

A-la-la-la-la-la
SCRIPT

SCENE 1

SONG – A-LA-LA-LA-LA-LADDIN

It is Market Day. The merchants are a cosmopolitan mix of men and women, young (ish) and old. Customers potter around, some browsing, some buying.

Fatima **Figs, dates and pomegranates. All freshly picked!**

Merchant 1 **Freshly picked! Really?**

Fatima **Of course. I picked them fresh weeks ago.**

Merchant 2 **Beautiful hand-woven fabrics.**

Ensemble 2 **Look at these. I think I'll buy the blue one.**

Merchant 2 **To match your beautiful eyes madam**

Ensemble 2 **But my eyes are brown**

Fatima **Yep – colour blind!**

Merchant 3 **Rugs and carpets. Perfectly ordinary carpets.**

Ensemble 1 **How much for this one?**

Merchant 3 **For you sir a special discount – just 50 dinar**

Ensemble 1 **50? That seems a lot. I'll give you 20**

Merchant 3 **I'll take 40**

Ensemble 1 **30 and that's my final offer**

Merchant 3 **Done**

Fatima **You certainly have been – I bought one last week and it only cost me 15**

Merchant 4 **Pots, jugs, plates and bowls – hand thrown – only the best.**

Merchant 5 **Sumac, cumin and cardamom. Spice up your life.**

Ensemble 3 **I need some spices. I have a list.**

Merchant 6 **Flowers, beautiful flowers – just smell the fragrance**

Merchant 7 **Kebabs, get your Doners and shawarmas here**

Ensemble 4 **I know who donna is but no idea who the other one was?**

Downstage, Jafar (the sorcerer) enters.

Jafar (to himself) **Ah, now this seems a more likely place.**

He moves towards Fatima

Jafar **Madam, please may I have a word?**

Fatima **It'll cost ya.**

Jafar **Cost me! You can't be serious.**

Fatima **You're in a market: you want something, you pay for it.**

She holds out her palm. Jafar shakes his head in disbelief, then places a couple of coins in it. She keeps her palm open, waiting for more. He adds another, and then another, and finally another. When she keeps her palm open still, he closes it for her and speaks once again.

Jafar **I am looking for a young man. More a boy, really. Not too big and not too smart. Am I likely to find one here?**

Fatima **One? You'll find dozens of them, hanging around and getting up to no good.**

Jafar **Perfect, how delightful.**

Fatima **They're a pain in my . . . well, they're a pain. If you stay here long enough, they'll turn up.**

Jafar **Wonderful. I will return in due course. Have a lovely day.**

Fatima (*disgruntled*) **Huh. Chance'd be a fine thing.**

Jafar moves upstage and exits as the bustle of the market continues. Aladdin and his friends enter

Aladdin (*gesturing*) **This is it, boys. Today I'm going to meet the girl of my dreams.**

Rafiq **What time? Only I've got a mud bath booked for three thirty.**

Kalil **Aladdin, do you really think you'll meet her in an overpriced market?**

Fatima (*calling over*) **Hey, it's only overpriced if you can't pay for it. Cheapskate.**

Rafiq **Well, I guess I could reschedule.**

Muhammad **Ha! Aladdin thinks he is going to meet the girl of his dreams..here!**

Aladdin **Well, maybe not precisely here, but it will definitely be today. I feel it in my fingers.**

Jamir **That's pins and needles.**

Aladdin **I feel it in my toes.**

Rashad **That's athlete's foot.**

Aladdin **Love is all around me.**

Mahmood **I think you mean rats.**

Aladdin **I'm telling you, today is the first day of my new life.**

Mahmood **Why, are you getting a job?**

Masud **Ha, don't make me laugh.**

Aladdin **Who needs a job when you're destined for greatness!**

Yusuf **Destined for jail more like.**

Kalil **So, what, you're going to marry a princess and become a prince, are you?**

Aladdin **Someone's got to. Why not me?**

Mahmood **Ha! What have you got to offer a princess?**

Aladdin **It's going to happen, boys. Trust me. I just need to work my magic.**

SONG – UNDER MY SPELL

The Grand Vizier and a number of palace guards enter with great pomp.

Grand Vizier **By order of His Royal Highness the Sultan, this market is now closed and all people must retire to their houses.**

Jamir **Really? I was hoping to retire to the coast.**

Grand Vizier **(glaring) Silence! Upon pain of death, nobody must look upon Her Royal Highness Princess Jasmine as she passes. Now clear these streets.**

The merchants start packing up, improvising grumbling as they do so.

Jamir **This Princess must be really ugly: she never wants anyone to see her.**

Mahmood **It's the Sultan, dimwit. He doesn't want mere mortals gazing on her beauty.**

Nadir **Sure. Or she's really ugly.**

Masud **Come on, we best make ourselves scarce.**

Rashad **Let's go to the baths.**

Rafiq **Join me for a mud rub if you like.**

Rafiq **Er, no thanks.**

They start to move off. Aladdin remains where he is. Kalil notices and stops.

Kalil **Aladdin. Are you coming?**

Aladdin **Um . . . yes. You go on. I'll join you.**

Kalil **(suspicious)** What are you up to?

Aladdin **Me? Nothing. I . . . erm . . . I'm waiting for my mum....**

Kalil **(smiling knowingly) Oh really?**

He starts to move off. Then stops and turns back.

Kalil **Oh, Aladdin.**

Aladdin **Yes.**

Kalil **It had better be a good hiding place.**

Aladdin smiles as Kalil exits after the others.

Skirting the guards, Aladdin makes as if to leave, then ducks quickly behind a stall, still visible to the audience.

Sultan and Princess Jasmine enter, preceded and followed by a number of female attendants and some guards.

Sultan **Well, Grand Vizier, let's hear your plans then.**

Grand Vizier **Of course, your highness. Well, to begin with, we rid the city of this dreadful old market. It's perfectly filthy and the people in it aren't much better. One can only imagine the diseases being harboured.**

As they continue talking, Princess Jasmine lifts her veil. She is beautiful, but has a look of despondency about her. Aladdin is entranced, and cannot take his eyes off her.

Sultan **But it's one of the oldest markets in the city. Quite possibly the oldest.**

Grand Vizier **And quite certainly the dirtiest. It also takes customers away from our brand new, completely spotless market along from the palace.**

As they continue, the Princess, perhaps feeling that she is being watched, looks down and sees Aladdin. He doesn't turn away, and instead finds himself smiling at her. She smiles back at him. A fleeting but life-changing moment.

Sultan **I've always rather liked it, actually. You can pick up some great bargains.**

Grand Vizier **Your highness, you have no need of great bargains. You are the Sultan.**

Sultan **Oh I know, but I do like a haggle. No, I'm not ready to decide this yet. Draw up the plans and I'll have a look.**

Grand Vizier **They're already drawn up.**

Sultan **Then make them neater. Come, Jasmine. And put that veil down immediately.**

With a last look at Aladdin, the Princess pulls her veil back over her face and the procession continues and exits.

Once they have passed, with the stage seemingly empty, Aladdin comes out of his hiding place and gazes after the Princess, wistfully.

Aladdin exits.

Jafar, who has also been in hiding upstage, unseen to all, now steps forward and looks offstage after Aladdin.

Jafar **Well, well. It looks like I may have found my fool.**

He exits the same way as Aladdin.

SCENE TWO

Nora is collecting the washing whilst Aladdin's mum is sweeping the floor.

Mum I'm telling you, his father would be turning in his grave. Fancy being his age and still not having a trade.

Nora My Jamir's just the same. He's been bone-idle since the day he was born. Takes after his father.

Mum Well Aladdin's father couldn't have worked harder. He was a cobbler. Put his heart and soul into it.

Nora Do you miss him?

Mum Now and then, when I need my shoes fixing.

Nora I'd better be off now – if you see Jamir please tell him I need him.

Mum Will do. See you later.

Nora exits with the washing

Aladdin enters. He is in high spirits.

Aladdin Hi mum.

She doesn't answer him.

Aladdin Mum?

Mum I'm not talking with you.

Aladdin Huh? Why not?

Mum You tell me.

Aladdin I have absolutely no idea.

Mum Then I'll tell you. No, I'll ask you. What have you been up to today?

Aladdin Not much. This and that.

Mum Precisely. Another day wasted. Where were you?

Aladdin Nowhere in particular.

Nora Was Jamir with you?

Aladdin Yes, well, some of the time. I think he went for a mud-bath.

Mum **And why didn't you go?**

Aladdin **Oh, erm, don't know. I guess I got distracted.**

Mum **Yes, I bet you did. Too distracted to pick up the groceries too, I imagine?**

Aladdin **I'm afraid so, yes. They closed the market anyway.**

Mum **Well we've got nothing in, so if you want to eat tonight, you'd better go somewhere else and get some.**

Aladdin **But I've just got in.**

Mum **Then you can just go back out again. You need to start earning your keep, young man.**

Aladdin **You just wait and see, mother. I might surprise you before long.**

Mum **I don't need surprises: I need groceries. Now go!**

Aladdin **Fine, I'm going.**

Mum **And don't come back without them.**

The sorcerer, Jafar, emerges from the shadows. He has been waiting for Aladdin, but now pretends otherwise.

Jafar **Good evening . . . Aladdin.**

Aladdin **(surprised) How do you know my name?**

Jafar **I asked at the market. Told them I needed an adventurous, courageous, intelligent young man for a special and . . . lucrative . . . undertaking. Your name was the first on their lips.**

Aladdin **Lucrative? How lucrative?**

Jafar **Exceedingly.**

Aladdin **Is it legal?**

Jafar **Of course, absolutely.**

Aladdin **And why do you need me? Why can't you do it yourself?**

Jafar **Oh, I'm far too old. It needs the agility of youth. Someone who's strong and fleet-footed.**

Aladdin **(suspicious) Hmmm. The thing is, I promised my mother I would pick up the groceries.**

Jafar **Groceries! Ha! You'll never marry the princess with groceries, Aladdin.**

Aladdin **How do you . . .**

Jafar **Of course, I could speak to some of the others whose names were mentioned. It was a pretty long list . . .**

Aladdin **No! Don't do that. I'll do it.**

Jafar **Wonderful. You were my first choice, after all.**

Aladdin **Where do we have to go? Is it in the city?**

Jafar **No. It is in the desert, where the hills turn to mountains and the sand turns to rock.**

Aladdin **Sounds . . . welcoming. *(pause. A touch nervous)* I've never been to the desert before.**

Jafar **Don't worry . . . I'll show you the way.**

Aladdin **But it's nearly nightfall.**

Jafar looks up at the sky then slowly back to Aladdin, smiling mysteriously.

Jafar **Then we'd best get going.**

Jafar leads off, followed after a moment by a wary Aladdin, who then stops as if having second thoughts.

Jafar calls to him.

Jafar **Riches, Aladdin. Respect. Love! Just think about how proud your father would be.**

This is the clincher. Aladdin's expression alters as he looks at Jafar decisively.

Aladdin **I'm with you. Lead the way.**

SCENE THREE

Princess Jasmine is standing in her bedroom in the palace

- Laila** **It was the most beautiful colour, sort of saffron-y. And so soft, the finest silk you can imagine. Honestly, I couldn't stop running it through my hands.**
- Fara** **I've never seen such beautiful silks**
- Laila** **I will definitely return to purchase some**
- Salma** **Well I found a lovely old rug. A little dusty. Well-travelled apparently. I was tempted to buy it, but I could hear my father's voice ringing through my head, telling me to leave well alone.**
- Amrin** **He'd never know though.**
- Salma** **Sure he would, he was right beside me.**
- Amrin** **Oh.**
- Aisha** **What about you, your highness. Did you see anything at the market that you liked?**
- Jasmine** **Um . . . a couple of things caught my eye.**
- Aisha** **Did you get them?**
- Jasmine** **No. I don't think he was for sale actually.**
- Aisha** **He?**
- Girls** **He?**
- Zara** **Ooh Jasmine tell us more**
- Offstage, the Sultan's voice can be heard approaching, talking to the Grand Vizier.*
- Sultan** **(from off) I'm telling you, she'll be delighted. What more could a young girl want?**
- Jasmine** **It's father. Girls, keep this to yourselves.**
- Nadia** **Keep what to ourselves?**
- Jasmine** **Precisely.**
- The Sultan enters, closely follow by the Grand Vizier.*
- Sultan** **My dear, I have the most wonderful news. Your wait is over. I have finally found you the boy of my dreams.**

Jasmine **Your dreams, father? Surely it should be my dreams.**

Sultan **Don't be absurd. I don't want you dreaming about boys. No thank you. I'll do the dreaming, you do the being a good wife.**

Jasmine **Wife! But I've not even met him.**

Sultan **(interrupting) I know. But you will soon enough. I'm telling you, this young man I've found has it all. He's wealthy, ambitious, charming and well travelled.**

Grand Vizier **My son is often away at sea. He has travelled extensively.**

Jasmine **Your son?**

Sultan **Oh yes, did I not mention? He also happens to be the son of our good friend, the Grand Vizier.**

Jasmine **Father, may I speak with you in private?**

Sultan **Whatever for? We're all family. Well, near enough..**

Jasmine **Fine. Then I'll speak openly: I would like to choose my own boyfriend. And maybe even my own husband.**

Sultan **Don't be ridiculous, Jasmine. You can't have a boyfriend as well as husband.**

Jasmine **I know that. But I want to choose one for myself.**

Sultan **You can. You can choose Kadin all by yourself.**

Jasmine **But father, what if I . . .**

Sultan **Jasmine, darling, bubble gum, it's a done deal. Come, Grand Vizier, let's browse wedding dresses!**

The Sultan exits decisively from the room, closely followed by the Grand Vizier

Grand Vizier **Well? What news?**

Aisha **She met a boy at the market today: I get the impression she rather likes him.**

Grand Vizier **(flustered) A boy! How did this happen? Who is he? What does he look like? What's his name?**

Aisha **I don't know. I don't know anything about him.**

Grand Vizier **We'll find out! What do you think I'm paying you for?**

Aisha **I will.**

Grand Vizier **And do it quickly. I want this boy removed from the picture before Kadin returns.**

Aisha **"Removed from the picture"? What does that mean?**

Scene four

In the mountains of the desert, Aladdin and Jafar arrive at the entrance to a cave. A small opening is visible (or can be imagined).

- Jafar** **Here it is: the doorway to your destiny.**
- Aladdin** **It looks like a hole.**
- Jafar** **Yes, it is. But the hole leads to a tunnel, and the tunnel leads to a cave, and in the cave there's a cavern, and in the cavern . . .**
- Aladdin** **Is this a joke?**
- Jafar** **No, Aladdin. This is how you're going to marry the princess. For in the cavern are pearls, rubies, emeralds, sapphires, gold and diamonds. And they're all for you: I don't want any of them. All I want is for you to bring me the dusty old lamp that sits atop.**
- Aladdin** **Really? Why would you want that?**
- Jafar** **I'm a collector of antiquities. To you it will be worth nothing, but to me it will be priceless.**
- Aladdin** **Fair enough.**
- Jafar** **Bring me the lamp first, then you can go back and collect as much as you like.**
- Aladdin** **It looks pretty dark in there.**
- Jafar** **Don't worry. Feel your way. There's only one way in, and there's only one way out. There's no danger of you getting lost.**
- Aladdin** **Um . . . okay. Well, I guess I've come this far.**
- Jafar** **Exactly. No point turning back now. Here, I'll help you down.**

SONG – ALL THE GLITTERS ISN'T GOLD

Aladdin **Wow!**

Jafar (*from a distance*) Can you see the lamp?

Aladdin **This place is amazing.**

Jafar **The lamp, Aladdin!**

Aladdin **Just look at it all. Rubies and diamonds and . . . (*picking up a turquoise*) I wonder what this turquoise one is called?**

Musical interlude/dance

Jafar (*becoming increasingly frustrated*) Aladdin, the lamp! Get me the lamp!

Aladdin finally twigs that he is being spoken to, and none too pleasantly.

Aladdin **Okay, okay, I'll get the lamp.**

He moves towards it, talking to himself.

Aladdin **Why is he so obsessed with an old lamp when there's a cavern full of riches? He could buy thousands of lamps.**

He picks up the lamp, then spots a ring beside it.

Aladdin **Ooh, a ring. Very nice.**

He picks it up and puts it on a finger.

Jafar **Have you got it? Bring it to me, quickly.**

Aladdin is about to do so, then stops.

Aladdin **You're pretty desperate for this lamp, aren't you!**

Jafar **I'm excited, that's all.**

Aladdin **It's just a dusty old lamp. All those jewels, all that treasure, and all you want is this?**

Jafar **Money doesn't interest me. Now hand it over and you can go back and fill your boots.**

Aladdin **What aren't you telling me?**

Jafar **Nothing. I've told you everything. Now will you just pass it through?**

Aladdin **No, I won't. I don't trust you. The only way this lamp is getting out of here . . . is if I'm holding it.**

Jafar **I'll give you one more chance. Hand over the lamp, or live to regret it.**

Jafar heaves the stone over the opening.

Aladdin **What are you doing? No, don't. Please.**

But it is done and Aladdin is plunged into darkness.

Jafar **I was wrong, Aladdin. You won't live to regret this!**

Jafar exits, laughing.

Aladdin **I don't go in for regrets.**

Jafar **Oh really? Well let's see about that.**

Jafar seals the entrance, lights go out. Jafar evil laugh.

Aladdin **Oh no! I am trapped. There's no way out.**

I just can't think what would make this lamp so special – it is filthy for starters. Someone should give it a really good polish.

Flashing lights and sound effects – Genie appears

Genie **Hello....everybody...didya miss me?**

Aladdin **Who . . . who are you?**

Genie **Who am I? who am I? Isn't it obvious? The genie is here.Ooh, that's better. Do you know how long I've been in there!**

Aladdin **Um . . . no. How long?**

Genie **I've no idea. One rather loses track of time when your house is a small oil lamp.**

Aladdin **Um . . . yes, I imagine so. Who are you? And . . . what are you?**

Genie **I'm a genie. And you are now my master so you get three wishes.**

Aladdin **You're going to give me three wishes?**

Genie **And I thought the echo in the lamp was bad! Try to keep up, kid. I got a production number to get to.**

Aladdin **Did you really come out of this?**

Genie **Of course. It's my home. Well, my prison, actually. Here, take a seat and I'll give you the genie lowdown.**

SONG – FRIEND LIKE ME

Aladdin **Can I just get this right? You're a magical genie. And if I wish for something, you have to grant my wish.**

Genie **That's about the gist of it.**

Aladdin **Can I wish for anything?**

Genie **Well um..... NO! did you not listen to my wonderful singing?**

Aladdin **Um...**

Genie **Don't answer that. You get three and only three. You can ask for anything except –**

Coming back from the dead

Getting someone to fall in love with you

And of course.... Wishing for more wishes

Aladdin **Wow! This is amazing.**

Genie **Yep! So best not waste them.**

Aladdin **I won't. The first is pretty obvious: I wish to be a prince that wasn't trapped in a cave!**

Genie **Your wish is my command.**

He takes hold of Aladdin and together they jump forwards as the lights go down.

SCENE FIVE

In the Throne Room of the Palace, the Guards stand in position, awaiting the arrival of the Sultan and others.

For a while, they are silent, as you would expect, but then . . .

Guard One **Psssst.**

Guard Two **Shhhhhh.**

Pause

Guard One **Psssst.**

Guard Two **Shhhh.**

Pause

Guard One **Psssst.**

Guard Two **Will you stop doing that!**

Guard One **Why aren't we allowed to talk?**

Guard Two **We're guards: we're just here to set the scene. Guards never talk in plays. Now shhhh.**

Guard Three **Shhhh. They're coming.**

The guards stand formally, still and silent as you would expect.

After a few moments, the Sultan enters, along with the Grand Vizier and his son, Kadin, talking as they enter.

Grand Vizier **When Kadin marries your daughter, will they live here?**

Sultan **Yes, yes, absolutely. They can live here whilst they build their own palace. Now, where is she? Late as usual. You'll need to get used to that I'm afraid.**

Princess Jasmine enters along with some of her female attendants.

Sultan **There you are, my dear. You have clearly been making yourself beautiful for your new . . . for Kadin.**

Jasmine **Good evening, father. Good evening, Kadin.**

Kadin **It's a pleasure to meet you, your highness.**

Sultan **Please, there's no need for any of that: we're all on first name terms here, aren't we Grand Vizier.**

Grand Vizier

Er . . .

Sultan

Oh yes, there's no need for formalities. I want everyone to feel as relaxed as possible. Now, let's have some drinks and I'll propose a toast.

The butler comes forward with a tray of drinks and offers them to each person in turn as the Sultan continues.

Sultan **Raise your glasses please. Kadin, we welcome you into our home and hope that you and Jasmine will be very happy when you're . . .**

(he pauses and looks at his daughter momentarily)

Sultan **(cont) . . . when you get to know each other and choose for yourselves the right future for both of you . . . together. Cheers!**

All **Cheers!**

Jasmine **Father, may I speak with you in private?**

Sultan **What is it with you and your secret little chats?**

Jasmine **Father, please.**

Sultan **Oh very well, come on then.**

They move away and speak in hushed voices. The Grand Vizier and Kadin look on with interest, trying but failing to hear what is discussed.

Jasmine **I know I'm a princess, and I know that certain things are expected of me. But I'm telling you, with all my heart, I don't wish to marry Kadin.**

Sultan **We've already had this discussion. Do we really need to have it again?**

Jasmine **We never finished it.**

Sultan **Then let's finish it now. There. Done.**

Jasmine **No, it's not done. And it's not even just about Kadin. I feel trapped, father. Trapped in a life where I don't get to decide what I do or where I go, or even the person I get to marry. Can't you see that I'm miserable?**

Sultan **You're not miserable; you're a teenager.**

Jasmine **Everyone thinks I must have everything I could possibly want. But actually, I don't want any of it. I don't care about money. I don't care about diamonds and rubies.**

Father, please. Won't you at least give me a chance to make a future that I actually want?

Sultan **A chance?**

Jasmine **Yes.**

Sultan **To make your own future?**

Jasmine **Yes.**

Sultan **Just one? One chance and then you'll let me do as all good fathers should do and decide his daughter's future?**

Jasmine **(pause) Yes.**

Sultan **Okay. I'll give you three days. Three days for you to venture out into the world and find yourself a suitable husband. But when you can't, or when you realise that you've actually got it pretty good, trapped in this beautiful palace, then you'll marry whomsoever I decide. Deal?**

Jasmine **Is that the only deal on offer?**

Sultan **Absolutely.**

Jasmine **(pause) Then it's a deal.**

Sultan **Fine. Good luck. (turning away) Grand Vizier, a word if you please. You'd better bring Kadin, too.**

He exits, The Grand Vizier follows, but stops to speak privately with Aisha.

SONG - SPEECHLESS

Grand Vizier **Find out what they were talking about. And stick to her like resin.**

Aisha **How am I supposed to do that?**

Grand Vizier **Just do it.**

He exits, Kadin following.

Aisha moves over to Jasmine, along with the other attendants.

Aisha **Is everything alright, your highness?**

Amrin **You look flushed!**

Jasmine **I am: flushed with success. Father's given me three days to find a husband.**

Soraya **Ha! I've been trying for years.**

Salma **(to Jasmine) And you're happy about that?**

Jasmine **Happier than I was five minutes ago. Three days is a long time. Seventy two whole hours. Imagine what I can do with seventy two hours!**

Scene six

The Market. Aladdin's friends are lounging about, passing the time.

Princess Jasmine enters, dressed down in ordinary clothes, all trace of royalty gone, along with Aisha. Jamir spots them.

Jamir **Hey, lads, look over there.**

Rafiq **I've not seen them before.**

Nadir **Do you think that is Donna?**

Yusuf **Maybe it is Shawarma**

Masud **And I thought today was going to be boring.**

Ollie **Don't worry ladies, your search is over. You found me.**

Aisha **Beat it, pea-brain.**

Jasmine **Aisha, they might be able to help us.**

Aisha **Somehow I doubt that.**

Kalil **If anyone can, we can, right boys!**

Boys *(ad lib)* **Oh yeah, sure, big time, you got that right etc.**

Kalil **So, what are you after? Whatever it is, you can count on us.**

Jasmine **Well actually, I'm after a husband.**

Almost as one (but not really!), the boys take a big step back.

Muhammad **Woah.**

Nadir **Can't help you there.**

Yusuf **Gotta be going**

Rafiq **Not today thanks.**

Jamir **Coming mother.**

The boys start to move away as quickly as they had moved in.

Jasmine **Well that went well.**

Aisha **Hardly surprising . . . um . . . your highness. You don't meet a husband by saying you want to meet a husband. In fact, that's the last thing you say.**

Jasmine **Really?**

Aisha **Of course. Never say what you actually mean: surely you know**

that?

Jasmine **Not really. I've always said exactly what I meant.**

Aisha **Maybe when you're a princess, but when you're one of the people, when you're 'ordinary', you need to play things differently.**

SONG – TAKE A CHANCE

Kalil **I fear we may have been a little . . . hasty . . . earlier.**

Jasmine **I came here looking for someone in particular. Someone I met . . . saw . . . a few days ago.**

Kalil **Oh, okay. What was his name?**

Jasmine **I don't know. I don't know anything about him, except that he looked poor and perfect. And he must be brave: he took a risk to see me. He made me feel alive for the first time in years.**

Kalil **Took a risk? Why would it be a risk to see you?**

Jasmine **Oh . . . um . . .**

Aisha **Come . . . , we'll be late for our . . . er . . . camel-riding lesson.**

Aisha takes Jasmine by the arm and they exit, Kalil watching on, confused.

Scene seven

In the Throne Room of the Palace, the Guards stand in position once again, awaiting the arrival of the Sultan and others.

For a while, they are silent, as you would expect, but then . . .

Guard One Psssst.

Guard Two Shhhhhh.

Pause

Guard One Psssst.

Guard Two Shhhh.

Pause

Guard One Psssst.

Guard Two Will you just stop! We're not here to talk. You weren't cast as a soldier so you could spend all day gossiping.

Guard Four I got excited when I was cast as a soldier

Guards Me too...etc

Guard Four Better than being cast as a tree right?

Guards Right!

Guard One Well I shouldn't really be gossiping but we need to move this play on...

Guard Two Get on with it!

Guard One I heard that there is a new prince in town and he wants to marry our princess

Guard Three What's he like?

Guard Four Is he good enough for our princess?

Guard One All I know is no one knows who he is but he is very wealthy

Guard Three The Sultan will like that

Guard One Here he come s now...

Guard Two Atten....shun!

SONG – Make way...

Aladdin **Your majesty, in exchange for the hand of your daughter, I would give you the earth.**

Sultan **The earth just for her hand. Goodness: I can only imagine what you'll give me for the rest of her.**

The Sultan puts his arm around Aladdin's shoulder and hurries him away before any further questions can be asked.

The Grand Vizier remains, clearly waiting for somebody. After a few moments, his son, Kadin, enters. With him is Jafar, the sorcerer.

Kadin **Father, this is the man I was telling you about. He says he can help us.**

Grand Vizier **A sorcerer. Why would I trust such a man?**

Jafar **Because, your grace, I have information about that boy, 'Prince' Aladdin.**

Grand Vizier *(immediately interested)* Oh yes. Such as?

Jafar **Well he's not a prince for starters.**

Grand Vizier **I knew it. Who is he then?**

Jafar **He's a fake, a phoney.**

Kadin **How do you know?**

Jafar **Come with me and I'll show you. A picture speaks a thousand words.**

Grand Vizier **This had better not be a trick, sorcerer, or you'll be strung up by your ears.**

Jafar **It's no trick, your grace.**

Kadin **Then what's in this for you?**

Jafar **For me? *(pause)* Revenge. Oh, and a dusty old lamp.**

He leads off, the Grand Vizier and Kadin following right behind.

Scene change music: "All That Glitters Isn't Gold (Interlude)"

Scene eight

Aladdin's home. His mother, Mum, is having her nails done by her friend Nora. A dusty old lamp sits on a table nearby.

Nora **So he disappeared for two days, and all he had to show for it was a dusty old lamp?**

Mum **I know. Not a grocery in sight. Honestly, if he wasn't my son I'd give him up for adoption.**

A knock from off.

Mum **Get that would you dear: tell them to sling their hook.**

Nora **Of course love.**

Nora rises and exits. Mum inspects her nails. After a moment or two,

Nora returns.

Nora **It's a chap swapping new lamps for old.**

Mum **Swapping? You mean 'selling'.**

Nora **No, swapping: brand new shiny ones for worn out old ones.**

Mum **Really? What sort of person goes around doing that?**

Nora **He says he's a keen recycler.**

Mum **Oh, I see. That sort of person. Well you might as well give him that one. But tell him we want some oil included too.**

Nora **Ooh, good idea. I'll wangle some wick as well.**

Nora exits. Mum exits in the opposite direction as the lights go down.

A few moments later, the lights come back up to reveal Jafar, Kadin and the Grand Vizier huddled around the lamp that Jafar is holding.

Jafar **What did I tell you? She's instinctive, knee-jerk. She'd sell her son if she could get a better one.**

Grand Vizier **And this is all we need?**

Kadin **What good is a dusty old lamp?**

Jafar **Trust me. When the time is right, when the world is watching . . . we will all get what we want. (to Kadin) You will have the princess. (to the Grand Vizier) You will have the power. And I . . . will have my revenge.**

Scene nine

The stage is divided into two different parts of the palace. There is a throne upstage centre for later in the scene. On one side of the stage is Princess Jasmine with her attendants, Soraya, Laila, Salma, Amrin, Aisha et al.

Jasmine **I loved it. I loved the freedom. That's what I felt. For the first time ever.**

Laila **So who did you choose?**

Salma **Yes, who's the husband-to-be?**

Jasmine **Oh, I stopped looking after a day or so.**

Soraya **You stopped looking?**

Amrin **Because you found someone?**

Jasmine **No. At least, not the person I was looking for. I realised how ridiculous it was to be expected to choose a husband in three days. And what if they didn't want to be chosen, they do get a say you know! So I didn't.**

Laila **You didn't find . . . anyone?**

Jasmine **I guess I found myself. Does that count?**

Soraya **So what happens now? Your father gets to choose?**

Jasmine **Apparently he's chosen someone else already.**

Aisha **Not Kadin?**

Jasmine **No. Someone even more perfectly suited to me, apparently. Well, we'll see about that.**

Aladdin and his friend Kalil enter onto the other side of the stage. The girls either continue in mime, or freeze, as desired.

Kalil **I can't believe I'm in the palace. This is so weird.**

Aladdin **Tell me about it. You could fit my whole house in that wardrobe.**

Kalil **Well, it's quite a story, that's for sure. Where's the lamp now?**

Aladdin **With my mother. She's on her way here actually. I sent for her to be summoned. What a shock she's in for!**

Kalil **Is the lamp safe with your mother?**

Aladdin **Trust me. She'll guard it with her life.**

Kalil **And you really get to marry the princess!**

Aladdin **I do.**

Kalil **So what's she like, the princess?**

Aladdin **She's beautiful. The most beautiful girl I've ever seen.**

Kalil **Sounds promising. And how do you get on?**

Aladdin **Get on? I'm sure we'll get on brilliantly.**

Kalil **Do you mean . . .**

Aladdin **I've not spoken with her yet.**

Kalil **At all?**

Aladdin **Not a word. In fact, I've only ever seen her at the market, that day I hid.**

Kalil **Huh.**

Aladdin **What?**

Kalil **Oh, nothing. It's just. Well, I think if it was me and I was going to pledge myself to someone for the rest of my life, I would probably like to have a conversation or two first, spend some time together.**

Aladdin looks a little taken aback at first, then becomes rather pensive.

Aladdin **Hmmm.**

The Guards enter and take up their usual position. The Sultan enters and sits on his throne. To the side of him stands the Grand Vizier.

Princess Jasmine and her attendants move towards the throne and remain on one side. Aladdin and Kalil move towards the throne from the other side. Aladdin's mother, Mum, is escorted on and stands near to Aladdin. The sorcerer and Kadin position themselves upstage on the fringes of the action.

Sultan **Well my dear, you've had your three days. Did you find true love?**

Jasmine **No, father. I found freedom.**

Sultan **Freedom? You can't marry freedom. Ah well, don't feel too bad about it: I have found the perfect husband for you. I mean it this time: he even has an elephant.**

Jasmine **No, father.**

Sultan **He has, I've seen it.**

Jasmine **No, I won't marry him. I don't want to be married. At least, not yet. I want to live my life. And if I have to, I'll live it as a peasant in the streets.**

Sultan **Careful what you wish for, Jasmine. A few days without food and you might feel very differently. Now stop all this nonsense. I know I've not always made the best of choices for you in the past, but this time, I'm asking you to trust me. I've found you the perfect husband.**

Grand Vizier **(dramatically) I fear not, your highness.**

Sultan **(surprised) You fear not?**

Grand Vizier **I fear not.**

Sultan **Oh. (pause) And why do you fear not?**

Grand Vizier **Because this man . . . is an impostor.**

Sultan **Impossible.**

Grand Vizier **No, impostor. He's a fake. A fraud. He's taken you for a ride.**

Sultan **Has he?**

Grand Vizier **Yes, your highness. Him and his four-humped-camel.**

Sultan **Hmm, I don't remember that.**

Grand Vizier **This Prince Aladdin is a worthless child of the streets.**

Mum **How dare you!**

Sultan **That is quite an accusation, Grand Vizier.**

Grand Vizier **Not when it's the truth, sire. And I have the proof.**

He clicks his fingers. Jafar and Kadin step forward. Jafar holds the lamp.

Jafar **Your highness, this lamp was stolen from me by this boy.**

Sultan **Why on earth would a prince want a dusty old lamp?**

Jafar **Because, your highness, this lamp is no ordinary lamp. Watch.**

He lifts the lamp high for all to see, then rubs it. Nothing happens.

He rubs it again. Still nothing.

Sultan **Is something meant to be happening?**

Jafar **I don't understand. (*aggressively to Aladdin*) Where is he? Where's the genie?**

Aladdin **Genie! What genie? Who are you? (*to the Sultan*) Are you in the habit of letting madmen into your palace?**

Sultan **No, I most certainly am not. Grand Vizier, explain yourself.**

Grand Vizier **I . . . erm . . . (*to Jafar*) You, explain yourself.**

Jafar **It must be the wrong lamp.**

He turns towards Mum.

Jafar **Where is it? Give it to me, now!**

Mum **I have no idea what you're talking about. Are you well?**

Sultan **Right, I've had enough of this. It's perfectly clear who the impostor is. Guards, take him away.**

Jafar **No, please. I'm telling the truth.**

Grand Vizier **Your highness, if I may . . .**

Sultan **And you can go with him! And take the son too.**

Mum **Quite right. And whilst you're there, you might like to have a think about what happens when you underestimate a middle-aged woman!**

The soldiers take hold of Jafar, the Grand Vizier and Kadin and roughly escort them off, amidst improvised protests from the captives.

Sultan **Now, where were we? Oh yes, marriage. Prince Aladdin, are you ready to make my daughter the happiest girl in the land?**

Aladdin looks at Jasmine. She looks far from happy. Aladdin takes a moment.

Aladdin **I think, your highness, that I may not be what your daughter is looking for.**

Sultan **Nonsense. You're perfect.**

Aladdin **In your eyes, yes. But to her? Are you sure this is what you want for her?**

The Sultan looks at Jasmine and sees how miserable she looks.

Sultan I want her to be happy. That is all I really want. But I think that you will make her happy. Once she gets to know you. The real you.

Aladdin The real me?

Kalil The real you, Aladdin. You took a risk, once. Take another. Let her see you.

Jasmine You took a risk?

Aladdin has decided. He moves towards his mother. Everyone watches.

Aladdin Mother, the lamp please.

Mum Lamp? What lamp?

Aladdin Mother!

Mum Oh alright. If you're sure.

Mum reaches inside her clothing and removes the lamp, the real lamp. She passes it, a little reluctantly, to Aladdin.

Aladdin rubs the lamp and with a loud explosion and a puff of smoke, the genie appears. Everyone reacts with shock and alarm.

Genie Greetings, master. Ooh, a palace. Ooh love what you've done with the decor

Aladdin Genie, I need one more wish, the last wish I'll ever ask of you, and then you will be set free.

Genie Free! Are you serious?

Aladdin Yes.

Genie Wow. No more wishes? No more desires?

Aladdin Oh I've got plenty, but from now on, I need to make them come true myself.

Genie Ah, well you've hit the nail on the head there. Not many do. What's your final wish then?

Aladdin looks at Jasmine.

Aladdin I wish that the Princess could see the real me.

Genie Your wish is my command.

The lights change and flicker dramatically as music starts – “All That Glitters Isn’t Gold (Interlude)” – and the genie ceremonially removes Aladdin’s turban, outer garments and cloak to reveal Aladdin as before.

Sultan **What is this? Who are you?**

Aladdin **I am Aladdin. I am not a prince. In fact, I guess I’m now a pauper.
But this is me.**

Jasmine has watched with fascination and now moves to Aladdin.

Jasmine **I can’t believe it’s you. I tried to find you. I wanted to . . . get to know
you.**

Sultan **Get to know him! He’s a peasant!**

Jasmine **Father, he’s a person. And so am I. And I’d like to get to know him
better.**

Sultan **But . . . he’s penniless. What kind of a life can he offer you!**

Jasmine **A happy one, hopefully. Father, please, let me take a chance.**

Sultan **You’ll drive me to an early grave, Jasmine. Honestly, if your
mother was still alive, do you know what she’d say?**

Jasmine **What?**

Sultan *(pause, sigh)* **Well, actually, she’d probably tell me to stop thinking
about what I want, and start thinking about what you want.**

Jasmine **Really?**

Sultan **Yes, really. Go on, get to know each other. Have a cup of chai.
That’s what people do when they can’t find wine, apparently.**

Jasmine **Oh father, thank you. Thank you. Thank you.**

She throws her arms around him and gives him the most enormous hug.

Sultan **But I won’t be throwing all my money your way. You understand
that, Aladdin?**

Aladdin **Yes, your highness. I wouldn’t want it any other way. I’ve got all that I
need right here.**

As he says this, Aladdin faces Jasmine and takes her hands in his.

Jasmine **Ooh, what a beautiful ring.**

Aladdin **Thanks. I found it in a cave.**

Jasmine **Wow, that was lucky.**

Aladdin **Tell me about it. It’s a bit dusty actually, I really should keep it
cleaner.**

He holds it up and gives it a rub.

There is a puff of smoke and the lights go out.

SONG – A WHOLE NEW WORLD

Song – A A A ALADDIN