

JACK

(Talking to his little brother, Jed.)

Come on back up that beanstalk with me, Jed. First thing in the morning. All you gotta do is steer clear of the giant's wife. She'll pop you straight into the oven if she catches you. But we'll sneak past her, grab us something for our momma, then skitter right back down. I got us a hen last time. Lays the prettiest eggs you've ever seen. We would've starved, I tell you, if I hadn't got us that hen. Your belly's been full, ain't it? Well, you got *me* to thank. This time I'm gonna get me the giant's magic fiddle. It plays all by itself. Can't you see our momma if she had that fiddle? The smile would never leave her face. I'm gonna take it . . . uh, borrow it . . . just for a while. *(JED remains doubtful.)* Jed, that giant was fixin' to eat me for breakfast! It's all right to steal from somebody mean as him. Isn't it?

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(Talking to his drama teacher.)

But I'm the prince! Hello! "Hamlet, Prince of Denmark?" I've got to have a crown. Not a cheesy one, but a real one. Claudius gets a crown and he's a lousy murderer. You gave one to the Player King and Queen and they're *fake* royalty. I'm the real thing! Watch. "Suit the action to the words, the words to the action!" Wasn't that princely? (*Drama teacher does not give.*) OK, I'm not always on time to rehearsal. And Horatio and I messed around with the swords, but we were practicing. Really! He wanted to see what it was like to die since he's the only person in the play who doesn't. We were "exploring the text" . . . like you said! (*Teacher is still not giving in.*) The thing is . . . see . . . I told my dad I'd be wearing a gold one, with jewels. I had to tell him something . . . to get him to come. He's never come. Now he'll think I'm a liar. And we'll fight. What if I make it myself? Please?

DELIA

(Talking to her mom.)

It's a coupon book. I made it for you. You could redeem one of them today, Mom, if you want. They're for all kinds of things you like. "Delia's Shoulder Massage." I know you get tired being at your desk all day. My friends and I do really great massages. And this blue one's for two hours of car care. We could — I could wash your car. You could watch. I'll pull a beach chair out for you. We never use them anymore. Oh, this green coupon all decorated with words, it says, "Must be redeemed on a comfy couch or chair of your choosing." See, I read to you. Then you read to me. Could we do that one? Today? How long do you think you'll be on the computer, Mom? *(She waits for a reply.)* Mom? Happy Mother's Day.