

Plays for Young Audiences

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Aladdin's Luck

By
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Aladdin's Luck was originally produced by Imagination Stage in 2011.

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Aladdin's Luck

CHARACTERS:

Actor 1:

ALADDIN, a boy of fifteen becoming a man of eighteen

Actress 2:

LEILAH, the Princess

MOTHER

OMAR, Aladdin's best friend

WOLF and VULTURE puppets

Actor 3:

MUSTAPHA, a baker

AL ZARNATI, the wizard

SULTAN

SERVANT

The GENIE and all magic effects are played as a video and voice over

The audience is involved as merchants at the bazaar, guests at the wedding, and some audience members are selected to be suitors to the Princess.

SETTING: A jewel-studded palace. Huge Taj Mahal-like windows look out over blue sky.

Long stretchy fabric, carpets, pillows and other furnishings can also become the Bazaar, the desert, the magical cave, the Sultan's Palace, and Aladdin's Palace in both Baghdad and Morocco.

Pronunciation Guide

Aga	(AH-gah)
Allah	(AHL-luh)
Al Zarnati	(Al Zar-NAT-ee)
Cailif	(KAY-lif)
Dinar	(DEE-nar)
Emir	(Ay-MIR)
Leilah	(LAY-lah)
Parasangs	(PAR-uh-SANGS)
Samarkand	(SAM-ar-KAHND)
Seraglio	(Sir-AHG-Leo)
Vizier	(VIZ-ee-er)
Zagros	(ZAG-ros)

Aladdin's Luck

Prologue

The company is discovered on stage

ALL There was one
 There was none
 There was no one beside Allah

MUSTAPHA These are the words

MOTHER That begin a story

ALADDIN In Persia

Light shift to focus on ALADDIN in his head

ALADDIN: Persia, where I was born under a Lucky Star
 Or so my Mother and my friends all say
 But look at me
 A beggar, not a single dinar in my pocket
 No hope except to follow my dead father's trade
 A tailor, pricking my fingers
 On wools and silks for other men to wear

Scene 1: The Bazaar

ALADDIN & OMAR initiate a game of tag & chase each other off stage. MUSTAPHA the Baker picks up his basket of wares & pretends that the audience are fellow merchants in the bazaar

MUSTAPHA: Ah, another fine day for selling our wares in the grand bazaar of Baghdad. Here I have sesame cakes, still warm from my oven. Mmm, smell them.

MUSTAPHA goes out into audience & offers his basket to a child. They smell the cakes together

MUSTAPHA: Ahhh.

He selects another child.

What about you, Seller of Sweetmeats. Are those sticky sweet figs I see you have there?

I'll wager you brought those all the way from Seville, eh? Tell you what, I'll trade you.

Here's one of my little cakes for you. *(handing over imaginary cake)*. How about a fig for

me? *(taking one & pretending to eat)* Mmm, thank you, delicious. How's the cake?

Let's see who else has some food here to sell? Any roast lamb? Any grapes or mangoes?

Falafel or flat bread? How about you, young merchant, what have you there?

MUSTAPHA improvises with the audience a bit, sampling a few things and then to finish the beat:

Now all I need is a sip of coffee to wash all that down. I'm stuffed. Is there a Cyprus coffee merchant in the bazaar today? Excellent, just a small cup, please. And here's your sesame cake in return. Thank you. That's h—h—hot but good. May you sell your whole flask quickly and have the rest of the day to relax in the sun. Indeed, may we all prosper.

OMAR and ALADDIN enter through the house, tired out from their game of chase

OMAR: I'm hungry.

ALADDIN: Don't talk about it.

OMAR: Smell that lamb cooking there. Look at those ripe figs.

ALADDIN: Omar—

MUSTAPHA: *(addressing another child, stage whisper)* Look, Mango Seller, there go those young dogs who robbed your stall yesterday. Let us all beware.

OMAR: You know what I could really go for is one of Mustapha's sweet sesame cakes. Yum.

ALADDIN: Forget it.

OMAR: Go steal one, go on.

ALADDIN: Everyone knows Mustapha is the meanest merchant in the market.

OMAR: But you're the one with all the luck, Aladdin, you ask. Go on, you know you're hungry too.

ALADDIN: I have an idea. Let's draw straws to see which of us will steal a cake.

OMAR: I always lose. It's no fair.

ALADDIN: *(picking 2 audience members)* These boys and girls will play too. We all have the same chance. Come on, Omar. You're the one that started talking about food.

OMAR: Well, alright, but it better not be me that loses this time! I've still got the bruises from stealing yesterday's mango.

ALADDIN: Everybody take a straw and the one that gets the shortest piece has to go steal a cake from the baker. Agreed?

ALADDIN holds out straws & all the children pick. OMAR gets the short one.

OMAR: Camel's breath. Not me again!

ALADDIN: Your turn.

OMAR: This is so unfair!

ALADDIN: *(whines like a puppy)* Meee-ah, meee-ah.

OMAR: I'm going, I'm going.

MUSTAPHA *(on the other side of the house, to children)* Everyone favors my sesame cakes, but you know, I have all kinds...how would you like to try a cinnamon cake, an orange cake, a honey cake...

OMAR Excuse me, O Honorable Baker, May you live forever. I beg you for myself and my friend. Please would you give us one of your fresh, warm sesame cakes? We're starving.

MUSTAPHA: Get away, young dog.

OMAR: Please!

MUSTAPHA: I saw you steal that mango yesterday.

OMAR: Then how about a stale day-old cake? *(kneeling humbly)* We will rest in your shadow for all time.

MUSTAPHA: Go away or I'll call the Sultan's guard on you.

ALADDIN: *(walking off angrily)* All your cakes are hard as rocks anyway!

MUSTAPHA: *(defending his reputation to the bazaar)* A lie! My cakes are delicious!

He holds out a cake as proof and Omar swipes it.

OMAR: Dry as dirt more like!

MUSTAPHA gets in a quick kick at Omar as he runs off

OMAR: Ouch!

MUSTAPHA: Stop the thief! Trip him, I say. *(exiting)* Guard! Guard! O, guard!!

OMAR stumbles through house pretending to get tripped up here & there. Then he & ALADDIN meet up on stage & celebrate w/ some adaptation of a high five routine

OMAR Oh, yeah!

ALADDIN: Not bad, man. We tricked him!

OMAR: Yes!

ALADDIN: *(mocking MUSTAPHA)* A lie! Mustapha's cakes are delicious! I saw you steal that mango.
I'll call the Sultan's guard.

OMAR & ALADDIN: *(laughing hysterically)* Guard! Guard! O, guard!!

They recover and Omar pulls out the cake reverently

OMAR: *(holding the cake out to Aladdin)* Smell. *(They smell it together)*

OMAR & ALADDIN: Ahhh...

Scene 2: The Bazaar

AL ZARNATI enters. He plays the audience.

AL ZARNATI: Gentle youths of Baghdad, I beg your indulgence. I am looking for a boy. Are there any boys here? Good. It is written that the boy I seek is in this bazaar at this very hour. He has a Lucky Star. Is that you? Or you?

ALADDIN shushes the audience so they won't give him away.

OMAR: *(to Aladdin)* I bet it's you!

ALADDIN: Shh, wait.

AL ZARNATI This boy is destined for greatness. Is that you? Or you perhaps...?

ALADDIN: I don't trust him.

AL ZARNATI: I seek a fatherless boy.

OMAR: By the prophet, Aladdin! It is you!

ALADDIN: He looks like a slave trader.

OMAR: You think?

ALADDIN Or a tomb robber!

AL ZARNATI *(he picks and audience member)* O, what is this I find behind your ear, you young scamp? *(He produces a coin)* A shiny silver dinar! And another here right under your chin. Well, well, I'll tell you what. If you tell me which one here is the lucky fatherless boy I seek, then these two shiny --

ALADDIN Stop, tell us first who you are.

AL ZARNATI *(Coming up onto the stage)* I am Al Zarnati of Morocco.. Magician, astronomer and advisor to agas and emperors. Let me guess, you are the boy!

ALADDIN No, Sir.

AL ZARNATI Fire and brimstone, I must find him before the sun sets, do you hear, or all of my calculations are forfeit.

ALADDIN But the boy you seek is here.

AL ZARNATI I am never wrong. Of course he's here. Lead me to him.

ALADDIN First, show me how you make those coins appear?

AL ZARNATI Magic, my boy. A secret art. I may not tell. (*making the coins appear again from Aladdin & Omar*) See, there is one behind your ear and another behind his. Lead me to the boy and you shall have them to keep.

OMAR (*aside*) Two dinars, Aladdin, a feast!

ALADDIN (*aside*) I have an idea. Back me up.
(*to Al Zarnati*) My friend and I will help you but we promised our mothers we would not leave this corner, right Omar.

OMAR Um, right.

ALADDIN But you can find the fatherless boy with this talisman (*the piece of straw*)

AL ZARNATI A piece of straw?

ALADDIN This is no ordinary piece of straw, Honored Sir.

OMAR OOO Aladdin, you can't let that go, your lucky straw.

ALADDIN It is magic.

AL ZARNATI Real magic?

OMAR Don't do it, man.

ALADDIN I know, Omar, but this gentleman has traveled a million parasangs. He's working to a deadline. I'd give it to him freely if only I knew where I might find another. But that could take—

OMAR Years.

ALADDIN A life-time.

OMAR An eternity.

AL ZANARTI Here, I'll pay you for it. How much? One dinar?

ALADDIN Two.

AL ZARNATI Two dinars for a piece of straw!

OMAR A divining straw!

ALADDIN Take it or leave it.

AL ZARNATI *(giving the money)* Here you go, mongrel. How does it work? Quickly.

ALADDIN Hold it thus. Say “Straw O straw,” and point it at each person you pass. When you come to the fatherless boy, the straw will wiggle of its own accord *(pointing it at himself and wiggling it)* Like so.

AL ZARNATI Aha. Good, good. Give it to me.

ALADDIN Be careful now, that’s one of a kind.

AL ZARNATI Straw, oh straw!

AL ZARNATI exits trying the straw out on a couple of audience members. The boys imitate him pointing their fingers like straws and giggling behind his back.

ALADDIN: *(showing the two coins)* We’re rich!

OMAR: Two dinars for a piece of old straw. How did you dream up that idea?

ALADDIN: I don’t know, just lucky.

(He hands OMAR one of the coins)

Why don’t you buy us some orange juice to go with the sesame cake? We’ll have a feast!

OMAR: I will but don’t you dare touch it. I’ll be right back.

OMAR exits in order to change into PRINCESS and there’s a fanfare to announce her arrival.

Enter Actor 3 as SERVANT OF THE PRINCESS:

SERVANT: In the name of the Almighty Sultan, I order you to bow before the Rose of Persia, May she live Forever, the Princess Leilah. Bow with your faces to the ground. With your hands outstretched. Do not peek. For no one but the Prince who is chosen to marry her may gaze upon her supreme beauty and live to speak of it. So bow, O citizens of Baghdad, on pain of death!

ALADDIN bows on stage while the SERVANT ushers the PRINCESS on holding a sunshade over her head or he might walk out into the audience trying to keep the children from peeking but doing a poor job of it. More music as PRINCESS LEILAH enters. SHE is bored and sad. Her path leads her in the direction of OMAR's cake. ALADDIN reaches out and grabs it just in time. The PRINCESS sees this and smiles. SHE crosses and taps ALADDIN on the shoulder. He stands awkwardly, expecting the worst. He's stunned by LEILAH's attention and her beauty.

LEILAH My name is Leilah. What's yours?

He mumbles, embarrassed.

Aladdin, did you say?

ALADDIN shakes or nods his head inconclusively and tentatively offers her the cake. SHE takes it and exits.

SERVANT Kneel, you dog. Do you know what happens to those who look upon the Princess without permission? Eighty lashes for a start followed by a S-L-O-W death.

Would you like me to describe it?

ALADDIN *(shakes his head no)*

SERVANT Then let's pretend this little interview never took place.

The SERVANT exits. ALADDIN stares after LEILAH transfixed. ACTRESS 2 reenters as OMAR carrying a flask

OMAR What happened to my cake? It was right there. You didn't touch it, did you, after all my trouble to get it. That Mustapha is a real brute and the Mango Seller tripped me! I'm black and blue. *(showing his bruises)* Look, see here and here and here. Aladdin!

ALADDIN O.

OMAR Let's eat.

ALADDIN In a minute. (*getting out his knuckle bones*) Here, let's play knucklebones for this other dinar since you spent yours on the drink.

OMAR Nah, I never beat you.

ALADDIN Come on.

OMAR I'd rather eat.

ALADDIN It's your turn to get lucky, come on.

OMAR Alright. But then our feast.

THEY throw two knuckle-bones and ALADDIN wins.

OMAR Five!

ALADDIN Six!

OMAR Camel's breath! No fair.

ALADDIN starts to leave.

OMAR Where do you think you're going?

ALADDIN Give this money to my Mother.

OMAR Not so fast, Aladdin. Did you eat it? You did, didn't you?

ALADDIN Here, I'll play you for it.

He goes to hand the knucklebones to OMAR who knocks them out of his hand.

OMAR No! I told you, "Don't touch that cake," and you took it and ate all of it, your half and my half.

ALADDIN No, I didn't.

OMAR After it was me who nearly got killed for it.

ALADDIN I didn't eat your cake. Omar, listen.

OMAR What kind of a friend are you? I'm never going to share food or play games with you ever, ever, ever again.

ALADDIN The Princess took it.

OMAR What!

ALADDIN Your cake.

OMAR The Princess took my cake.

ALADDIN Yes.

OMAR The Sultan's daughter? The richest girl in Persia took my cake.

ALADDIN She came through the bazaar while you were gone. It was right in her path so I—

OMAR You peeked at her? OOOOO, you are in big trouble.

ALADDIN I didn't peek. She came right up and introduced herself to me. Her name is Leilah.

OMAR Wait a minute.

ALADDIN Don't you just love that name? Leilah.

OMAR Shh. You have to be an Emir or a Vizier at least to even whisper that name.

ALADDIN LEILAH!

OMAR And you'd better have land and livestock and jewels to impress the Sultan before you dare say it out loud.

ALADDIN Leilah! LEILAH!

OMAR Stop it. You'll get us both whipped.

ALADDIN I wish I could marry her and be a Prince.

OMAR Aladdin.

ALADDIN You can be my Vizier, Omar, since you're my best friend, my second in command.

OMAR I don't want to be your second in command.

ALADDIN You can order the servants to fan us all day. And feed us marzipan.

OMAR Quit dreaming, Aladdin. Everybody knows your Mother doesn't even have the money for you to apprentice as a tailor.

ALADDIN I don't want to be a tailor. I can't even thread a needle.

OMAR Well, face it, that's the apex of your pyramid. Not like me. I have prospects! I'm going to be a merchant. My father's giving me money to buy wares. I'll join a camel caravan and travel the Silk Road. Then one day I'll present myself at the seraglio of the Sultan with rich gifts for "Leilah." She'll ask me to marry her, not you. So there.

ALADDIN If I could only pull coins out of the air like Al Zarnati I could save up to buy myself a place in the Sultan's army. I'll be a captain and carry a scimitar. I'll ride a swift Arabian and capture the flag of the infidel. When the Princess inspects the guard, she'll wink at me, and recognize me from today. I'll be the Shah of Romance, Prince of Persia!

OMAR No, you won't!

ALADDIN Will too.

The boys start pushing one another and get into a scuffle.

OMAR Just 'cause you're the one with the pearly teeth and curly hair.

ALADDIN I can't help it if you always pull the short straw.

OMAR Cheater.

ALADDIN Loser!

Scene 3: Bazaar--Al Zarnati Returns

AL ZARNATI enters and the boys fall apart

AL ZARNATI Where's my money, mongrel? This straw is a fake!

ALADDIN picks it up

AL ZARNATI You wasted my time. And I have precious little to spare. I'll see you whipped. Where's your father?

OMAR He doesn't have one.

AL ZARNATI A beating is what you deserve! I'll insist on eighty--- What did you say?

OMAR His father has been dead since before he could walk.

AL ZARNATI Has he? Fetch his mother then.

AL ZARNATI throws some coins. OMAR grabs them and runs off

Well?

ALADDIN It works. *(HE holds it towards himself and wiggles it as before)*

AL ZARNATI Bah!

ALADDIN I did have a father. A tailor. I'm not really fatherless.

AL ZARNATI What a clever one you are! I knew you, did I not? I am never wrong!

You are the one who is destined to help me.

ALADDIN First, I want to know how you pull coins out of the air.

AL ZARNATI You wish to learn magic?

ALADDIN I wish to become rich!

AL ZARNATI I shall teach you.

Scene 4: Mother to the Rescue

ALADDIN's MOTHER runs on, not seeing AL ZARNATI at first.

MOTHER O my poor boy. What kind of trouble are you in now?

ALADDIN Mother.

MOTHER *(seeing AL ZARNATI)* O Honored Sir, my head is in your hands.

Whatever my son has done, please forgive him. Let him be whipped if justice so demands but spare his life, I beg you in the name of Allah.

ALADDIN Mother, do you have to?

MOTHER He is a good boy at heart.

AL ZARNATI Madam, I bear your son no grudge.

MOTHER But?

ALADDIN Fortune smiles on us, Mother.

MOTHER I do not understand.

ALADDIN Al Zarnati is going to teach me how to pull coins out of thin air.

MOTHER *(aside)* Aladdin, that is a just a trick.

ALADDIN *(aside)* I saw him do it. It's magic.

MOTHER *(aside)* No, son, a mere sleight of hand.

ALADDIN Well, uhh, he also he wishes to employ me.

MOTHER Employ you? What for?

AL ZARNATI Astronomy. An experiment to measure the stars. The boy will accompany me on a journey.

MOTHER Your father had only sisters. There is some mistake.

AL ZARNATI There is no mistake and no time for idle talk. Aladdin, I can delay no longer.

ALADDIN I'm coming. *(taking his MOTHER aside)* Mother, listen, what if I make you a promise.

MOTHER Aladdin...

ALADDIN When I come back from this journey, I will take up father's trade.

MOTHER La Allah il Allah.

ALADDIN I'll apprentice to a tailor.

MOTHER Your start in life.

ALADDIN You must find a good one to take me on.

MOTHER Yes, yes.

ALADDIN I will make you proud.

AL ZARNATI Aladdin, are you coming or not?

ALADDIN Mother, I am grown now and can take care of myself.

MOTHER May Allah forgive me.

(turning to AL ZARNATI)

 Brother, you may take Aladdin. *(ALADDIN hugs her)*

 But I beg you, bring him home to me safely. Can I trust you?

AL ZARNATI With your life, Madam. Come Aladdin.

ALADDIN and AL ZARNATI transition to...

Scene 5: In the Desert on the Way to the Cave

MUSIC & MOVEMENT: This section may use video or a combination of live and video action...ALADDIN and AL ZARNATI walk through the desert. It's hot. The sun beats down. It's a long walk. The idea to get across is that ALADDIN has all the luck. This is the first of the two 1001-day journeys in the play so it would be good to establish some images that can be repeated (with variation) for the next time. Here are some snap-shots that the director may want to work with:

- *ALADDIN & AL ZARNATI are trudging along, sweating. ALADDIN pulls out a cloth to wipe his forehead, then gives it to AL ZARNATI who discovers it's all wet*
- *AL ZARNATI takes a swig from the canteen and passes it to ALADDIN who finishes it and returns it empty to AL ZARNATI*
- *A desert WOLF puppet (operated by ACTRESS 2) enters and let's ALADDIN pet him. When AL ZARNATI reaches out his hand, WOLF growls and bares his teeth before running off*
- *A VULTURE puppet (operated by ACTRESS 2) enters and circles. AL ZARNATI picks up a stone and throws it at the bird. He misses. ALADDIN throws another stone, hits the bird. It squawks and exits.*

They reach the spot indicated on AL ZARNATI's map. AL ZARNATI makes calculations with the astrolabe.

AL ZARNATI At last, the appointed place. For the first time in centuries, the stars and planets are aligned precisely and soon I shall possess the most powerful magic in all the world.

ALADDIN Speaking of magic, don't forget you're going to show me how to pull coins out of the air.

AL ZARNATI Yes, yes, later! Stand back while I perform the spell.

Sound/ music as AL ZARNATI makes elaborate gestures—a spell.

AL ZARNATI Shebeck lebeck! (*Nothing. Tries again.*) Shebeck lebeck. (*Again nothing.*)

ALZARNATI Come, Fatherless Boy, do as I do.

ALADDIN copies AL ZARNATI and they perform the spell together.

ALADDIN & AL ZARNATI Shebeck lebeck!

Flash! There is smoke and the ground opens! ALADDIN is amazed.

ALADDIN Wow!

AL ZARNATI Now, boy, listen carefully as your life depends upon it.

ALADDIN Did you do that or did I?

AL ZARNATI Below you will find a cave full of precious gems and jewels. But you must promise not to touch a single one. Do you promise?

ALADDIN Yes.

AL ZARNATI Deep in the cave you will find a tarnished old lamp. Bring it to me.

ALADDIN But what about the coins?

AL ZARNATI O grant me patience. What about them?

ALADDIN I need to know how you pull them out of the air.

AL ZARNATI A trick, my boy, a simple trick. See!

AL ZARNATI demonstrates, slowing the motions down.

AL ZARNATI A mere sleight of hand.

ALADDIN You mean it's not real magic?

ALZARNATI No.

ALADDIN But—

AL ZARNATI Now, get my lamp.

AL ZARNATI pushes ALADDIN into the cave. (The scene may be shown on video). ALADDIN admires its wonders. HE is tempted to take various jewels from the magical trees but resists because of the warning. HE finds the lamp and thinks it shabby. As he is about to return to AL ZARNATI, he plucks a jewel from a tree for his own payment.

AL ZARNATI No! What did I tell you? You idiot. Give me the lamp.

The ground shakes. Boulders fall. ALADDIN runs for the steps as AL ZARNATI reaches out to take the lamp.

ALADDIN Help me out.

AL ZARNATI The lamp first!

ALADDIN Help

AL ZARNATI The lamp!

They struggle. The lamp flies up in the air. AL ZARNATI grabs but misses it and exits.

ALADDIN catches the lamp as the ground closes over his head.

UNDERSCORE: ALADDIN's thoughts.

Scene 6: In the Cave

ALADDIN: I meant to be rich and so I am.
With this I could be a merchant.

Or a Sultan's Guard.

In no time I'd present myself at the Palace.

As a suitor for Leilah's hand.

I'm rich as a Prince.

But poor as a dead man.

Buried alive.

If I ever had a Lucky Star

It's burnt out now

That wolf, Al Zarnati, tricked me

With his false magic

Now he has air and light and water

While I have dirt to eat

And all for an ugly lamp

Dented and covered with green gunge

Even a clever salesman like me couldn't sell this

At the bazaar

For three dinars

Even polished--

MUSIC CUE: ALADDIN polishes the lamp and the GENIE appears.

Scene 7: The Genie appears to Aladdin

GENIE: (*on video*) Aladdin, O Master, hear and understand

The Genie of the Lamp is yours to command.

ALADDIN Genie? Mine to command. So that's it! You're the reason Al Zarnati dragged me over mountains and desert.

GENIE: But speak your wish and I'll obey
I bring what you want, I do what you say.

ALADDIN Genie, let me tell you how lucky you are you ended up with me and not Al Zarnati. My Mother was right about him. He left me here for dead.

GENIE The Genie of the Lamp has not the art
To judge the value of a human heart.

ALADDIN Well, take it from me. He was trouble.

GENIE Trapped in this lamp, I yearn to be free
I serve evil or good, whoever owns me.

ALADDIN Maybe someday I'll let you go. But right now I can't! You're the lucky star that's going to help me marry Princess Leilah. First, Genie, get me out of this cave and take me back to Baghdad.

GENIE It shall be done.

The GENIE works magic. Things swirl around and ALADDIN reenters dressed in a rich new robe and turban. Enter ALADDIN's MOTHER.

Scene 8—The Street in Baghdad

Music covers as Mother enters through the house with her shopping basket. MOTHER improvises with the merchants in the audience.

MOTHER: What fine fat figs you have there. How much are they?

O, thank you but those are a bit too dear for my poor purse.

(addressing another child) How much do you want for the mangos? Well, maybe another day, thanks you.

(addressing a third child) I'm afraid I haven't enough for one of your delicious cakes but if you have a bit of flat bread, I can pay you. Thank you.

Enter ALADDIN

MOTHER Aladdin?

ALADDIN Mother?

MOTHER Thanks be to Allah! I thought you dead as your poor father. I never should have let you go.

ALADDIN But, see, how well I have done. *(He shows her a big jewel)* You should be proud .

MOTHER You did not steal from that false uncle?

ALADDIN No, Mother. He rewarded me.

MOTHER With a jewel so large?

ALADDIN Because I worked diligently— carrying his instruments, charting his constellations.

MOTHER Aladdin.

ALADDIN What?

MOTHER How could you earn enough for such a jewel?

ALADDIN O from agas and emperors. Al Zarnati used the stars to advise them.

MOTHER What about?

ALADDIN O, you know, about—

MOTHER About?

ALADDIN About how best to cast their knucklebones, which one to pull in a game of straws....

MOTHER Aladdin, high-born men do not play knucklebones and straws!

ALADDIN These ones did.

MOTHER Did you fall out with this Al Zarnati?

ALADDIN Nooo. We parted like father and son. He for Beijing to tell the Emperor's fortune and I for home to see you, my devoted Mother.

MOTHER Mashallah! Praise God for that. And now you are back, you can begin your apprenticeship. I have found the perfect situation—

ALADDIN I need no trade now.

MOTHER Every honest man needs a trade.

ALADDIN Mother, you do not understand. The source of my riches runs deep. Be happy. I mean to provide for your old age in luxury. Here, take this jewel and buy yourself new clothes. Send a servant to fetch you marzipan and tea.

MOTHER *(taking the jewel)* O, my son, what have you done?

ALADDIN I have made my fortune, that's all. And the next time you see me, I'll be the Prince of Persia.

MOTHER How can it be?

ALADDIN I beg one favor only. If you love me and care for my happiness, do not tell anyone that I am not the Grand Emir of Samarkand.

MOTHER Grand Emir?! You mean to court the Princess with a lie.

ALADDIN What choice have I? She would laugh at a tailor's son.

MOTHER May Allah pour his mercy upon you. Aladdin, I fear for you. This jewel, it is not of this world. Is it magic?

ALADDIN No.

MOTHER Don't lie to me.

ALADDIN What if it is?

MOTHER O, my poor boy. How often I have warned you of the danger?

ALADDIN Mother.

MOTHER And told you how magic brings more misery than joy. How you may believe
 you have it tamed but at last it will enslave you!

ALADDIN Mother, I know what I'm doing.

MOTHER How you will be pursued by the envious and transformed into evil itself. How
 magic is as the—

MOTHER & ALADDIN: -- shifting sands on which no man can stand for long.

ALADDIN You are making yourself sick with worry as usual. Exactly what I hoped to avoid.
 See how foolish it is. You feared for me in the desert but I have returned rich as a
 vizier. Keep my secret from the Princess and once I am married, I will promise
 you anything.

MOTHER To relinquish magic forever after?

ALADDIN *(crossing his fingers)* All right.

MOTHER To be honest?

ALADDIN Yes.

MOTHER And truthful henceforth?

ALADDIN Yes.

MOTHER Then I will do as you wish. And may Allah forgive me, the foolish mother of an
 only son.

Scene 9—At the Sultan's Palace

MUSIC: Actor 3, now the SULTAN presides. He addresses the audience...

SULTAN: You dogs and Princes from empires far and wide are gathered here as you are once each
 year to present your unworthy bids for my daughter's hand. The Rose of Persia will
 consider your offers and decide for herself whom she wishes to marry. She is wisdom

itself. She sees beneath fancy wrappings to the heart of each giver. Oh, I know you must be thinking that just because I am her father, I am soft on this Leilah of mine. But I assure you that I am completely unbiased when I say that she is not only the most beautiful girl ever to walk this earth, but also the kindest, most generous, best tempered, and good humored young woman in all Allah's creation. I know this because no one ever contradicts me...

LEILAH Father, please...

SULTAN Leilah, your suitors await you.

MUSIC as LELIAH enters bored and sits . Perhaps a large basket is placed on the stage so that Leilah can pull the gifts out as they are mentioned while the SULTAN is in the audience, choosing and introducing children. He selects a child in the audience and gets his name and street name or neighborhood.

SULTAN: (___ child's name ___) the Emperor of (___ name of street or neighborhood) offers the Princess Leilah a necklace fashioned of the finest copper.

LEILAH pulls the necklace from the basket & thanks the Emperor. ALADDIN arrives & bows before LELIAH. LELIAH perks up, almost recognizing him. ALADDIN rubs his lamp & beautiful jewels appear on the video screen. SULTAN is impressed.

SULTAN (to ALADDIN) What Prince are you that challenges the suit of _____, Emperor of _____?

ALADDIN I am the Grand Emir of Samarkand. And I mean to overtake all the suitors in Persia for the hand of Princess Leilah.

SULTAN Ah, and who wishes to challenge the Emir of Samarkand? (*selecting another child*) (___ child's name ___) the Aga of (___ neighborhood ___) presents the Princess Leilah with a sheep boasting the finest Persian wool.

LEILAH pulls cutout of sheep from basket. ALADDIN rubs lamp & a stallion appears on screen.

SULTAN is impressed but goes to one more child.

SULTAN Another impressive gift from the Grand Emir. Is there one more person who would like to challenge the Emir? (__child's name__) the Shah of (_____) presents the Princess with a magnificent desert tent with all the conveniences.

LEILAH pulls a drawing of a desert tent from the basket. ALADDIN rubs the lamp & a palace appears. SULTAN goes crazy, shakes ALADDIN's hand and walks him over to LELIAH.

SULTAN Mashalla! At last, a son worthy of the Rose of Persia. Let the wedding feast begin!

The two are clearly happy. MUSIC: They dance a marriage dance together and may teach some moves to the audience, if desired. Perhaps the SULTAN leads the audience in clapping to the time as the newlyweds' dance.

Scene 10: In Aladdin's Head

Remind me never to doubt that star of mine
How far I have come without a single friend!
Heir to the Sultan
Destined for a life of ease
Married to the Rose of Persia
See how they all bow to me.
My silks and turban have them fooled.
Grand Emir of Samarkand.
Prince of Persia.

O, by the prophet, I rejoice I did not heed my pitiful Mother!

Or try to keep her stupid promises.

If she'd had her way, I'd be straining my eyes

To sew some caliph's cummerbund.

Instead, I have all any man could desire

My palace, my servants

And the woman of whom

Every boy in Baghdad only dreams