



# Aladdin

by John Birchley (2026)

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## CAST

**Abanazar** – an evil magician

**Widow Twankey** – she runs the local laundry

**Aladdin** – our hero and Widow Twankey's son

**Wishee Washee** – Aladdin's brother

**The Emperor of China** – very important, quite old but confused at times

**Princess Jasmine** – his beautiful daughter

**Sing Sing** – Jasmine's handmaiden, best friend and confidante

**Grand Vizier** – Emperor's advisor

**Chief of Peking Police** – it's obvious

**PC 27** – Police Officer who helps the Chief

**Spirit of the Ring**

**Genie of the Lamp**

**A member of the Stage Crew**

**CHORUS of:**

**Citizens, traders, dancers and children of Old Peking**

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First performed at the Norbury Theatre, Droitwich Spa 10<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

## **ACT ONE**

- Prologue** Abanazar's Hideaway
- Scene One** The Market Place in Old Peking
- Scene Two** Twankey's Laundry
- Scene Three** The Gardens of the Emperor's Palace
- Scene Four** The Market Place in Old Peking
- Scene Five** A Rocky Path in the Mountains
- Scene Six** Inside the Cave of Jewels

## **INTERVAL**

## **ACT TWO**

- Scene One** The Market Place in Old Peking
- Scene Two** Twankey's Laundry
- Scene Three** The Gardens of the Emperor's Palace
- Scene Four** A Street in Old Peking
- Scene Five** Twankey's Laundry
- Scene Six** Abanazar's Hideaway

## **Songsheet**

- Walkdown/Finale** The Wedding of Aladdin and Princess Jasmine

## PROLOGUE

### Abanazar's Hideaway

*In front of closed tabs or gauze*

*Thunder and lightning, pyro if possible or budget allows*

*Abanazar enters SL into dim green lighting, he peers into a crystal globe.*

**Abanazar** My journey has been long but I am near the end of my quest. I search for the thing which is rightfully mine. It's a lamp that I, Abanazar, greatest magician in the world deserve to own. It should be mine, mine! *(Evil laugh)* When I own it I shall become the richest and most important man in the world. *(Evil laugh)* I feel that lamp is somewhere near and I shall use my magic to learn where it is. I will summon the Spirit of the Ring to tell me exactly where I must look. *(rubs ring)*

<b>SOUND 1</b>
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SPIRIT'S MAGIC MUSIC
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*The Spirit of the Ring appears SR, pyro if cost allows, as on all of Spirit's entrances*

**Spirit of the Ring** Master! I appear to do your bidding.

**Abanazar** And have you found that lamp?

**Spirit** I have Master; you know your wish is my command.

**Abanazar** Tell me! I have waited too long for the lamp and the riches it will bring.

**Spirit** The lamp lies in a cave in the mountains near the city of Old Peking.

**Abanazar** Then take me there now!

**Spirit** I fear it is not that easy, Master. The lamp lies at the back of a deep, dark cave. To reach it you must be agile and sure of foot. This cave has a very narrow entrance and you would be unable to enter it yourself. You will need help.

**Abanazar** What? And share the riches the lamp will bring? Never!

**Spirit** Very well, Master... Is there anything else you require?

**Abanazar** *(aside)* I cannot let the lamp and all it will bring slip through my fingers; I am too near what I desire most. *(thinks, then to Spirit)* Do you know of someone whose help I might enlist for the task . . . someone perhaps who is in need of money and may not realise the dangers involved in such a quest.

*If a gauze is available then it is possible for Aladdin, Twankey and Wishee Washee to appear behind it to the audience during the next two speeches.*

**Spirit** As it happens I do, Master. In Old Peking lives a boy named Aladdin, he lives with his mother, the Widow Twankey and brother Wishee Washee; they are poor beyond belief and run the town's laundry, the boy has dreams of being rich. He fits the bill exactly.

**Abanazar** Aladdin it is then! This boy will help me with my plan and he won't even realise. *(Evil laugh)* It is time for this Aladdin to meet the uncle he never knew he had, his Uncle Abanazar. *(Evil laugh)* Come. Spirit, to Old Peking!

*Abanazar and Spirit exit SL*

*Blackout*

## ACT ONE SCENE ONE

*Whole stage*

### **The Market Place in Old Peking**

*Tabs/gauze out, full stage*

*Chorus of children and citizens of Peking in the Market place are in place or enter in groups during intro. A sign for Twankey's Laundry is on one of the shops on the backcloth. There are also a number of stalls on stage and shops on the back cloth perhaps with similar names to local shops; this may provide an opportunity for sponsorship/advertising.*

MUSIC 1	CHORUS NUMBER
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*As number ends chorus clear in groups to back and sides of stage.*

*Wishee Washee enters.*

**Chorus 1** Look everybody, it's Wishee Washee, Widow Twankey's son.

**Wishee** Hello, everyone!

**Chorus** Hello, Wishee Washee!

**Chorus 2** How are you today, Wishee Washee?

**Wishee** It's another beautiful day in Old Peking but I'm sick of washing other people's clothes. Look at the state of my hands, more like prunes than fingers, all I ever seem to do is wash, wash, wash. It's the family business and my mother, Widow Twankey, works hard too. But my brother Aladdin never seems to be around. I work really hard, never have time off and because of that I don't have many friends. Oh, I don't think I can spend one day more in that laundry. *(suddenly notices audience)* Hello, what are you lot doing sitting there in the dark?

*(Audience reaction)*

You're very quiet, aren't you? We'll soon put a stop to that. *(to audience)* My name's Wishee Washee, I'm Widow Twankey's son, she has a laundry just over there *(indicates Twankey's Laundry)*. You might have just heard me say that. What are your names? *(pause for audience reaction)* ... Yes, I think I've got that. There are eight Britneys, seven Jacks, six Olivers, five Sarahs, an Ethel and a Kevin on the back row.... *(chance to acknowledge groups in the audience)* Oh, if you're going to be here for a while would you like to be my friends?

*(Audience reaction)*

**Wishee** Wow, really? That's great. Will you say hallo when you see me? *(audience reaction)* Will you? Oh, thanks! But there's too many of you to remember all your names, so if I say 'Hallo you lot!' and you can say 'Hallo Wishee Washee!' Shall we try it?

*Wishee exits and returns*

**Wishee** Hello you lot!

*(pause for audience reply, chorus joins in and encourages audience)*

**Wishee** Well, that's not bad for a first time. But I bet you can do better, let's try again.

*Wishee exits and returns*

**Wishee** Hello you lot!

*(audience replies, with help from chorus)*

That's better! So we'll do that every time I see you, OK? And I've got another idea, can I try out one of my knock-knock jokes out on you. I've got loads of them. *(he has, there are some suggestions in the script but feel free to use your own, especially if you can find topical or local ones)* Do you know how knock-knock jokes work? *(explains if necessary)* Let's try one.

Knock, knock.

*(Audience Who's there?)*

Tank.

*(Audience Tank who?)*

You're welcome!

I've got loads more like that but I'd better get back, there's loads of washing to do and mum's always in a bad mood if she's left on her own for too long.

*Widow Twankey enters, possibly through auditorium, with shopping baskets and makes her way through the crowd DS.*

*Wishee turns to go and comes face to face with Twankey, turns again and tries to get away before she sees him but fails.*

**Twankey** There you are! *(Wishee still attempts to escape.)* Freeze!

*(Wishee freezes and turns to face Twankey)*

**Wishee** Hallo, Mum, didn't see you there!

**Twankey** Don't give me that you lazy little thing! I thought I'd find you here, don't you know how much work we've got to do? The Emperor's sent a set of Imperial table cloths from the Palace, he wants them washed and ironed for a banquet tomorrow.

**Wishee** But we'll never get them ready for tomorrow.

**Twankey** We have to Wishee. We're all in this together! The Emperor's only giving us a month's trial with the Palace laundry. We need the work and we need him to recommend us to all his friends on Facebook and Trip Advisor!

**Wishee** But isn't Aladdin at home, Mum?

**Twankey** Oh, Aladdin, (*sighs*) my darling boy, I think he had to pop out for a minute, you know how busy he is.

**Wishee** We're all busy, Mum, but it's a family business and I'm busier than Aladdin because that dreamer doesn't do his fair share, you let him get away with it because he's your favourite.

**Twankey** Now, now Wishee Washee, I won't hear a bad word said about Aladdin. In fact I won't hear a bad word said about either of you. You know I love you both. I know it's not been easy since your dear father died, (*produces handkerchief, sniffs, dabs eyes*) but we must stick together, one day all our dreams will come true.

**Wishee** Yes, and Aladdin's dreams will come true first because he gets more practise dreaming than I do.

**Twankey** (*angrily*) Enough! I'm fed up with this, you need to go home, there's work to be done.

**Wishee** OK, Mum, but if you see Aladdin you will send him home too, won't you? (*to Chorus*) Will you all help me look for him? Some of you go that way and some of you come this way with me. Bye, Mum, (*exits with Chorus*)

**Twankey** *(to audience)* Ooo, Hello everyone! It's lovely to see you all. Where have you all come from. *(picks audience member)* What about you, love, where have you come from? *(audience reaction, depending on answer)* Ooo! That's posh isn't it? or Well, it's nice to get out of the house, isn't it? I can see you've all dressed up for your evening out. Good job *(Local town)* has all those charity shops, isn't it? Have you dressed up because it's so cold today? Winter drawers on *(lifts skirt to show off voluminous bloomers)* and very fetching they look too! Here we are in the market place in Old Peking, it's a very good market. I'm Widow Twankey and I own a laundry. Have you heard of it? Do you know where it is? *(chance for It's behind you from audience if Twankey's Laundry appears on backcloth)*. Yes, that's Twankey's Laundry – The Best Laundry In Town. Well if I'm honest Twankey's Laundry – The Only Laundry in Town. We live in a flat upstairs – a very small flat. It's so small that when I chop onions in the kitchen everyone in the flat starts crying ... and the flat next door too. So small, in fact, that when the postman comes if I open the back door quickly enough he can put all the bills straight in the dustbin. That's what I do with bills. We've always been short of money and it's got worse since my dear husband died. And I've got two growing boys to clothe and feed. I do love my sons but they're not exactly hard workers. Aladdin has so many ideas about making money but they never seem to come to anything. Wishee tries hard but he's not the sharpest tool in the box. He's a prawn cracker short of a takeaway. Ooo, I am getting down in the dumps, aren't I? Do you know what I do when that happens? I Sing Sing a song and it makes me feel better. It doesn't always make other people feel better but the doors have been locked so there's no escape now ...

**MUSIC 2**

**TWANKEY**

*As song ends Wishee enters with Aladdin.*

**Wishee** Mum, I've found Aladdin! *(to Aladdin)* Tell Mum where you've been.

**Aladdin** Well I had another one of my ideas so I had to visit someone and then, well, I suppose I lost track of time.

**Wishee** I don't want to hear any more, Aladdin. How many ideas have you had that you were sure were going to make us some money?

**Aladdin** There have been a few, I suppose.

**Wishee** How many?

**Aladdin** I don't know exactly.

**Wishee** I do, you've had exactly twenty seven in the last month.

**Aladdin** Oh, that many?

**Twankey** *(lovingly)* He's always thinking up some little scheme to help his old mum.

**Wishee** And how much money have they made?

**Aladdin** I don't know exactly

**Wishee** I know exactly, nothing, zilch, nada!

**Aladdin** Well, some of the ideas are still in the planning stage. I am hoping to talk to the people on that programme on Chinese television, you know, Dragon's Den.

*Chorus begin to re-enter gradually, all are back on stage before entrance of Chief of Police and PC 27*

**Wishee** That will never work, you'd have as much success talking to the dragons at the Imperial Palace and they're statues!

**Aladdin** Oh, but if only I got the chance to pitch my ideas on TV someone will see that I have talent.

**Wishee** You've got no chance!

**Aladdin** Why not?

**Wishee** Because TV's not going to be invented for another two thousand years!

**Aladdin** Oh, yeah!

**Washee** You'll just have to dream of winning the Peking State lottery or marrying a rich girl like the rest of us.

**Aladdin** One day I will marry a beautiful girl and live in a big house and have lots of kids.

**Wishee** That's just what it is Aladdin, a dream, things like that don't happen to people like us.

**Aladdin** Perhaps they could, Wishee, perhaps they could. (*sighs*)

**Twankey** Right that's enough dreaming from both of you. Off you go back to the laundry and get to work, I'll be back as soon as I finish the shopping...

<b>SOUND 2</b>	<b>POLICE THEME</b>
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*Chief of Police and PC 27 enter, possibly on a tricycle. Each time they enter the theme from a different TV police programme or a police siren is heard and possibly a flashing blue light. The chorus of Citizens are very nosy and keen to find out what is going on and crowd round each time the police are on stage. Chief of Police and PC 27 try to keep the crowd to back and sides of stage with little success. Twankey is besotted with the Chief of Police, but he does not have the same feelings. Twankey notices the Chief of Police and waves. Giggling, she shoos Aladdin and Wishee away, they do not go far, watching Twankey and the Chief with growing amusement.*

**Twankey** Cooee! Chiefy dear! How are you?

**Chief** Widow Twankey, it's lovely to see you, but I haven't got time to chat today, I am here on official business. The Grand Vizier is about to make a very important announcement.

**Twankey** But, it's so long since I saw you, when will I be able to see you again? What about supper tonight?

**Chief** We are very busy at the moment; there's been a bit of a crime wave in Old Peking and the entire Peking Constabulary is on the case.

**Twankey** But there's only you and PC 27 here.

**Chief** That's right; thanks to all the government cutbacks (and the threat of Brexit) we are the entire Peking Constabulary.

**Twankey** What's been happening then?

**Chief** A large hole appeared in the middle of the road outside the Imperial Palace overnight with no explanation.

**Twankey** What are you doing about it?

**Chief** Tell her PC 27

**PC 27** (*consults notebook*) We are looking into it.

**Chief** And that's not all, all the toilets have been stolen from the Police Station.

**Twankey** Who did that?

**Chief** PC 27?

**PC 27** (*consults notebook*) We are making enquiries, but at the moment we have nothing to go on.

**Chief** Anyway, Madam, as I said I am here on official business. Please do not obstruct me in the line of my official duties.

**Twankey** But what's the announcement about?

**Chief** If you let me do my job you will all find out. (to PC 27) PC 27, clear a space for the Grand Vizier to make his announcement!

*PC 27 finally succeeds in clearing Citizens to the back of stage amid general excitement.*

**Chief** Citizens of Peking, pray silence for the Grand Vizier !

<b>SOUND 3</b>	<b>FANFARE</b>
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*The Grand Vizier and possibly attendants enter SR and take a place DSC.*

**Vizier** (unrolls a scroll and reads from it) Citizens I bring you a royal decree from his Importantness, the Emperor of Peking. His daughter, the Princess Jasmine, is soon to travel through the market place. Due to the Princesses high rank and incredible beauty none may look directly at her. All Citizens are ordered to turn their faces away, on pain of death!

*Aladdin and Wishee emerge from the crowd*

**Aladdin** What did he say?

**Wishee** (imitating Vizier) On pain of death!

**Aladdin** What's that mean?

**Wishee** It means that if you look at the Princess, then you be put to death.

**Aladdin** That would be painful.

**Wishee** (having an idea) Here, Aladdin, now's your chance.

**Aladdin** What do you mean?

**Wishee** Well, you were talking about winning the lottery and marrying a beautiful girl. Now's the chance to do them both at once.

**Aladdin** What are you on about?

**Wishee** Well, I've heard tell that Princess Jasmine is the most beautiful girl in the whole of Peking.

**Aladdin** Yes, that's what they say.

**Wishee** And if she's the Emperor's daughter, she's got to have a yen or two, hasn't she?

**Aladdin** Well, I suppose so.

**Wishee** Right, I dare you to look at the Princess as she goes past so you see who to marry to be rich.

**Aladdin** Oh, I don't know about that, you heard what the Vizier said, *(imitates Vizier)* "On pain of death!"

**Wishee** Ha! I knew you'd be too chicken to do it! You always have a lot to say, but you never follow through with your hare brained schemes.

**Aladdin** *(suddenly brave)* Alright, I'll do it!

**Wishee** I'll believe that when it happens!

**Aladdin** Just you wait and see!

*Chief of Police, PC 27 and the Vizier's entourage sweep Aladdin away, he remains at the front of the crowd who turn away. During the Princess' and Sing Sing's conversation he manages to sneak a look at them without being seen by the Police officers.*

**SOUND 4**

**FANFARE**

*Enter SL Emperor of Peking, Princess Jasmine, Sing Sing and Senior Dancers as Imperial guards slowly, they halt CS, Princess Jasmine is enjoying being out of the Palace grounds. Emperor and Vizier go to DSR and converse quietly.*

**Princess** Oh, it's so good to get out of the palace on such a beautiful day.

**Sing Sing** Princess, why do you insist on these visits to the market? Your father loves you dearly and gets you anything you want. You have servants who wait on you hand and foot and a long line of suitors competing for your hand in marriage.

**Princess** Oh, but my life can be so boring sometimes. Do you know I have never made a cup of tea for myself there's always been someone to do it for me.

**Sing Sing** And that's something to complain about? Thousands of girls would gladly swap places with you.

**Princess** And the suitors! They're all sons of Emperors from faraway lands who my father thinks would make a suitable match. He doesn't know what a girl really wants in a husband, all he thinks of is the dowry they can bring and the size of their kingdom. Why can't I just go out and find a husband like other girls?

**Sing Sing** But you're just not like other girls, you are the daughter of the Emperor of Peking, your father's right, money and status matter for someone in your position, not looks.

**Princess** No, I'm not having that! I will choose my own husband. Can you keep a secret?

**Sing Sing** Don't I always keep your secrets?

**Princess** Of course, you are my dearest friend. These walks are part of a plan, soon I will persuade him to allow me out on a trip on my own with only you as company. That's I shall begin my search for a husband, he will be my choice.

**Sing Sing** But your father would never allow you out of the palace without a guard.

**Princess** Just you wait and see ...

*Emperor moves to Princess and Jasmine*

**Emperor** Are we to stand here much longer, my dear, you know ordinary people make me nervous.

**Princess** But, Daddy dear, we've only just arrived, can't we stay for a little longer?

**Emperor** I really think we should be moving along, it'll soon be time for lunch and you have another visitor coming this afternoon.

**Princess** Not another one, you didn't tell me.

**Emperor** We need to find you a husband, my dear. Someone to help with the running of Peking – I'm not getting any younger you know – and neither are you.

**Princess** Of course, Daddy dearest, you know best. *(Turns towards Sing Sing and gives her a big wink)*

**Emperor** Vizier, tell the Chief of Police we are moving.

**Vizier** Of course, your importantness. Chief! Off we go.

**Princess** *(to Sing Sing)* See, he's putty in my hands!

*Sing Sing shakes her head, laughing, and follows her friend off stage. .*

*Crowd and Widow Twankey exit talking animatedly about the proceeding, Aladdin is left CS rooted to the spot with a blank expression on his face.*

*Wishee comes over to Aladdin and stares at him.*

**Wishee** What's wrong with you?

*(waves hand in front of Aladdin's face)* Hallo! *(no reaction)* Wake up, stupid.

*Aladdin remains immobile*

*Wishee shakes Aladdin*

**Aladdin** *(coming to)* What? ... Where? ... Who was that girl?

**Wishee** She's the girl you're going to marry. She's going to solve all our money problems, don't you remember?

**Aladdin** She is so beautiful. That is the girl I'm going to marry.

**Wishee** Yeah, right!

**Aladdin** No, you don't understand. I love her, I loved her from the first moment I set eyes on her and I am going to marry her.

**Wishee** She's far too good for you! She doesn't even know you exist.

**Aladdin** But she will, I promise you, she will.

**Wishee** In your dreams! Right, I'm going back to the laundry and you'd better be there soon. *(exits)*

*Half tabs/ half cloth comes in to facilitate scene change*

**Aladdin** *(sighs)* Just you wait and see, Wishee, just you wait and see.

**MUSIC 3**

**ALADDIN**

Aladdin sighs and exits after song.

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## **ACT ONE SCENE TWO**

*Half cloth or set on truck in front of half tabs depending on what you can manage.*

### **Widow Twankey's Laundry**

*A washing line with items of clothing is slung across the stage. Two large front loading washing/drying machines are set CS, they should be big enough for Wishee Washee to get in through the front and the smallest member of the cast (if used) to be in from the beginning of the scene. If there enough space behind these machines Wishee can get off stage, without being seen by the audience, if not Wishee will have to wait for scene change.*

*Twankey and Wishee enter SR with baskets or piles of washing, Wishee drops his and turns to the audience.*

**Wishee** Hallo, you lot!

*Audience reaction*

Knock, knock.

*(Audience who's there?)*

'Tish

*(Audience 'Tish who?)*

Bless you!

**Twankey** That's enough of that, there's too much to do today. We've got all the laundry from the Imperial Palace to get done.

*They start sorting bags of laundry.*

**Wishee** I hate this job, it's pants.

**Twankey** Yes, it's not the best job in the world.

**Wishee** I know what it is, it's pants, look! (*produces very large pair of pants from bag of laundry*) It's the Emperor's pants. (*waves them at Twankey or puts them on his head*)

**Twankey** What have I just told you? We've got too much to do to muck about. (*looking around*) LET'S GET ON WITH IT!!

*They set about sorting laundry. Wishee begins to load the washing machine.*

**Twankey** Let's get the first load on.

**Wishee** Where's the powder?

*Twankey produces an enormous box of washing powder and puts some into the machine.*

*Wishee slams the door shut and presses some buttons or twiddles dials, then stands back.*

*Nothing happens*

*Wishee and Twankey look at each other. They press some more buttons*

*Nothing happens*

**Twankey** What's wrong now?

**Wishee** The machine's not working

**Twankey** I can see that, don't say it's broken, not with what all we've got to do today. Is the door shut properly?

**Washee** (*trying door*) Yes.

**Twankey** Is it on the right programme?

**Washee** (*checks*) Yes.

**Twankey** Is it plugged in?

**Wishee** (*checks*) Yes

**Twankey** And turned on?

**Wishee** (*checks*) Yes

**Twankey** Let's have a look then (*she opens the door*) ... Look you've put far too much washing in, you'll have to take some out, it'll never work with all that in there. You'll have to take some out.

**Wishee** What? But then it'll take longer to get it done.

**Twankey** Don't argue, get on with it.

*Wishee starts to pull clothes out of machine*

**Twankey** All the powder's on top, it's coming out with the washing, we'll have to put some more in.

*Twankey picks up the box and turns round hitting Wishee and knocking him into the machine. Twankey does not see this and, thinking all is well, slams the door shut and presses the start button. The machine starts and shakes.*

**SOUND 5**

**WASHING MACHINE NOISES**

**Twankey** What's wrong with this thing? Wishee? (*to audience*) Where's Wishee gone? (*realises what she has done and struggles to get the door open*) Oh no! Wishee! (*finally manages to get door open and looks inside, if you have been able to get Wishee out!)*) Where is he? Oh, no, the washing automatically gets moved to the drier!

*Twankey goes to drier and opens door. She either pulls out a doll or smallest member of the chorus dressed as Wishee.*

**Twankey** Oh, my poor boy! The heat's shrunk him! Quick, I must get him to the hospital! Quick! (*picks up chorus member and exits*) Nee-nah, nee-nah, nee-nah! (*as ambulance siren*)

*Blackout*

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### ACT ONE SCENE THREE

*Another half cloth or could be set on reverse of Twankey's laundry truck which is turned as scene changes.*

#### **The Gardens of the Emperor's Palace**

*A bench set in front of a beautiful garden.*

*Princess and Sing Sing sit on bench, doing hair, nails etc.*

<b>MUSIC 4</b>	<b>PRINCESS</b>
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*As song ends Sing Sing holds up mirror for Princess to admire her hair.*

**Sing Sing** There, Princess, what do you think?

**Princess** (*fed up*) Oh, it's alright I suppose.

**Sing Sing** But you are the most beautiful girl in all of Old Peking, any handsome Prince would faint were you even to look at him.

**Princess** That's all very well, but if I never meet a handsome Prince it doesn't matter what I look like, does it?

**Sing Sing** Don't despair, Princess, I'm sure that the man for you is nearer than you think and once you've met him you will live happily ever after.

**Princess** Do you really think so? (*Sing Sing nods*) It doesn't feel like it to me. If only I could get away from this Palace and meet real boys then, perhaps, I might find someone I could really love. (*sighs*)

*Much fuss by Sing Sing*

But now, I would like some peace and quiet, please leave me alone for a while.