack’s victorious hand.”

Guests were invited Jack to meet,  
A splendid feast they gave,  
Brave Jack they royally did treat,  
His friendship they did crave.

While all within was mirth and glee,  
A herald breathless came,  
To say a Giant soon they’d see,  
Was coming Jack to claim.

Two heads this giant did possess,  
And he was THUNDREL nam’d;  
His kinsmen’s wrongs he will redress,  
And swears Jack shall be tam’d.

The guests all trembl’d,—not so Jack,  
He said: “Pray let him come;  
I’ll warrant that he ne’er goes back,  
And fun you shall see some.”

The castle stood within a moat,  
A drawbridge to it led;  
Then Jack put on his dark’ning coat,  
Against the Giant sped.

Right in the middle Jack cut thro'  
This bridge on either side,  
Until he near the centre drew;  
These cuts Jack well did hide.

The Giant could not brave Jack see,  
Yet danger found was near,  
The monster roar'd out lustily,  
And this threat met Jack's ear.

"Fa, fe, fi, fe, fe, faw, fum,  
I smell the blood of an Englishman,  
Let him be alive, or let him be dead,  
I'll grind his bones to make me bread."

"Ha! ha! indeed! old biter bit,  
A pretty miller thou,  
I wonder much your mill you quit,  
To follow me, I vow."

"Art thou the villain that did dare  
To kill my kinsman Jones?  
I with my teeth thy flesh will tear  
To powder grind thy bones."

"Soft! soft! good Giant! better sure  
You'd do, to catch me first;  
Such big words off a stomach poor,  
With laughing makes me burst."



*Giant Thundrel pursues Jack over the Drawbridge*

His coat of darkness he threw back,  
 His shoes of swiftness wore,  
 Then round the castle run, did Jack,  
 The Giant stamp'd and tore.

The Giant after Jack then stalk'd,  
 But much way did not make,  
 He seem'd as if a castle walk'd,  
 The very earth did shake.

A novel sight this race, indeed,  
 The Giant loud did roar,  
 Jack round and round did run full speed,  
 The Giant foam'd and swore.

The company, in much amaze  
Kept viewing of the sport,  
And anx'ously on Jack did gaze,  
Who then cut matters short.

Jack nimbly 'fore the Giant skipp'd,  
Then o'er the bridge did bound,  
Over the fatal cuts he leap'd,  
And safely reach'd the ground.

The Giant follow'd him right straight,  
And Jack would fain have smote ;  
The bridge gave way beenath his weight,  
He tumbl'd in the moat.

The mud the Giant fast did hold,  
The more he plung'd the worse ;  
Like thunder he did rave and scold,  
Jack heartily did curse.

Jack laugh'd and jeer'd, for mirth inclin'd,  
“ Oh, Giant! tell me, pray,  
When my poor bones you mean to grind,  
Say, shall it be to-day?”

They got a cable quickly slung,  
A team of horses too,  
The noose o'er both his heads was flung,  
Him from the moat they drew.





*Jack sends a Team of Horses to draw the Giant out  
of the moat, and cuts off his Head.*

Jack with his trusty sword stood by,  
As he was dragg'd to land,  
Made both his heads like light'ning fly,  
Astonish'd folk did stand.

Jack this huge Giant thus did end,  
Then to his friends did steer,  
Together they the day did spend  
In mirth, and with good cheer.

Some time Jack at the castle spent,  
Quite happy he appear'd,  
But idleness was not his bent,  
'Twas that alone he fear'd.

To seek for Giants, Jack once more  
 To mountains bravely hied;  
 At a lone house, close by his door,  
 An old man Jack espied.

Says Jack, "Good father, tell me, pray,  
 Can you a bed afford  
 A traveller who's lost his way,  
 With purse but poorly stor'd?"

"You're welcome, son," the hermit said,  
 "If you can like my fare;  
 I know you well, be not afraid,  
 With you my crust I'll share.

"You conqueror of Giant's are,  
 A lad both brave and true;  
 There's one hard by you must not spare,  
 But make him evil rue.

"Enchanted castle, on you mount,  
 Doth GALLIGANTUS keep;  
 His wickedness, should I recount,  
 Would make a stout heart weep.

"Folk to his castle he'll invite,  
 Then give them shapes of beast:  
 Sometimes he'll kill them out of spite,  
 And on their carcase feast.

• The daughter of a duke he caught,  
A lady young and fair;  
And through the air he had her brought  
By dragons fierce a pair.

“He of her mis’ry makes his fun,  
And still he keeps her here;  
About the monster’s park does run  
Her shape, just like a deer.

“There’s many who deplore her fate,  
Their courage would employ;  
But fiery griffins guard the gate,  
All who approach destroy.

“Now you, my son, this lady may  
Set from her bondage free;  
If in your coat you make your way,  
None your approach can see.

If you to this should feel inclin’d,  
And it will undertake,  
Wrote on the castle gate you’ll find  
What will th’ enchantment break.

Jack promis’d that next morning he  
Th’ enchantment would dissolve,  
And risk his life most cheerfully,  
The lady to absolve.



*Jack enters the Castle of the Giant Golligantus.*

At break of day Jack did arise,  
 His coat he on him threw;  
 The fiery griffins caught his eyes,  
 But freely he pass'd thro'.

When he the castle gates drew near,  
 And had made good his ground,  
 A golden trumpet he saw there,  
 'Neath which these lines he found:

“Whoever can this trumpet blow,  
 Shall cause the Giant's overthrow.”

Jack seiz'd the trumpet full of joy,  
 A shrill blast on it blew;  
 Those gates, that numbers did annoy,  
 Now open wide they flew.



*Jack kills the Giant Galligantus, and the Magician flies away in a whirlwind.*

The castle shook, seem'd full of smoke,  
 The Giant trembling stood;  
 Jack clove his head at one fell stroke,  
 He welter'd in his blood.

The lady and the knights resum'd  
 Their proper shape and make,  
 The castle was by fire consum'd,  
 The griffins flight did take.

Jack now towards King Arthur's court,  
 Well pleas'd, he bent his way;  
 There of his battles made report.  
 Did with the courtiers stay.



*Jack marries the Duke's Daughter, and spends his Days in  
Joy and Content.*

When the duke got his daughter back,  
His heart with joy was fill'd ;  
He went to court, and there found Jack,  
Who had the Giant kill'd

Jack's fame throughout the kingdom spread,  
His courage was admir'd,  
With the duke's daughter Jack did wed,  
The king had so desir'd.

A large reward the king Jack sent,  
And always call'd him friend,—  
Jack with his lady liv'd content,  
With her his life did end.

The End.





