

## SCENE 4.

Outside the Enchanted Cave. Frontcloth, or tabs. A large rock blocks the entrance to the cave. (See note at the end.)

ABA. (entering R, looking into his crystal ball.) Yes, yes! This is it! We're close, I know we are. I can feel it in my ball!

ALADDIN. (entering) Where are we actually going, Uncle?

ABA. So many tiresome questions!

ALADDIN. Wherever it is, it's been an awfully long way.

(ABANAZAR sees the rock over the cave mouth.)

ABA. Quiet!

ALADDIN. What?

ABA. We're here! We've arrived. This is it!

ALADDIN. Well, I think it's really spooky.

ABA. Spooky! This is what we've come here for.

ALADDIN. What? To this horrible lonely place with a great lump of rock? You promised to make me rich!

ABA. Ignorant laundry boy! That rock is the gateway to everything I've planned and strived for! (Laughs unpleasantly.)

ALADDIN. I hate it when you go all weird like that.

ABA. What, like this? (Laughs again, even more unpleasantly.)

ALADDIN. Yes, like that. Let's go!

ABA. Silence!  
O, spirit in that lump of rock,  
The entry-way you must unlock,  
Obey the words you hear from me  
And jolly well – open sesame!

(ABANAZAR makes a magic pass. BLACKOUT. PYRO, thunder etc. Lights up. The stone has rolled aside revealing an opening.)

ALADDIN. That's amazing! How did you do that?

ABA. Magical genius! In you go.

ALADDIN. What?

ABA. In to the cave, Aladdin.

ALADDIN. But you promised me riches – and now you want me to go in to a cave!

ABA. The riches are in the cave.

ALADDIN. How do I know that?

ABA. You go in and find out!

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! **(Pulls it off and gives to ALADDIN.)** Take it! Now, look inside again and see what you can see.

ALADDIN. **(looking inside)** Wow! It's full of jewels!

ABA. Exactly! All you have to do is go into the cave –

ALADDIN. And fetch out all the jewels?

ABA. Yes! I mean no! I mean not straightaway. First, I want you to do a little job for me.

ALADDIN. What's that?

ABA. Somewhere in the cave is a lamp.

ALADDIN. A lamp?

ABA. Yes, a lamp. Now, when you've found it, bring it straight to me. 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 in to the entrance**) I'm in.

ABA. Excellent.

ALADDIN. (**jumping out**) I'm out. It's very scary!

ABA. Think of the jewels!

ALADDIN. (**jumping in**) Alright, I'm in. No, (**Jumping out.**) I'm out again!

ABA. Aladdin, stop this ludicrous hokey cokey and get in to that cave!

ALADDIN. Alright, Uncle. (**Stepping in.**) I really am in this time.

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

ALADDIN. Alright, alright, I'm going.

ABA. It's nearly mine! (**Chuckles unpleasantly.**) I almost feel sorry for the boy - for once I have the lamp, I'll seal the cave and leave him there to die! (**Laughs wickedly. AUDIENCE Reaction.**) And you lot can belt up, or I'll cancel the second half! (**Laughs fiendishly. BLACKOUT.**)