

AFTER THE HILL

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By Meron Langsner

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At the base of a steep hill, JACK and JILL lie in a heap. An empty pail is nearby.

JILL  
Jack? Are you ok?  
JACK  
(Groans)  
I think I landed on my head again.

JILL  
Is it broken?

JACK  
I don't know.

JILL  
Can you stand?

JACK  
I don't know yet. Barely.

JILL  
Should we try again?

JACK  
Not just yet. I'm kinda dizzy.

JILL  
Have you seen the pail?

JACK  
It's over there.

Jill fetches the pail.

JACK (CONT'D)  
How is it that you're still in one piece after all that?

JILL  
You broke my fall.

JACK  
No, I broke my crown.

JILL  
Do you think there's really a well up there?

JACK  
Why else would she keep sending us? I'm sure it's just past where that Greek guy with the big rock always is.

JILL

It's just that... We've never actually gotten any water from up there.

JACK

That's just cause we've never reached the top.

JILL

Don't you think that's a little strange?

JACK

A well at the top of a hill? Yeah, it seems a little out of the way.

JILL

No, that we never reach it.

JACK

Now that you mention it, it is kinda weird.

JILL

I mean, really. We go up the hill, we go down the hill, we go up the hill, we go down the hill, but do we ever reach the top?

JACK

Not as far as I can remember.

JILL

And how long have we been doing this?

JACK

I don't know. I just remember climbing and falling.

JILL

And hitting your head.

JACK

Ow. Don't remind me.

JILL

But do you remember ever actually getting a pail of water?

JACK

Go easy on me, I just took a pretty serious blow to the head.

JILL

You always get hit on the head. It's amazing you can still function.

JACK

Come on, we should go up and get some water.

JILL

Jack? I don't think there really is any water up there.

JACK

Come on now, we just went through this. I don't want to explain to her again that we fell.

MOTHER GOOSE

(From offstage)

Children!

JACK

Oh no.

JILL

What will we tell her?

JACK

That we fell.

MOTHER GOOSE

(Entering)

What's the situation with the water?

JACK

We fell.

JILL

I think Jack broke his head again.

MOTHER GOOSE

What am I going to do with you two?

JACK

Maybe give us bandages?

MOTHER GOOSE

I send you off on a simple errand...

JILL

It's dangerous up there.

MOTHER GOOSE

And every time, the same thing, I find you in a heap on the grass.

JACK

We were standing this time.

MOTHER GOOSE

Oh, that's progress.

JACK

We tried.

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MOTHER GOOSE  
You failed.

JILL  
Me and Jack have been thinking...

MOTHER GOOSE  
Don't be ridiculous.

JILL  
Well, I've been thinking...

MOTHER GOOSE  
Now that I believe.

JILL  
We're not sure there really is a well up there.

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