

In a shimmering city at the edge of a desert, a young man ran across the rooftops. His name was Aladdin.

Behind him came the royal guards, chasing after him.

"Stop, thief!" shouted the captain.

"All this for a loaf of bread!" wondered Aladdin, looking at the loaf in his hands. Then he leaped from the rooftop, swung from a washing line and crash-landed on the sunbaked ground below.

"There he is!" shouted one of the guards. "You won't get away so easy."

Disney Aladdin

"You think that was easy?" said Aladdin.

The women standing nearby shook with laughter.

"Getting into trouble a little early today, aren't you, Aladdin?"

"Trouble?" said Aladdin. "No way. You're only in trouble if you get caught."



But before Aladdin could take another step, the captain of the guards grabbed him. "Gotcha!" he cried.

A moment later, a monkey leaped onto the captain's head and pulled his headpiece over his eyes.

"Perfect timing, Abu, as usual," said Aladdin, grinning. "Come on, let's get out of here."

Together, Aladdin and Abu raced through the narrow streets until they lost sight of the guards.



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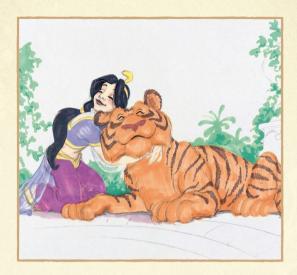
It was time to enjoy their bread. Aladdin split the loaf, but before he could take a bite, he spied two hungry children watching him with huge, sad eyes. "Here," he said, holding out his bread to them. "Go on, take it."

When Aladdin finally arrived home that night, he pulled back his ragged curtain and gazed out across the city. In the distance, he could see the royal palace.

"Some day, Abu, things are going to change," he promised. "We'll be rich, live in a palace and never have any problems at all."



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Inside the palace, however, things were not going smoothly. Princess Jasmine's latest suitor was storming out of the door.

"Good luck marrying her off!" the suitor told the sultan as he stalked away.

The sultan ran to the palace gardens in search of his daughter. He found her sitting by a fountain with her pet tiger, Rajah.

"Dearest," he began, "you've got to stop rejecting every suitor who comes to call."

"If I do marry, I want it to be for love," protested the princess.

"Please, try to understand. I've never done a thing on my own. I've never had any real friends."

Rajah growled.

"Except you, Rajah," added Jasmine. "I've never even been outside the palace walls."

"But, Jasmine, you're a princess," said her father.

"Then maybe I don't want to be a princess any more," she replied.



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