

ROCK 2
Yeah, Diamond in the Rough.

WHEEZER
Gotcha.

Wheezer starts walking away only to be stopped by Jafar. The two pantomime a dispute until finally Jafar ushers the unenthusiastic Wheezer back to the cave entrance.

WHEEZER (CONT'D)
So like "dudes", I supposed that
leaves out liars, cheats, and
thieves?

ROCK 1
Right on, dude!

ROCK 2
Right on!

Thunder and rumbling are heard and strobe flashes as rocks sink back down to floor level, then disappear.

JAFAR
I can't believe this! I'm never
going to get that lamp!

WHEEZER
So what are we going to do now,
boss. We've got a big problem...

Jafar has been thinking to himself, and now, without looking at Wheezer, slaps one hand over Wheezer's mouth to shut him up, and begins reasoning things out loud to himself.

JAFAR
Diamond in the Rough - that can
only mean one thing: a common
person who has shining qualities
within. I must find this Diamond in
the Rough if I am ever going to get
the magic lamp.

Jafar starts to exit off.

JAFAR (CONT'D)
Come, we must return to the palace.

Jafar exits, followed by Wheezer.

ACT 1, SCENE 2

Curtain opens on Aladdin's home.

A group of children are playing catch. They range in age from school age up and include the boys Rashid, Abdul, and Malek and the girls Kadri, Coco, and Riaz.

Aladdin, a handsome young man, enters from the opposite side of the stage. Ali spies Aladdin coming and beckons to him.

RASHID

Aladdin! Come play with us!

KADRI

Yes! Come Aladdin. Come play!

Aladdin slows his approach, loving the attention while pretending he is above such things.

ALADDIN

No can do, my little friends. My mother says I'm the man of the house now, and men don't get to play outside - they need to make money to support the family. You can't make money playing games.

ABDUL

Have you ever heard of the NBA?
They get paid to play.

MALEK

Yeah. The same goes for the NFL!

COCO

Don't leave out the WNBA - women get paid to play games too.

Riaz turns to the audience.

RIAZ

Apparently nobody told them this is a period piece.

Nobody else breaks the 4th wall. Aladdin continues as if all is normal.

MALEK

Can you tell us one of your famous stories.

ALADDIN

That I can do.

The kids all cheer.

ALADDIN (CONT'D)
Come, gather round.

The kids all take seats around Aladdin.

ALADDIN (CONT'D)
This is the story of Ali Baba and
the Four Thieves.

ABDUL
I thought it was Ali Baba and the
Forty Thieves.

ALADDIN
Budget cuts. We're not Disney.

Kids all nod.

During the following, there are actors on stage pantomiming
the story as Aladdin tells it.

ALADDIN (CONT'D)
Once upon a time there were two
brothers: Ali Baba and Cassim. One
day, Ali Baba overhears a band of
thieves talking about their cave of
treasures and that the only way to
open it is with the secret password
Open Sesame.

COCO
That's a funny password.

ALADDIN
Intrigued by the thieves, Ali Baba
goes to the cave and tries the
secret password.

Aladdin addresses the audience.

ALADDIN (CONT'D)
Do you remember what the password
is?

If the audience doesn't respond then Riaz responds.

RIAZ
Open Sesame!

ALADDIN
Very good! No can all of you help
me say the password to open the
cave for Ali Baba?

ALL KIDS

Yes

ALADDIN

Can you all say Open Sesame really loud?

ALL KIDS

Open Sesame

ALADDIN

So low and behold, the cave opens and it is filled with more treasure than Ali Baba could ever imagine. So, he takes a small bag of gold - hoping it will not be missed.

MALEK

Why doesn't he take all the gold?

ALADDIN

That's a good question. Maybe he didn't need a lot of gold, and just took what he needed. Or, maybe he didn't want to get caught.

RASHID

What about Cassim?

ALADDIN

I'm glad you asked. When Cassim finds his brother's gold, he demands to know where it came from. Ali Baba tells him of the cave and the secret password. Cassim goes to the cave himself and takes as much gold as he can carry.

RASHID

Won't the thieves miss all the gold he took?

ALADDIN

You are absolutely right - the thieves discover their treasure is missing and track Cassim to his home.

KADRI

What did they do next?

ALADDIN

The thieves bound Cassim, intent on cutting him into pieces after they get a good night's sleep.

KADRI

What about Ali Baba?

ALADDIN

Ali Baba goes to check on his brother and finds Cassim tied up and the thieves sleeping. Ali Baba quickly devises a plan and pours boiling oil on the thieves! The thieves run away never to be heard from again.

ALL KIDS

Yay!

KADRI

Are you sure you can't come play Aladdin?

ALADDIN

It's not that I don't want to play. But I'm a man now. Soon I'm going to have to make my way in the world, go on grand adventures, dine with royalty, live the good life, and fall in love. That one's important. I need to find my one true love.

RIAZ

How ya going to do that?

ALADDIN

I happen to be getting ready to think of a grand plan right now.

He proceeds to spread himself out beneath a tree

RIAZ

Thinking of a plan looks an awful lot like taking a nap.

ALADDIN

This is how all great plans start. Trust me. Now can you kids go play somewhere else? I'm trying to think.