



ALL THAT GLISTENS

By Stephen Duckham

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ALL THAT GLISTENS

A short adult fairy tale

by
Stephen Duckham

CHARACTERS

| | |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| ALADDIN | A bit of a <i>wide boy</i> |
| MOTHER GOOSE | Dame from Mother Goose |
| COLIN | Principal boy from Puss in Boots |
| FAIRY GODMOTHER | Goody from everywhere |

This adult pantomime is full of the typical pantomime lines and situations, but should be played with the upmost sincerity. Very much in the *Carry On*.... vein.

There may be audience participation (hopefully laughter!) although it is not essential to the play. Characters should deliver all the double entendre without sending any of them up.

ALL THAT GLISTENS

The scene can be played on any variation of a pantomime cloth. A street, the countryside or just a plain set of running tabs.

[Aladdin is standing holding the magic lamp. He rubs it but nothing happens.]

ALADDIN Come on, come on. Why won't you work? After all the trouble it took to get you, I want my reward. Climbing over jagged rocks that made a mess of my new Niki trainers; only to find the magic cave and then have my supposed uncle lock me in. You got me out and helped me win the hand of the Princess - then I lost you. What a piece of luck to find you again. Albeit for a ridiculous price on eBay! Now I am your master again and you must obey me. *[He rubs the lamp again, but still nothing.]* Do what I command!

[Mother Goose enters talking to herself. At first, she doesn't see Aladdin.]

MG Oh I'm such a silly old woman. How could I be so stupid? Why did I throw everything away? Ahhhh..*[She wails loudly.]*

ALADDIN Hey, missus. Keep it down, will ya?

MG Oh, sorry. I didn't see you there. I'm just so upset.

ALADDIN *[Wiggling his finger in his ear.]* So I hear!

MG I've lost her, you see.

ALADDIN Lost who?

MG Priscilla. My lovely goose.

ALADDIN Surely you can get another one.

MG No. She was unique.

ALADDIN Unique? How?

MG She came to me and I took her in. Gave her a comfortable place to sleep and the best Sainsbury's golden corn to eat. Then one day she rewarded me by laying a clutch of golden eggs.

ALADDIN Golden eggs?

MG Yes. Overnight I was rich. Me and my two boys could afford to have everything we wanted.

ALADDIN *[Not believing what he has heard.]* You had a goose that laid golden eggs?

MG Yes. She used to lay a dozen a day. All free range!

ALADDIN How fabulous. I wish I had golden eggs instead of this piece of metal crap!

MG *[Sharply.]* Language, young man!

ALADDIN OK, keep your wig on!

[Mother Goose adjusts her wig and notices his lamp.]

MG What a strange looking gravy boat!

ALADDIN It's a magic lamp!

MG Magic lamp?

ALADDIN It was going to make me the richest man in the world. But I lost it.

MG You lost it?

ALADDIN Long story, but I got it back. Only now I can't get the blessed thing to work.

MG Have you tried trimming your wick?

ALADDIN I beg your pardon?

MG You need to do that to get a lamp to light. I used to do all the lamps in my place until we were rich enough to have electric put in. My late husband said I was the best wick-trimmer he had ever known!

ALADDIN *[With a grin.]* Saucy! *[He gives her a knowing dig in the ribs. She has to adjust her bust.]* I don't want to light it. I want the Genie to pop out and grant me my every wish.

MG A Genie lives in that thing?

ALADDIN A most powerful one.

MG Can't you take the lid off and call him out?

ALADDIN He only responds to a good rub.

MG Is that a euphemism?

ALADDIN That's what the instructions said. "Rub the lamp and the Genie will appear and grant your every wish."

MG I was told to feed Priscilla with the finest golden corn and all my dreams would come true.

ALADDIN So what happened?

MG Well I fed her every morning and very soon she started producing these wonderful golden eggs. Perfect they were. Twenty-four carat. In no time at all I had paid off the mortgage, built a brand new sixty room

house, bought myself the most wonderful wardrobe of clothes and got the box set of – *[Latest TV blockbuster.]*

ALADDIN Sounds amazing.

MG It was. But now I'm lucky if there's even one – and it's usually cracked!

ALADDIN So what happened to change your fortunes?

MG I was a silly girl. I was a foolish girl. I was a numbskull, a simpleton, a dunderhead.....

ALADDIN *[Taking over.]* You were a right feckin' twat!

MG *[In high dudgeon.]* Thank you, young man. I'll admonish myself in my own way if you don't mind.

[Aladdin shrugs and rolls his eyes.]

I had everything I desired – except one thing.

ALADDIN A ticket to - *[latest blockbuster or pop concert.]*

MG More than that. I had a bit of a beauty crisis. You see the one thing I wanted in the whole world was to be beautiful.

ALADDIN Ooooh, that's a tall order! *[MG gives him a 'look'.]* I mean wanting wealth is one thing but rearranging those features.....

MG Listen, you may have youth, good looks and a few other – *[With a quick look at his physique.]* - attributes on your side, but when you've been through the hardships of life like I have and a chance for a bit of pampering comes along, you take it! We can't all look like – *[Latest good-looking pin up.]*

[They are about to start trading insults when Colin enters.]

COLIN Excuse me, but have either of you seen a talking cat?

ALADDIN A talking cat?

COLIN Yes, wearing boots and a hat with a feather.

ALADDIN A talking cat in a hat?

MG Now I've heard everything!

COLIN I can't think what has happened to him.

ALADDIN However did you get a talking cat?

COLIN Well he didn't talk when I first had him. Just a friendly moggy who I called Tommy. Then one day a travelling bootmaker came to our town. On his wagon was the most beautiful pair of boots. I just had to buy them, and as the bootmaker was leaving, he told me to take great