

# the house that jack built - or tried to...

*an original play by joshua rich*

cast:

rat man

cat man

priscilla

dog man

maiden

cow woman

UPS woman

jack

farmer

priest

building inspector

man

(Jack is outside, looking at the property for his new house. Suddenly, a UPS woman appears).

Jack: Can I help you?

UPS Woman: Yeah, I've got a delivery for a Jack?

Jack: That's me.

UPS Woman: You buildin' a house?

Jack: Yup.

UPS Woman: Good luck.

Jack: Thanks.

UPS Woman: Well, see you later.

Jack: What about my delivery?

UPS Woman: What delivery?

Jack: The one you said you had for me!!

UPS Woman: Oh, yeah, that one. Ok, ok, no need to get excited. Here ya go.

Jack: What is it?

UPS Woman: Some malt.

Jack: And what am I supposed to do with malt?

UPS Woman: I dunno. Make a malt shake? (goes away laughing heartily at her own joke).

Jack: This is ridiculous.

(Jack's wife, Priscilla enters).

Priscilla: What's wrong, dear?

Jack: Someone sent me some malt.

Priscilla: Oh. Well, then we need some rats. They eat malt.

Jack: How do you know that?

Priscilla: My father owned a malt shop, and that's how he got rid of the extra when it went bad. (gets out cell phone). Yes, hello, Dad? Can you send us some rats? Thanks.

Jack: I don't believe this. I just want to build a house.

Priscilla: I know, dear. You will.

(Rat Man enters).

Rat Man: Someone order some rats?

Priscilla: That's us.

Rat Man: Where do you want 'em?

Priscilla: Um - over there by the malt.

Rat Man: Ok. You know, for an extra fifty bucks, I'll stay with 'em and make sure they're not getting into any trouble.

Priscilla: That would be nice. Pay the man, dear.

Jack: But - but -

Rat Man: Look, mister, you don't want a bunch of rats running around out of control.

Jack: I don't want a bunch of rats, period!!

Rat Man: Well, if you feel that way about it, I'll just take them and -

Priscilla: No! We have to get rid of that malt. These are the rats that will eat the malt.

Rat Man: That was put in the house that Jack is building?

Priscilla: Exactly!

Jack: This is getting weirder and weirder.

Priscilla: You know, we should probably get a cat, to scare the rats.