

## THE FLOWER by CLARE PRICE

*Betty has a vivid imagination and Jack her brother doesn't.  
But her fantasies suddenly take a real turn as they explore a secret garden.*

### BETTY.

Where are we? *(She opens door and enters)*

Hey, this is extraordinary. It's like a tropical forest in here. It's so hot. *(Wipes her face, picks flower and pushes it into button-hole of shirt)*

I want to show you this flower... Jack, I'm in here, where are you?

*(She turns to find the door gone)*

But where's the door? *(Calls)*

Jack! Jack! Can you hear me? ... On no! Wasps. I hate wasps. *(Leaps around)*

They're in my hair! *(Shakes and covers her head with cardigan. She spies through a gap in the clothing and relaxes)*

They've gone. I think. No sounds, how odd. *(Walks forward gradually removing the cardigan from her head coming across an invisible wall. Pushing the wall with her hands in front of her and all the way to the ground. She becomes frantic)*

Calm, calm. There must be a logical way out.

*(She finds she is closed in from all sides turning with her back to the audience. She feels all the walls)*

I'm bricked in! *(Enclosed she turns around helplessly)*

Help! Jack! Jack! ... It's getting very hot in here. The walls seem to be closing in. *(Becoming weak)*

It's so hot I can't breath. *(Eventually she falls to the floor in a faint. Pause. Waking, she sees Jack)*

Jack, oh Jack. How did you get in? Well, I mean the walls, where are they? ...

Aunt Clare's garden? But we can't be. I was a prisoner in a tropical garden and these wasps started attacking me. Then they suddenly vanished. I couldn't have dreamt it. *(Looks down at her shirt front)*

Look, I've still got the flower!