



**Playstage  
Junior**

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## **THE ARABIAN NIGHTS**



**A PLAY BASED ON THE STORY OF SCHEHEREZADE**



**Written by  
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## **THE ARABIAN NIGHTS**

### **CAST LIST**

#### **AT THE BAZAAR IN OLD BAGHDAD**

**Scheherazade**

**Servants of Scheherazade**

**Woman**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Woman**

**Beggar**

**Snake charmer, dancing girls, merchants, musicians, fire eater etc.**

#### **PLAY 1 – THE FISHERMAN AND THE GENIE**

**The Fisherman**

**The Genie**

**The Fisherman's wife**

**Achmed the builder**

**Friend 1**

**Friend 2**

**Friend 3**

**Friend 4**

#### **PLAY 2 – ALI BABA**

**Ali Baba**

**Robber Chief**

**Jasmine**

**Morgiana**

**Kasim**

**1<sup>st</sup> Thief**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Thief**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Thief (Yussef)**

**4<sup>th</sup> Thief**

***Minimum 13 maximum 22 speaking characters. Unlimited non-speaking***

## **THE ARABIAN NIGHTS**

### **PROLOGUE**

*The scene is an Arabian bazaar. This takes place in front of the stage where the action of the plays is to take place. There are merchants selling fine silks, jewels, baskets and fruit. There are dancing girls, a snake charmer and a fire eater. There is a juggler and some beggars. There is music and the scene is very colourful.*

### **BEGGAR**

**Alms for the love of Allah! Alms for the love of Allah!**

*(He makes a face)* Ach! Everyone is too busy today to give money to a poor beggar. Mind you, living here, in this city, is so much better than it used to be. When the old Sultan was alive – now there was a mean man. He married twenty seven wives and had every one of them executed when he got fed up with them. What a tyrant! Except...he never got the better of his last wife...Queen Scheherazade. She was his twenty seventh wife and, when she was forced to marry him, he told her that the minute she bored him he would have her head cut off. So, what did she do? She told him stories. Wonderful stories! Every night, for a thousand and one nights, she told him a magical story and the old Sultan was so entranced, he never did get around to cutting off her head! *He* died before he could get bored. So now Queen Scheherazade rules in his place and life is much better around here.

*(Servant 1 enters)*

### **SERVANT 1**

**Make way for her Majesty! The Queen approaches!**

*(Servant 2 enters)*

**Make way for Queen Scheherazade!**

*(Scheherazade enters and everyone bows. She sits on a chair in front of the stage and her people all sit around her)*

**SCHEHEREZADE**

**Good day my subjects!**

**ALL**

**Good day Your Majesty!**

**1<sup>st</sup> WOMAN**

**Blessings be upon your Majesty!**

**2<sup>nd</sup> WOMAN**

**Blessings upon your family your Majesty!**

**SCHEHEREZADE**

**Thank you.**

**1<sup>st</sup> WOMAN**

**Please tell us a story Your Majesty!**

**2<sup>nd</sup> WOMAN**

**Yes, please tell us a story!**

**SCHEHEREZADE**

**Is that what you all wish?**

**ALL**

**Yes!**

**SCHEHEREZADE**

**Very well. I shall tell you the story I told to my husband on the 31<sup>st</sup> night after our marriage. It is a story of a genie, three wishes and great wealth.**

**ALL**

**Ooh!**

**SCHEHEREZADE**

**Ah. But all is not what it seems. Let me begin.**

**There was once a poor fisherman who was too poor to buy a boat, so he had to content himself with wading out into the sea, as far as he could go, and casting his nets upon the water.....**

***(The curtains open on the stage behind them and the action begins)***

## **THE FISHERMAN AND THE GENIE**

### **SCENE 1**

***(The fisherman is casting nets on the water)***

#### **FISHERMAN**

**Oh these nets are heavy! I wish I could afford to buy a boat but fishing has been so bad this last year, I barely make enough for my wife and I to live on. Let's see what's in this net.....a few small fish as usual.....what's this? Some kind of bottle. I wonder what is in it? Perhaps some rich merchant dropped it from the side of a ship. Perhaps it contains some fine wine or a special potion. Aargh! This cork is very tight! Whatever is in here won't have been spoilt by the sea, that's for sure! Got it!**

***(He manages to pull the cork out and the bottle rolls on the floor. A cloud of smoke comes out of it and the Genie appears)***

#### **GENIE**

**Free at last! Who let the King of all Genies out of this bottle?**

**FISHERMAN *(afraid)***

**I did, Oh mighty one.**

#### **GENIE**

**Then I shall kill you at once!**

**FISHERMAN (*outraged*)**

**What! After I set you free! How ungrateful! If I hadn't opened that bottle, you would still be in there – and you want to kill me! Why?**

**GENIE**

**When a great magician sealed me in that bottle I promised myself that whoever let me out would get three wishes. All that my magic could summon would be theirs. But one hundred years passed and no-one came to let me out. So then I got very angry and I decided that whoever let me out would be made to suffer. But another hundred years passed. When I was halfway through the third hundred years I was so angry that I swore that whoever let me out of the bottle would die instantly!**

**FISHERMAN**

**O Genie, please don't kill me. I am sure that you have unbelievable powers.....actually I'm *not* sure that you have unbelievable powers. I've only got *your* word for it that you can work all kinds of magic. How do I know that I am not having some sort of dream? I'm very hungry. Perhaps I've fainted from hunger and I'm having a dream.**

**GENIE**

**What!! You insignificant little human! How dare you doubt my powers!**

**FISHERMAN**

**Look, I'll tell you what – you go back into the bottle and then pop out again and I'll know that it's not a dream.**

**GENIE**

**Don't be ridiculous.**

**FISHERMAN**

**There you are. You see. It's obviously a dream. You can't go back in the bottle again because my mind isn't telling you to do it.**

**GENIE**

**(*Roaring*) I don't need any puny mortal to tell me what I can do. I shall go back into the bottle and show you.**

*(He disappears into the bottle)*

**FISHERMAN**

Are you really in there?

**Genie's VOICE**

Of course I am.

**FISHERMAN**

Good. *(He quickly puts the cork back in the bottle)*

And there you will stay.

**GENIE**

Aagh! You tricked me!

**FISHERMAN**

Yes. You may have magic powers but you're not very bright are you?

**GENIE**

Let me out! Let me out! I promise I will not kill you. If you let me out I will grant you three wishes.

**FISHERMAN**

Oh yes. And I'm sure you will change your mind as soon as you are out of that bottle.

**GENIE**

No. No. I am a Genie and if I promise something I have to do it. I swear by Allah it is true.

**FISHERMAN**

Really? You have to grant me three wishes?

**GENIE**

Yes. Yes. Please let me out.

**FISHERMAN**

Alright then. Here goes.

*(He uncorks the bottle again and the genie reappears)*