

The Genie
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EXT: DESERT - DAY

The blue sky is cloudless, the sun blazes. Sand dunes extend as far as the eye can see. A sweating, bearded WANDERER (20) in white robes spots a golden lamp on the ground. He picks it up and wipes off the grains.

WANDERER

What's this? A genie's lamp?

The WANDERER rubs it hard, and out comes a GENIE. He is a ghostlike, 8 foot tall, blue figure wearing golden robes. He speaks, dramatically.

GENIE

Hello there, friend! You've rubbed my home so I grant you three wishes. Logical, right?

The WANDERER puts down the lamp and rubs his hands.

WANDERER

No it's not, and thanks. I can wish for anything?

GENIE

No, not really, I was joking. Disney films have lied to you, it's not how it works at all. I'm still magic, though.

WANDERER

I don't watch Disney films, but I understand. What's magical about you?

GENIE

You should do, Bambi is pretty good. Anyway, I can offer people huge sacks of gold. Just gold, but still pretty sweet.

WANDERER

Oh nice. Are you offering ME?

GENIE

I am indeed.

The GENIE makes a bar of chocolate appear from high above, and catches it casually, trying to be cool. He hands it to the WANDERER.

GENIE

Eat this. If you do, I can offer you..

.

WANDERER
 (interrupting)
 ... a sack of gold?

GENIE
 Yes. But don't interrupt me. It's annoying.

WANDERER
 What's the catch?

GENIE
 There's no catch.

WANDERER
 Oh, thanks.

As the WANDERER is about to bite, the GENIE comments under his breath.

GENIE
 ... Other than you'll die.

The WANDERER throws the snack on the floor.

WANDERER
 WHAT??

GENIE
 Calm down! Everyone dies, right?

WANDERER
 When will I die, if I eat that food?

GENIE
 Ten seconds.

WANDERER
 I'm out of here, you freak!

GENIE
 Don't go, don't go! I get lonely. I can offer you immortality, seeing as life means so much to you. So yeah, I can offer gold AND immortality. I lied, earlier. How does that sound?

WANDERER
 You serious?

GENIE
 Yes. All you have to do, is eat this Jelly Baby.

A Jelly Baby falls from the sky, but the GENIE can't catch it.

GENIE

Dammit.

The GENIE picks it up, all sandy and hands it to the WANDERER.

WANDERER

What's the catch this time?

GENIE

NOW there's no catch.

WANDERER

Are you sure?

GENIE

Positive.

The WANDERER slowly puts the sweet in his mouth.

GENIE

(under his breath)

... The only catch is you'll die.

The WANDERER spits it on the floor.

WANDERER

WHAT????

GENIE

Come on. What's the big deal? You'll be immortal!

WANDERER

How does that work??

GENIE

Ok, I lied, it just kills you. It tastes good, though. Sure I can't tempt you?

The WANDERER swings at the GENIE, but passes straight through him.

GENIE

Hey!

The GENIE coughs into his hand.

GENIE

You're a smart man. How about a Fisher-Price watch? It's very good. It's functional and fun.

WANDERER

You're offering me a baby's toy?

GENIE

Yes, I can give people gold,
immortality and baby watches...

WANDERER

And the only catch is I die?

GENIE

Exactly.

WANDERER

Look, screw you, I'm off. Bye!

The WANDERER walks away.