



December 2021

ALADDIN

Ben Crocker

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PRESS REACTION

“A truly thrilling pantomime.” *The Stage, Aladdin (Arabian Version)*

“A perfect, proper panto.” *The Times, Beauty & the Beast*

“This show bounds along and by the end the young crowd – like Cinderella, have had a ball.” *The Guardian, Cinderella*

“Absolutely delightful panto, put together with wit and verve by Ben Crocker”
The Daily Telegraph, Dick Whittington & His Cat

“A glance around at the children – their faces truly shining, eyes wide and mouths open – illustrates the delight that pantomime still provides.” *The Times, Dick Whittington & His Cat*

“This is a show to be enjoyed by all ages, with enough hearty laughs to lighten anyone’s winter evenings.” *Express and Echo, Aladdin*

“All the ingredients for a jolly good panto romp are chucked into the mix... a rollicking good laugh from start to finish had the adults wiping tears of laughter from their eyes.” *The Stage, Sleeping Beauty*

“What really sets this pantomime apart is the quality of Ben Crocker’s script... Make no mistake, any theatre in the land would be proud to stage this top quality show.” *Oxford Times, Beauty & the Beast*

“Bristling with lots of imaginative ideas, this is a bright, upbeat pantomime with a huge feel-good factor. Ben Crocker takes a new look at the old fairy tale and comes up with a winner. It’s good, traditional family fun with lots of laughs and a fast pace.” *Western Morning News, Cinderella*

“The best family festive treat in the South West!” *Crediton Country Courier, Aladdin*

CHARACTERS.

Abanazar	Booooo!
Genie of the Ring (Female or Male)	
Sidney	Aladdin's Brother
Bibi (Male or Female)	A pet monkey
Aladdin (Female)	Our hero
Princess Jasmine	Our Princess
Gertie (Dame)	Aladdin and Sidney's Mum
Fazil the Psychic Snake	A glove puppet. The voice can be either male or female
The Empress of Egypt	Jasmine's mum
Doris	A very old waitress – could be played by a much younger female actor
Genie of the Lamp	Female
CHORUS	Citizens, Bazaar Stall Holders, Guards, Mummies, Abanazar's Guards and Servants Etc.
A Note on Fazil	Fazil is operated by whoever is holding him. (Mainly Abanazar - and The Empress in Scene 2) When his basket is on a table, an operator needs to be hidden underneath. I envisage a style of glove puppet very similar to Kermit the Frog in the Muppets. The lid of the basket works well as a sort of hat, worn well back on his head. When he 'speaks' it is important that everyone looks at him – as he can't pull focus on his own!

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ACT 1: PROLOGUE

Front of Tabs, ABANAZAR revealed

ABA. Aha! Yes, it's me! I am the wicked wizard, Abanazar...
(Acknowledges boos) Thank you, thank you... Boo away – I love my boos... Enough!

For years I have travelled the world searching for a magic lamp - a lamp which would bring untold magical power. My journey has taken me to the four corners of the earth. I have braved storms, fought with demons, crossed deserts and seen sights you would not believe. I have been to some truly terrible places... Chiswickia being one of the worst.

Here, I hit rock bottom. Once again – no lamp. I had drawn a blank – until miraculously, I found this! **(Produces a ring)** A ring! Glinting in the gutter just by Chiswickia House and engraved with a mysterious, oriental symbol. Could it possibly be the fabled ring of rings?!

Rubs ring. PYRO and GENIE OF THE RING appears

G OF R. I am the Genie of the Ring!

ABA. This welcome news makes my heart sing!
For I've a little job for you,

G OF R. You do?

ABA. I do...
Yes, yes, I do!

But let's cut to the chase. Do you know the whereabouts of a magical lamp which will bring untold power?

G OF R. Yes.

ABA. **(To AUDIENCE)** You see? **(holding thumb and first finger nearly together)** I am this close! **(To GENIE)** Can you get it for me?

G OF R. No

ABA. No?!

G OF R. No

ABA. Can you take me where it is?

G OF R. No.

ABA. NO?!

G OF R. No.

ABA. What's the point of a Genie who just says 'NO'!?

G OF R. Look, do you know the pyramids?

ABA. Of course, I know the pyramids!

G OF R. But do you know The Pyramid That Isn't There?

ABA. The Pyramid That Isn't There? Where is it?

G OF R. It isn't there. But once in a thousand years it is - it bursts free out of the desert sand, filled with treasure and home to the lamp!

ABA. Once in a thousand years?

G OF R. When all the planets align and the moon obscures the sun.

ABA. A millennial solar eclipse?! But when's the next one!?

G OF R. Tomorrow.

ABA. Tomorrow!?!? We must go immediately! You must get me inside The Pyramid That Isn't There tomorrow!

G OF R. It's only there for a few minutes – besides, I wouldn't advise it, no living being can enter.

ABA. Why not?

G OF R. They'd die a million deaths if they even tried – but there is one who can.

ABA. Who's that?

G OF R. A lad in Cairo called Aladdin.

ABA. Aladdin...! This is my destiny! My course is clear. Once again I must cross the globe – I must journey to Cairo! There I'll find Aladdin, I'll take him to the desert, send him into the pyramid to get the lamp – and when it's mine, all mine, then I'll rule the world! **(Laughs wickedly and then to GENIE)** Take me to Cairo!

BLACKOUT

SCENE 1: The Bazaar in Cairo

SIDNEY and BIBI together with the CHORUS as Citizens or Bazaar Stall Holders. At the end of the number the focus is thrown on SIDNEY and BIBI

Opening NUMBER:

SIDNEY. Gather round, gather round everyone to see the amazing, magical fusion of man and monkey. Bibi, the silks!

BIBI waves around three or four coloured silk squares, which SIDNEY stuffs in a velvet bag. NB. This bag is called a "Change Bag". It's very easy to work and is very easily obtained from magic trick suppliers.

A blur of flesh and fur, the wonder of Cairo. Drum roll...!
(Drum roll) And then – Karimba Mazoola Kazan...!

Punches the bag inside out. The silks fall out. Unimpressed the CROWD disperses

Hey.... come back! Come back everyone, come back! **(To Audience)** Oh, no! Something always goes wrong – I just want to be good at something!

BIBI gestures to SIDNEY

What's that? **(She whispers in his ear)** I nearly did it? Yes, Bibi, I know I nearly did it, but it wasn't very impressive, was it?!

ALADDIN enters with BIBI.

ALADDIN. I've told you, Sidney. You need to be careful.

SIDNEY. I was being careful! **(To Audience)** That's my brother, Aladdin. He's stronger than me, cleverer than me and better at doing tricks with monkeys than me.

ALADDIN. But I'm always nice to you.

SIDNEY. Yes, he is always nice to me.

ALADDIN. Now, watch – it's dead simple. Ready, Bibi? **(BIBI nods)** Right... Bibi, the silks!

BIBI waves the silks around and passes them to ALADDIN

(to band) Drum roll please.... And Karimba Mazoola Kazan!

ALADDIN pulls out tip of scarf which he hands to BIBI.

Eyes on the monkey – and...!

BIBI then produces the silks all tied together

Voila!

**Punches bag inside out to show it is empty
PRINCESS, disguised as a Citizen, enters applauding**

PRINCESS. Hey, that was brilliant!

ALADDIN. Thank you!

PRINCESS. And what a clever monkey!

BIBI bows delightedly and performs a cartwheel

What's her name?

SIDNEY. She's called Bibi.

PRINCESS. Well, Bibi, you're a very clever monkey and I wish I had a silver coin to give you.

BIBI looks delighted and cuddles up to SIDNEY

SIDNEY. We take contactless.

ALADDIN. Don't be ridiculous, Sidney. My name's Aladdin. What's yours?

PRINCESS. I'm the – Jasmine, just call me Jasmine.

ALADDIN. Well, it's very nice to meet you, Jasmine. I haven't seen you in the bazaar before.

PRINCESS. No, I'm sort of new. I just thought I ought to make some friends.

ALADDIN. Well, maybe I could be your friend?

PRINCESS. Would you be my friend? My actual friend? I think I'd rather like that. And -

ALADDIN. Yes?

PRINCESS. Maybe I could be yours?

SIDNEY. **(butting in)** I'll be your friend too, if you like.

PRINCESS. Yes, of course -

BIBI points indignantly to herself

And you too, Bibi! We can all be friends.

BIBI nods happily and snuggles up to the PRINCESS

ALADDIN. So, where do you live?

PRINCESS. Oh, quite near the palace...

BIBI discovers an amulet hidden around the PRINCESS' neck or wrist.

ALADDIN. Bibi, leave her alone, you can't -

SIDNEY. **(pointing, thunderstruck)** Look, Aladdin! It's the Royal Amulet! We can't be friends! We can't be anything! Bibi, come here! She's not just Jasmine, but -

ALADDIN. The Princess Jasmine!

PRINCESS. I'm sorry, I'm sorry! I should have said. It's just I had to escape.

SIDNEY. Aladdin, we'll be executed if we're discovered talking to the Princess. It's death even to look at her!

ALADDIN. Alright, alright, Sidney. There's no one here to find out.

SIDNEY. Until when? **(Covering his eyes)** I'm not looking! I can't see! I'm not even here! **(Shakes all over)** Look at me, I'm vibrating with fear!

ALADDIN. Yes, alright, Sidney... Why did you need to escape?

PRINCESS. The law requires me to be betrothed to a Prince before I come of age and my Mum, the Empress, wants me to marry this ghastly Prince Ali of some kingdom in the middle of nowhere. I mean, he's seventy-six and we've never even met!

ALADDIN. When do you come of age?

PRINCESS. Next week - so you see, I just had to escape!

- ALADDIN. We can hide you.
- SIDNEY. Hide the Princess?!
- PRINCESS. You can't! I was wrong even to think we could be friends!
- SIDNEY. Now, that's sensible!
- ALADDIN. But Jasmine –
- PRINCESS. Look – you go that way – and I'll go this way!
- SIDNEY. She's right, Aladdin! **(Manhandling ALADDIN)** We go this way and she goes that way!
- ALADDIN. Hey – let go!
- SIDNEY. No, we go this way!

SIDNEY and BIBI bundle ALADDIN off.

- PRINCESS. Goodbye, Aladdin...! **(To Audience)** What a shame! If only he was a Prince. I'd have been perfectly happy to marry him! **(Exits the other way and bumps into ABANAZAR)** Oh, Sorry!
- ABA. Out of my way! **(Looking after her)** But on second thoughts - ding dong...! **(To Audience)** Yes, alright, pipe down, pipe down. I'm trying to find Aladdin.

ABANAZAR carries a wicker, or cloth basket on his arm. The basket contains FAZIL, who is a glove puppet operated by ABANAZAR. FAZIL is voiced off stage.

- FAZIL. **(popping head up from basket)** I've told you, he's here in the bazaar!
- ABA. This is Fazil.
- FAZIL. The psychic snake!
- ABA. Psychic my left foot!
- FAZIL. He's here. I can feel it.
- ABA. Well, where is he?
- FAZIL. I don't know.
- ABA. You're about as psychic as a stuffed rabbit!

- FAZIL. I knew you were going to say that.
- ABA. How come?
- FAZIL. I'm psychic.
- ABA. I should never have bought you.
- FAZIL. If you don't want my help, don't ask!

Disappears back into his basket

- ABA. Come back out here! Come back, I say!
- FAZIL. **(slowly reappearing)** Well, Mr Grumpy?
- ABA. I've got two words for you, Fazil - Salami... and... SLICER!!!
Now, where is he?
- FAZIL. **(indicating where ALADDIN went off)** He went that way.
- ABA. Well, you'd better be right. We need to be quick!

Exits.

MUSIC. GERTIE enters with lots of shopping bags etc.

- GERTIE. Hello, Everybody! Here I am. That's it, give me a wave! How lovely to see you all, welcome to dear old Cairo! Now, allow me to introduce myself. I'm Mrs Gertrude Mahmoud – but you can call me Gertie - a poor widow woman... **(Audience response)**...! It's sadder than that...! **(Audience response)**...! But that's enough indulgent, lachrymose sentimentality for one day. I've had to make my own way in the world. I have - running Cairo's first English themed restaurant, Gertie's Fine Nosh Grubberie! And I live there with my two boys Aladdin and Sidney. Aladdin, we named him after my late husband's father and Sidney, we named after mine. I came to Egypt for love, you see. Actually, I wasn't at all sure about coming, but my husband-to-be took me for a long romantic walk by the river – and I realised I was in de Nile... DE NILE... Egypt – the Nile... You might as well laugh, they don't get any funnier... Anyway, there I was, plucked from the country of my birth, a beautiful, young - thirty something - only to be widowed and to find myself all on my own-some again. Mind you, I'm always looking for another husband. **(HOUSE LIGHTS up)** Ooh! **(Surveys audience briefly)** But not today. No, no, I'm only joking – it's lovely to see you all, and some old friends too! Hello, Jack, how's your

back...? Hello, Fred, how's your head...? Hello, Annie... You having a nice time...?

But enough of all this, standing around chatting to you won't get the shopping done. **(Intro to song starts)** Ooh - you see, we've got our own band - that's jaunty!

Song:

Big fanfare.

CHORUS enter excitedly, together with ABANAZAR with FAZIL, SIDNEY, ALADDIN, BIBI, and the PRINCESS, who finds herself next to ALADDIN.

Two GUARDS enter.

GUARD 1. Bow down you common scum!

GUARD 2. And grovel at the feet of our glorious Empress!

MUSIC. The EMPRESS enters. The GUARDS lead applause.

EMPRESS. Worthy Citizens of Cairo –

FAZIL pops up.

FAZIL. That's Aladdin!

ABA. **(cramming him back in again)** Will you keep quiet!

EMPRESS. I beg your pardon?!

GUARD 1. Shut up – you WORMBRAIN!!!!

EMPRESS. What did you say?

GUARD 1. Oh, sorry.

EMPRESS. Worthy Citizens of Cairo –

FAZIL pops up.

FAZIL. That's him! That's Aladdin!

ABA. **(cramming him back)** Will you shut up!

EMPRESS. Who else is telling me to shut up?!

ABA. Not you, mighty Empress! I was just talking to my little snake.

- EMPRESS. You've got a little snake?
- ABA. Just a small one, Your Majesty. A thousand apologies. Pray continue.
- EMPRESS. Worthy Citizens of Cairo...
- FAZIL. **(popping back up)** But it's Aladdin! I know it is! I'm psychic!
- ABA. Will you just shut up, shut up shut up! **(Crams FAZIL back amidst his protestations)**
- EMPRESS. You're doing it again!
- ABA. No, no, not you, your most serene Highness. **(Tries to control muffled protests from basket)** Please accept my ten thousand apologies!
- EMPRESS. **(very fast on one breath)** Worthy Citizens of Cairo, it gives me great pleasure to announce the betrothal of my only daughter, the Princess Jasmine to his excellency, Prince Ali on the occasion of her eighteenth birthday next week!
- FAZIL. **(bursting free)** And that's the Princess! Look, Aladdin is with the Princess!

Big doom laden chord.

- GERTIE. Aladdin!
- EMPRESS. Jasmine – is this true?
- PRINCESS. **(uncovering her face)** Mother, I can explain!
- ALADDIN. We only bumped into each other by accident!
- GERTIE. You can't go talking to princesses!
- EMPRESS. No commoner is allowed converse with the Princess! Guards, arrest that man!
- PRINCESS. No, Mother!
- The GUARDS arrest ALADDIN**
- ALADDIN. No, your Majesty, please have mercy!
- GERTIE. Not my own Aladdin!
- PRINCESS. Please Mother, please, I beg of you to spare him!

- GERTIE. Oh, yes! Spare him, keep his little head on his shoulders!
- EMPRESS. I'm not sparing anybody.
- GERTIE. But he's one of my only sons!
- EMPRESS. The law is the law and I have spoken!
- FAZIL. Your Majesty! You can't execute Aladdin - we've only just found him!
- EMPRESS. That's it, I've had enough! I will not be interrupted again! You - you impertinent reptile, shall be hanged by the neck until you be dead!
- FAZIL. Hanged by the neck? But that's all I am. I'm just a neck!
- ABA. Your Majesty, take the snake –
- FAZIL. WHAT??!!
- ABA. But spare the boy I implore you!
- EMPRESS. I'm not sparing anybody!
- GERTIE. Take my lucky Egyptian 50p instead. It'll bring you luck, riches and everlasting happiness!
- EMPRESS. Don't be ridiculous - off with his head!
- ALL. Oh, please, Your Majesty!
- EMPRESS. Not another word! Your Empress has spoken.

Song:

BLACKOUT.

SCENE 2: A Street in Cairo.

Tab. ABANAZAR revealed.

ABA. Ten thousand curses and some rude words too!

(to Audience) Will you just shut it, I'm not in the mood! To have got so close to Aladdin and then to have him stolen away! But look – here they come!

EMPRESS enters carrying the wicker basket. ALADDIN is in chains between the two GUARDS. ABANAZAR kneels.

Your most royal and glorious majesty!

GUARD 1. Shut up, you scum!

ABA. **(aside)** You see what I have to put up with! **(To EMPRESS)** Whilst I am not worthy even to lick the ground beneath your feet, I come to plead for the life of my dear sweet nephew.

ALADDIN. Your nephew??

ABA. My long lost nephew.

EMPRESS. Now, look here, Mr...?

ABA. Abanazar.

EMPRESS. 'Ave a banana?

FAZIL. **(popping up)** No thank you.

EMPRESS. What?

ABA. Abanazar.

EMPRESS. That's what I said. 'Ave a banana!

FAZIL. I don't want one.

EMPRESS. Shut up!

ABA. Abanazar is my name!!

EMPRESS. Yes, I know your name is 'Ave a banana!

FAZIL. I'm facing death. I'm not hungry!

EMP, ABA & GUARDS. SHUT UP!!!

ALADDIN. Excuse me. I think his name is 'Abanazar'.

EMPRESS. Really? 'Abanazar'?

ABA. Yes, I'm his Uncle Abanazar! His long-lost uncle! Give him to me to look after and I'll see that he never talks inappropriately to Princesses ever again.

EMPRESS. I'm sorry, it's quite out of the question.

ABA. Your Majesty, maybe I didn't explain myself properly. One hundred golden ingots will of course be delivered to your palace doors by the morning.

EMPRESS. Thank you very much. But now, if you'll excuse us, we must proceed with the executions.

ABA. Let me prostrate my worthless self at your feet – I've always been poor with numbers - I did, of course mean one thousand golden ingots!

EMPRESS. Mr Banana, I'm touched and accept your gift in the spirit in which it is intended.

ABA. Thank you, your Majesty!

EMPRESS. But it cannot be allowed to affect the scales of justice. One thousand golden ingots might get you the snake, but it won't get you the boy!

ABA. And is that your final word on the matter?

EMPRESS. It is.

FAZIL. **(interjecting)** He accepts.

ABA. No, I don't! **(Shoves FAZIL down)**.

FAZIL. Ow!

EMPRESS. Then our business is concluded.

ABA. Oh, no it isn't.

EMPRESS. Oh, yes it is – **(to Audience)** and don't go there, we'll do it in the next scene!

ABA. And speaking of the next scene - let me tell you that I'm a wizard - and I need the boy with an uncut gizzard!

ABANAZAR makes a magic pass.

FX. Thunder and lightning. The sound of Abanazar's laughter.

Lights up. ALADDIN, ABANAZAR and FAZIL have disappeared and the EMPRESS is revealed in chains between the two GUARDS.

EMPRESS. Well, don't just stand there, you idiots. Release me and get me to that dreadful English Restaurant – otherwise it's no supper, no story and straight to bed for the pair of you!

BLACKOUT

SCENE 3. Gertie's Fine Nosh Grubberie

Old fashioned English Restaurant with bizarre Egyptian overtones. Upstage there is a revolving door to the kitchen.

GERTIE is revealed in floods of tears.

GERTIE. Oh, my poor boy. My poor, dear, Aladdin! To think I'll never ever see his smiling, cheeky little head again. **(She blows noisily into her hankie and reveals a large hole)** Doris, I need a new one! **(Bursts into renewed tears)**

DORIS, a very elderly waitress totters on with a new hankie. GERTIE is forced to keep her tears going until DORIS arrives. As she does so, SIDNEY enters with BIBI.

SIDNEY. Oh, dear. Try not to cry, Mum. I know it's upsetting, Aladdin being sentenced to death and having his head chopped off.

GERTIE. Waaaaah!

SIDNEY. I could show you the trick I've been practicing with Bibi, if you like? Try and cheer you up a bit.

GERTIE. I don't want to see your stupid trick! It always goes wrong! Waaaaah!!

SIDNEY. I'm sorry, Mum, I'm sorry... Maybe I could tell you a joke?

GERTIE. A joke?

SIDNEY. I mean, if you're up for a bit of a giggle?

GERTIE. Do I look as if I'm up for a bit of a giggle??!!

DORIS. Oh, go on, Mrs Mahmoud. Let him tell his joke.

GERTIE. Oh, very well. But I warn you I don't feel like laughing.

SIDNEY. You will when you hear this, Mum. Right – now – are you ready? Why have robots got nerves of steel?

BIBI shakes head urgently and whispers in SIDNEY'S ear

SIDNEY. No, that's not right. I meant - why are robots never afraid?

GERTIE. Because they've got nerves of steel?

SIDNEY. Yes.

GERTIE. Is that it?

SIDNEY. Yes. **(beat)** Would you like to hear another one?

GERTIE. No, I would not. You're making me feel worse!

ALADDIN enters into restaurant

ALADDIN. Mum, Mum – I'm back!

GERTIE. Aladdin! You're safe! How ever did you get free?

ALADDIN. This gentleman. He helped to save me.

ABANAZAR enters, carrying the wicker basket.

GERTIE. Oh, thank you so much, Mr er...?

ABA. Abanazar.

GERTIE. Well, after such an emotional day, I think I will.

ABA. What?

GERTIE. 'Ave a banana.

ABA. Abanazar!

DORIS. He means his name is 'Ave a banana, Mrs Mahmoud.

ABA. No, I don't! It's Abanazar! Abanazar!

SIDNEY. 'Ave a banana? 'Ave a banana?

ABA. I give up. Does nobody have ears in this country?

ALADDIN. Mum, his name is **(Pronounces carefully)** Ab-an-ah-zar.

GERTIE. Right. **(With ludicrous care and emphasis)** Ab-an-ah-zar.

ALADDIN. He's my long lost uncle, Mum.

GERTIE. That's funny. I didn't know your father had a brother.

ABA. I lost him too.

GERTIE. Well, you're here now. And you're family, Mr Ab-an-ah-zar!
(Hugs him enthusiastically)

ABA. Ow!

GERTIE. Sorry.

ABA. I'm just a little tender, after all my travels. My travels to find the long lost son of my long lost brother, so that together with his long lost family, I can share all my fabulous riches with them.

GERTIE. You haven't lost those then?

ABA. No, indeed. Now, the Empress will be on the lookout for Aladdin after his escape - so I think it would be a good idea to take the dear lad away for a couple of days on a short trip I'm planning - to the middle of the desert.

ALADDIN. The middle of the desert?

ABA. Yes. There is the smallest of tiny tasks that he can do for me there - and in return I will make him rich beyond his wildest dreams.

ALADDIN. But I don't want to go to the middle of the desert!

GERTIE. Don't be ridiculous, Aladdin. Hasn't your Uncle already saved you from the Empress? Now, sit down the pair of you. You're both going to have a slap up meal!

ALADDIN. Oh, very well...

ABANAZAR and ALADDIN sit at a table and ABANAZAR puts the basket down, behind a large stand-up menu.

So, when do we have to go to the desert?

ABA. After supper.

ALADDIN. What?!!

There is a loud knock at the door

GUARD. **(off)** Open in the name of the Empress!

GERTIE. Oh, no - they're here already! Quick. Out the back. We'll stall them for a bit.

ALADDIN. **(Starting to go)** Can't we at least wait until tomorrow morning?

ABA. No, we cannot.

GERTIE. Stop complaining, Aladdin. Now, off you go. Off, off, off, off, off!

ABANAZAR and ALADDIN make a hasty exit

Right – now, we need to look absolutely normal.

GERTIE, SIDNEY, DORIS and BIBI assume absurdly un-normal poses

Ready? **(They ALL nod)** Come in! It's not locked.

The EMPRESS enters with two GUARDS. She looks around for a moment.

EMPRESS. Hmm. There's obviously something funny going on. You all look suspiciously normal...Tell me... Does the name - Aladdin, mean anything to you?

MUSIC sting.

GERTIE. I've never heard of him.

EMPRESS. And what about the name 'Ave a banana?

GERTIE. You mean Abanazar? **(Grimaces as she realises her mistake)**

EMPRESS. Exactly! I knew you would fall for my cunning ruse!

SIDNEY. He's not here either. **(To DORIS and BIBI)** It's true isn't it!

DORIS and BIBI nod hastily

EMPRESS. But maybe he is!

DORIS and BIBI shake their heads equally hastily.

Maybe they're both here!

GERTIE. Oh, no they're not!

EMPRESS. Oh, yes they are!

GERTIE. **(encouraging AUDIENCE)** Oh, no they're not!

EMPRESS. Oh, yes they are!

GERTIE. **(with AUDIENCE)** Oh, no they're not!

- EMPRESS. Yes, they are! Yes, they are! Yes, they are!
- GERTIE. **(with AUDIENCE)** No, they're not! No, they're not! No, they're not!!
- EMPRESS. Very well, then. I'll take your word for it. **(To Audience)** You're obviously biased.
- GERTIE. They're as honest as the day is long!
- EMPRESS. I'm not so sure. I think I'll stay for a meal and keep an eye on you.
- GERTIE. It would be an honour.
- EMPRESS. Yes, it would.
- GERTIE. **(indicating GUARDS)** Will your friends be staying?
- EMPRESS. Certainly not. It's way past their bedtime. Off you go, the pair of you – and no talking after lights out.

The GUARDS salute and exit.

- GERTIE. Doris, go and tell chef to prepare. **(DORIS sets off for the kitchen with BIBI)** Do sit down.
- EMPRESS. Oh, very well. Now, let me have a look at the menu. **(Picks up the menu, exposing Fazil's basket)** Hmm... What's tripe and onions?
- GERTIE. Now, that is a true English delicacy.
- EMPRESS. Oh, yes?
- GERTIE. It's the insides of a cow with onions.
- EMPRESS. Urghh... Disgusting!
- SIDNEY. We do have a dairy free option.
- EMPRESS. What's that?
- SIDNEY. It's the insides of a camel with onions.
- EMPRESS. Oh...!!
- GERTIE. You could have that with jellied eels to start?
- EMPRESS. Stop it. Stop it. You're making me sick!

- GERTIE. **(sniffily)** It's very popular in Chiswickia.
- EMPRESS. No doubt it is. Now, let me see... **(Reads menu, gasping and flinching at various items)** Cod of the Nile and chips. Please tell me that's just -
- GERTIE. Finest Nile cod, battered to death and served with chips.
- EMPRESS. I'll have the cod and chips.
- GERTIE. An excellent choice! Sidney, go and tell chef.
- SIDNEY. Righto. **(Exits)**
- GERTIE. And for dessert? We have a delicious range of high cal, full fat puddings.
- EMPRESS. I'll just have the fish, thank you. And a lemonade.
- GERTIE. Certainly - **(calling)** Sidney, a lemonade for her Majesty! And now if you will excuse me, I shall oversee the food preparation myself.

GERTIE goes to exit, but allows DORIS to pass her, as she very slowly carries a basket of bread rolls.

GERTIE exits through the revolving door as SIDNEY appears with a beaker, which he places by the EMPRESS.

- SIDNEY. Your lemonade.
- EMPRESS. Thank you.

SIDNEY exits. DORIS laboriously selects a roll with tongs and puts it on the Empress' plate and then starts to exit.

- EMPRESS. Thank you.

There is a small bladder underneath the plate connected to a rubber puffer operated by someone under the table. When squeezed, one side of the plate lifts and the bread rolls off

The EMPRESS puts the roll back. It happens again...

(calling after DORIS) Excuse me! Excuse me!

The moment the EMPRESS' back is turned, FAZIL appears from the basket, snaffles the roll and disappears again

(getting up) Excuse me!

DORIS. Yes, dear?

EMPRESS. I am not your dear, I am your Majesty – and I've got a wobbly plate. My bread roll won't stay on my plate.

SFX: Loud burp from the basket. The EMPRESS turns to see what made the noise and does a double take. She points to where the roll was

And now it's gone! My bread roll is actually gone!

DORIS. You must have eaten it.

EMPRESS. No, I did not eat it!

DORIS. Well, it isn't there.

EMPRESS. I know it isn't there.

DORIS. Do you want another one?

EMPRESS. Yes, I do want another one.

DORIS goes for her tongs

Oh, give it me here. **(Snatches roll)**

DORIS. Suit yourself.

DORIS exits and the EMPRESS goes back to the table, sits down and takes a bite of her bread roll.

There is CRASH of breaking china from the kitchen. The EMPRESS jumps up and goes towards the kitchen.

As her back turns, FAZIL reappears with a straw in his mouth. We hear a slurping, sucking noise as he appears to drain the beaker of soda

EMPRESS. **(at the door)** Excuse me! Excuse me!

GERTIE comes out through the door. This action propels the EMPRESS into the kitchen.

GERTIE. Nothing to worry about...! Oh, that's funny. She must have gone to powder her nose.

GERTIE exits back through the door, which propels the EMPRESS back into the restaurant. The EMPRESS

recovers, sits back at the table and goes to take a drink. Her beaker is empty. Confused, she upends the beaker.

EMPRESS. Oh, this is too much! **(shouting)** Excuse me, my cup is empty! I say, my cup is empty!

DORIS. **(entering)** What was that?

EMPRESS. My cup is empty!

DORIS. Well, you must have drunk it.

EMPRESS. I haven't touched a drop!

DORIS. They don't drink themselves you know.

EMPRESS. I'm perfectly well aware of that!

DORIS. Do you want another one?

EMPRESS. Yes, I do want another one!

DORIS. **(calling through door)** She wants another one!

SIDNEY. **(entering through door and sending DORIS into kitchen)**
What was that?

EMPRESS. I want another lemonade.

SIDNEY. Righto.

SIDNEY exits R through door, propelling DORIS back into the restaurant. She now carries a lemonade. She gathers her balance at the door to avoid spilling it... Phew!

SIDNEY. **(entering briskly with lemonade)** One lemonade!

DORIS is flung forwards, throwing her beaker of "lemonade" all over the audience.

(To DORIS) What are you doing?

DORIS. I was serving the lemonade.

SIDNEY. Oh, well, never mind, I've got one now.

DORIS. **(making her way back to door)** There's too many bloomin' cooks in this kitchen...

SIDNEY. Sorry about that, your Majesty; your dinner will be ready in just a moment. **(He sees the wicker basket)** Oh, my goodness!

EMPRESS. What?

SIDNEY. **(hurriedly placing menu in front of basket)** Nothing! Nothing at all. I just saw a crumb on your table - that's all. **(Wipes away imaginary crumb)** There – all clean. **(Calling)** Are you ready, Mum?

GERTIE. **(off)** Just coming!

SIDNEY. Dinner is served!

GERTIE. **(briskly opening door, she carries the EMPRESS' fish and chips)** Tah dah!

The door knocks DORIS, who goes flying back across the stage, spinning and turning so that she seems to hit the opposite pros face forward. She slumps to the floor.

ALL watch in appalled fascination as DORIS turns around and starts to crawl towards GERTIE.

She reaches GERTIE, gets up and takes the fish off the plate. She grinds it into the floor with her foot, jumps on it and then puts it back on the plate, straightens her wig and wordlessly stalks back into the kitchen.

GERTIE. I'm afraid the fish appears to be off today, your Majesty.

EMPRESS. But I'm hungry!

GERTIE. I'm so sorry - have a complimentary dessert on the house!

Hands EMPRESS the menu. SIDNEY snatches it back to hide Fazil's basket. This is repeated very quickly two more times.

EMPRESS. JUST GIVE ME THE MENU!!!

GERTIE relinquishes the menu and immediately realises the problem. Whilst the EMPRESS consults the menu, GERTIE stuffs the basket under her top.

I'll have the ice cream sundae.

- GERTIE. Certainly. Sidney, tell chef Bibi to prepare the ice cream sundae.
- SIDNEY. Yes, Mum. **(Exits)**
- EMPRESS. **(turning back to GERTIE, she notices her tummy)** I didn't know you were expecting, Mrs Mahmoud?
- GERTIE. Oh, well. You know how these things happen.
- EMPRESS. Yes, I do – and I must say you surprise me.
- SIDNEY. **(popping head on)** Did you want chocolate sprinkles?
- EMPRESS. Yes, I'll have chocolate sprinkles.

SIDNEY'S head disappears.

- GERTIE. **(calling)** Hang on a moment, Sidney! **(To EMPRESS)** Excuse me, your Majesty. **(Exiting)** Sidney, you didn't ask her if she wanted raspberry sauce!
- SIDNEY. **(reappearing with sundae)** One ice cream sundae with chocolate sprinkles!
- GERTIE. **(entering propelling SIDNEY back in the kitchen)** Do you want raspberry sauce?
- EMPRESS. Yes, I'll have the sauce.
- GERTIE. **(exiting as SIDNEY re-enters)** She'll have the sauce!
- SIDNEY. It's got sauce!
- GERTIE. **(entering and propelling SIDNEY off)** What?
- SIDNEY. **(as he reappears)** It's got sauce! Wah!
- GERTIE. **(entering – to EMPRESS)** Sorry about that. **(Exits as SIDNEY re-enters)**
- SIDNEY. Mum, we're going too fast, I can't stop!
- GERTIE. What was that? Etc...

SIDNEY and GERTIE can't stop spinning round and round the revolving door... SIDNEY spins out of control and hits the EMPRESS in the face with the sundae.

SIDNEY. Oh, your Majesty, I'm most awfully sorry! **(Tries to wipe her face with large napkin)**

EMPRESS. **(snatching napkin)** Don't touch me! Don't touch me! Don't touch me! I am the Empress of Egypt and I'm very important!

(EMPRESS exits the Restaurant, as she does so she bumps into the PRINCESS, who enters veiled)

Out of my way, or you'll lose your head!

GERTIE. Oh, dear. She wasn't happy about that. **(To PRINCESS)** Yes, Madam, a table for one?

PRINCESS. **(revealing her face)** It's me, the Princess!

GERTIE. Blimey! More royalty. Aladdin – it's the Princess!

ALADDIN enters with ABANAZAR

ALADDIN. Jasmine!

PRINCESS. Aladdin – I just had to come and see if you were safe!

ALADDIN. My Uncle Abanazar rescued me.

PRINCESS. Oh, hello.

ABA. **(aside)** Ding dong! **(To PRINCESS, kissing her hand and smelling all the way up her arm)** The pleasure will be all mine, I assure you. **(Suddenly business-like)** But now, if you will excuse us, we really must be on our way.

PRINCESS. What – where are you going?

SIDNEY. They're off to the desert for a couple of days.

PRINCESS. The desert?! **(To ALADDIN)** Do you really have to go straight away?

ABA. Yes, he does.

ALADDIN. But this is our first chance to have a proper talk.

PRINCESS. Why not stay today and go tomorrow?

ABA. Because tomorrow isn't today!

GERTIE. And the Princess will still be here when you get back.

ABA. So, say “bye bye” and off we’ll go.

ALADDIN. It will only be for a couple of days won’t it?

ABA. Of course, it will.

ALADDIN. Oh, well... Goodbye, Jasmine.

PRINCESS. Goodbye, Aladdin.

ABA. Excellent. **(Turns to go)**

PRINCESS. I’ll be waiting for you.

ABA. **(shepherding ALADDIN)** Fine.

ALADDIN. I’ll be thinking of you every day.

PRINCESS. So will I.

GERTIE & SIDNEY. Aaah.

PRINCESS. Every hour.

ALADDIN. Every minute.

PRINCESS. Every second.

ALADDIN. Every millisecond.

PRINCESS. Every microsecond!

ALADDIN. Every nanosecond.

PRINCESS. Every picosecond!

ABA. Enough! We get the point!

ALADDIN. Alright, Uncle. **(Tenderly)** Goodbye, Jasmine.

PRINCESS. **(even more tenderly)** Goodbye, Aladdin.

Song:

initially between ALADDIN and the PRINCESS – and then segueing into something much more up tempo, such as “Be Back Soon”, with ABANAZAR, SIDNEY, DORIS, GERTIE and BIBI joining. The CHORUS could be brought on as Cairo Citizens. BLACKOUT)

SCENE 4 Deep in the Desert.

Tab. ABANAZAR and ALADDIN enter

- ABA. Yes, yes! This is it! We're close, I know we are.
- ALADDIN. Are you sure?
- ABA. Of course, I'm sure! Can't you see how the planets are guiding us?
- ALADDIN. No, I can't. Do you know where we're actually going, Uncle?
- ABA. Silence! Do you not realise that I have magical powers!
- ALADDIN. Then why have we been trudging for miles and miles through this endless sand?
- ABA. Will you shut up!
- ALADDIN. You don't know any more magic than my Mum!
- ABA. You want magic? I'll show you magic! I'll show you magic that'll put hairs on your chest! **(Looking out over Auditorium)** Look at the sun, boy! What can you see?
- ALADDIN. Part of it's missing!
- ABA. Exactly! That is why I brought you here.
- ALADDIN. The sun is disappearing! It's getting darker. What does it mean?
- ABA. It means untold wealth and riches!
- ALADDIN. How can that be?
- ABA. Very soon the moon will entirely obscure the sun and then –

SFX: Loud and very deep rumble.

It's happening already!

- ALADDIN. What is, Uncle!

SFX: Another shocking rumble.

- ABA. A giant pyramid will grow out of the sand!

ALADDIN. A giant pyramid...? There! Something's moving!

ABA. My old eyes can't see!

ALADDIN. There, Uncle! There!

SFX: A massive and enduring rumble. Rocks rending etc

It's growing! It really is growing! Oh, wow!

ABA. Ten thousand wonders! The Pyramid That Isn't There!

ALADDIN. There's so little light – the sun's disappeared completely!

They continue to watch and the sounds begin to subside

ABA. Is that not magical?

ALADDIN. A giant pyramid... in the blackness of the night.

ABA. Full of the most unimaginable treasure. And now we have to work fast. Somewhere in the pyramid is a lamp.

ALADDIN. A lamp?

ABA. Yes, a lamp. When you've found it, bring it straight to me.

ALADDIN. Hang on, hang on. Why don't you go into the pyramid?

ABA. Because – because I'm not good at going into pyramids!

ALADDIN. What if it's not safe?

ABA. Of course, it's safe!

ALADDIN. Prove it. I know. Give me that ring you wear as a token of your good faith.

ABA. No!

ALADDIN. Why not?

ABA. It...er. It's precious to me.

ALADDIN. Well, if you won't give it me, I'm not going in. You can go in yourself.

ABA. Oh, very well! **(Gives ring)** Take it! Bring me the lamp and then you can help yourself to all the jewels you can carry.

ALADDIN. You just want a lamp?

ABA. Yes.

ALADDIN. You're sure?

ABA. Yes. A lamp!!! **(Sweetly)** I get the lamp and you get the jewels.

ALADDIN. Alright, Uncle. I'll go in.

ABA. Good.

ALADDIN. **(stepping down the stairs)** I'm in.

ABA. Excellent. Now, go and find the lamp!

ALADDIN. **(walking through Auditorium)** It's all very dark and spooky.

ABA. The lamp, Aladdin. The lamp!

ALADDIN. Alright, alright, I'm going. I'm going... **(Exits)**

ABA. It's nearly mine! **(Chuckles unpleasantly)** I almost feel sorry for the boy - for once I have the lamp, Aladdin can return for the jewels, only to find the pyramid sink back into the sand for another one thousand years! **(Laughs wickedly. AUDIENCE Reaction)** And you lot can belt up, or I'll cancel the second half! **(Laughs fiendishly)**

BLACKOUT.

SCENE 5 Inside the Pyramid That Isn't There

Piles of treasure, hieroglyphs on the walls etc...

ALADDIN. **(entering)** Wow... this is amazing! Uncle was telling the truth. The whole place is packed with treasure! And so many ancient symbols! What do they all mean? This one's a man and a woman – it's on a door! **(Opens door)** Oh, it's the loo. **(Shuts door)** And what about these ones...? A man... Eyes.... A lamp...! And a big finger... And look, there's a button! Got it – if a man is looking for a lamp, press the button!! **(Presses the button)**

SOUND effect of catch being released, then several clunking noises...

What's happening?

Suddenly a giant hatchet, or some other hazard, drops to the ground. ALADDIN throws himself to one side.

Phew! That was close!

We hear the creaking of a door

Now what? Uncle said it would be safe!

A MUMMY appears upstage.

Something tells me I'm not alone. What's that...? Behind me? What's behind me...? A Mummy! Are you sure...?

Another MUMMY appears upstage.

What...? Another Mummy? Alright, I'll have a look around.

Looks around in a clockwise circle. The MUMMIES tag on behind.

No, you're fibbing. There's nothing there at all...! Alright, just to keep you all happy, I'll have a look the other way.

ALADDIN looks around in an anticlockwise circle. The MUMMIES again tag on behind.

Not a thing – look, I've got to get on and find this lamp!

The MUMMIES are now level either side of ALADDIN. They tap him on the arm.

Wah! You're right! There are Mummies here!

The MUMMIES point off stage and a little MUMMY enters with the lamp.

It's the lamp!

The MUMMIES give the lamp to ALADDIN and run off.

Thank you very much!

- ABA. **(entering the Auditorium)** Have you found the lamp Aladdin?
- ALADDIN. Yes, Uncle, I have. It's very old and dirty. I can't see why you should want it.
- ABA. Don't worry about that. Just bring it out here to me!
- ALADDIN. Why do you want it?
- ABA. Because I like dirty old lamps! Just bring it here!
- ALADDIN. But it's really filthy. Let me clean it up for you.
- ABA. NO! NO! Don't! Do not attempt to clean it! Ten thousand curses, Aladdin, will you just do what you are told! Bring me the lamp and then you can return for as much treasure as you want!
- ALADDIN. Well, if it's so important, why don't you come and get it yourself?
- ABA. Aladdin, just come here this very instant!
- ALADDIN. No!
- ABA. Yes!
- ALADDIN. No!
- ABA. PLEASE!
- ALADDIN. Oh, very well.

SFX: Loud rumble

What was that?

- ABA. Ten hundred thousand curses!

SFX: Another even louder rumble.

You idiot boy! The magical window is gone! Gone for a thousand years!

SFX: A continuing rumble.

Your foolish chatter has sealed your doom,
You'll end your days in a pharaoh's tomb!

SFX: Huge rumble. Dust falls in. Darkness apart from Aladdin's lantern.

ALADDIN. No! Help! Help! Uncle! No! I was only fooling! Let me out! Let me out!

Sounds subside

It's no good, the pyramid has sunk back into the ground. Oh, why didn't I just do what he asked? Now I'll never see Jasmine again, or Mum, or Sidney, or Bibi. And all for the sake of a dirty old lamp. I wonder why he wanted it so much? I guess it doesn't matter anymore. I might as well try and clean it up.

Starts to clean lamp. Big EFFECT. Little lights chase over the interior of the pyramid. Sarcophagus swings open to reveal gold slash curtain through which the GENIE OF THE LAMP appears.

GENIE. Hello, love - am I pleased to see you or what!?

ALADDIN. Gosh, who are you?

GENIE. I'm Queenie the Genie. The most mind bogglingly powerful genie in the world – and because you hold the lamp, I'm all yours! But, ooh, I could do with a cup of tea!

MUSIC. A magical arm appears, offering a cup of tea.

And there's the catch - I can't have anything that I wish for myself.

Arm disappears

ALADDIN. Would you like a cup of tea?

GENIE. I'd love one!

ALADDIN. Then I wish you had one.

GENIE. Thank you so much - your wish is my command!

MUSIC. Arm reappears. GENIE takes cup.

Oh, I can't tell you how many thousand years I've been waiting for a cup of tea. **(Takes sip)** Ooh, that's better... Now, what would you like? Untold wealth? World domination? Perfect teeth – don't get me wrong, yours aren't bad, but I can do perfection. Whatever you want, you only have to ask.

ALADDIN. I was just hoping to get back to Cairo.

GENIE. You must want a bit more than that!?

ALADDIN. I'd like a ginger nut for you.

GENIE. You read my mind! **(Takes proffered ginger nut from wing and dunks it in tea with relish)** Anything else? When you've spent as long as I have cooped up in that lamp, you just want to stay out of it for a bit. Go large! Don't think of it as greed, just think of it as giving a Genie a bit of purpose, a bit of self-respect and - just something to do!

ALADDIN. Well, I don't suppose it could ever happen, but I'd like to marry the Princess.

GENIE. Brilliant! Aim high, Aladdin and follow your dreams!

Song:

Suggest "Defying Gravity". GENIE and ALADDIN, joined by the CHORUS as MUMMIES.

BLACKOUT

SCENE 6. Back in Cairo.

ALADDIN and the **GENIE** revealed. **ALADDIN** wears the lamp bandolierwise. The **GENIE** is asleep. **MUSIC**. Maybe **ALADDIN** sings a very short reprise of the song sung between himself and Jasmine in Scene 3, or the song at the end of Scene 5.

ALADDIN. I just can't believe we're about to build a palace. **(Pointing)** I think maybe just there.

GENIE. What?

ALADDIN. Queenie, you're asleep!

GENIE. Sorry, I was dozing in the sun. It's wonderful. I love getting to do this people stuff! Where do you want the palace?

ALADDIN. **(pointing)** Maybe there?

GENIE. Genius! It'll be ready in time for lunch!

ALADDIN. Really? I wish Jasmine were here to see it!

GENIE. You know the rules – your wish is my command.

EFFECT. The GENIE disappears and the PRINCESS is with ALADDIN)

PRINCESS. Aladdin!

ALADDIN. Jasmine!

PRINCESS. How did I get here?

ALADDIN. Er...

GENIE. **(pokes head on)** It's what he wished for.

ALADDIN. Sssh!

PRINCESS. **(confused)** What?

GENIE. It's ok. I'm invisible. **(Wafts ostentatiously across stage)**

ALADDIN. I, er...

GENIE. **(aside to Audience)** And only he can hear me!

PRINCESS. Nevermind – I won't ask. Your whole return is a miracle!

ALADDIN. I've been very lucky, that's all.

GENIE. You're telling me!

PRINCESS. But why are you wearing that dirty old lamp?

ALADDIN. Oh... it's just a trinket I picked up in the pyramid.

PRINCESS. What did you actually do there?

ALADDIN. Oh, you know. This and that. But I also got you this. I hope you like it...? **(Hands PRINCESS a pendant)**

GENIE. **(indulgently)** Aaaah... That is so sweet!

Whilst PRINCESS is distracted with pendant, ALADDIN gestures frantically for GENIE to leave him alone. She exits

PRINCESS. It's lovely! **(Reads the transcription)**

Our love has no mind or logic,
Our love walks on water... It's beautiful!

ALADDIN. I'll say it to you every day when we are married.

PRINCESS. Oh, Aladdin. I can't wait for that day to come!

Short MUSIC intro.

ALADDIN. Oh, no! Sidney's back and he's been spending money!

Enter SIDNEY and BIBI, both richly dressed, together with the CHORUS as Citizens.

Song:

Suggest "We're in the Money" and then segue into "Big Spender" for GERTIE to make a big entrance.

GERTIE. Oh, Aladdin it's lovely to see you – and you too, Jasmine, dear. I love all this untold wealth. I think I might even go and buy Chiswickia!

EMPRESS. **(entering, with two GUARDS)** Not so fast – I knew you couldn't stay hidden forever, Aladdin!

PRINCESS. Mother – what are you doing?!

EMPRESS. Guards – re-arrest that man immediately!

GUARD 1. Out of the way – you vile scum!

GERTIE. Why do they have to be so rude??!!

PRINCESS. Stop!

With a loud cry, the PRINCESS – and then GERTIE, SIDNEY and BIBI jump into a protective Kung Fu phalanx around ALADDIN

No one is going to execute my husband to be!

EMPRESS. Husband to be? That's ridiculous. I've sentenced him to death!

PRINCESS. But you can't, it's impossible – I won't allow it!

ALADDIN. Excuse me, maybe I can help?

EMPRESS. What?

ALADDIN. I was just thinking that before you execute me, you might allow me to present you with a small gift?

EMPRESS. Very well. But you won't change my mind one little jot.

ALADDIN. Then I hope you won't mind if I wish for something that might!

Magical effect. ALADDIN now holds a giant, jewel encrusted necklace with flashing lights.

GENIE pops her head on from the wing and gives him a genial thumbs up.

EMPRESS. Well, I have to say, that's quite a decent gesture, Aladdin.

ALADDIN. **(handing over necklace)** Of course, that's only the start.

EMPRESS. Of course, of course. Maybe we'll postpone the execution. **(To GUARDS)** Run along now - and try not to insult anyone.

GUARDS salute and run off

I concede, he's a good looking boy, Jasmine. But you can't marry him, he's not royal enough.

PRINCESS. Why do I have to marry a Prince? It's ridiculous!

EMPRESS. Jasmine, he lives over a restaurant!

GERTIE. Well, of all the cheek!

EMPRESS. He hasn't got a palace.

ALADDIN. I'm having a palace built before lunch.

EMPRESS. Don't be ridiculous!

GERTIE. Aladdin, don't tell fibs – you'll get yourself executed all over again!

ALADDIN. But I am!

ALADDIN looks over to GENIE, who gives him another thumbs up and makes a magic pass.

EMPRESS. A palace takes years to build.

SFX: A rumble, all sorts of building noises.

What was that?

The rumbling noise continues – smoke, lights etc. Either minarets etc can appear upstage – or, more simply, the cast can 'see' the palace being built out front before their eyes.

PRINCESS. It's Aladdin's palace!

SIDNEY. Crikey – it's amazing!

GENIE. It's posher than hers.

GERTIE. **(to EMPRESS)** It's posher than yours!

ALADDIN. I thought you might like to come for tea?

EMPRESS. Well...

ALADDIN. Shall we say four o'clock, your Majesty?

EMPRESS. Yes, I think four would be convenient. I shall see you then. Come along, Jasmine.

PRINCESS. But Mother -

EMPRESS. Jasmine, I'm too important to leave the stage on my own! You can come back and have a look round in a minute. **(Aside to PRINCESS, as they exit)** He must be loaded!

- GERTIE. Blimey, Aladdin! How did you do that?
- GENIE. Yes, Aladdin. How did you do that? **(Exits)**
- ALADDIN. Oh - just a bit of magic I picked up in the mountains.
- SIDNEY. Can I have my own room now?
- ALADDIN. Of course, you can – you can have a whole suite of rooms – and you too, Mum, you'll never have to work again!
- GERTIE. Just think of it, we'll be in Chiswickian Life – the Mahmouds at home!
- ALADDIN. Do you want to have a look round?
- GERTIE. Just try stopping me – ooh, I can't wait! Come along, Bibi, let's go and find a nice room for you too!

GERTIE, ALADDIN, SIDNEY and BIBI exit excitedly.

SFX: Ominous MUSIC. ABANAZAR pokes his head on.

- ABA. Yes, it's me! I'm back for the second half! **(AUDIENCE reaction)** Oh, belt up...! So, Aladdin's got himself a palace and is going to marry the Princess, is he? Well, we'll see about that. He may have the lamp for now, but soon everything he has will be mine – and that goes for the beautiful Jasmine too! Oh, yes, she's a peach alright. The very thought of her drives me wild with desire – her eyes, her teeth, her pert little – nose! Ooooh...! I'll see you all later! **(Laughs wickedly as he exits)**

SCENE 7 Aladdin's Palace.

Tab. ALADDIN and GENIE enter.

ALADDIN. The palace is just wonderful, Queenie! Thank you so much, it's everything I could have wished for and more!

GENIE. Hey, you're welcome. It's not bad, is it?

ALADDIN. It's brilliant. You're a genius.

GENIE. I'm a genie, that's all – no us.

ALADDIN. Well, you're a brilliant genie. Is there anything I can wish for you to say thank you?

GENIE. Well....

ALADDIN. What?

GENIE. I don't know, you guys seem to have such fun – and I live in a lamp.

ALADDIN. You mean –

GENIE. Maybe it would be nice to be like you – sitting in the sun and dreaming dreams.

ALADDIN. Do you have dreams?

GENIE. Do I have dreams??!! Of course, I do. But I'm a genie. To be the boss of my own heart would be so wonderful.

ALADDIN. I guess it is sometimes. So, could I wish for you to be human?

GENIE. Be careful what you wish for, Aladdin, there's no way back from that!

ALADDIN. Just give me till the Empress agrees to let me marry Jasmine, and then I'll wish for you to be –

GENIE. Sssh! That's a dream that I can dream. Give me a while to dream that dream and we'll see...

Song:

At the end of the number, we hear GERTIE from behind the curtain

GERTIE. (off) Oh, look at this room – it's even more lovely than the one before!

ALADDIN. Quick – back in the lamp!

EFFECT. The GENIE disappears and the curtains open to reveal GERTIE, SIDNEY and the PRINCESS.

GERTIE. Oh, Aladdin, it's lovely! I love this room – isn't it lovely? It is lovely isn't it?

SIDNEY. Yes, Mum, it's lovely.

GERTIE. You're right, Sidney. It's lovely. He's right, isn't he, Jasmine?

PRINCESS. Yes, Mrs Mahmoud, it's lovely.

GERTIE. You took the words right out of my mouth, Jasmine! It is lovely. It really is. Just lovely!

ALADDIN. So, you like it, Mum?

GERTIE. It's lovely

Lifts lid on FAZIL'S basket, which is on a small table. We hear a loud snore

Oh, isn't that sweet... It's just like home, with a little pet snake and everything! It's lovely, lovely, lovely - and I love it, love it, love it!!! Just one little, teeny, tiny thing, Aladdin...

ALADDIN. What's that?

GERTIE. Well - it's not very English is it?

ALADDIN. It's the biggest, most perfect palace in all of Arabia!

GERTIE. I know, but it's just not very English. I'm going to miss the old Grubberie. It may have been a bit tatty and not very fashionable, but it was mine and it was home! **(Bursts into noisy tears)**

SIDNEY. Oh, Mum! Please cheer up – you know I hate to see you cry!

GERTIE. I know! I know! You're such a sweet boy!

ALADDIN. You haven't seen your bedroom yet.

GERTIE. I don't want to see my bedroom!

- PRINCESS. Or your special herb scented room for reverie.
- GERTIE. I never asked for a special herb scented room for reverie – it's smelly!!!
- SIDNEY. Well, what can we do to make you feel better?
- GERTIE. Absolutely NOTHING!!! (**Uncontrollable tears**)
- ALADDIN. There must be something, Mum?
- GERTIE. No...! No...! No...!
- SIDNEY. What do you mean, no, no, no, Mum?
- GERTIE. I mean - No...! No...! No...!
- SIDNEY. I meant – isn't there something we can do?
- GERTIE. Absolutely nothing. Nothing! Nothing! Nothing!
- SIDNEY. Nothing? Nothing? Nothing?
- GERTIE. Yes, I mean - Nothing! Nothing! Nothing...! I just want to know that somebody cares – that I actually matter!
- SIDNEY. But you do matter to us, Mum.
- GERTIE. Then tell me! Let me feel the love!
- ALADDIN. So, if we let you know you matter to us, would you feel a bit more at home?
- GERTIE. Possibly... maybe... I might do...
- SIDNEY. OK, OK – alright then... Mum, you matter to me.
- ALADDIN. (**beat**) And me... you matter to me too, Mum.
- GERTIE. Is that it?
- PRINCESS. Maybe, with a bit more enthusiasm?
- SIDNEY. OK... OK...
- A & S. (**shouting**) Mum, you matter to us!
- PRINCESS. How was that?

GERTIE. It was nice enough, but it was just the two of them on their own. I don't suppose anyone else really cares.

SIDNEY. Well, let's get everybody to shout! **(To Audience)** Will you help us cheer up Mum...? I said, will you help us cheer up Mum...? Fantastic! Let's all shout "Mum, you matter to us!" After three – a one, two, three!

Shout with Audience

SIDNEY. Feeling better now, Mum?

GERTIE. It could have been a bit louder.

SIDNEY. Louder? You want louder?

GERTIE. Much louder.

ALADDIN. Ok then, let's all do it much louder! Ready? One, two, three!

PRINCESS. How about that – was that loud enough?

GERTIE. Weeeeell... it could have sounded a bit warmer.

PRINCESS. Warmer?

GERTIE. And enticing.

SIDNEY. Warm and enticing – do you mean like this? **(Repeats like a ludicrously over the top sexy tv commercial)** How was that?

GERTIE. Yes, that's got more – extra warmth.

SIDNEY. Ok, everybody, this time with extra warmth! **(Leads audience – with extra warmth)**

How was that?

GERTIE. I'm still upset! **(Bursts into tears)**

SIDNEY. Oh, dear. What was wrong? We shouted with extra warmth!

GERTIE. But it was patchy! It didn't wrap me up like a warm blanket, envelop me and say - Mum, I want to give you a big, warm, slushy smooch!!!

PRINCESS. Is that what you want it to do?

GERTIE. YES, I DO!!!

ALADDIN. Ok, folks, just to make Mum happy, we'll keep the warmth, but we'll show her the warm, slushy, smoochy stuff as well.

SIDNEY. How do we do that?

PRINCESS. How about we show her a big hug like this? **(Hugs herself)**

ALADDIN. That's good!

SIDNEY. It's brilliant! Ok, guys, on your feet! This is the big one. Keep it warm. Keep it enticing – and with a big slushy hug. "Mum, you matter to us!". Just five simple words, but they mean so much more. Ready – one, two, three!

SIDNEY, ALADDIN, PRINCESS and BIBI lead and the audience shout.

How was that?

GERTIE. Ooooh – that was lovely – I feel the love, I feel smoochy, I feel wanted, I feel like – like – like I was knocked down, but now I'm up again!!!

Song:

NUMBER. Suggest "Tubthumping" - joined at some point by DORIS and the CHORUS. By the end, DORIS and the CHORUS have gone.

GERTIE. Oh, I do love a good singsong. I feel like we're all one happy family! We can look the Empress in the eye, we can give her her tea and – oh, my goodness, she'll be here in half an hour! Why did you let me waste time singing songs? Quick – you and Bibi, go out and get some hobnobs and that posh Lady Grey tea!

SIDNEY. Righto. **(Exits with BIBI)**

GERTIE. Oh, and Aladdin, pop back to the Grubberie, and fetch my old comfy chair, I don't half miss it.

ALADDIN. Alright, Mum. **(Makes to exit)**

GERTIE. Hang on, hang on - you can't go walking the streets wearing that filthy old lamp. What would the neighbours say?

ALADDIN. But I got it from the pyramid, Mum.

- GERTIE. The pyramid? You don't need to go poking around in pyramids anymore. Take it off. We're rich.
- PRINCESS. I'll look after it for you, Aladdin.
- GERTIE. There's a good girl.
- ALADDIN. But Mum –
- GERTIE. Surely you trust your lovely Princess?
- ALADDIN. Yes Mum, but –
- GERTIE. BUT?
- ALADDIN. Oh, very well, but do please take very great care of it. **(Takes off lamp and gives it to the PRINCESS)**
- PRINCESS. Of course, I will, Aladdin.
- GERTIE. Now off you go. Go on.

ALADDIN exits R a little uncertainly.

- There. Now it's just us girls.
- PRINCESS. Actually, I'm glad to have a chance to talk with you alone.
- GERTIE. Really?
- PRINCESS. Yes. You see, I don't know anything about being married.
- GERTIE. You don't?
- PRINCESS. No.
- GERTIE. Oh... Nothing at all?
- PRINCESS. No, nothing. I mean, how do you run a palace?
- ABA. **(off)** New lamps for old! New lamps for old!
- PRINCESS. What an amazing coincidence!
- ABA. **(off)** Throw out that old lamp and get yourself a shiny new one!
- PRINCESS. This is my chance to be useful. I can do better than look after Aladdin's lamp. I can get him a new one!

ABANAZAR enters, disguised as a pedlar, with a false nose and beard and with a tray of shiny new lamps

ABA. New lamps for old! New lamps for old!

GERTIE. **(crossing to ABANAZAR)** Who are you?

ABA. I'm an ancient old pedlar. Look, I've got a funny nose and a big, long beard.

GERTIE. Your beard isn't real.

ABA. Yes, it is.

GERTIE. **(pulling it)** It's on a piece of string!

ABA. It's a real piece of string! **(To PRINCESS)** Hello, my dear. What a horrible, dirty old lamp!

PRINCESS. And will you really change it for a shiny new one?

ABA. Oh, yes, my dear. The dirtier the better. That's how I like them.

GERTIE. You're weird!

ABA. Excuse me a moment, Princess. **(Takes GERTIE roughly downstage)**

GERTIE. Ow, get off!

ABANAZAR makes a magical pass. MUSIC sting. GERTIE goes glassy eyed.

ABA. I have you in a magic trance,
And so our story can advance,
You will not cause me further rage,
But kindly will just leave the stage!

Now, hop it!

MUSIC. GERTIE sleepwalks off.

(To PRINCESS) She's just gone for a little lie down. Now, where were we?

PRINCESS. You were going to give me a shiny new lamp.

ABA. I was indeed. So, just hand over the old one –

PRINCESS. But Aladdin did say to look after it.

ABA. Maybe he did! But think how pleased he'll be when you give him a lovely shiny new one!

PRINCESS. You really think so?

ABA. Oh, yes, I'm sure of it. Now, take this new one and hand the old one over.... That's it...

The PRINCESS takes new lamp from ABANAZAR and hands over the lamp

I've done it! **(Rips off false beard)** At last, the lamp is mine! **(to PRINCESS)** And so are you!

PRINCESS. Don't touch me! You're Aladdin's horrible uncle, 'Ave a banana!

ABA. It's Abanazar – Abanazar is my name!! But you'll soon get to know it very well – very well indeed – because soon you'll be Mrs 'Ave a banana – I mean, Abanazar!!!

PRINCESS. I'll never marry you!

ABA. You don't think so? Well, watch this!

Rubs lamp. EFFECT. GENIE appears

GENIE. So, Aladdin – was it a yes? **(Sees ABANAZAR)** Oh, no! You're the wrong person!

ABA. No, I'm exactly the right person!

GENIE. But you can't be! I mean - you're just not very nice!

PRINCESS. He's horrible!

GENIE. Yes, you're horrible!

ABA. Oh, am I? Well, too bad I've got this! **(Waves lamp teasingly)**

GENIE. I can't believe that it should come to this! All my dreams – and all Aladdin's dreams - gone up in smoke...!

PRINCESS. What does this mean?

GENIE. I have no choice. I have to obey!

ABA. Exactly – **(To PRINCESS)** and that means you're coming with me!

PRINCESS. No!

ABA. **(grabbing Princess)** Oh, yes you are! **(To Audience)** Oh, shut your faces! **(To GENIE)** Take me, take her and this palace to my desert oasis. We'll be married there tomorrow!

PRINCESS. No, no, please, I beg you, no!

GENIE. Forgive me, Princess -

PRINCESS. Please don't do it!

GENIE. I'm so very sorry – but this dreadful wish is my command!

Makes pass. BLACKOUT and enormous sound effect of the palace being ripped out of the ground.

SCENE 8 A Street in Cairo.

Tabs

SIDNEY enters with shopping and dripping with bling jewellery

SIDNEY. How about this, eh? Is this class, or what? And we got gold plated Hobnobs too! Hey - nice shades, Bibi!

BIBI enters wearing jewellery and large, ludicrously bling sunglasses

Put it there, dude!

SIDNEY and BIBI bump knuckles and go into a complicated bumping, hand slapping routine, at the end of which BIBI whispers in his ear.

What's that? Yeah, we both look super cool! They showed me a bit of respect down at (local posh shop), I can tell you. "Yes, Mr Sidney! No, Mr Sidney!" There's nothing like a few million in the bank for getting a bit of service. But then, not everyone in Cairo has a palace they can call home.

BIBI points urgently into the Auditorium and SIDNEY does a huge double take

Hang on a second. Where is it?! Where's the palace gone?!! Oh, crumbs, we're expecting the Empress in five minutes! Fetch, Mum! **(BIBI rushes off)** Mum! Mum...! MUM...!!

GERTIE. **(entering woozily)** Ooh, dear. I feel a bit peculiar. It must have been something I ate. What's all this bother for? Did you get the tea? The Empress will be here before we know it.

SIDNEY. But it's gone!

GERTIE. What's gone?

SIDNEY. Look! **(He points mutely to where the palace was)**

GERTIE. There's nothing there.

SIDNEY. I know! Because it's gone. Don't you understand? The Palace is gone! G O N spells gone!!!!

GERTIE. Blimey! What are we going to do? The Empress'll be here any minute and we've got no palace – and worse than that...

SIDNEY. What?!!

GERTIE. We've got no princess. She was in the palace!

SIDNEY. No princess!?!?! NO PRINCESS!!!???

ALADDIN. **(runs on R)** Where is she, Mum? What's happened to the Princess?

GERTIE. I don't know dear, I had a funny turn and - I mean, it's not as if you expect a palace to go anywhere, is it?

SIDNEY. And we've got the Empress coming to tea – T E E spells -

Ominous CHORD. The EMPRESS enters.

EMPRESS. What's this? There's nothing here! I should have known it was all smoke and mirrors. There's no palace here at all!

GERTIE. We're just trying to find it, your Majesty! It was here a moment ago.

EMPRESS. Don't be ridiculous, palaces don't come and go like burger vans. Aladdin, it looks as if we shall have to have you re-arrested!

GERTIE. Oh, no! Not the head thing again!

ALADDIN. I don't care. You can do what you want. I've lost everything! My palace, my magic lamp and worst of all, I've lost the Princess! All I've got left is this ring I was going to give her.

EMPRESS. What do you mean you've lost the Princess?

ALADDIN. Hang on a moment. This ring came from Abanazar.

EMPRESS. What do rings matter when you've lost the Princess?!

ALADDIN. It might just work. It's worth a try anyway.

ALADDIN rubs the ring. EFFECT. GENIE OF THE RING appears.

EMPRESS. Goodness gracious!

SIDNEY. Gosh and crikey!

GERTIE. Such a shock I do not likee!

G OF R. I am the Genie of the Ring.

- GERTIE. A genie? That's a useful thing.
- EMPRESS. Now look here, I command you to find my daughter and get her back here this instant!
- G OF R. Have you got the ring?
- EMPRESS. No.
- G OF R. Then I can't help. I can only deal with the ring bearer.
- EMPRESS. But I'm the Empress of Egypt!
- G OF R. You're not the ring bearer.
- ALADDIN. Excuse me, I've got the ring. Can you help us get the Princess back?
- G OF R. No.
- ALADDIN. No?
- G OF R. I can't go up against the Genie of the Lamp, she's way over my pay grade.
- EMPRESS. Oh, how tedious. We've got the wrong genie!
- ALADDIN. But you do know where the Princess is?
- G OF R. Yes.
- EMPRESS. Where?
- G OF R. **(spitefully)** Ring bearer.
- ALADDIN. Where is she?
- G OF R. She's with that horrible Abanazar. A thousand miles across the desert along with your palace.
- ALADDIN. Then please, please can you get us there by whatever means you can!
- G OF R. Two magic carpets should do it – but don't go blaming me if one of you falls off!
- GERTIE. Let's just hope that flying's easy!
- SIDNEY. Oh, by gosh –

EMPRESS. I'm feeling queasy!

GERTIE. Bibi!

MUSIC. BIBI rushes on. The GENIE makes a magic pass.

BLACKOUT.

OPTIONAL UV SEQUENCE

If you decide to have a UV flying sequence it can be as ambitious as you care to make it. Anything which flies or is in the air is fair-game. Obviously, our heroes on flying carpets need to appear, but hot air balloons, airships, jet airliners, flocks of birds, clouds, the planets, even vultures could all appear at some time. Let your imagination (but not your budget) run riot!

SCENE 9 **Outside the Palace in the Desert.**

SIDNEY. **(entering with BIBI)** Phew! That was a bumpy flight. We've made it and now we're here. Outside the palace in the middle of the desert! The others will be along in a moment, they've just stopped off for a wee after all that thrilling activity. **(To BIBI)** Anyway, Bibi, that means we've got time to practice our trick!

BIBI looks nervous and whispers in his ear.

You thought I was very brave on the magic carpet...? Really?
You mean, like Aladdin?!

BIBI nods very definitely and whispers again

So, you don't think I should spoil it by doing the trick... Oh, no!
Go on, Bibi. Just one more time. It's got to come good eventually.

BIBI shrugs fatalistically

Right – OK. Drum roll...! Bibi, the silks! and... Karimba
Mazoola Kazan...! Eyes on the monkey and...

The trick fails. BIBI produces one silk. SIDNEY punches the bag and the rest fall out. She looks heavenwards and helps to pick up silks.

I just can't understand why it won't work...

GERTIE. **(entering)** You haven't been doing that trick again have you, Sidney?

SIDNEY. You know, Mum – practice makes perfect.

GERTIE. No, it doesn't.

ALADDIN enters.

Where's the Empress?

ALADDIN. She's still recovering from airsickness. She doesn't fly very well.

Sound of retching from wing. ALL look in, but tactfully avert their eyes. After a moment, the EMPRESS enters a little unsteadily, but with great dignity.

GERTIE. How are you feeling?

The EMPRESS dismisses the question with a weak regal wave of the hand.

SIDNEY. So, what are we going to do now?

ALADDIN. I've got a plan. There's a tradition of hospitality in the desert.

GERTIE. So, we go in for a cup of tea?

ALADDIN. No, Mum. We disguise ourselves as Bedouin desert travellers seeking refreshment - we get into the palace, find Abanazar, drink his health - and poison him to death with this potion.
(Produces phial)

SIDNEY. To death?

ALADDIN. He's a wizard. I'm sure he won't die, but it's crucial we don't drink any ourselves.

EMPRESS. I don't think I want to dress up as a dirty, dusty desert traveller. I should much prefer to go as a lady Explorer.

GERTIE. A lady Explorer?!

EMPRESS. Gritty, determined and yet, oddly romantic.

SIDNEY. We can't go as four desert travellers and a lady Explorer!

EMPRESS. Exactly! We shall go as five lady Explorers. Nobody would see through such a cunning disguise!

SIDNEY. But some of us aren't ladies.

GERTIE. Speak for yourself.

EMPRESS. Exactly. I have spoken.

ALADDIN. But it's just that Sidney and I are both boys and Bibi's a monkey.

EMPRESS. Young man, I have spoken. We shall go as five lady Explorers. **(Commandingly, into the Auditorium)** Now, you up there on the lights, take them down!

BLACKOUT

Thank you. Now, no peeking whilst we get changed!

MUSIC.

SCENE 10 The Palace in the Desert.

Aladdin's Palace, with palm trees outside the windows

ABANAZAR is reclining on a chaise. Next to him is a table with two goblets and Fazil's wicker basket.

ABA. **(to AUDIENCE)** Hello, Chiswickia! Yes, boo and hiss all you like, it's music to my ears... Enough! Now we really must press on, because we've just got to the really good bit, the big sloppy love scene starring me and the lovely Jasmine. And just in case she proves immune to my charms, I've laced this wine with a special love potion which will make her fall head over heels in love with me.

FAZIL pops up out of basket.

FAZIL. You'll never make her love you!

ABA. How do you know, you redundant, animated sausage?!

FAZIL. I'm psychic.

ABA. You're as psychic as the single most gormless toad at a worldwide convention of gormless toads – I don't know why the Genie didn't leave you in Cairo with the rest of the losers! In fact, I've got a good mind to send you back right now!

Rubs lamp. EFFECT. GENIE appears.

GENIE. What is it? I'm busy.

ABA. What do you mean, you're busy? My wish is supposed to be your command!

GENIE. It's my day off. Once every five thousand years I get a day off and today's the day.

ABA. Couldn't you take it tomorrow?

GENIE. Nope.

ABA. Nope?

GENIE. Nope... Will that be all?

ABA. But – oh, I suppose so.

EFFECT. GENIE has disappeared

FAZIL. **(ironically)** So masterful!

ABA. Will you shut up!

The PRINCESS is brought in by two CHORUS Guards.

PRINCESS. Let go of me!

ABA. Ah, Jasmine, there you are, my dear – just seeing you sets me all a tingle from head to toe!

FAZIL. How disgusting!

ABA. I've had just about enough of you – you fork tongued, jumped-up muppet! In your basket and stay there!

ABANAZAR wrestles FAZIL back into the basket amidst his protestations

FAZIL. Ow! Don't be so rough. This will all come back to bite you. You big, ugly bully!

ABANAZAR grabs a 10 stone weight and places it on top of the basket

ABA. There.

PRINCESS. How can you be so cruel to a dumb animal?

ABA. You've hit the nail on the head, my dear – he isn't dumb! Now, where were we? Oh, yes - Jasmine, ever since I first saw you, I've wanted you, needed you, craved you –

PRINCESS. No, you haven't!

ABA. Yes, I have! Marry me, Jasmine, make me complete!

PRINCESS. But I hate you!

ABA. You're just saying that. Can't you see how similar we are?

PRINCESS. We've got nothing in common at all.

ABA. We're identical! Like the two halves of the same melon!

PRINCESS. But I don't like melons.

ABA. That proves it, neither do I!

Song:

ABA. Well, Jasmine, if it cannot be, it cannot be. Let us at least enjoy a glass of wine together in friendship. **(Hands a goblet to JASMINE)** There we are. Drinkipoos!

FAZIL bursts free from the basket

FAZIL. Don't drink the wine, Princess – Fazil will sacrifice himself!

FAZIL lunges for the goblet and appears to drink. MUSIC STING. FAZIL looks at ABANAZAR.

Ooooh... Ding dong! Has anyone ever told you what beautiful eyes you have?

ABA. What? Shut up – back in your basket!

FAZIL. Whatever you say, Abanazar sweetiepie – Fazil will be waiting for you... Mwah! Mwah! Mwah! **(Blows kisses and goes into his basket)**

GERTIE. **(off)** Coo-ee, is anyone at home?

GERTIE, ALADDIN, SIDNEY and BIBI enter disguised as Lady Explorers

ABA. Who are you?

GERTIE. We're lady explorers from the Chiswickia Lady Explorers Society next door.

ABA. The Chiswickia Lady Explorers Society next door?

EMPRESS. **(entering)** Correct - I am the Lady Chair of the Lady Explorers Society next door... and we're all very thirsty. **(To GUARDS)** You and you, go and fetch us some wine directly.

ABA. Now, just a moment –

EMPRESS. Off you go, chop chop! **(The GUARDS exit)**

ABA. You all seem very familiar. Do I know you?

EMPRESS. I don't believe so.

ABA. **(to GERTIE)** You...! There's something funny about you...

GERTIE. I make my friends laugh.

ABA. Who are you?

SIDNEY. She's a Lady Explorer.

FAZIL pops up.

FAZIL. Abi baby, a little snake can get lonely all on his own-some!

ABA. Will you shut up!

FAZIL. I love it when you get angry – lover boy!

ABA. **(embarrassed)** Just youthful exuberance – I should be stricter with him. **(To FAZIL)** Will you get back in your box and stay there, you objectionable, love-sick little hosepipe!

ABANAZAR forces FAZIL back in his basket and places two 10st weights on top.

Whilst he is distracted, ALADDIN takes the PRINCESS downstage

ALADDIN. Jasmine, it's me!

PRINCESS. Aladdin – you're in disguise!

ALADDIN. It was your Mum's idea. **(Producing phial)** Look – we need to spike Abanazar's drink.

PRINCESS. Leave it to me.

GUARDS enter with five more drinks on a tray.

(Publicly) Come, let's all have a drink!

ABA. But I've just had a drink.

PRINCESS. But maybe after a drink I might feel more – relaxed and romantic.

ABA. You mean...?

PRINCESS. Let's have another drink – pretty, pretty please, darling Abbi!

ABA. Oh, you make my knees go wibbly wobbly to the floor! How could I refuse my luscious little Jazzy Wazzy...!

Whilst the PRINCESS flirts seductively with ABANAZAR, ALADDIN pours poison into one of the goblets

ABA. Come, ladies – let us drink! **(Hands GERTIE the poisoned goblet, which she is just about to gulp down)**

ALADDIN. No! **(Stage whispers with hand in front of mouth)** That's the poisoned one!

GERTIE splutters and puts the goblet down

GERTIE. **(suddenly pointing upwards)** Oooh, what was that up there?

ABA. **(looking up)** Where?

As ABANAZAR looks up, GERTIE puts her goblet in front of ABANAZAR, as ALADDIN simultaneously puts ABANAZAR's goblet in front of GERTIE

GERTIE. Oh, silly me, it must have just been a trick of the light **(Raises goblet)** – well, bottoms up!

ABA. **(solicitously passing poisoned goblet to PRINCESS)** Your drink, my dear!

PRINCESS. **(hastily picking another goblet)** No, this was mine!

ABA. **(to ALADDIN)** Yours then?

ALADDIN. **(picking another goblet)** No, this was mine!

ABA. **(to SIDNEY)** Yours?

SIDNEY. **(picking another goblet)** No, this was mine!

ABA. **(to EMPRESS)** Yours?

EMPRESS. **(picking another goblet)** No, this was mine!

GERTIE. **(taking it)** It must be hers then. **(Gives it to BIBI. The GOODIES all look aghast)**

SIDNEY. No! Not the monkey!

GERTIE. Yours, then! **(Hastily hands it back to ABANAZAR)**

ABA. **(taking another goblet)** No, this was mine. **(Putting both goblets down)** I remember it stood just here.

PRINCESS. **(moving it)** No here.

ABA. **(moving it)** No here.

EMPRESS. (moving it) No here.

ABA. (moving it) No here.

ALADDIN. (moving it) No here.

ABA. (moving it) No here.

SIDNEY. (moving it) No here.

GERTIE. (moving it) No here.

No one has a clue which goblet is which. ABANAZAR breaks the deadlock and chooses a goblet.

ABA. Come. Let us drink!

The OTHERS very reluctantly choose a goblet

To love!

OTHERS. (unhappily) To love!

ABANAZAR drinks. The OTHERS raise their goblets but watch to see what happens to ABANAZAR.

ABA. Delicious! Who can resist the call to love?

(The OTHERS look miserably into their goblets.

Come, refresh yourselves. Some more! **(Starts to pour some more into his goblet and then clutches his stomach)**

Aaaah! I have the fire of ten thousand chillies and the unrest of forty flatulent camels in my tummy! **(SFX: An enormous fart)** I've been poisoned! Poisoned! AAAAHHHH!

He staggers back towards the chaise, just as he is about to collapse he emits another cry, farts and totters the other way

The OTHERS pick up the chaise and hurry to place it behind an intermittently farting ABANAZAR. Just as they place it, he gives another howl of pain and totters the other way. They again rush after him, but he then teeters the other way. Again, they follow, but ABANAZAR switches direction, forcing them to do the same. He almost falls back on to the chaise, but then staggers the other way. Fed up, the OTHERS leave the chaise where it is.

GERTIE. Gordon Bennett – make your mind up!

ABANAZAR is forced to come back and expires noisily on the chaise, with a long final fart, like a balloon deflating.

EMPRESS. Thank goodness for that. I'm parched!

SIDNEY. Me too!

They BOTH grab a goblet and drink deep. MUSIC STING. SIDNEY points at the EMPRESS.

Ding dong bell! You are one hot babe!

EMPRESS. I beg your pardon?

PRINCESS. Oh, no! He's drunk the love potion!

SIDNEY. What a woman! You keep the daughter, Aladdin! I want the Mum!

EMPRESS. No – go away!

ALADDIN. Quick! The lamp!

ALADDIN and the PRINCESS retrieve the lamp

SIDNEY pursues the EMPRESS.

SIDNEY. Why was I so blind? Age should never be a barrier!

EMPRESS. Somebody do something!

ALADDIN rubs the lamp. EFFECT. GENIE appears

GENIE. I told you, it's my day off! **(Realises it's not ABANAZAR)**
Hey – Aladdin, it's you!

SIDNEY. **(turfs ABANAZAR unceremoniously off the chaise and sits)** Here, Empress, you know there's room for two!

EMPRESS. **(shielding behind ALADDIN)** Aaah!

ALADDIN. Queenie, we're in a bit of a pickle.

GENIE. I can see!

SIDNEY. Why do we constrain ourselves in these foolish rags? Come, my darling, let us be as nature intended! **(Starts to strip off his clothes)**

GERTIE. Sidney!

ALADDIN. We need to do something immediately!

GENIE makes pass. MUSIC, LIGHTS shimmer. SIDNEY'S skirt is around his ankles.

SIDNEY. I , er, I – what am I doing?

GENIE. I've wiped both their minds; they won't remember a thing!

ABANAZAR stirs groggily.

ABA. Ten thousand curses and various abominations...

PRINCESS. He's waking up!

ABA. I can't take the booze like I used to....

ALADDIN. I knew we wouldn't kill him – but we do need to make him good.

ABA. What? Good? No, don't do that. I beg you – anything but good!

GERTIE. Make him give away all his money!

ABA. NO!!!

SIDNEY. And offer his seat on the bus!

PRINCESS. And always think of others first!

ABA. No, no, that would be terrible! I'm bad! I'm mean, I'm horribly, ferociously...

GENIE makes pass. MUSIC etc.

GENIE. There, Abanazar, you're just a big softie!

ABA. **(transformed)** She's right, I'm just a big bag of fluffy niceness and fun!

GERTIE. It's just so useful having a genie, isn't it? I don't suppose you could get us all back to Cairo, could you?

ALADDIN. Oh, yes please, together with the palace!

GENIE. Back to Cairo is as easy as pie!

ALADDIN. But would you like a cup of tea?

GENIE. Aladdin, you are so thoughtful – I just know you've wished it for me! **(Takes cup of tea proffered from wing)** Ooh, that's better. So, back to Cairo....

Sound of Palace being ripped up, rushing wind, flashing lights, which give way to an Arabian musical motif and a loud, beeping townscape. The palm trees have disappeared.

GERTIE. That sounds like Cairo.

PRINCESS. And we're back safe and sound! Oh – there's just one thing!

ALADDIN. What's that?

PRINCESS. Fazil... **(Starts to remove the weights. ALADDIN helps her)** He tried to save me and drank some of the love potion – and now he's in love with Abanazar! **(She lifts the lid)** Are you ok, Fazil?

FAZIL. **(from within basket)** I'm not coming out. Abanazar doesn't love me! **(Weeps)**

ALADDIN. Queenie, a little help...?

GENIE nods, MUSIC STING

ABA. Fazil?

FAZIL. **(from within basket)** Bog off! I don't love you anymore.

ABA. But I've changed!

FAZIL pops up

FAZIL. Too little, too late! **(Goes back into his basket)**

GERTIE. Well, we're back to square one. Let's all have a cup of tea.

EMPRESS. **(To ALADDIN)** Young man, I have to say, you've proved yourself most resourceful.

PRINCESS. And he still has a palace.

EMPRESS. And you still have a palace. Which means –

ALL. Yes?

EMPRESS. I'll stay to tea. And –

ALL. Yes?

EMPRESS. You can marry the Princess.

ALL. Hooray!

ALADDIN. Jasmine, will you marry me?

PRINCESS. Of course, I will!

ALADDIN. I can't believe my good fortune. And so much of it is down to you, Queenie. Do you still want to be human?

GENIE. Oh, more than anything else in the world!

ALADDIN. Then let that be my last wish!

SIDNEY. STOP!!!

ALADDIN. What, is it, Sidney?

SIDNEY. Could you just wish one thing first, Aladdin?

ALADDIN. What?

SIDNEY. Could you wish for me to be able to do the trick?

ALADDIN. Ok, Sidney. First the trick, Queenie - and then the human thing.

GENIE makes a pass.

SIDNEY. Crikey - I can't believe this is going to work...! Drum roll. Bibi - the silks!

BIBI produces red, blue and white silks

And... Karimba Mazoola Kazan!

SIDNEY reaches in bag for a corner of a silk which he gives to BIBI.

Eyes on the monkey... **(BIBI produces a big silk union jack)** And God save the Queen!

GERTIE. That was brilliant, Sidney! I'm so proud of you!

SIDNEY. Really?

GERTIE. But then I've always been proud of you. **(Hugs SIDNEY and kisses his cheek)**

SIDNEY. Oh, my gosh!

GENIE. Can we do me now, Aladdin?

ALADDIN. Of course, we can. Queenie, I wish for you to be human!

MUSIC shimmer

GENIE. Ooooooh. I think I want to cry!

SIDNEY. **(To GENIE)** Thank you, Genie. Thank you so much!

GENIE. No problem. Let me see that thing!

GENIE takes bag – the silks fall out.

SIDNEY. **(disbelieving)** You dropped them!

GENIE. I know, I know, I'm sorry – but then, I'm only human... Hey, I'm human! I'm human everybody!!!!

ALL. HOORAY!!!

Song:

BLACKOUT.

SCENE 11 Back Home!

Tabs. GERTIE revealed.

GERTIE. Are you having a good time? **(AUDIENCE reaction)** I said, are you having a good time?! **(AUDIENCE reaction)** Would you like to sing another song? **(Reaction)** Fantastic – ‘cos we haven’t anything else to do! Can we have the words in, please?

Chorus bring song sheet on.

That’s it, lovely job. Ready everybody? After four. Four.

AUDIENCE start to sing raggedly. SIDNEY joins when ready

Hang on, hang on. Only joking. Would you like me to teach it to you? **(AUDIENCE reaction)** Alright then, well it goes like this. **(Sings song)** Have you got that? Right then, let’s give it a go. Over to you, Nick

AUDIENCE sing song through.

Well, I’ve got to go now and make myself spectacularly beautiful for Aladdin and Jasmine’s wedding. And do you know what – you’ve been such a lovely audience, you’re all invited too! So, there’s just time for you to sing along one more time, with Sidney! Bye bye, I’ll see you later! **(Exits)**

Ad lib rest of songsheet. (Left Right, Boys, Girls, etc)

SIDNEY. Right. This is your chance to really raise the roof. Let’s give it everything we’ve got! Thank you, Nick

AUDIENCE sing, as SIDNEY exits waving.

BLACKOUT

SCENE 12 The Royal Wedding.

Walkdown. ALL turn in as ALADDIN and JASMINE meet at the top of the steps.

GERTIE. Hip, hip,

ALL. Hooray!

ALADDIN. Our story's told, our tale is done.

JASMINE. And I've a lovely husband won.

GERTIE. Abbi did things he didn't oughta,

EMPRESS. Worst of all he stole my daughter!

ABA. But now I'm changed and I respect her.

GERTIE. He's so good –

ABA. They've made me rector!

ALADDIN. My special thanks go to Queenie,

GENIE. Free to dream, no more a genie.

SIDNEY. It's time to bid you all adieu.

BIBI whispers in SIDNEY'S ear.

And wish you –

ALL. Merry Christmas too

Song:

Big Monster Finish, Jazz Hands and Shiny Smiles

CURTAIN

Clean Up and Pub