

JA'FAR: (*Ja'far turns to his bird.*) Oh Bird, sometimes I feel as if you're my only friend in this world.

BIRD: Rah! Fuck you, Ja'far!

JA'FAR: Right. (*Ja'far reaches down and picks up his book.*) Oh no, look at my book. It's all covered in mud. Wait. (*Ja'far sniffs the air, then the book.*) No. Is this shit? (*Just then, the CAPTAIN of the royal guards enters. He is covered in poop.*)

CAPTAIN: That smell is me, Ja'far. You won't believe the morning I've had.

JA'FAR: Wha... Why is my Captain of the Royal Guard covered in shit?!

CAPTAIN: Well, my men and I just jumped out of a window into a cart of Crazy Hakim's discount manure.

JA'FAR: Why?!

CAPTAIN: We were chasing a man, no a devil I say. A thief who every day robs the honest folk of bread, watermelons, laundry off of clothes lines. I don't know how, but he's always one jump ahead of us. Today things got a little out of hand and... a lot of people are dead.

JA'FAR: Explain! (*Dead bodies on stretcher, covered in white sheets, are brought out onstage.*)

CAPTAIN: The sword swallower's throat was cut when the thief's pet monkey pulled a sword out of it. And you know that guy that lays on the bed of nails? A fat guard fell on him. He's dead too. Then when we fell into that fertilizer... I was one of the lucky ones. And all this for a loaf of bread. (*On of the bodies on the stretchers begins to stir. The Captain and Ja'far rush over to him, this is ABDUL.*)

ABDUL: Cough. Cough.

CAPTAIN: Abdul! You're alive! I thought you choked on shit!

ABDUL: Did we get the loaf of bread back?

JA'FAR: I'm sorry the thief got away with the... (*The Captain interrupts Ja'far.*)

CAPTAIN: Yes, Abdul! We got the bread back.

ABDUL: Praise Allah... (*Abdule dies.*)

CAPTAIN: This is all your fault, Ja'far.

JA'FAR: My fault?! How is this my fault and not that thief's?!

CAPTAIN: Maybe there wouldn't be any thieves if you fixed the socioeconomic inequality, like you promised. Why do you even bother visiting us commoners anymore, you aristocat?

JA'FAR: There is a very important prince coming into town today from one of our vassal kingdoms, the land of Pix'zar. I've come to welcome him personally.

CAPTAIN: Another suitor for the Princess?

JA'FAR: If only, Captain. He's here because the trade agreement between his kingdom and ours has expired. I have to extend the contract or our Kingdom is *doomed*. That's why we've pulled out all the stops to make this Prince feel welcome. We've arranged a character breakfast with our Princess. Given him a two-day park hopper pass, and a lanyard for souvenir pin collecting. Every citizen must treat this Prince with the greatest respect.

CAPTAIN: Yes, I saw that Prince riding by on his horse earlier. He was being accosted by that very same thief we spoke of.

JA'FAR: What?!

CAPTAIN: The criminal threw a whip in his face and told him he'd never seen a horse with two-rear ends. I don't know if he meant that the Prince had a big horse ass or a horse ass for a face... Either way, everyone laughed. And the prince was furious.

JA'FAR: Oh no! I have to go back to the palace. Make sure his breakfast with the Princess goes well!

CAPTAIN: But Ja'far, isn't she known to sic tigers on visiting Princes?

JA'FAR: Oh shit. You're right.

CAPTAIN: I sure hope you haven't goofed this up Ja'far.

JA'FAR: I haven't! Why don't you go apprehend that thief! What's his name?

CAPTAIN: There are whispers. Rumors only. They say he's called... Aladdin.

JA'FAR: Then we must find this one. This Aladdin.

(The Captain and Ja'far exit.)

SCENE 2- I STEAL EVERYTHING

*(ALADDIN enters the marketplace, followed by his **MONKEY**. Aladdin carries a loaf of bread. The two look at the state of the marketplace.)*

ALADDIN: Tisk tisk tisk. Look at this mess, Monkey.

MONKEY: Uh-oh.

ALADDIN: Those guards should've just let me take this bread! Don't they get it? I'm not a bad guy. I steal *only* what I can't afford... and that's everything!

SONG- I STEAL EVERYTHING

ALADDIN: *(singing)*

Want food, but got no money

I'm screwed, or so it would seem

That's why I came up with this brilliant scheme

Just steal everything!

ALADDIN: *(speaking)* Alright, Monkey, let's feast!

MONKEY: Yeah-yeah! *(Aladdin breaks the bread in half, hands a piece to Monkey, then takes a bit. After a moment Aladdin spits the bread out)*

ALADDIN: Ugh, raisins! I hate raisins! *(Two **ORPHANS** enter. Aladdin calls to them.)*
Hey, little orphan kids. You hungry? You want some bread?

ORPHAN: We do, sir...