

The Thief of Dubai

by

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FADE IN:

TEXT OVER BLACK: KING SOLOMON'S TEMPLE 3,000 YEARS AGO

INT. SOLOMON'S PALACE - THE SWORD CHAMBER - NIGHT

The mythical Sword of Solomon hangs behind a crystal door, guarded by four NUBIAN EUNUCHS, 30s. Muscular and fierce, they seem to be the perfect warriors to guard the sacred prize.

A golden ball rolls in until it gently stops near the feet of the eunuchs. Sweet incense pours out of its ornate grill.

The guards collapse, unconscious.

A man enters stealthily and creeps towards what looks like an ornate safe's lock on the crystal door.

The man, JACK, 40s, (called JACOB in his past life) a code-breaker who can take care of himself, a charming rogue; uses a tiny jambiya (an Arab curved dagger) to pick the lock.

He then turns some dials to open the large safe inside and lifts the Holy Sword of Solomon from its crystal hooks.

It becomes invisible when sheathed and Jacob wraps a scarf to reveal its grip. The hilt glitters in the lamplight as one of its jewels reveals itself. The Eye of Wisdom.

Beside the sword is another room holding an equally valuable prize - Solomon's concubine princesses.

INT. SOLOMON'S SERAGLIO - CONTINUOUS

Jacob can't resist and sneaks himself past a SLEEPING EUNUCH, 40s, and slides into the seraglio. The CONCUBINES, 20s, seem to be breathing in unison, softly.

An ancient Middle Eastern oil lamp suddenly comes to life with a spark which lights up the exquisitely lit room. A woman, PRINCESS REZANA, 20s, is stirring beneath silken sheets.

Rezana is dark, almost Nubian, slim, playful, and with brown eyes which are irresistible to kings and thieves alike.

INT. KING SOLOMON'S PRIVATE CONCUBINE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jacob, using a key, now unlocks the King's harem door where the sleeping princess Rezana lies peacefully curled next to her twin sister, SABIA, 20s. Sabia is identical to Rezana but less playful and more serious.

He can't resist and moves closer, tip-toeing over a sleeping EUNUCH, 50s.

Jacob kneels to watch Rezana sleep as a gloved hand quickly strikes his head, causing him to drop the sword.

Dazed, but still conscious he looks up to see GRAND VIZIER BELGARES' 50s, smiling, knowingly, almost understandingly with his red, goat-like eyes.

Belgares moves to strike Jacob once again, but the concubines stir and so does the sleeping eunuch. Belgares, his prize attained, creeps away as Jacob tries, clumsily, to grab him in his stupor.

Jacob reaches for the sword once more, but Belgares wraps a silken scarf around the sword's hilt and knocks Jacob backwards into the eunuch. Jacob in turn, knocks the guard out before he can regain consciousness.

Jacob leaps toward Belgares but the grand vizier floats a silken curtain over the lamp's flame and Jacob is forced to beat out the flames in silence.

But Rezana wakes with a start, sensing something but, seeing nothing, returns to her slumber. As she turns in her sleep her face is lit by the soft light of some candles. She returns to a slumber not noticing Jacob.

Although asleep, she seems to sense his presence and smiles.

REZANA
(in her sleep)
My love, my love.

Jacob kisses her foot tenderly and edges out of the harem.

INT. SOLOMON'S PALACE - CORRIDOR LEADING TO THE ROOF

Groggy from the blows, Jacob shakes off the daze.

He looks down the corridor and spots Belgares' long robe sliding away in the dark. He's holding the now unlit lamp.

INT. SOLOMON'S PALACE - CORRIDOR TO THE ROOF - CONTINUOUS

Two huge EUNUCHS, 40s, guard the stairs to the roof but Belgares walks confidently and stands in between the two.

His feet are poised, one on each guard's toes, as he seems ready to whisper a password.

The guards lean in as he whispers...

BELGARES
"Scheherazade."

We hear a SQUELCH, then a sound like coconuts being torn apart. Belgares tears their heads off their necks. The guards' bodies tumble forwards as Belgares holds two skulls like bowling balls, thumb and fingers in the eye sockets.

INT. SOLOMON'S PALACE - THE SWORD CHAMBER - CONTINUOUS

Jacob returns to the crystal case which held the sword and cracks away a side of the covering to use as the only shield to defend against the sword.

He dashes out to catch Belgares.

JACOB
This will have to do.

INT. SOLOMON'S PALACE - SPIDER POTS ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jacob chases Belgares into a room with a web of ropes crisscrossing above pots of burning oil. Belgares stands easily, bouncing like a spider, and slashes at Jacob!

CHING! Belgares makes contact with Jacob's crystal shield! Recovering, he swings at the ropes instead.

Jacob dashes across and singes a foot in a boiling pot as Belgares cuts the ropes as he tries to balance on them.

As the ropes fall into the boiling pots, Jacob jumps and manages to leap onto the last attached strand, dragging himself into another corridor.

INT. SOLOMON'S PALACE - CORRIDOR TO THE ROOF - CONTINUOUS

Jacob sprints, but can't catch Belgares who is uncannily, running backward. He pushes statues in front of Jacob, slicing them to pieces, but the Sword makes no sound.

BELGARES

It is eerie how the blade makes no
sound is it not?

A GUARD hurriedly enters and is sliced in two, silently.
Belgares vaults the stairs and dashes to the top tower.

EXT. SOLOMON'S PALACE - UPPERMOST TOWER - CONTINUOUS

Belgares climbs to the top point and seems to be beckoning something. There is a flutter of wings and a shadow which gets closer.

Suddenly a huge HARPY with a monstrous woman's head and a bird's wings descends and sinks its talons into Jacob's shoulders.

Jacob hooks his feet on the roof to hold on for dear life but the force of the harpy is tearing away his sandals and wrenching his shoulders.

Belgares moves in for the kill but Jacob ducks at the last second and he accidentally cuts the harpy in two. Belgares, in shock, falls past Jacob after the harpy sending them both off the roof. They descend together, sliding down the side.

Jacob grabs the harpy's severed wings and tries to paraglide down.

As he passes the grand vizier, Belgares leaps on him and they helicopter down the steep temple roof entwined, Belgares using the sword to slow their descent.

Belgares digs in using The Sword like an ice axe plowing through snow while Jacob grimly holds on to the harpy wings.

The sword carves out a gash in the roof as it cuts the tiles.

Finally, they smash through a glass roof and crash into the Molten Sea, a huge bathing receptacle, with a gigantic splash in front of Solomon's surprised courtiers.

INT. SOLOMON'S THRONE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The crashing water shocks the meeting midnight council MEMBERS who recoil, soaked.

Belgares recovers his wits, and cunning, first. Rezana and some startled CONCUBINES and COURTIERS rush over.

BELGARES

I feared for your safety my lady
and found this scoundrel with this
lamp working his evil sorcery among
King Solomon's concubines.

Rezana approaches fearsome KING SOLOMON, 50s. Her doting,
bumbling father, MELIK, the Emir of Dubai, 70s trembles
beside her. His eyesight is poor but he hears everything.

SOLOMON

Is this true what my Grand Vizier
says?

JACOB

He lies! I love the princess.

MELIK

Please, wise King Solomon, be
merciful.

Solomon is terrifying and powerful; grandeur and toughness
gained from years spent fighting demons.

SOLOMON

What says the princess? Do you love
this thief?

REZANA

I do, my lord.

Jacob's hands are bound.

Solomon looks to the QUEEN OF SHEBA, 30s, BLACK. She is
regal, beautiful, and dignified, a woman with a mission.

SHEBA

The grand vizier has defiled the
temple, stolen the holy Sword of
Solomon, and suborned your royal
harem.

BELGARES

The Queen of Sheba is... mistaken.

Solomon is furious but hesitates as if he is also suspicious.

SOLOMON

Ahijah the Shilonite, what say you?

AHIJAH THE SHILONITE, 60s, Levite prophet of Shiloh, steps
forward, with a staff. Ahijah, quiet, contemplative, and
deadly earnest, taps his staff for attention.

AHIJAH

He has stolen the holy sword but
also fallen in love with your
charge. It is for God to forgive
his weakness in love. His theft
cannot be forgiven.

Rezana hurls herself at Solomon's feet.

REZANA

Did you steal the holy Sword of
Jerusalem, my love? I will not
believe till you have said so.
Jacob?

JACOB

I took it.

REZANA

Why my love, why would you do such
a thing?

TWO MASSIVE, muscular EUNUCHS hold Jacob fast. He's strong,
but the guards are twice his size. Solomon rests the Sword
across Jacob's outstretched arms, menacingly.

SOLOMON

Then kill the cur.

SHEBA

No!

The whole court seems to hold its breath as Sheba moves
towards Jacob and gently touches his hand.

JACOB

No, my queen, I beseech you.

BELGARES

A new trick, a new lie.

SOLOMON

Silence! Let the Queen speak.

SHEBA

My slave stole the sword for me.

REZANA

Slave?

SHEBA

Yes, slave. I promised his freedom.
In return for the blade.

SABIA

A lover's errand.

SHEBA

But he fell in love with Princess
Rezana.

MELIK

A fool in love.

JACOB

A thief in love.

MELIK

For just the sword?

AHIJAH

No, Emir Melik, for the Eye of
Wisdom. The all-seeing eye. The
most precious stone setting in the
sword. It bestows on the beholder
the utmost grace. And the ability
to be just.

Solomon holds up the magical sword, invisible when sheathed,
till the light catches the Eye of Wisdom.

The room seems to sparkle with refracted light as the gem
acts like a prism, a spectrograph, as it casts an image of
Jacob and Rezana romping in the sands, clearly besotted. The
court is entranced.

Solomon quickly covers the light show and the room goes dark
once more.

AHIJAH

Given to mighty Solomon by the King
of Sheba.

SHEBA

Stolen from the people of Sheba by
Solomon.

BELGARES

What use could Ethiopes have for
such a prize?

REZANA

I beg of you mighty King do not
damn him for all time.

SOLOMON

Then I shall spare his life but not
his grasp.

(MORE)

SOLOMON (cont'd)

Bring me the lamp which the wretch
used to reveal himself in my harem.
Hold his hands out.

EUNUCHS hold Jacob's hands out. Jacob, chained, fights like a bobcat, struggling against the massive eunuchs. He manages to break free, crashes to the marble floor and is covered like a muscle blanket by FOUR MORE EVEN BIGGER EUNUCHS.

Jacob still struggles, but with two guards on each limb, it's hopeless. He SCREAMS in frustration.

Solomon renders the judgment and swiftly strikes down with the Sword. Jacob's hands tumble to the floor the chains still hanging silently on the wrists.

The court looks on in horror. Solomon symbolically uses the same lamp to cauterize the bloody stumps as Jacob drops to his knees in agony, SCREAMING.

He then turns to Belgares and uses the hot oil to burn Belgares' heart out and condemns him to lust for Rezana forever.

SOLOMON

Grand vizier, you shall pine,
unrequited, for this woman and
always desire for riches and
precious things, your thirst never
being slaked.

Belgares collapses in agony as the hot oil burns his chest.

Sheba looks imploringly toward Solomon. He softens.

SHEBA

But should she do a good deed
mighty king?

SOLOMON

Mercy shall be attained if you can
convince your new master to wish
for life and not riches.

REZANA

What say you, my lord?

SOLOMON

If you should gain grace by
granting one wish to bring back
life then you will gain your own
miserable freedom.

(MORE)

SOLOMON (cont'd)

Otherwise, spend eternity as slaves
granting wishes to those wretches
who will find you in your tiny
tombs. This is my judgement.

JACOB

She is innocent!

SABIA

No lord! It is my fault. I did give
this man the key to your harem.
Punish me for granting their love.

Solomon moves to kill Sabia.

SOLOMON

The truth at last. A life for a
life, then.

REZANA

Because I deny the mighty Solomon
you entomb us! Please, at least let
my sister go.

SOLOMON

So be it.

Princess Sabia throws herself before the king.

SABIA

Mighty king have mercy! What
bargain is it that she should give
her freedom to save my life?

Solomon holds up the brass lamp.

SOLOMON

Then behold your tomb for eternity!
Live there and save your sister.

SHEBA

Mercy, mighty Solomon!

SOLOMON

You will obey your human masters
and grant them three wishes. Obey
these and all diktats, however vile
or salacious. Without hesitation!
Or face damnation.

Sabia and Rezana embrace, their tears dropping to the floor.

REZANA

Live for both of us, Sabia. I love you.

SABIA

I love you, sister. Until we are together again.

Rezana disappears into the lamp. A golden pendant falls - an Arabian Oryx. Sabia places it on her own neck.

SOLOMON

Take it and bury it beneath the sands in the great desert.

IBLIS, the Devil, 50s stands in the shadows, eyes glowing. No one can see him except Belgares who even shudders at the sight. Iblis seems happy with his handiwork.

TEXT OVER BLACK:

"As for those who do not believe in the hereafter, We have prepared for them a painful chastisement." - The Koran

Present day.

Dubai, one of seven states forming the wealthy oil kingdoms of the United Arab Emirates.

With the Middle East in constant turmoil since 1991, Dubai City represents an oasis in a desert sea of tumult. Rich from oil, rich from trade -- *and rich from staying out of war.*

A few soldiers stayed on after the Gulf Wars. They fell in love with the desert, the culture... and the dark-eyed women.

INT. DUBAI MUSEUM - NIGHT

JACK STANFORD, 40s (Jacob in the present day) intellectual, but a real man of action, expertly hops over laser trip wires until he's under a sparkling ancient scimitar. He rips it off the wall and places it in a slim satchel on his back.

EXT. HELICOPTER ABOVE JACK STANFORD'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Jack rappels from a Black Hawk helicopter, the powerful rotor creating a vortex in the sand below.

INT. JACK STANFORD'S HOUSE - SECRET ROOM - NIGHT

Jack places the beautiful, jewel-encrusted sword in a case below another empty sword case labeled "Solomon's Sword."

JACK

We await your father, oh Blade of Dubai.

INT. JACK'S HOUSE - ACADEMIC CITY - DUBAI - BEDROOM - DAY

Jack's house resembles Rick's Cafe in Casablanca complete with blue parrot, faux searchlights, and airport mural.

Exotic objets d'art adorn the place. Scimitars hang near photos of a man in fencing gear, medals around his neck.

Spotlit on the wall are shards of cuneiform tablets. Jack lingers on a particular tablet featuring a woman's face.

He gently dusts a stela and smooths out a hanging Persian carpet then paws a black Sumerian cuneiform tablet like Silas Marner, finally falling onto the bed, exhausted. The curtains in the open window sway gently with the cool desert breeze.

As Jack snores, NATHAN BELL, 40s, Jack's AFRICAN AMERICAN ex-army buddy and best friend, creeps in and drips some booze from a hip flask onto Jack's lips. Jack stirs.

JACK

I am gonna whip your...

NATE

...Muscular, shapely black ass?

JACK

That's the one.

As they shake hands Nate recoils from Jack's stitches tattoo circling his wrist.

JACK

You can shake 'em, they ain't gonna fall off.

NATE

Weird looking that's all, man.
Herman Munster. Never get used to it.

CLEO CAT, a rough Egyptian Mau, sidles up to him, licking Jack's wrists affectionately.

INT. DUBAI - SECRET POLICE H.Q. - NIGHT

The moonlight reflects off the plaque on the door in gold:
'Ahmed Belgares - Chief of State Security' in Arabic.

AHMED BELGARES, 50s, is also playing with a cuneiform tablet.
He's sadistic, driven, ruthless, and still driven by avarice.

TARIQ, 40s, Belgares' OBSEQUIOUS AND SADISTIC sidekick, half
curtsies half genuflects as he enters and shadows Belgares.

TARIQ

Master. It has been found. The
storm has revealed all.

BELGARES

Yes, Tariq. And another storm is
coming.

TARIQ

You will use your magic, master, or
the Jinn's?

BELGARES

I am but a simple mortal.

TARIQ

Are you a Jinni master?

Belgares gives Tariq an icy stare, but no answer. He
concentrates and sees Sabia in the flames then Rezana in the
lamp and sweeps the images out of his temples towards Jack.

EXT. JACK STANFORD'S HOUSE - SECRET ROOM - DAY

Jack presses a button, walks into a secret room, and again
runs his hands over precious Persian carpets, brass lamps,
trophies, and historical objets d'art.

A pair of canine eyes peep through a slit in the door.

JACK

GRR!

Pharaoh Dog, his beloved mangy mutt, takes off in fright.

EXT. JACK STANFORD'S HOUSE - PORCH - LATER

Jack sweeps sand from the veranda. He returns to his desk by
the pool and resumes translating The Koran.

Thoughts from somewhere stream into Jack's mind. When he closes his eyes he sees the burning explosion of a Mesopotamian palace and a woman in military uniform, Sabia, caught inside. An explosion, SCREAMS, and bright orange fire.

FLASHBACK

Lt. SABIA GANJIZADEH, DARK, CRYPTIC, IRANIAN, 30s, removes her goggles but is hidden behind a bandana. She throws the keystone and lowers her head as the flames consume her.

As Jack runs to her his face blisters, then is shot-blasted with sand as the building vaporizes. The flames of the blast melt into the orange-red Sun and reflect on Jack's eyes.

JACK

No! No! Sabia! Because I sinned,
you take her from me!

END FLASHBACK

He mulls a faded photo bookmark of Sabia, identical to Rezana, then plays a video of her frolicking and drinking at some army base.

The wind pushes open several pages until it settles on a particular text: A paragraph appears on the writing pad:

In the name of Allah, the beneficent, the merciful...the beneficent God, he created man, taught him the mode of expression...he created man from dry clay like earthen vessels, and he created the Jinn of a flame of fire...

Jack, spooked, sweeps the Koran away dropping a tumbler, which smashes the glass.

He then takes a swig directly from the Scotch bottle and peers out into the desert, face pressed to the window bars like he's trapped in a jail cell straining to hear something.

INT. THE LAMP - FLASHBACK - TRAPPED

Rezana, in a time unknown, crouching in the ridiculously small "Tiger Cage" Lamp, half choking with claustrophobia, is breathing heavily.

She claws at the sides, breaking her nails but they regrow instantly. Finally, she lets out a harrowing SCREAM.

INT. JACK STANFORD'S HOUSE - BY THE BARRED WINDOWS

Jack strains his ears to the desert and thinks he hears a woman's plaintive SCREAM. The scream turns into the HOWLING DESERT WINDS. Jack shakes it off but is rattled.

Jack tosses a tidbit, but Cleo snatches it. He tosses another, this time Pharaoh swallows it whole. Pharaoh sits, paws in the air. Cleo, incredibly, does the same.

EXT. SIDE DOOR - JACK'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Belgares, disguised as a toothless, gnarled OLD BEGGAR MAN, 70s, RAPS his stick on the door.

OLD BEGGAR MAN (O.S.)
Alms for the love of Allah.

Jack grabs some coins and walks to the door.

INT. JACK'S HOUSE - SIDE DOOR - CONTINUOUS

Jack starts to pass the coins.

JACK
Here you...

OLD BEGGAR MAN
...Salaam Aleikum effendi.

JACK
(sarcastically)
Allahu, sabanahu rahimun hazzan
taffadal.

Jack notices Belgares' red, goat-like eyes.

OLD BEGGAR MAN
My mother had the same eyes.

The pets whimper and hurry away from the old man, terrified.

OLD BEGGAR MAN
I am not here for alms. You are the
cryptologist, yes?

JACK
Cryptographer.

OLD BEGGAR MAN

My friend, there is a cave in the
desert near the border with Oman.
The storm has revealed it.

Jack tries to shut the door on him but catches his arthritic
hand in the door. Backtracking, Jack bows in apology.

JACK

A thousand apologies. Please,
please.

The old man clutches his hand in agony and Jack lets him in.

INT. JACK'S HOUSE - SINK - CONTINUOUS

The old man holds his hand under the tap groaning while Jack
hands him a towel.

JACK

Your hand seems okay now.

OLD BEGGAR MAN

Inside the cave is a lamp
containing a spirit that can grant
three wishes.

Jack fences, tilting at hanging carpets, trying not to listen
but clearly intrigued.

OLD BEGGAR MAN

Perhaps a valuable piece for your
collection?

The old man pushes a button on the wall and a door flies
open, revealing Jack's priceless booty. Jack flings a knife
into the wall, inches from where the old man's hand lies, as
a warning.

OLD BEGGAR MAN

Please, please, I know you are a
"collector" Mr. Stanford. I am not
interested in reporting you to the
authorities. A handshake in trust?

Belgares gives Jack a customary limp Middle Eastern
handshake. His index finger feels for Jack's pulse but it's
as if he tried to drain the blood from Jack's body.

OLD BEGGAR MAN

I will have the exact location
soon.

(MORE)

OLD BEGGAR MAN (cont'd)
Besides, the tomb is protected by
coded ancient Sanskrit.

JACK
Checking the pulse?

OLD BEGGAR MAN
It warms me to feel a pulse. You
have the marks.

Belgares notices Jack's tattoos around each wrist.

JACK
In memory. This piece here. I found
it in Iraq.

OLD BEGGAR MAN
Yes, from a stela, no?

JACK
Yes.

OLD BEGGAR MAN
The carpets are exquisite. Perfect.
Persian?

Jack nods as Belgares spots a photo of Jack and Nate.

JACK
You are a collector of antiquities?

OLD BEGGAR MAN
Of people.

Belgares drops a map on the table but Jack starts to usher
him towards the door.

JACK
Seventy-year-old minefields. It's
suicide.

OLD BEGGAR MAN
Please. Please. The spirit in the
lamp can bring back life. I have
need for it.

Jack stops in his tracks as the old man seems to be
mesmerizing him, then, suddenly clutching his head, slumps.

OLD BEGGAR MAN
A migraine. I will be fine.

Jack, recognizing a strange bedfellow, passes the Demerol.

OLD BEGGAR MAN (CONT'D)

You too?

JACK

I've heard all these fairy tales. Jinnis locked up by Solomon, put in bottles, thrown into the sea, sealed in caves. These folk tales are all over the Middle East.

OLD BEGGAR MAN

Not folk tales. True! Each Jinni condemned to slavery for eternity.

JACK

You're crazy, old man.

The old man puts the painkillers back on the table.

JACK

The war, the Forever war.

Jack notices Belgares furtively looking for something. He hides the keystone under a book and goes to escort him out, but the photo of Sabia falls.

OLD BEGGAR MAN

Your wife. Beautiful. Arab?

JACK

Persian. Friend.

OLD BEGGAR MAN

She loved you?

JACK

She tried to.

OLD BEGGAR MAN

You loved her.

JACK

I meant to.

OLD BEGGAR MAN

She is waiting for you in Barzakh. Find your love. Have your wish. Then bring me the lamp. One wish to bring back life then that is all.

Jack is finally stumped and quits dissembling.

Belgares thrusts the map into Jack's hands. Jack tries to give it back but the old man has vanished into the alleyway.

EXT. ALLEYWAY NEAR JACK'S HOUSE - DAY

Belgares flicks a CAT into an oncoming truck. An OLD WOMAN, 70s, sees the incident and seems to recognize pure evil when she sees it and scurries indoors.

EXT. JACK'S HOUSE - BACK DOOR - DAY

BEGGAR CHILDREN run up, embracing Jack. He slips a twenty-dollar bill to a cute, crippled LITTLE WAIF, 10. Pharaoh Dog brings out a food basket and the children hug him as Jack scans the crowded streets for the old man.

EXT. JACK STANFORD'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - DAY

Jack, mulling over the visit, tries, unsuccessfully to keep the sand away from coming into his house and sweeps nervously at it. It keeps blowing in. His foot sinks a little in a soft spot and he jumps back, startled.

FLASHBACK

EXT. CONNECTICUT WOODS - QUICKSAND PIT - NIGHT

Jack, as a BOY, struggles to reach with a branch to his FATHER, THOMAS STANFORD, 40s, caught fast in the sand. He sinks. Jack can do nothing.

Jack plays the scene over and over in his mind; sometimes he manages to get a larger branch and pull his father in.

END FLASHBACK

EXT. ARABCO OIL COMPANY - DUBAI - DAY

Outside Arabco, Jack unhitches Pharaoh from the back of his big BMW dirt bike.

JACK

You know the rules. No dogs. Beat it, punk. I'll be fine. Go.

Pharaoh Dog takes off at speed into the dust.

INT. ARABCO OIL COMPUTER ROOM - DAY

The door reads: "Jack W. Stanford, Geophysical Analyst."

A mini Zen sand garden sits next to a photo of Jack and army buddies. Nearby sit copies of The Koran and Seven Pillars of Wisdom by T. E. Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia).

Jack stares at the border with Oman on a map on the screen. A spot indicates a cave glowing under the infrared satellite in no man's land between the Emirates and Oman. Nate creeps up, nursing a beer.

Nate playfully grabs Jack's sand garden then notices the hidden playing card-size golden tablet, Hammurabi's Code keystone, fall out. Jack gets snippy.

JACK

Was there something, captain?

NATE

Here's the maps you wanted Major Stanford, sir. You know there's a fucking minefield out there? Hello.

JACK

Sorry.

NATE

Your sorry ass is sorry. When we going home, Jack? Come up on the net. Fall off your bike again?

Nate extends his back. Tries to hang from something.

JACK

Your back?

NATE

It's killing me, Jack. Give me one of your painkillers brother.

Nate limps off, bumping deliberately into Defense Intelligence Agency spook COLONEL EDWINA PEARCE, STYLISH, SMART AND POLISHED, AFRICAN AMERICAN, 40s.

PEARCE

What are you staring at?

NATE

Your chest-candy, Miss Pearce. You still in uniform? I thought you was a spook now.

PEARCE

How's the Middle East treating you, Captain Bell? Heat OK?

NATE
Screw you Pearce, Miss Colonel
Pearce, ma'am. He's gone to lunch.
Spook.

Nate storms off.

EXT. ARABCO OIL COMPANY - DUBAI - MOMENTS LATER

Jack wanders out, jumps on his BMW dirt bike, and roars off.
Pearce follows in a Jeep.

EXT. OLD DUBAI OUTSKIRTS - MARKET - DAY

Pearce shadows Jack around the bookshelves in a second-hand
bookstore. She catches up to him at a reading table.

PEARCE
Jack. Our Jack. Still panhandling
at the oil company?

JACK
"Panning for black gold."

PEARCE
Whatever. We have a little task for
you. Something for Uncle Sam. That
is unless you want to go back and
explain to the Iraqis how you stole
the Hammur...

JACK
...What Edwina? Are you still
working for the military, or are
you freelancing full-time?

She flips through some ancient magazines on his table then
drops Jack's army record on the sandy floor.

PEARCE
I can have you thrown away for ten
years.

JACK
Guantanamo still open Ed?

PEARCE
I'll have it reopened.

Jack opens his army record.

JACK

Am I really "oppositional defiant?"
Hostile to authority?

PEARCE

Remember the Gulf War?

JACK

Which one, Eddie? So many. You mean
the Liberation of Iraq?
Afghanistan? Operation "Grab the
Oil and piss off the entire Middle
East?" Yeah, I remember. Get lost,
Edwina.

Jack tosses a military aviation magazine at her.

PEARCE

The new Iraqi administration wants
their precious stone back.

JACK

What stone? All that stuff was
blown to hell by your flyboys,
remember? I'm leaving, going home.

She waves a passport.

PEARCE

Why did you do it? Ruin your army
career, piss off the Hajjis...

JACK

You wouldn't understand.

PEARCE

For a "Desert Queen?"

JACK

She was better than a desert queen.

PEARCE

You steal ancient artifacts and
search for this mythical sword for
God knows what reason. Redemption?
You killed Lt. Ganjizadeh and
you're punishing yourself. Your
side trip for the keystone on a
military mission led directly to
her death Major!

JACK

It was an accident.

Pearce is just getting a good head of steam now.

PEARCE

You steal priceless national treasures and women's hearts like they're ethnic toys. Then you sell them or toss them.

JACK

Like you?

PEARCE

Still the smartest guy in the room, hey Jack. Historian, archaeologist, cryptologist...

JACK

'Pimp and betrayer of women.'

PEARCE

You said it, not me.

Pearce plonks down a file with a photo of a stela, an ancient law-giving granite pillar. The keystone is missing.

PEARCE

Missing the keystone huh? Inscribed with Hammurabi's Code, the earliest known written version of any law. Worth about five million on the open market?

JACK

Seven.

Pearce drops a photo of Sabia. Jack picks it up.

PEARCE

Just your type, Jack. Dark. Black, high Yellow, "butter wouldn't melt in my mouth"; loving and ready to swallow all your "Arab Culture is wonderful" bullshit while you steal all the museum pieces not nailed down in the entire Middle East!

JACK

Goddammit! Tea, please.

PEARCE

Then you leave her here to die! And break *her* heart too.

FLASHBACK

EXT. DUBAI BEACH - DAY

Jack chases Edwina down a beach until they tumble into a beach towel. Clearly besotted, she pours some illicit hooch into his open mouth.

PEARCE

Major don't waste none of that, you don't know how hard it was to get bourbon in a dry country.

They roll in the sand until she is on top of him.

END FLASHBACK

Jack softens. A TEA MAKER 60s, passes sweet Arab tea and two glasses of Arak. Pearce adds something from a hip flask.

PEARCE

So, they never found her body. Some people think you killed her; set her up. Maybe you just let your women do your pilfering for you - like a pimp.

JACK

Godamnit! She was my friend.

PEARCE

Shut-up! "Friend." Listen to me really carefully Jack, you return that missing keystone or...

JACK

...Or what?

PEARCE

Or, or you can find me a religious artifact, an icon.

JACK

Why?

PEARCE

Because the Arabs think this "artifact" was put there as a symbol of Zionist rule. It symbolizes Hebrew oppression of the Arabs by...

JACK

...Solomon, King of Israel. And they're going to use it to fire up the whole region in a jihad. It's a lamp.

PEARCE

You're smart, Stanford. Ever thought about going back into Army Intel?

He rifles through some old books, dust flying everywhere. Pearce secretly places a copy of Sir Richard Burton's "The Arabian Nights" into the satchel. It seems to act on Jack.

PEARCE

Why would a man who hates sand and religion live in the Middle East where every third house is a mosque?

JACK

Why would a woman who hates Arabs live in the Middle East?

PEARCE

You go where your clients are. Look, just do this one for me, please Jack. I'll owe you.

They down their tea and booze. Jack hops on the dirt bike and Pearce clings on as he pops a wheelie out of the small passageway into the main market square.

EXT. OLD MARKET - DUBAI - CONTINUOUS

Jack drives like a nut, stuffing books into a satchel. Pearce is fearless, relaxed like she's lolling on a couch.

Pearce hollers over the roaring WIND.

PEARCE

If the Israelis find the lamp it proves they were here first, if the Hajjis find the lamp...

JACK

...You people have gone nuts! Why don't you get it yourself?

PEARCE

'Cause it's in no man's land, the
disputed border between Oman,
Saudi, and the Emirates. Besides,
the seal can only be opened by
cracking the code, written in
Sanskrit, encrypted gibberish. Jack
language.

JACK

Forget it.

Pearce, sitting close on the pillion, watches Jack's face.

PEARCE

Ever thought of getting plastic
surgery on that burn scar Jack?

JACK

It gives me character.

PEARCE

Half the security forces in the
region are looking for it. Last
week's storm blew away the dunes.
Satellites picked it up.

JACK

One bird for backup.

PEARCE

OK. You get to stay out of a
Baghdad prison and help Uncle Sam.
Keep your illegal "collection."

JACK

You fuckers. You all worship the
same "God" and you think he wants
you to nuke each other.

Jack narrowly misses slicing through a Tuk-tuk. Pearce
finally loses it and SHRIEKS in fright.

PEARCE

She Jack. She. God's a woman
remember?

JACK

I remember.

PEARCE

God loves war, that's why she made
men so ornery and women so smart.

(MORE)

PEARCE (cont'd)

Listen, Jack, I don't really give a monkey's about the keystone. Keep it. Keep the artifacts. Sell 'em, keep the money, I don't care. Just get me that Goddamn lamp.

JACK

Keep the oil flowing, right Eddie?

PEARCE

That's right, Jack. This hopped-up dirt bike runs on gas, right?

EXT. MARKET DUBAI - SIDE ROAD - CONTINUOUS

Jack slides and Pearce gamely clings on. She paws the sand like a snowboarder looking for balance.

PEARCE

Life is eternal, like the sand.
"The soul..."

JACK

(remembering)

..."The soul - a prisoner of the body, released, to migrate into different animals before reincarnation into a human being."

PEARCE

Pythagoras.

Jack feels the "Arabian Nights" book and his finger magically finds a page, a lithograph. He can *feel* it. *He's in*. Pearce is smart enough to quit selling beyond the close.

PEARCE

If - when - you find it, stick this on it. We'll find it - and you.

Pearce rams a tiny tracker down Jack's shirt back.

PEARCE

If it isn't transponding in 72 hours we'll assume you went AWOL and rescind the offer.

They screech to a halt in front of Arabco Oil.

EXT. ARABCO OIL COMPANY - DUBAI - CONTINUOUS

The world's tallest building, the Burj Khalifa, looms in the background haze. Pearce, somewhat worse for wear, gracefully hops off the BMW as Jack stares solemnly to the south, *towards the desert.*

PEARCE

Bring the lamp to my office on top of the Burj. Don't take the elevator, Jack.

EXT. OMAN DESERT - DAY

Six Israeli F-16s circle above Ar Rub al Kali. The Strait of Hormuz and endless desert stretch below.

INT. COCKPIT - F-16 ABOVE ARABIAN PENINSULA - DAY

ISRAELI SQUADRON LEADER COL. BOOSTAN, 40s, scours the sands from 10,000 feet.

COLONEL BOOSTAN

His transponder must be broken.

ISRAELI CAPTAIN (V.O.)

500 miles of sand. One more pass, colonel?

COLONEL BOOSTAN

No, Erez is finished. We've already lit up every SAM battery in the region. Next thing the Persians will be up here.

The F-16s drop flares to confuse the SAMs then begin to turn.

INT. JAIL - UNITED ARAB EMIRATES - DAY

Israeli Air Force officer, EREZ, 30s, is being beaten by HOODED SECRET POLICE, 40s. Belgares lurks in the shadows.

SECRET POLICEMAN 1

We are looking for an "object."

EREZ

I strayed off course.

TARIQ

It may resemble an oil lamp.

SECRET POLICEMAN 1

There is a cave revealed by the storm. The Zionists think it is near the disputed border between the Emirates, Oman, and Saudi Arabia and we believe you are right. We think you found it.

EREZ

I told you I was on a training...

Tariq whips him with a pistol.

TARIQ

We are looking for an "object."

EXT. UNITED ARAB EMIRATES - DESERT BORDER WITH OMAN - DUSK

Fumes pour from two motorcycle tailpipes. Jack and Nate scan the horizon from the top of a massive golden dune.

NATE

Where'd you get that map from? Is that a Goddamn minefield?

JACK

Look, we get outta Dodge after we grab the icon, sell it for a fistful. Buy a Gulfstream and head back stateside or wherever.

NATE

Adios Hajjis.

JACK

Adios.

NATE

I don't buy that you want it just to sell it. You've got a hustle on the side, Jack. Jack?

Nate pulls up beside barbed wire and a rusty sign with skull and crossbones: "Danger - Mines."

EXT. UNITED ARAB EMIRATES - MINEFIELD - LATER

It's darker now but more mines are visible. A rare ARABIAN ORYX appears. It seems to recognize Jack.

JACK

A live Arabian Oryx - found only in
the eastern edge of Oman.

NATE

Yeah, and if we in Oman that ain't
cool either. Some Jack, Jack?

Nate passes an expensive-looking hip flask.

NATE (CONT'D)

Edwina ain't gonna like this. You
still think she's hot?

EXT. ARABIAN DESERT - MINEFIELD - DUSK

They tiptoe after the Oryx as it darts through the mines to a
wadi littered with BODIES. The Oryx stops and lifts its head.

JACK

Shush.

Jack follows the Oryx tracks as Nate plays with the GPS. The
scratched black wall of the tomb is just visible. Broken
pickaxes are everywhere. The granite entry is unbreached.

Suddenly GUARDS appear waving flashlights and AK-47s.

GUARD

ya 'Ali! Hal ji'ta bi-ta'am? ya
'Ali?

The guards open up. Bullets tear into Nate's Kevlar backpack
which he uses like a shield and advances, firing confidently.
Nate icily empties his SIG Sauer pistol into two guards
before he runs out of bullets.

Nate and the last guard are both empty now. It's a Mexican
standoff and Nate is ready to let him escape.

NATE

Hey Dick! Run!

Nate grabs a rock to hurl at him but then notices the guard
already has a knife stuck in his neck.

JACK

So.

NATE

Still the old Jack-knife.

EXT. SECRET ENTRANCE TO CAVE - NIGHT

Jack explores the smooth walls.

JACK

Old, Aramaic, Mesopotamian.

NATE

Germes and bugs. Remember what happened to that English brother...

JACK

...Howard Carter...scarab beetles.

NATE

Yeah, when he opened Tutankhamun's tomb? I hate beetles and bugs.

EXT. SECRET ENTRANCE TO CAVE - NIGHT

Hours later. Their flashlights are dimming. Distant lights glow and are getting closer. Jack can't get in.

JACK

I've tried everything.

NATE

It's so clear here. Can you see the stars, man? There's Corvus... Procyon.

Flashlights glow and weave in the minefield.

NATE (CONT'D)

They ain't gonna be too friendly when they find their homeboys. Let's get moving Jack!

The SOUND OF WEAPONS being COCKED. ARAB VOICES.

Jack tosses and swallows a Demerol like a rhythmic gymnast. As he rubs the keystone, images pour into his head.

FLASHBACK

INT. ANCIENT ISRAEL - SOLOMON'S ROOM OF PUZZLES - NIGHT

"Jack" as Jacob holding a fast-disappearing candle, with cauterized stumps for hands, wrestles with a wall of hieroglyphics, feverishly looking for a clue.

END FLASHBACK

EXT. SECRET ENTRANCE TO CAVE - CONTINUOUS

Back to the present - Jack shakes the images away.

JACK
Someone was here before. I was here
before.

NATE
What?

Jack MUTTERS in ARABIC and finally a small section recesses.

JACK
There!

RIFLES BEING COCKED, SANDY FOOTSTEPS. The recess is a map of the heavens, an exact mirror of Jack's keystone.

JACK
A slot? A keyhole. For a keystone!

Jack snaps his keystone in with a "CLICK." The wadi shakes. The ARAB VOICES are almost on top of them. The granite doors suddenly WHOOSH open and Nate and Jack dash in.

INT. CAVE - ARABIAN DESERT - CONTINUOUS

A trap door opens to a stairway. A "THOOMP" as heads crack on the low doorway.

JACK
Flashlight.

NATE
It's full of bullet holes. Crack
the glow sticks.

From the soft glow stick's light, Jack freezes under a bas-relief. He blows away some dust to reveal the inscription.

JACK
"O Assembly of the Jinn and the
men! If you are able to pass
through the regions of the heavens
and the earth, then pass through;
you cannot pass through but with
authority." The Koran.

Nate leans on an ancient statue, which crumbles into dust.

JACK

"And when the heaven is rent
asunder, and then becomes red like
red hide...so on that day neither
man nor Jinni shall be asked about
his sin." But the Koran came later
than this tomb.

INT. CAVE - ARABIAN DESERT - NIGHT

Jack and Nate pull themselves up with ropes to a tall ledge
and tiptoe across a narrow wall.

INT. CAVE - ARABIAN DESERT - NIGHT

They shimmy through a "squeeze", an 18-inch high opening. The
cave shudders; it seems the rock will pancake them both.

INT. CAVE - FURTHER IN - MUCH LATER

Their hands run along smooth walls with ancient writing. Even
the glow sticks are dimming now.

JACK

It's getting too hard to read.

He slides the keystone along the wall looking for an opening.
Finally a "click." A huge room\cave opens up before them.

NATE

I knew the keystone would come in
handy one day.

JACK

The hell you did.

INT. SOLOMON'S PALACE ROOM OF PUZZLES - NIGHT

The room is vast, like an upended maze or labyrinth. They
cautiously step inside. Scimitars hang like stalactites from
the ceiling, some swaying ominously.

JACK

Nice. Let's walk right down the
middle.

NATE

Down the middle, that's smart.

One falls and slices a neat line down Jack's forehead. Blood drips. The joking stops.

NATE
Jack, you OK?

JACK
I'm OK.

The next room is like a checkers board only when stood upon some squares flip away only to flip back and reappear.

INT. CHECKERS ROOM - JINNI CAVE - CONTINUOUS

They link up by rope for safety.

Nate steps on a white square and nearly tumbles into the void pulling the rope out of Jack's harness.

Jack tosses a knife that pins Nate's rope to the square, inches before he tumbles away. He laboriously hauls Nate up from the dark void.

NATE
It don't like me 'cos I'm black.

JACK
It don't like you 'cos you're fat.

NATE
Thanks, man.

Jack tosses some pebbles and sand and watches which tiles fall then flip back.

NATE
You got it?

JACK
Got it.

They start hopping, missing tiles and half running to the other side. A tile falls away and they both almost go down.

NATE
I thought you said you'd got it!

JACK
I've got it. I've got it!

They make it to the other side and watch all the tiles pop then reorder themselves. Even the colors change.

JACK
Good luck on the return trip.

INT. CAVE - ARABIAN DESERT - LATER

Hours later. Their glow sticks are fading. Jack and Nate stumble through a labyrinth. A weapon CLICKS in the dark.

JACK
Hear that?

NATE
Mmm-uh.

Nate swings his rifle butt in the dark and it hits home. TWO HUGE, UNIFORMED MEN slump to the cave floor.

NATE
How'd they get their fat asses down here?

JACK
Another entrance. Exit?

The men stir. Nate whacks them again and ties them up. Another noise. A CLICK. Jack lets loose a knife in the dark. It SQUISHES AND THUNKS.

Jack thinks it's hit home but a crazed SKINNY MAN screams and rushes toward Jack. BLAM! Nate takes him out with one shot.

NATE
When was the last time you missed?

JACK
Ten seconds ago. Thanks, pal.

Nate retrieves the knife.

NATE
Your knife, sir.

They enter a huge cave, eerily lit from somewhere above. A box sits in the middle of the room. Inside it is another then another. Jewels, coins, and gold coins are *everywhere and surround the sealed boxes.*

JACK
Like a Russian Matryoshka doll.

NATE
Even if we don't find the icon,
we're rich.

JACK

Yeah.

Jack and Nate scoop up gems, gold, and precious objects. They keep opening boxes until they find a small square stone. It has a groove in it like somewhere to rest a smartphone.

Jack takes out the keystone and slots it into the stone. The light from above bounces onto the wall revealing a hidden slot. Jack slides the keystone in and the whole black granite obelisk lifts. Underneath they see a glowing object.

JACK

Look, there's something in there.

NATE

That whole thing's gonna squash your ass soon as you get under it.

JACK

My ass? Some sort of old oil lamp. It's not gonna off us now.

Just in case, Jack ties a rope to a backpack and swings it under the hanging massive stone to drag out the lamp. He succeeds only in pushing it further.

JACK

What have you got in here? There's like a month's rations.

Nate empties the food, Jack swings again - and out comes the lamp. He grabs it and blows off the dust. Iridescent orange flames light up the cave, then a blinding flash. They spot a figure in the shadows. Nate lets off a round. BLAM!

JACK

Hold your fire captain!

The JINNI of the lamp, 40s, demure, yet sensual appears like a ghost, translucent. Jack seems to recognize her.

JACK

She's with the irregulars. No, it's a ghost.

NATE

That bitch's no ghost boy. She's a Goddamn ringer for Sab...

JACK

...Did you rub the lamp? Don't rub...

Nate reaches but falls right through. The Jinni vanishes into the shadows. Jack, in spite of himself, is spellbound.

JACK
She looks just like she's taken on
the form...

NATE
...It's one of the Hajjis. Shoot
it, Jack!

As Jack's hand moves into the shadow, a hand touches his.

JACK
Jeezus!

Nate leaps back in fright.

JACK
Spirit what do you want?
(In Arabic)
We mean you no harm.

NATE
Maybe it's guarding the icon.

A GENTLE VOICE IN ARABIC from the shadows.

REZANA
ana Jinni l-gandil fa-tlub mi
tasha?

JACK
Christ, it's trying to communicate.
Wait, Arabic, "wishes?"

The Jinni seems to recognize Jack, leaping to embrace him.

NATE
Let's go, this is frickin' weird
man.

JACK
No, wait a second. I know her.

NATE
Let's get outta here Jack.

Jack sticks a transponder on the Lamp.

NATE
C'mon man.

Nate grabs the lamp. Jack can't take his eyes off the Jinni.

REZANA
Stana jinni l-gandil ma talabuk?

The Jinni moves. A moment of recognition. Jack goes to embrace her then hesitates.

NATE
I wish it spoke English.

REZANA
In English then. I am the Jinni of the Lamp. Make your second wish...

Jack, shocked, stumbles into a low stalactite, bumps his head, and falls into a shallow well. Nate is oblivious.

REZANA
New master, what is your wish?

JACK
I wish you'd stop moving.

Nate doesn't hear Jack MOANING AS THE CAVE RUMBLES.

NATE
Yeah well, I wish I was back in L.A. with a hundred billion dollars. Oh shit Jack, sorry.

Rezana, Nate, and the Lamp disappear.

JACK
Nate! Jinni! No! Where are you?

EXT. NATHAN'S WEST COAST MANSION - DAY

A LAMBORGHINI DEALER hands over car keys in front of Nate's new villa, a William Randolph Hearst Xanadu.

INT. NATE'S WEST COAST MANSION BEDROOM - NIGHT

Nate reclines in a black satin bed attended to by African-American twins RENEE and ROSIE TENISON.

NATE
Hold on ladies, I need to find a friend who's in deep shit.

INT. LAMP-ROOM NATE'S MANSION - LATER

The Lamp sits inside super-hardened epoxy. From within, faint, almost imperceptible, SOBS. Nate sits outside, lost as to what to do.

INT. CAVE, ARABIAN DESERT - NIGHT

Thin strands of moonlight pierce the dark cave.

JACK

This cave is my tomb. Tomb for the
"Thief of Bagdad". The Thief of
Dubai.

From the scratches, it looks like he's been trying for hours as Jack swings a rope towards the roof and a crack in the ceiling. Finally, it catches and Jack hits a green button on a transponder. It lights up inside a...

...HELICOPTER OFF SCREEN

INT. NATE'S WEST COAST MANSION/THE LAMP - NIGHT

Rezana is curled up inside the lamp, tears streaming.

EXT. AWAY FROM THE GRANITE OBELISK - DAWN

Jack, out of the obelisk, sprints away behind a dune, avoiding some guards with AK-47s, and signals to a chopper.

INT. HELICOPTER COCKPIT - NEARBY - CONTINUOUS

CAPTAIN MIKE BELLOWS, 50s a CRUSTY, TACITURN HELICOPTER JOCK, spins the helicopter towards Jack as the dust creates a mini-sandstorm hiding the pick-up area.

Mike lowers a very long rope with straps. Jack attaches himself with carabiners as it lifts him up to a safe height.

The chopper takes off at speed with Jack dangling below.

EXT. HELICOPTER - CONTINUOUS

Jack grins, enjoying the view, and dangling nonchalantly as the chopper rises higher and higher as it flies above downtown Dubai City.

Jack's bootlaces flap around in the swirling winds as he looks down at the slim antenna column of the Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building.

It hovers over the top and releases Jack onto the narrow antenna spire, 163 stores up.

MIKE

On a dime. No sand in sight. Adios
Major!

JACK

Thanks again, Mike!

INT. BURJ KHALIFA TOP TOWER - CONTINUOUS

Jack starts climbing down inside the antenna's interior ladder until he feels a bullet WHISTLING by from an ASSAILANT who's three floors below.

Unable to get a shot in, Jack wedges his knife between his feet and drops straight down like a deadly water tube ride.

The knife skewers the shooter, who drops dead instantly and falls, pulling and entangling Jack in his harness who starts to fall inside the thin tube again.

Finally, he pulls up, managing to grab a rung opposite an Emirates stewardess pinup posted with some graffiti on the inside of the wall. The woman's face triggers a memory.

FLASHBACK

INT. THE LAMP - DREAM SEQUENCE - NIGHT

King Solomon and COURTIERS greet the Queen of Sheba. Jacob catches Rezana's eye. Sabia stands next to Rezana.

REZANA

Is he not magnificent, sister?

CUT TO:

INT. THE LAMP - CONTINUOUS

Now Rezana curls up and reminisces. Jacob and Rezana are at a desert caravanserai with just a handful of chaperones.

INT. TENT OUTSIDE DESERT CARAVANSERAI - NIGHT

Jacob is playing with some dates, pouring over some books, and, obviously antsy, looks for Rezana. He peeks out of his tent and sees an outline of her body backlit against her tent wall. It sends a shiver of excitement through him.

Suddenly there is a NOISE and the tent starts lifting at the side but it is only a nosey CAMEL and Jacob gently pushes it away. He drops his head on a pillow in frustration. Again there is a NOISE and lifting of the tent fabric.

JACOB

The camel just wants to warm his nose but pretty soon...

REZANA

...The whole camel is inside.

It's not the camel this time but Rezana and she's a sight to see, like Scheherazade and the Arabian Nights, complete with silky veil and is accompanied by a HANDMAIDEN, 50s. She rests her legs in his lap and he gets the hint.

He starts rubbing precious oils on her feet and gets a raised eyebrow from the handmaiden as his hand touches her knee. He starts reading from a book of Arab poetry.

Rezana is having a hard time resisting. He reaches for some dates.

REZANA

Barhi. Eaten fresh. You are Halawi. Sweet and small.

JACOB

Your maid.

The maid leaves and Rezana lies gently on top of him.

EXT. TENT OUTSIDE DESERT CARAVANSERAI - CONTINUOUS

The CAMELS startle at their braces as a sudden GASP is heard from the lovers' tent. Several of Rezana's SERVANT GIRLS titter and smile as they huddle by the fire in the cold.

INT. TENT OUTSIDE DESERT CARAVANSERAI - MORNING

Rezana is massaging the web in Jacob's hand to help a migraine. She works on his temples, pinching the pressure point just above the bridge of his nose. He laps it up.

REZANA

Better?

He smiles, he's smitten. And smote.

CUT TO:

EXT. SOLOMON'S PALACE SWIMMING POOL - FLASHBACK - CONTINUOUS

JACOB and Rezana walk around a fabulous pool. Only it's not Rezana but Sabia, playing games. Rezana appears.

JACOB

That is unfair! You are the same. I mean twins.

SABIA

Yes, we often used to fool father and other suitors.

JACOB

That's cruel.

REZANA

Are we not?

JACOB

My lady the Queen of Sheba is here to congratulate King Solomon on his great victory over Suleyman and Jannistan.

REZANA

Yes, a great victory.

JACOB

Is it not?

REZANA

The vanquished are to be placed inside bottles, slaves forever.

JACOB

But these were devils, disciples of Iblis?

REZANA

Yes.

JACOB

Then Solomon will be in good spirits. Ready to grant wishes to newfound lovers!

END FLASHBACK

INT. BURJ KHALIFA - OUTSIDE PEARCE'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Jack snaps out of the daydream and creeps from the slim tower and onto the observation deck and starts emptying the sand from his boots.

An elevator suddenly opens and Belgares and cronies charge out, guns blazing, pummeling his Kevlar vest and slamming Jack backward, shattering an access window.

The small window CRACKS open, sending Jack tumbling over the edge. He manages to hold on with his bare feet.

BELGARES

You are in my world now western
dog.

Jack clings on with his legs, upside down on the outside of the 159th floor, his bare feet exposed. Tariq begins to beat his feet with a rod. It's agonizing. He SCREAMS in agony as Tariq works the bastinado on the soles of his feet.

INT. THE LAMP - NATHAN'S MANSION - PRESENT-DAY

Rezana hears Jack's CRY, and wakes in great despair.

INT. BURJ KHALIFA TOP TOWER - CONTINUOUS

As Tariq reaches for a knife, Jack hurls himself backward in what looks like a suicide leap but he lands on a platform manned by a stunned WINDOW CLEANER, 30s, 40 feet below.

One of Tariq's men, ADNAN, 30s, hurls himself down the building after Jack and keeps on falling to his death. Tariq then grabs AKIL, 20s, and hurls him after Jack too. Akil, amazingly, lands on Jack and the stunned window cleaner.

The platform drops away with just the safety ropes holding the three men who start hurtling to the ground as the safety rope slips under the weight.

Akil tries to knife him with his jambiya and stabs at Jack's face viscously, SCREAMING hysterically, unnerving Jack.

Jack rams a commando knife under Akil's jaw and it seals his mouth shut like a toothpick in a bun. He cuts him loose with his own jambiya by slicing off 100 feet of remaining line. Akil descends to his death with a muffled SCREAM.

It looks like Jack and the window cleaner are done for as their weight slips them down the rope. They slide faster, dropping like stones. It's curtains.

But Jack and the cleaner land in a small ornamental pool in the outdoor observation deck with a huge splash, sending TOURISTS scattering.

He hauls the unconscious window cleaner out of the water and drags himself past the HORRIFIED ONLOOKERS to the elevators, barefoot, bloody, and bedraggled.

EXT. WATER PARK - DUBAI CITY - CONTINUOUS

Jack, exhausted, splashes his face in the fountains below the Burj and binds his wounds. As he's under the water he realizes he can't raise his head again as Belgares, Tariq, and WASIM, 40s, muscle him under. They're overpowering him.

Jack sees the lamp on the bottom, swims toward it, and magically slips from their grasp. Belgares' men jump in but he's vanished. The men cringe, awaiting Belgares' fury.

EXT. RIVER BANK - UAE - LATER

Jack emerges in a river near Dubai City, and sees Rezana. She dives under, and Jack follows her under the water. His breath is bursting, but he swims after Rezana's mirage.

INT. NATE'S WEST COAST MANSION BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jack finally sees a bedroom and walks toward Nate's arms.

EXT. ARABIAN DESERT SIDE STREET - NIGHT

At an outside street vendor, Belgares spots a Fortune magazine. The cover: "Nathan Bell, Rich enough to buy out Jeff Bezos?" Ebony: "Nathan Bell - Wall Street's African Prince." He recognizes Nate from the photo at Jack's home.

Tariq rushes up and grabs the magazines. Belgares waves the photo of Nate's L.A. mega-mansion.

BELGARES
Prepare my jet, Tariq.

INT. NATE'S WEST COAST MANSION - NIGHT

Jack, still soaking, materializes in Nate's bedroom, his swollen feet enjoying the thick, soft carpet.

NATE
Stanford, I can't believe I wasted
my last wish bringing you here!

JACK
You sonnofabitch, leaving me in
that cave!

NATE
Listen I didn't know where you
was...

TOMI AND ANTWOINE, AFRICAN AMERICAN, 20s, muscular, slickly dressed in black faux turbans, appear with automatic weapons.

JACK
What the hell happened to you, man?
I need the Lamp, Nate.

NATE
You really want it? I already got
the IRS crawling over my ass...

JACK
Godamnit Nate!

The twins come running into the room.

RENEE
Are you all right baby? Who's this?

ROSIE
Yeah, who the hell are you white
boy?

JACK
We're old friends. From Africa.

The twins start to escort Jack out. Jack does a take.

LATER

NATE
...She fixed my back. Look. See.

Nate flexes his back. It's not killing him anymore.

NATE (CONT'D)

Insane right? You become her master by possessing the lamp. Holding the lamp kinda switches her on. It turns her powers on but not the wishes.

JACK

Thanks for the primer.

INT. NATE'S LAMP ROOM - NIGHT

Jack gently touches the casing around the lamp.

INT. THE LAMP - CONTINUOUS

Rezana jumps awake and presses her body to the sides.

INT. LAMP ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Nate lifts out the lamp and gives it to Jack, who finally collapses in exhaustion.

INT. NATE'S MANSION GUEST ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jack, exhausted and unconscious, sleeps uneasily.

INT. NATHAN'S GUEST ROOM - LATER

JACK wakes again, and peers into the gloom as soft hands work his swollen feet, massaging them. He's incredibly moved. Rezana is on the bed, crying.

JACK

Did I sleep? How did you get out?

She hands him the lamp -- he can barely hold it through fatigue.

JACK

You come and go as you please?

NATE

Not quite.

Nate and Renee leave.

JACK

You could do one task for me and then give me my wish.

REZANA

No. You must wish for it. I can help with tasks, but hasten, you must make a wish, any wish, then I am yours.

JACK

There's a cop after the lamp too.

REZANA

He wants me.

JACK

But I need just to possess the lamp, no?

REZANA

Quickly! Possession of the lamp is all!

(whispering)

I can help with tasks but not create solid objects until you rub the lamp.

JACK

And Nate?

REZANA

Nathan is your friend. He has used up all his wishes.

JACK

What can I wish for?

REZANA

Anything you desire. Anything that can be imagined. Anything that can be formed.

JACK

I want you to bring back someone who died. If I do this then I only get one wish right?

She looks ready to burst into tears.

REZANA

The "wish of life" must be the first and only wish. Such a wish. I cannot do this.

JACK
Cannot or will not?

REZANA
This wish. Such a wish...

JACK
What? What?

Jack grabs the lamp and shakes it as if clearing his head.

JACK
There's no way you were in here.
It's all nuts. I'm hallucinating
from the pain.

REZANA
I would be redeemed. Returned to my
own time.

JACK
Yes...no!

REZANA
Alone. You would be here. I would
be there. Set free for bringing
back life.

JACK
You could stay. Here.

REZANA
No. Not in this time. You have a
wife, a woman?

Jack awkwardly wraps a satin sheet around her.

JACK
You're, solid. I mean fleshy. I
mean human.

REZANA
I am a woman. See.

He can't turn his eyes away.

JACK
(in Arabic)
"Men fall in love through the
eyes..."

REZANA
(in Arabic)
..."but women through the ear."

He grabs her arms but her covering falls again.

JACK

Maybe like this. Always. Your arms are strong. Solid.

REZANA

Out of the lamp, we become flesh again, but inside, it is as if we are spirits, made of air. I cannot explain it. See, I am real.

She examines his wrists, looking for the cuts, then places both his hands on her chest.

JACK

But you're not real. But very...real.

She can't keep her eyes off him. Suddenly a migraine comes over him. She holds his head and it quickly goes away.

REZANA

Do you remember?

JACK

Jinni...

REZANA

Rezana.

JACK

This is all crazy! Jinnis don't exist. I'm dreaming and still in the cave.

REZANA

You are with me, Jacob.

JACK

Jack. Rezana. You remind me of someone. I can't explain it but it's like Déjà Vu.

REZANA

What woman? Another Arab girl?

JACK

Can you take on another's form?

REZANA

No.

JACK

Who sent you? I need to know who sent you!

REZANA

You need to choose! Jacob, Jack, make a wish before it is too late!

JACK

I'm losing my mind!

He grabs Rezana and starts shaking her, but she rubs her wrists together and makes his arms disappear then, just as rapidly, they materialize once more.

He tries to stop her wrists from making the magic but his arms become limp like noodles and his hands like soft sponges. He's finally convinced of her power.

REZANA

Please believe.

JACK

This is crazy! They're no devils, no gods, jinnis...how'd?...

REZANA

The Jinni of the lamp is Mubarakin, a "blessed one." Mubarakin are beautiful creatures who must use their powers to help man.

JACK

Then show me. Take me to my old house in New England.

REZANA

Is this a wish?

JACK

I'm not your master yet so it isn't a wish. Right?

REZANA

You are clever Jacob.

JACK

You're just doing this on your own volition.

She's not entirely convinced. But acquiesces.

INT. CAPE COD BEACH HOUSE - SUNSET

Suddenly they are on a Cape Cod beach house at sundown. He grabs a bottle of bourbon and starts draining it.

JACK

No, in modern dress. A bikini. Now a sundress. Unreal. Wait a minute, where's the lamp?

She appears in modern dress, then a bikini.

REZANA

It has to stay in place, for the spell to work.

TEXT OVER BLACK: THE NEXT DAY

INT. JACK'S CAPE COD BEACH HOUSE - MORNING

Jack's making coffee. He's still wary of the Jinni. He watches her poke around the appliances, unsure of their modern function. She burns her wrist on the toaster.

JACK

No, I'm sorry, I should have warned you.

REZANA

I feel pain but can never die.

This last statement stops Jack in his tracks but he plays dumb. Rezana makes some sweet dates appear - it seems to trigger some sort of memory in Jack.

JACK

The dates are not all syrupy and sugary. Sweet but tasty. I remember something.

REZANA

Yes.

She watches for a hint of recognition.

JACK

A caravanserai.

INT. NATE'S WEST COAST MANSION BEDROOM - NIGHT

Nate and the ladies dash in.

NATE

Where the hell have you been? You look like you've been gone a week.

Jack checks the clock on the wall.

JACK

Needed some time together. It's only been three minutes. Let's make this wish.

NATE

Let's.

JACK

OK, then this is it. The point of no return. I wish...

EXT. BUSHES - NATE'S MANSION - CONTINUOUS

Outside, Belgares peers into the dimly lit lamp room. Tariq and THREE MEN unfurl ropes.

EXT. MANSION BALCONY - MOMENTS LATER

Belgares watches from the balcony.

BELGARES

Yes. Yes. Now you are mine.

TARIQ

Captain. The Jinni. It is there. Mubarakin!

Belgares' men and ALAMBAR, 20s, make the sign of repentance.

BELGARES

Quiet, you fools!

ALAMBAR

It is the work of Allah. Look, the Jinni, it lives!

TARIQ

It is a woman!

Belgares stops in his tracks when he sees Rezana.

BELGARES

Fools. Go, go.

ALAMBAR
Allahu Akhbar.

The men hesitate.

BELGARES
Bring me my lamp.

Belgares prods them forward with a huge, curved dagger.

BELGARES
He has made no wish yet. The Jinni
cannot harm us. Go! Quickly!

INT. LAMP ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Tariq and crew smash into the lamp room.

BELGARES
Iblis be prais...kill them all!

Immediately Nate, Tomi, and Antwoine bust in.

NATE
Everybody stay real still.

TOMI
Why don't y'all drop your weapons,
nice and slow like?

ANTWOINE
'Sright man. Let's pop some caps in
their asses.

Belgares grabs Rezana but Jack decks him with a right hook
and he crumples on the floor.

REZANA
I am unable to help until the lamp
is rubbed and I have a master.

Jack leaps but a firefight starts. Antwoine goes down in a
hail of bullets.

Automatic weapons blast from everywhere and tear up Nate's
mansion. Alambar pounces on the lamp and rubs.

ALAMBAR
To Mecca and paradise. Jinni I wish
for you to take us to Mecca!

Rezana twirls her finger. The room spins; sand is everywhere.
Darkness. Spinning. Desert. The ceiling becomes stars.

EXT. DESERT OUTSIDE MECCA - NIGHT

In the chaos of a sandstorm, guns blaze from the shadows.

ALAMBAR

Allah be praised. No jinni! Why did
you bring the infidels?

Alambar tries for his second wish but the lamp shoots outward from his chest with a PING, as Belgares' scimitar pokes through Alambar's ribs. He has been stabbed from behind.

BELGARES

Fool. You shall be in your
paradise.

Alambar lets go of the lamp and it flies in the air, bullets ricocheting off its sides. As the lamp spins in the storm many hands reach for it.

NATE

Get some!

Some of Nate's living room has, incongruously, been carried to the desert and is scattered on the sand.

Nate blows away the guards who fall onto the fine furniture, as bloody splatter and pieces of fabric fly onto the sand.

Belgares grabs one guard to use as a shield.

Tariq lets loose a burst at Nate but cuts down Tomi who leaps into the line of fire and crashes face-first into a glass coffee table. Nate, out of ammo, finally surrenders.

Jack scrambles on the floor and grabs the lamp.

JACK

Nate! Nate!

Belgares pounces, hurling sand into Jack's eyes.

BELGARES

Pig! Now, it is mine at last!

JACK

Too late pal, it's mine! Jinni, I
wish...

Tariq, from behind, thwacks Jack with a rock.

TARIQ

Salaam!

Jack keels backward in a stupor, then seems to find balance.

JACK
I wish...I wish...

Belgares crowns Jack with the sword butt and he falls like a plank. Rezana hurls herself over him for protection.

Belgares rubs the lamp.

BELGARES
Jinni! Behold your new master.

She starts to vanish but Belgares grabs her by the hair.

BELGARES
Not so quickly slave. There is work, much work, for you. Jinni, I wish to return home with 100 camels, food, and massive diamonds, piled 100 feet high. And a Mercedes...no, ten...one hundred.

Rezana stalls for time to make a plan.

BELGARES
Bring back my family and bring me wealth.

REZANA
Your wife?

Belgares is suddenly hit with a migraine as he wrestles with the dilemma. He grabs a Demerol.

BELGARES
My wife, my son, my daughter.

REZANA
Master, I grow weak, I cannot...

BELGARES
Will not!

Belgares seems to recall Rezana from the past and softens.

BELGARES
I command you to desire me. Love me.

REZANA
This I cannot grant.

BELGARES

Infidel! Devil woman. Give it all
to me. Make my family come back.
Bring me also a mountain of
diamonds!

She shrugs her shoulders and bows her head "No."

He lashes her, then threads some rope through her collar.
Rows of camels and precious gems and gold materialize in the
sandstorm. Belgares stumbles over a pile of baseball-sized
diamonds and grabs Rezana's ponytail.

BELGARES

Destroy the infidel's house Jinni!

REZANA

A wish master?

Belgares twists the Lamp, Rezana knows she must obey, for if
it breaks, she is doomed.

BELGARES

A command.

REZANA

Please master, do not break the
lamp!

EXT. NATE'S WEST COAST MANSION - CONTINUOUS

SERVANTS AND HOUSEKEEPERS disappear, crushed beneath the
rubble as Nate's LA Mansion crumbles into a pile of rubble.
ARABIAN HORSES WHINNY as the stables crush them to death. The
twins, Renee and Rosie, lie dead in the hot tub.

EXT. DESERT OUTSIDE MECCA - CONTINUOUS

Back at the desert, sand collects on Rezana's falling tears,
as she, saddened and depleted, searches for Jack.

BELGARES

Take us to my fortress. The Jinni
needs to "regain her strength".

Rezana swoons and weakly rubs her wrists together. She and
Belgares and the rest disappear.

INT. BEDROOM - ARABIAN CITY FORT - LATER

Belgares is meeting with someone.

BELGARES

A palace with ten thousand virgin slaves...the will of the almighty dark one.

PEARCE

Sure. Whatever. It is now. Who needs the wife and kids when you can have your own country, right, Sheik? Or should I say, Caliph?

BELGARES

Indeed. They are not coming back.

PEARCE

Go on. Bring back the wife. What's wrong Ahmed? Afraid?

He shakes his head "no". Then Pearce spots a huge paperweight, a diamond as big as a grapefruit on the ornate table. She passes him some Vicodin and picks up the Belgares family photo and understands.

PEARCE

How are the headaches, Ahmed? Do me a favor - bury Stanford deep in the desert.

BELGARES

You are here for your lamp.

She nods.

BELGARES

There has been a "change."

PEARCE

Fifty million was the price. And since we had to help you, you're lucky to be getting that.

BELGARES

You are going into business for yourself? Why give it to an infidel woman when I may have the world?

PEARCE

Listen Belgares, if you try and start your own country, they'll drop a JDAM right down your palace chimney. So be smart huh? Give me the bloody lamp.

BELGARES

I could command the Jewish state
and your America to be dropped on
the surface of The Sun. The United
States turned to a handful of ash.
I could rebuild the Middle East.

PEARCE

Wouldn't that count as a wish?

BELGARES

No. A command.

PEARCE

You know your Jinnis better than
me.

(taking out a pistol)

BELGARES

My kingdom will be of the
underworld. You, you are the
eternal unwanted house guests who
never leave. You come here, take
everything you want, oil, our
culture, our women.

PEARCE

The women? The ones hidden behind
the sheets? And what culture? Says
here...

(checking a tracker)

...that our little lamp is right
about...

BELGARES

...Here.

Belgares thrusts a jambiya into Pearce's chest.

PEARCE

My mama...

BELGARES

Your mother?

PEARCE

My mama...

Pearce's gun FIRES. Belgares doesn't budge.

PEARCE

Through the heart!

BELGARES
I have no heart.

A bullet hole appears on the wall behind Belgares.

PEARCE
That smell...sulfur.

INT. CELL - ARABIAN CITY FORT - CONTINUOUS

Jack wakes in a cell. Rezana materializes into the room.

She moves closer and unties his cuffs.

JACK
Sweet breath.

Rezana vanishes suddenly. Before Jack can escape, Belgares and Tariq return. There's a red stain in the middle of Belgares' robe - where the heart would be.

TARIQ
How did you untie these bonds?
Speak infidel! Dog.

BELGARES
Soft Tariq. You are perhaps the
only man alive who could have
opened the cave.

JACK
There are others.

BELGARES
There are other lamps, other caves;
help me find them. You and I are
not so dissimilar. The Zionists
will be powerless against me. Us.
Share this power with me. Allies
searching once more.

FLASHBACK

INT. SOLOMON'S PALACE ROOM OF PUZZLES - NIGHT

Jack remembers dragging, with no hands, Belgares with no heart, through countless corridors, searching for the keystone. He shakes off the memory as an aberration.

END FLASHBACK

BELGARES

Ha, ha, you fool. Sentimental grave-digging adventurer. You want someone. The woman. But I will do away with Israel and the United States. I will hurl them into the Sun!

EXT. OUTSIDE ARABIAN POLICE STATION - NIGHT

The FAITHFUL outside CHANT as Belgares holds up the lamp.

THE FAITHFUL

Allahu Akhbar!

Belgares cringes at the chanting but pretends to listen.

BELGARES

Behold! Behold! The Hebrew king enslaved our people, set them among devils, imprisoned and buried them.

He raises the Lamp to the stars.

BELGARES

No more delays! Jinni! I wish for one billion perfect diamonds as big as dates in a palace with slaves, as big as a desert.

He rubs the lamp. Rezana appears, tossing handfuls of gems his way until he is swimming in thumb-sized, flawless diamonds.

BELGARES

Now deliver me my palace and virgins! I wish to be fed honey.

REZANA

Is this a wish master?

BELGARES

Silence! Slave.

Belgares holds the lamp over the fire. As Rezana leans in, his hand whips out like a cobra and strikes her face.

BELGARES

Unredeemed and without your lamp
you will wander through the night
forever, a spirit forsaken by
Allah. Never to be freed.

REZANA

Please. Master. Please.

BELGARES

Good slave.

Tariq and some GUARDS struggle to keep the CROWD at bay.

TARIQ

Master. The people are ready.

BELGARES

Ah, the faithful. Of course. Jinni,
hurl the United States and Israel
into the sun! I wish it. Now!

The crowd GASPS. Tariq's eyes widen. Rezana goes pale.

REZANA

It is not permitted to take life
master. "He who takes an innocent
life kills all mankind..."

BELGARES

I believe this was written after
your time, my dear.

He backhands Rezana so hard she falls to her knees, then
grabs her by the hair, brandishing the lamp.

BELGARES

I will have that dog STANFORD'S
throat cut like a sheep!

He motions to a eunuch. Rezana, tearfully, rubs her wrists.

EXT. WASHINGTON D.C. - THE MALL - DAY

PEOPLE tumble as the Washington Monument shakes.

EXT. SANTA CRUZ - CALIFORNIA - BEACH - DAY

A SURFER tumbles into a fissure. BEACH-GOERS scramble.

EXT. TEL AVIV - BUSY MARKET STREETS - NIGHT

Tel Aviv shoppers brace as the ground lifts under them.

INT. POLICE STATION - UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Jack lunges at the cell bars, straining to hear the TV.

EXT. OUTSIDE ARABIAN POLICE STATION - CONTINUOUS

The faithful chant "Allahu Akhbar!". Tariq turns on CNN.

CNN: Shots of massive earthquakes along the coastal U.S.

CNN (V.O.)

Massive earthquakes rocked the
United States' east and west coasts
today and Israel was hit by a
gigantic Tsunami...

EXT. POLICE STATION - UNITED ARAB EMIRATES - CONTINUOUS

The world seems to shake. Belgares is thrown to the ground.

BELGARES

Burn the Zionists! Destroy the
American infidels. I will be
Caliph. Master of the world.

Rezana falls in a faint. Belgares drags her up by her ears.

REZANA

Master this cannot be done for it
is in the holy days. Here.
(she hands him an
hourglass)
When the sands cease, four days
hence.

Suspicious, he goes to slap her. The sand begins.

BELGARES

Yes, slave. Anticipation will
heighten the event. Now complete my
second wish! My caliphate, larger
than any building on earth. Fill it
with slave girls and eunuchs. And
gold. Much gold. Gold.

Rezana rubs her wrists and a huge palace rises. It's like
Dubai City times one hundred with Burj Khalifa's everywhere.

INT. BELGARES' MARBLE PALACE - DUNGEON - NIGHT

Nate, suspended, finds his rusty shackles turned to gold.

NATE

Now that doesn't help. Or maybe.

Nate starts to twist and bend the soft, pliable metal.

EXT. BELGARES' MARBLE PALACE - ARABIAN DESERT - NIGHT

Belgares' city emerges. ONLOOKERS flee, SCREAMING. MASSIVE, DARK EUNUCHS appear. Then SLAVE GIRLS, kneeling.

BELGARES

Jinni, you have done well.

INT. CELL - BELGARES' MARBLE PALACE - NIGHT

As Jack's cell transforms, he escapes into a corridor where CONFUSED SERVANTS offer him food and silk robes.

INT. BELGARES' MARBLE PALACE - A LITTLE LATER

Jack dashes along endless corridors.

JACK

Rezana! Rezana!

REZANA (O.S.)

Stop the hourgla...

Belgares muffles her but Jack follows the voice.

BELGARES

Goodbye, infidel. Send the intruder to the ends of the earth. In a sack. With animals for company.

INT. BURLAP SACK - CAPE OF GOOD HOPE - DAY

Like the notorious Byzantine punishment, Jack's suddenly inside a sack with a boar, serpent, and monkey. HISSING water sprays in. The frenzied critters bite and scratch as the water streams in.

Jack desperately RIPS open the sack and kicks to the surface.

EXT. BELGARES' MARBLE PALACE - ARABIAN DESERT - CONTINUOUS

Belgares yanks Rezana's hair. Through her, he sees all.

BELGARES
Some hand grenades?

EXT. CAPE OF GOOD HOPE - SOUTH AFRICA - DAY

As Jack breaches the waves, hand grenades PLOP into the water. He spots Table Mountain above Cape Town.

EXT. CAPE OF GOOD HOPE - UNDERWATER - DAY

Now ropes twine bowling-ball-sized rocks on his ankles and also bind his hands. Jack sinks. The water gets darker.

INT. BELGARES' MARBLE PALACE - CONTINUOUS

Belgares is enjoying the show, tightly gripping her hands.

BELGARES
Some sharks, perhaps.

Monstrous GREAT WHITE SHARKS circle Jack. But unknown to Belgares, Rezana makes their teeth disappear as quickly. Fearsome but now less lethal, Belgares watches them bump up against Jack but is not yet suspicious.

INT. BELGARES' MARBLE PALACE - CONTINUOUS

Satisfied with his work, Belgares tires of watching and moves away. Rezana springs a finger. As she does...

EXT. DEEP UNDERWATER - CONTINUOUS

...Jack's own finger springs loose from the ropes.

The deepest grenade bursts and the concussion drives away the sharks. Rezana's hands form the shape of a pineapple.

Jack and the remaining grenades plummet together toward the deep. They start to resemble harmless pineapples.

INT. BELGARES' MARBLE PALACE - CONTINUOUS

Rezana, still watching, has turned the grenades into pineapples but is dragged away by Belgares and they begin to return to being grenades.

BELGARES

Come slave, there is much work to be done and one unfinished wish.

Belgares looks over her shoulder knowing Jack can see them and drags her away, Rezana loses focus and the pineapples turn back into grenades.

EXT. DEEP UNDERWATER - CONTINUOUS

Jack sees her led away and bubbles a SCREAM of frustration.

INT. BELGARES' MARBLE PALACE - CONTINUOUS

Rezana plays along.

BELGARES

My temples throb so.

REZANA

Master, your head.

BELGARES

Never mind. Clothing! Fit for a slave princess; jewels. Gold, a bodice of pure gold. Sleep child.

Belgares ushers Rezana away. Rezana pretends to sleep and remembers bottles, jinnis, and directs Jack to a...

EXT. DEEP UNDERWATER - CONTINUOUS

...Green bottle on the sea bed. Another grenade explodes but a Great White shark absorbs the impact. Jack hits the bottom, lungs bursting, and spots the green, barnacle-encrusted bottle. He kicks towards it but starts to black out.

EXT. CAPE OF GOOD HOPE - THE BOTTOM - CONTINUOUS

Nearly unconscious now, he reaches out and manages to grasp the bottle with his teeth. A Jinni inside shakes himself awake and into action. Jack begins to rise to the surface as the tiny Jinni inside furiously pushes the bottle upward.

EXT. CAPE TOWN BEACH - CONTINUOUS

Jack shivers in the cold night air, soaked. Rezana warms him motherly and wraps his hands on her warm skin to revive him. She pulls off his wet clothes and presses her body against his to warm him. The heat from her skin revives him.

TEXT OVER BLACK: A DAY LATER

Rezana feeds Jack hummus, couscous and falafels. He devours them, watching her, his mind racing.

Jack is observing Rezana curiously. She's feeding him grapes. He's gaining strength, eating out of the palm of her hand.

She blows sweet breath like a jolt of pure oxygen into his mouth, and Jack passes out again.

She suddenly spots the green bottle in the sand, tries to hurl it back in the ocean but it won't leave her hand. The bottle heats up, burning her hand. She drops it.

Rezana furiously covers the red-hot bottle with sand and goes to dissolve it with her wrist magic but she's blown backwards and vanishes.

EXT. CAPE TOWN BEACH - EVENING

The orange-yellow circle of the sun sinks over the beach. Jack looks for Rezana as if it was all a dream, but traces of the food remain.

Jack peers at the creature in the bottle, and the tiny bald, black Jinni inside. Jack pops open the cork and the JINNI, MOCCIO, 40 feet tall, 50s, a giant in sandals, BLACK, CRANKY, AND MUSCULAR, emerges and drops to his knees.

MOCCIO

Free! Free at last! Praise be to Allah! My day has come! You!

Jack stumbles backward in shock.

JACK

I have to leave. It's very urgent.

MOCCIO

Leave? But it was I, little man of mud who saved you from a watery tomb. In turn, you have freed me from my bondage.

Moccio lets out an awful LAUGH, which shakes the sand.

JACK

Think nothing of it my large friend. Farewell.

MOCCIO

And I shall reward you by being merciful!

JACK

Merciful?

MOCCIO

By allowing you to choose the manner of your death.

Jack runs but Moccio picks Jack up like a hamster.

JACK

Death? I saved you! Why would you kill me?

MOCCIO

I saved your life and you have returned the favor. We are even. For three thousand years Moccio has been imprisoned in this bottle. For the first thousand years, I vowed whomsoever released me would receive all the riches of the world.

JACK

But, my wishes. You have to grant...

MOCCIO

I must grant nothing! Marida are not as Mubarakin jinnis!

JACK

It was a woman who saved me.

MOCCIO

Silence, sea scoundrel! In the second thousand, I vowed to give all the riches in the sea. Still, no one came. During the next thousand, I promised my benefactor all the riches contained in the earth. Still, no one came! I became angry because neither Allah nor man heard my pleas.

(MORE)

MOCCIO (cont'd)

I vowed to kill whomsoever finally released me. So I now ask one more time - how do you wish to die?

Jack's face is now purple. Moccio drops him.

JACK

I don't understand.

MOCCIO

What, what?

JACK

How'd you get into that tiny bottle?

MOCCIO

I was imprisoned by the hand of Solomon the Great when he warred against Jannistan! So tell me, my salty-faced pilferer, how do you wish to die?

JACK

I don't buy it.

Moccio stamps his size 66 feet. The beach shakes.

MOCCIO

Impudent little satyr!

Moccio tries to stomp Jack, who manages to dive away.

JACK

How could a big Jinni like you squeeze into a tiny bottle? You came outta the sea. I am the capturer of Marida!

MOCCIO

So, the young imp does not believe? Watch this, unbeliever!

Moccio disappears. Jack rushes to the bottle but Moccio is out again in a flash.

JACK

Okay, okay, but all I saw was some smoke. Check this out, mighty Jinni.

Jack whips out his Smartphone from a Ziplock plastic bag and shoots a video selfie.

MOCCIO

You are trapped inside this strange
'bottle'.

JACK

If I wish it to be so. Behold! I
travel back between this 'bottle'
and the world with ease. Surely you
are not afraid to try?

The phone ruse fails to get Moccio in the bottle.

MOCCIO

Mini master this is strange magic
indeed. I will still kill you. Yet,
for you have given me
entertainment, I will make it
without pain. Farewell.

Jack grabs his pants and is dragged along, spitting out sand.

JACK

Hold on. You're afraid.

MOCCIO

Afraid? Moccio? Dog of a thousand
fathers. Watch this!

Moccio snorts and leaps inside the bottle. Jack seals it
quickly this time and sprints to the shoreline.

MOCCIO

Nooo, young master! Please do not
condemn Moccio again.

Jack shakes his head "No".

MOCCIO

Please! I will grant you your
desires. Only, by the love of the
One True God, do not leave me in
this bottle. Please, young master!

JACK

If you break your word...

MOCCIO

Please oh, sultan of thieves,
prince of pilferers; by the beard
of Suleyman, Lord of all Jannistan,
I swear it. As Allah bears witness -
I will not harm you!

Jack releases Moccio from the bottle and the big Jinni seems even larger, towering above him even when prostrate.

JACK
OK. Get up, get up.

Moccio closes the bottle and punts it over the horizon.

MOCCIO
Come close young master. "Lord of
Larceny."

Moccio lays a gigantic fingernail on Jack's head and turns ghostly pale with fright and whispers.

MOCCIO
A thief! You are the thief!

JACK
I'm no thief.

MOCCIO
Indeed. You steal from tombs.

JACK
Archaeology. I live in Dubai.

MOCCIO
You did steal the Sword of
Jerusalem with the all-seeing eye.
For this, there is no redemption.

Jack slowly catches on.

JACK
You looked into my mind. My past.
If I find it again, I'll keep it.
It's mine. I deserve to keep it.

MOCCIO
Ah, but look here.

Jack's Zen garden tears out of his pocket. Moccio rubs his wrists together and it opens up into a floating map of the Middle East.

JACK
I'll be damned.

MOCCIO
You may well be. Here, little man
of mud. Here is your fate. Ha!
Hidden within this keystone. Magic
indeed!

Jack is flabbergasted but waffles.

JACK
I knew the key of course, but not
the map.

MOCCIO
Indeed.

The keystone shows Jinnis hidden around the world.

JACK
A map of all the Jinnis? Why give
me this?

MOCCIO
I have given you nothing my tiny
friend. This was in your
possession. Do you not know?

JACK
Know! What?

MOCCIO
You are the finder of the children
of the Great Jinn.

JACK
Wait! What do you mean?

MOCCIO
Here! Here, is your future, young
lord of a thousand felons! Ha! Ha!
"Thief of Dubai!" Ha! Now, I leave
you. I have been imprisoned too
long, and I want to see what
changes in the world have occurred
since I was confined. May the One
True God protect you -- from
temptation.

JACK
I need to get back to "Arabia."

Moccio is now very serious.

MOCCIO
Go there to find your way back.
(he points to a cave)
Take whatever single item will help
you in your quest. Enter here. Take
naught else or damnation be upon
your head. There will be many
temptations.

(MORE)

MOCCIO (cont'd)

I warn you, thief, touch ought else
or I will be back to chastise you
myself.

JACK

Take what? What item?

MOCCIO

Hah! *Cut your coat according to
your cloth.*

Moccio leaps into the clouds and disappears over the horizon.

EXT. MOCCIO'S CAVE - CONTINUOUS

Jack steps into the cave and is instantly transported to another place. Another time. A portal, floating, like outer space. It is littered with treasure, and jewels.

Untold objects litter the cave, telescopes, paintings, and gadgets. Jack picks up a few gems, ponders, then puts them down. He searches but nothing looks like a coat. Or cloth.

JACK

"Cut your coat according to...

Then he comes across a tatty, worn, peasant's coat.

JACK

...your cloth!"

Jack grabs it. Nothing. But behind it now he can see mirrors and shines his phone flashlight and watches for the refraction. A sparkle shines from the shadow, the Eye of Wisdom cannot be hidden, even by an...

JACK

An invisible sword.

Jack almost walks into it, feels for the steel, and plucks it from its scabbard. A magnificent, jewel-encrusted scimitar materializes out of the case. He blows some dust off the Eye of Wisdom and sees Rezana walking to him

JACK

The Sword of Solomon. Damascus
Steel. Lost for thousands of years.
The hardest blade ever made.

Jack slices some rocks like cookie dough then slides the blade back into the scabbard - both become invisible.

JACK
Finally, I have you.

As he pushes forward in the dark he suddenly feels a hand, jumps, and finds Rezana in the shadows.

JACK
Good God! You scared me.

REZANA
Quietly, or they will hear.

She's like a ghost, Jack's hands passing through her.

JACK
I see you're working the other side now.

REZANA
What mean you? I have no free will.

JACK
You're here.

REZANA
I am only for you. How can I prove my fidelity?

She rubs her wrists together and her garments slowly disappear. Jack tries to resist by closing his eyes, but she appears in his mind's eye just as powerfully. Then she vanishes again.

JACK
Wait! Damn it.

Jack moves through the portal till it ends abruptly. The sounds of a MARKET, CAMELS, and VOICES. He tosses a rock toward the wall. It flies through like a waterfall and Jack walks through only to find himself outside Belgares' palace.

EXT. BELGARES' MARBLE PALACE - DAY

The palace is an impenetrable walled city fortress. At one end is a towering, glistening brown granite pyramid. Belgares' caliphate stretches for 100 miles, a metropolis of marble and gold with skyscraper-sized minarets.

JACK
Holy shit.

EXT. STREET - BELGARES CITY - CONTINUOUS

Guards in turbans and portraits of Belgares dot the city.

INT. BELGARES' THRONE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

A GUARD, 20s, flies in, prostrating himself on the floor.

PALACE GUARD

Master. He is back! See. The
infidel.

Video screens show Jack scaling the south pyramid wall.

INT. THRONE ROOM - LATER

Jack slips into the throne room and spots Belgares sitting placidly on a magnificent, opulent golden throne.

BELGARES

I have been expecting you my
thieving friend.

JACK

We're all thieves these days.

BELGARES

There are others! You saw how the
girl responded to you. You are a
mortal who found the Jinn. Together
we could conquer all things. The
entire world.

JACK

Redo the world and make it right.

BELGARES

You redo your half. Take the
Western Hemisphere. We can
transform the world.

JACK

What's wrong with the world?

BELGARES

My people seem intent on a final,
suicidal showdown with the West.
Your people believe their dogs are
their children and have melted the
polar ice caps, flooding the world.
We should build an "Ark".

JACK
You and me. Shipmates.

Jack tosses Belgares a Vicodin. Belgares tosses a Demerol which they both catch like seals.

A moment of strange painkiller kinship. Almost, between them. Belgares leads Jack inside the sumptuous palace.

But the FAITHFUL gathered in the palace can't watch any longer and rush forward. Before Belgares can call them off one strikes Jack with a scimitar but the blade splinters harmlessly on the invisible Sword of Solomon.

BELGARES
Bring me this!

Belgares unsheathes it, puts it back and it disappears.

BELGARES
Behold the Holy Sword! Take it to my chambers.

JACK
Now who's the thief?

Belgares' mood changes and he gives Jack a wicked backhand.

BELGARES
You will take me to the Jinn who gave you this sword.

JACK
I think not.

BELGARES
Then kill him!

Eunuchs move in with swords.

JACK
Wait! I'll tell you!

BELGARES
I will find him myself.

JACK
No. I'll show you where all the Jinnis are buried.

TARIQ
How?

JACK
I'll need access to a satellite.

TARIQ
He could be lying.

BELGARES
Yes, indeed. But the Sword. Get him what he needs. Throw the infidel in the Pit of Sighs for his "own safety" while the equipment arrives.

INT. PIT OF SIGHS - NIGHT

Jack hangs in the dungeon, feet just touching the sand. Nate, shackled in the shadows, is just inches away from Jack and still working his golden shackles.

JACK
Nate! What the hell are you doing here?

NATE
That sonnofabitch Belgares threw me in here! Dang, it's good to see you, boy.

Jack tries to vault off but just spins around.

NATE
One more time, Jack!

Jack tries again and his gold shackles start to break.

JACK
Listen Nate we have to get to Rezana. Belgares is going to drop the USA and Israel into The Sun when an hourglass runs out.

NATE
Holy shit!

JACK
Yeah, exactly. Remember the tracker on the lamp - the Israelis are coming at any moment to turn this place into the world's biggest barbecue pit.

NATE
Jeez, Jack! You gotta find that
hourglass man!

JACK
Your house in LA is gone. I'm sorry
man.

Nate spins in frustration but fails to escape the shackles.

NATE
Your sorry ass is sorry. What is
it, Jack? I steal shit because I
grew up poor. You steal because
you're mad at the army, over Sabia.
You'll never get revenge that way.

JACK
Maybe not but I'll have the Sword.

NATE
And do what with it? You're nuts,
Jack.

Jack spins free of the chains and crashes to the sand.

NATE
Listen, you're in deep shit, Jack.
I heard the guards talking about
Belgares putting a "fatwa" on you.

JACK
A decree of death. Nothing unusual.
I'm going to find Rezana. You have
to stay here Nate.

NATE
Your ass is grass. What are you
gonna do when you find her? No,
don't leave me here. Jack! Jack!

INT. LOCKED PALACE ROOM - NIGHT

Rezana, kneeling, is sleeping, bound by crystal shackles. He
tries to nudge her awake.

JACK
"Crystal chains - to hold a Jinni."

Jack smashes the shackles and gently carries her out.

INT. PALACE HALLWAY - LATER

Jack and Rezana skate along an endless corridor and walk straight into Belgares and CRONIES.

BELGARES

Jack Stanford. I am delighted you are enjoying my humble palace.

JACK

It's big, I'll give you that.

BELGARES

My map?

JACK

Yes.

BELGARES

Come with me, my resourceful friend. Come, come it is good.

EXT. BELGARES' MARBLE PALACE VERANDA - NIGHT

Belgares leads Jack and Rezana to a veranda.

BELGARES

See. See. As far as your eyes can see, my domain. Give me the map of the Jinn. I'll let you have the girl.

REZANA

The Marida!

BELGARES

Where is its lamp?

JACK

Bottle. Bottom of the ocean, last time I looked.

BELGARES

Get it for me!

JACK

How many palaces can you live in at one time?

BELGARES

It is for my wife. And children. To bring them back. I was mistaken.

JACK
You're lying.

BELGARES
No, all this, all this I will share
with you for the map of the Jinn.
It is the prophecy.

Jack knows he's lying but Rezana is softening. A brazier
CRACKLES in the center of the room.

REZANA
He wants to return his family. It
can be done. With many lamps.

JACK
One wish, one life, for each
flunky? Then keep it close by.

REZANA
No, by then I would have vanished.

JACK
He doesn't care about his family.
(whispering)
"The Angels were created from light
and the Jinn from smokeless fire."

BELGARES
Very good. But you, you don't even
believe.

A screaming migraine seems to come over Belgares.

JACK
You should have wished for peace
and quiet.

BELGARES
Peace. Peace and quiet.

JACK
The Fatwa?

BELGARES
I can have it revoked.

JACK
Captain Bell?

BELGARES
It shall be done.

JACK
And my sword.

Belgares hesitates but realizes he has bigger fish to fry.

BELGARES
This too.

REZANA
What sword?

BELGARES
Quiet, slave.

Servants appear with tea.

JACK
You'll find the first Jinni in this
cave. The rest will follow.

Jack scribbles some coordinates and hands the paper to Tariq.

REZANA
Jack, do not do this! Not for me.

JACK
I have a plan.

REZANA
The Marida are not like me. It will
be very bad for all people.

He takes her out on the veranda and they take in the huge
palace city.

EXT. VERANDA - BELGARES' PALACE - CONTINUOUS

REZANA
This is a strange time to emerge.

JACK
"May you live in interesting
times."

REZANA
I have lived in interesting times.

Jack notices how beautiful Rezana looks in the flickering
firelight.

JACK
How many masters have you had since
then?

REZANA

A slave obeys. A woman obeys. Does what she has to -- to survive. I am trapped.

JACK

We're all trapped.

Belgares comes out and unclasps Rezana's collar.

BELGARES

Come, "Jack." Your quarters await. Enjoy the company of the slave in the meantime.

INT. BELGARES' MARBLE PALACE - GUEST ROOM - NIGHT

Jack and Rezana are led to a room filled with SLAVES who fawn over them.

EXT. BELGARES' MARBLE PALACE - HELIPORT - NIGHT

Helicopters start as Belgares' men go in search of Moccio.

INT. GUEST ROOM - NIGHT

Jack and Rezana find Nate, surrounded by food.

REZANA

The release of the devil children of Iblis. This is great evil.

JACK

Listen, Belgares wants all the Jinnis. He's going to use them to become Caliph of planet Earth.

REZANA

We would not help him make war.

JACK

You can't speak for all Jinnis.

NATE

So what's all this shit about Moslems rising up against the Hebrew enslavers?

JACK

A red herring. Belgares doesn't care about that.

(MORE)

JACK (cont'd)

He'll let the Israelis nuke the region then take over when it's all clear.

NATE

I don't know what you're planning my man, but it better be really good.

JACK

Just don't sleep too soundly.

Nate leaves with some slaves. Jack and Rezana find some delicacies and start wolfing them down.

REZANA

Why do you wait?

JACK

Help is coming.

REZANA

What help?

JACK

Help. But you must help me get the lamp.

REZANA

This I cannot do.

JACK

But Belgares' final wish. At the end of Eid Al-Adha?

REZANA

Yes. At the end of Eid Al-Adha, an hourglass will run out, then the only way to save your country and Israel is by my redemption or death.

JACK

What could kill a Jinni?

REZANA

If the lamp is destroyed by fire. Or by the hand of another Jinn. What is it, my love?

Jack drops his pita bread and goes pale.

JACK

Nothing. I have to kill Belgares.

REZANA

You cannot. I must protect him.

JACK

Then how can you be redeemed?

REZANA

By giving my life to save the life
of another.

JACK

What kind of bargain is that?

REZANA

We all make bargains with Allah.

JACK

My mind, how do you...?

REZANA

Just the dreams.

JACK

(to himself)

I promised I wouldn't leave the
Middle East until I found her. Her
body.

REZANA

But the Fatwa. You cannot stay.

She wipes some hummus from his lips then kisses them.

JACK

My artifacts. I can sell them in
London. Probably get a great price.

REZANA

You must give back the sword.

JACK

I can't.

REZANA

Won't.

JACK

There is someone else. Was someone
else.

REZANA

The dead Persian girl.

Rezana finally gets it and slinks off.

JACK

Rezana! Godamnit. I didn't love
her. Not like you. Rezana come
back! Damnit! I love you.

Jack tries to chase her but she snaps a finger and his legs
crumple under him and he falls on some pillows, dead tired.
In his half-slumber Moccio's voice BOOMS inside Jack's head:

MOCCIO (O.S.)

"I warn you, thief, touch ought
else or I will be back and chastise
you myself!"

Sprawled exhausted, on pillows she makes Jack sleep. Finally
there is darkness, and, rest. Winds gently fan the curtains.

INT. CAVE - CAPE OF GOOD HOPE - NIGHT

Belgares' FLUNKIES sweep through the magic cave, grabbing
everything not tied down. The cave RUMBLES ominously.

EXT. ISRAELI AIR FORCE BASE - NIGHT

Israeli F-16s roar down a runway, afterburners glowing.

INT. GUEST ROOM - BELGARES' MARBLE PALACE - LATER

Jack wakes to BOOMING thunder and a sandstorm.

JACK

Rezana! I must have slept for
hours.

Moccio spots him, smashes a wall, and reaches for Jack.

Jack runs, but a Hummer-sized foot blocks his way. His ears
drum to an incredible POUNDING and SHAKING sound.

Jack sprints to the other door but a massive hand blocks his
way. Moccio's SCREAMING shakes the palace walls.

MOCCIO

Son of a thousand thieves! Could
not resist the temptation could
you? Sired by a monkey! Thief of
ancient corpses! Cursed Christian
beggar to bring me back from my
rest! I shall kill you with no
compunction this time!

Jack dives, head first, through a window, but lands in Moccio's huge palm.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE BATHING ROOM - NIGHT

Jack slices Moccio's hand with the Sword and blood sprays like a fountain splattering and burning the curtains.

MOCCIO

Accursed son of beggars! Dog of dogs. May Allah curse you!

Jack dashes away. Rezana sees the sword and saddens.

INT. BELGARES' ROOM - NIGHT

Jack runs to Belgares' room for the Lamp and finds Nate.

NATE

Holy shit, you see the size of that Negro! Who, what is that?

JACK

Let him bring the house down. We need the lamp. If the Israelis nuke this place before we find the hourglass 300 million people are gonna be turned into ash.

NATE

Yeah, but what about our - your wishes?

JACK

First things first my friend.

Jack spots Moccio. Nate leaps behind a mountain of pillows.

JACK

Hey Moccio!

Moccio's fist smashes free the locked lamp. Jack grabs it but Moccio's dagger-like nails tear into his shoulder.

MOCCIO

Dog!

Moccio sweeps away three rooms sending Jack tumbling outside, onto an awning, then headfirst into a swimming pool.

EXT. SWIMMING POOL - NIGHT

Dust from the crumbling palace covers the pool surface and hides Jack under the water, then he sprints back for Rezana.

INT. PALACE HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

It's pandemonium as Moccio tears the palace apart. GUARDS fire at him, but Moccio sweeps them away like chess pieces.

INT. ISRAELI AIR FORCE F-16 ABOVE DUBAI - NIGHT

Israeli F-16s scream to Belgares City. A homing screen lights up a jet's dashboard as the lamp's transponder BEEPS.

INT. BELGARES' MARBLE PALACE - REZANA'S ROOM

Jack kicks in Rezana's door. As she runs, he tackles her, but she SMASHES a vase on his head.

JACK

Rezana. Rezana! I need your help.

REZANA

No! No help for you. You thief. I saw The Sword. You stole the Holy Sword of Solomon and you stole me from my king three thousand years ago. You're a liar.

JACK

I'm sorry about the Sword and I never met you before a few days ago.

He whips out the Lamp. She pauses for a second. Then starts running.

JACK

Wait! I need to tell you something...

REZANA

What?

Moccio's BELLOWING interrupts them.

JACK

I...can you get rid of Moccio once he's destroyed this palace?

(MORE)

JACK (cont'd)

I must find Belgares and stop that hourglass.

REZANA

This, I cannot do.

JACK

What?

REZANA

He is too powerful.

The storm drives them to a quieter spot. Jack rubs the lamp.

JACK

In case something happens I need to make a wish now. I have a promise to keep.

Rezana catches Jack's eye and starts to read his intention.

JACK

I'm sorry.

Jack also sees it in her eyes.

JACK

No. I'll free you. We can be together. Here.

REZANA

I must return to my own time. I cannot be free here.

JACK

I can't live in ancient Mesopotamia.

REZANA

No, no, it will be all right. One moment. A girl, her name?

JACK

Sabia.

REZANA

What? That name! Show me.

Jack swipes through a million photos searching for Sabia on his phone but then the battery dies.

Then he pulls out a faded photo. Rezana GASPS.

REZANA

It is her!

JACK

I vowed I wouldn't leave the Middle East without her. She gave her life for me. But I love you.

REZANA

She gave her life that you and I would be together.

JACK

What!

REZANA

Sabia was my sister.

JACK

The pendant.

REZANA

She gave her life in this time to bring us back together.

Jack looks closely at Rezana - the resemblance to Sabia's photo with her short hair, military fatigues, and goggles seems more obvious now.

REZANA

I waited three thousand years to find you.

JACK

But Sabia guided me to the keystone!

REZANA

Yes, the love of a sister and a promise kept.

JACK

(in Arabic)
For the love of...

REZANA

...We have found each other.

A long kiss.

JACK

But Sabia.

REZANA

I protected my sister with my freedom and she has paid the debt.

JACK

But Sabia's dead.

REZANA

No, she lives. She lives in the spirit of the beautiful Oryx.

JACK

The antelope in the minefield. You must take the lamp.

REZANA

No. But what of us?

JACK

I won't lose you again.

She wraps herself tightly around him as Jack rubs the lamp.

JACK

I...

They tumble into pillows kissing like coiled snakes.

JACK

...set you...

JACK

...free.

REZANA

...free.

GUNFIRE outside, explosions, and terrifyingly DEEP SHOUTS. Moccio crashes through the ceiling and grabs Jack.

MOCCIO

Die, son of a donkey.

JACK

Allah will punish you...

Moccio slams Jack's mouth shut with a teeth-cracking thud.

MOCCIO

I will enjoy killing you. Slowly.

He flings Jack against the wall, and he slams onto the floor. Moccio's GUFFAW shakes the ceiling and sweeps his hand for the coup de grace, but Rezana hurls herself in front of him.

JACK

No!

Rezana pushes, but Moccio is too powerful. She rubs her wrists together, but he locks them so she can't work her magic as they seem to be stuck like one appendage.

She forces her wrists to move and suddenly silken curtains fly off the walls, curling around Moccio's ankles, pinning his legs together and he crashes into the wall.

She manages to squirm free momentarily and rubs her wrists and the sheets become ropes, then chains. Moccio snaps them loose. Rezana starts to create crystal bonds, the only chains that can hold a jinni.

Jack, still held fast, tries to pry Moccio's fingers loose.

JACK

Run!

Moccio flicks Jack away. As the crystal chains form, one ceiling stone falls toward Jack. Rezana takes focus off Moccio and freezes the rock for a beat to give Jack time to escape. Moccio seizes his chance and squeezes the tiny Jinni.

REZANA

Run!

JACK

No! No!

Rezana can't move, can't fight.

As her strength runs out, she slumps in Moccio's big fingers, then dies. She vanishes.

JACK

Rezana, no! You son of a bitch!

MOCCIO

I will now kill the Thief of Dubai.

But Jack slices Moccio's chin with the Sword and jinni blood hits the floor, burning the marble tiles like paper.

MOCCIO

Aiee! You thief of a thousand tombs. I will put you in a bottle!

Moccio's fist descends, but Jack hides in the billowing curtains. GUARDS rush in with bazookas and begin firing.

Irritated by the noise and explosions, the big jinni grows tired of his rampage.

Moccio crouches, and, with a ROAR, vanishes into the stars.

INT. BILLOWING CURTAINS - BELGARES' PALACE - CONTINUOUS

As Jack watches Moccio disappear into the clouds from behind the curtains the Eye of Wisdom on the Sword lights up softly. Jack fails to notice.

CLOSE ON THE EYE OF WISDOM

Rezana seems to be floating away, adrift on a sea of clouds. Then the Eye of Wisdom goes dark once again.

INT. BELGARES' MARBLE PALACE - ARABIAN DESERT - CONTINUOUS

Jack materializes inside the golden throne room.

BELGARES

Infidel pig. Son of a dog! You took away my Jinn, my wishes. Now they will never return. And neither will you.

JACK

You made the wrong wish.

BELGARES

We are not so unlike. You also made the wrong wish.

JACK

Did I? You're wrong.

Jack unsheathes the Sword of Solomon and points it threateningly at Belgares who, unfazed, holds his arms out as if welcoming the blade.

BELGARES

Blades cannot kill what is already dead.

Belgares' red eyes seem to cackle, mocking Jack.

But Jack, resolute, throws a commando knife into Belgares' chest. Nothing. Belgares flicks it out and scurries away backward, at speed. Jack is stunned.

Jack takes off after Belgares into the endless dark palace corridors.

INT. DOOR OUTSIDE THE TREASURY - MOMENTS LATER

Tariq stands laughing at the end of an immense corridor, holding a knife to an unconscious Nate's neck.

TARIQ

Hah! Watch the dog die.

JACK

No!

He starts to slice Nate's throat but Jack hurls a knife. It lodges in Tariq's arm, holding it fast.

Still, he persists with his other arm but Jack hurls the Sword of Solomon which spins through the air like a demented boomerang, spinning and spinning Frisbee-like until...

CLOSE ON:

Tariq's face, still grinning but as we:

PULL BACK:

His torso is on the same level as his legs, cut in half.

JACK

For the death of a princess.

Tariq looks to Hell and then to Heaven and realizes the end is close. He seems to be looking for absolution.

TARIQ

A thousand apologies, infidel.

Unmoved, Jack runs up to him and strikes off his head.

Jack notices a breeze coming from inside a pair of gargantuan golden doors. They barely budge but with a great effort, he muscles them open.

EXT. ISRAELI AIR FORCE F-16 - SKIES ABOVE OMAN - NIGHT

Backlit by stars, the Israeli F-16s close on their target.

COLONEL BOOSTAN (O.S.)

Safeties off, arm warheads. Final coordinates in five minutes.

INT. INSIDE THE TREASURY - CONTINUOUS

Behind the golden door is an immense warehouse full of gold dust. Behind the 'dunes' are perfectly painted stars to make it look like the desert night.

Jack spots Belgares far on the other side of the building. He trepidatiously steps onto the sand but sinks more with each step. Pretty soon he's up to his knees.

Between them are yards of deadly quicksand. He hesitates on the fringe, then edges forward, sweat beading on his brow.

BELGARES

I read your army file. 'A morbid
fear of sand'.

Jack's feet seem to move heavily in the 'sand'.

JACK

Heavy sand.

INT. BELGARES' TREASURY - DUNES - NIGHT

Jack crouches and lets the sand fall between his fingers.

BELGARES

The woman Jinn is dead. One hundred
million of the faithful are trying
to kill you.

JACK

Hundred million and one.

BELGARES

Ha! Ha!

Belgares watches the last grains of sand fall in the hourglass.

BELGARES

Witness! The final elimination of
the great Satan and the Zionists!

EXT. WASHINGTON D.C. - THE MALL - NIGHT

The Capitol Building CREAKS as the ground rumbles beneath it.

INT. QUICKSAND PIT - CONTINUOUS

As he gets to within 20 feet of Belgares, Jack starts sinking fast into the 'sand,' actually millions of tons of gold dust. He panics and tries not to struggle.

BELGARES

Perhaps some tomb robber will find
you in a thousand years.

Jack spits out some dust and realizes it's gold now. Belgares smiles, swoops down, and pours some more into his mouth. Jack's in the sand up to his neck now.

BELGARES

"The Infidel Thief of Dubai" bears
witness to the final death of the
Americans and Zionist dogs!

Jack lunges futilely at the hourglass. Belgares himself nearly sinks into the quicksand and tiptoes close to a pillar.

Belgares, trying to keep clear of the sand and with one hand on the pillar, crouches and stretches, until the sword tip rests on Jack's head. His robe flows behind for twenty feet.

BELGARES

Good night, boy. I must go and
enjoy my harem.

Belgares pushes the blade point slowly onto Jack's head.

BELGARES (CONT'D)

Be with your love, for she too lies
beneath the sand.

JACK

You son of a bitch.

BELGARES

Son of a Jackal. Watch.

Belgares puts the hourglass down. Each grain falling seems to shake the building as it drops. Belgares pokes the sword into Jack's forehead and he slips up to his chin now in the sand.

BELGARES

Farewell, Infidel. Take your lamp
with you. I need it no more for now
I will have all the jinn.

Belgares tosses the lamp next to Jack. It too sinks.

But Jack whips the Sword from under the sand and hurls it into a pillar.

BELGARES

Aaagh, you accursed slave!

The sword seems to have cut the pillar. Maybe not.

BELGARES

Dog of a thousand fathers!

Belgares moves to behead Jack but the roof GROANS. A CRACK! The sliced supporting pillar flies down into Belgares' robe and drives it into the sand.

BELGARES

The structure holds but you, you will die tonight.

Belgares watches him sink, but the column pulls Belgares down. He tries to slip free of his cloak, claws at the dust and follows the pole beneath the sand. The faded photo of his family lingers behind, his fingers grasping for it.

JACK

You can't kill a man who can't be killed. But you can bury him.

BELGARES

No! No! I will not allow this. My gold. My golden palace!

Jack pushes the photo and Belgares grabs it and disappears.

JACK

See you in Hell!

But Belgares rises again from the sand and raises his arms to the heavens.

He waves a hand and summons dozens of palace slaves to the treasury to displace the golden quicksand, but they too sink under as Belgares uses them as human ladders.

BELGARES

Here, my children! Here, in here!
No!

EXT. PALACE COURTYARD - CONTINUOUS

In a rage Belgares places his palm where his heart was and outside, people fall to the ground like wheat being scythed.

Like concentric rings, people fall dead by the thousands as Belgares reaps his suicidal apocalypse.

Jack, next to Belgares now, grabs a palace slave's outstretched hand and pulls his upper body out of the sand.

INT. QUICKSAND PIT - CONTINUOUS

Jack grabs Belgares' shoulders to push him beneath the sand but feels the life draining out of him from Belgares' magic. A few whispers of grey appear on his temples as his body begins to rapidly age. Soon he will be an old man.

BELGARES

Age catches up to us all. Die infidel.

JACK

You, you are with Iblis, the devil.

Belgares' red eyes seem to glow and Jack shudders in horror.

BELGARES

Let the whole world die and come to me in the underworld where I will be their master.

Jack manages to shake him off once more but Belgares gets hold of him in the eye socket death grip. Jack shuts his eyes against the gouging talons of Belgares as he furiously tries to tear Jack's head off.

There's a terrible TEARING sound and we think Jack's head is being torn off as his collar rips away but he shakes free at last.

With superhuman strength, Jack forces Belgares, in spite of the pain, beneath the sand once more. Again Belgares' hand reaches up through the gold dust and grasps Jack's throat.

He stretches, inching for the Sword, and lops off Belgares' arm, the Sword falling into the quicksand.

Belgares disappears beneath the sand. Jack spots the hourglass, beyond his grasp. He reaches for the sword, then the hourglass. He can't take both.

JACK

Come here. C'mon!

He grasps the hourglass and raises it above his head, struggling to turn it as the final grains fall. He finally turns it upside down and then sinks under. Darkness.

EXT. DESERT DUNES PORTAL SEQUENCE - NIGHT

Jack emerges through the sand as if he has come out the other side of the world, upside down, the sand reversing itself. The stars spin the wrong way.

But Jack finally shatters the hourglass and the sands melt into the dune. THUNDER. The world stops and Jack loses his footing. The earth now spins in the right direction.

EXT. WASHINGTON D.C. THE MALL - CONTINUOUS

Washington D.C. bumps back down with a CRASH.

EXT. DESERT DUNES PORTAL SEQUENCE - NIGHT

In the distance, Jack spots a tent, a fire flickering inside.

EXT. DESERT DUNES - CARAVANSERAI - NIGHT

Camels rest outside and several travelers, enjoying tea around a fire, salaam and greet him.

INT. CARAVANSERAI TENT - NIGHT

A veiled woman sits in front of a gold chalice filled with crushed ice and rose petals. She gently presses the ice on his cut forehead.

JACK

Rezana!

REZANA

Find me at this caravanserai. On the full moon.

JACK

What caravanserai?

She closes his lips with a ring-encrusted finger.

REZANA

No, you must not touch me. Your love opened this oasis for us, this caravanserai. On the full moon.

JACK

Am I dead? I'm dreaming.

REZANA

The caravanserai, at the moon.

Jack gives her the lamp and Rezana disappears.

INT. ISRAELI AIR FORCE F-16 ABOVE OMAN - CONTINUOUS

Inside the F-16, the transponder screen stops beeping.

ISRAELI COLONEL (V.O.)

The lamp signal has disappeared.
Flight leader to attack group;
abort. We are heading home. Repeat,
abort mission.

INT. QUICKSAND INSIDE PALACE - CONTINUOUS

As Jack reaches for Rezana, Nate hauls him out of the sand.

NATE

Jack! Jack! I thought I'd lost you,
baby.

JACK

Jeez, am I glad to see you, pal.

NATE

What happened under that gold dust?
I was pulling a long time. You
stopped the war, Jack.

They embrace each other like relieved men.

TEXT OVER BLACK: ONE WEEK LATER

EXT. DUBAI STREET - A WEEK LATER - DAY

Jack grabs a Gulf Times: "Army cyber-spy sought for missing Iraqi historic treasure." Jack's photo is on the front page. A cart crashes and Jack jumps. A BEARDED MAN, 40s, approaches purposefully, his midriff covering something.

A gun. A bomb? Jack waits for the curtains to draw but the man simply hands him a phone which Jack dropped.

EXT. NEXT DAY - JACK'S HOUSE - POOLSIDE - NIGHT

Jack stares at the full moon rising between the pillars over his swimming pool, Pharaoh Dog by his side.

NATE

Man, it don't make any sense to go chasing ghosts.

JACK

It wasn't a dream.

NATE

Don't do this, Jack.

JACK

Keep an eye on the place will you, and Pharaoh Dog? Cleo's fine - always been wild. You?

NATE

Me? I'm going back to run for President, my man.

JACK

I'd vote for you.

The old friends hug a last goodbye.

EXT. JACK'S HOUSE - DAY

Jack loads up his BMW. Pharaoh looks on, anxiously.

JACK

Forget it, fur face.

EXT. DESERT HIGHWAY - DUSK

Jack zooms along the highway. Pharaoh laps up the breeze.

EXT. ARABIAN DESERT - NIGHT

The BMW sputters to a halt. Jack grabs his Heckler & Koch MP5K machine pistol. As they walk away a side pannier cracks open and a pair of amber eyes peep out.

EXT. ARABIAN DESERT - LATER THAT NIGHT

Hours later, he's lost, disoriented, and ready to abandon hope. He pulls the Sword of Solomon from its sheath and the Eye of Wisdom lights up. It seems to be pointing forward. Leading to a desert encampment - outside a caravanserai.

Jack clammers up a steep dune, using the Eye like a compass and guiding light.

REVERSE ANGLE ON
JACK:

From the POV between the horns of an ARABIAN ORYX on an opposite dune - the animal is watching. Pharaoh barks.

JACK'S POV:

The Oryx silhouetted against the moon. Jack once again follows the Oryx but suddenly it stops.

JACK
Two in one year. We'll soon both be extinct. Wait...

MONTAGE:

Jack's mind wanders back. Sabia on a cot, looking up at Jack lovingly. Visible under her dog tags is the Oryx pendant.

REZANA (V.O.)
"She lives in the spirit of the beautiful Oryx."

Sabia disappearing into the explosion. The search party finding no remains at the bomb site. Jack running his hands over and over the stela.

Sabia disappearing into quicksand.

Sabia now on the dune silhouetted by the Pleiades, dressed first in military khakis but then as a princess, like Rezana.

Pharaoh Dog sees her too and BARKS. Sabia blows Jack a kiss, and he closes his eyes to receive it. When he opens them again, Sabia is once more the Oryx.

He hears an ARAB VOICE behind him, but when he turns back, the Oryx is gone.

JACK
You saw her too didn't you, boy?

The night sky has changed to a single bright star. Jack follows the star to a camp in the distance. A BEDOUIN MAN, 20s, dressed from a Nativity scene, appears on the crest as the dawn begins to wax.

JACK
Salaam Aleikum. Caravanserai? Caruh-van-sur-i?

BEDOUIN
Salaam Aleikum. Allahu Akhbar.

JACK
Caravanserai, here?

The Bedouin reaches for something in a campfire. Jack whips out the HK, but the man just picks up a firebrand.

He's finding it harder to hold the weapon as his hands are fading away, dissolving.

JACK
OK, OK, Jack. Easy.

The Bedouin disappears over the crest. Jack throws a rock after him and it disappears as if through a curtain of water.

JACK
You can't come with me, big guy. I already told you. No! Stay!

Pharaoh creeps behind his master. Jack's heart is breaking.

JACK
No! Bad. Jack's angry! Go home.
Back to the slums where I found
you. Bad Pharaoh Dog!

Pharaoh slinks off. Jack reaches through the pane and GROANS in agony as his hands disappear. He grits his teeth and melts into the shadows at the summit then moves through the "waterfall" and disappears.

A camel train moves across a dune. The stars are sparkling now, as they are always brightest - just before dawn.

INT. GULF AIR A10 AIRBUS - DAY

A STEWARDESS, MIDDLE EASTERN, PERKY, 30s offers champagne.

NATE
No, thank you. I'm on the wagon.

Nate can't take his eyes off a book being read by a woman, 70s, a ringer for BARBARA EDEN. It IS Barbara Eden.

BARBARA
I'm sorry, but if you want to read
this book why don't you just buy a
copy? Better still, take mine.

NATE

I'm sorry, ma'am. I just, well I saw you was reading "The Arabian Nights," and I thought I saw something. I do apologize, ma'am.

BARBARA

It's all right. Here take it. You look like you've had a rough week.

NATE

Ma'am, you have no idea.

Nate feverishly flicks through "The Arabian Nights" until he comes to an illustration. He LAUGHS out loud.

BARBARA

A Dinar for your thoughts.

NATE

Huh? Oh, I'm sorry ma'am. You're gonna be OK, Jack boy. Yes, sir, you're gonna be all right.

Barbara stares at the illustration. The book is Sir Richard Burton's "The Arabian Nights," and the page is open to a color litho of a man, in repose, surrounded by servants.

At his feet sits a woman, a grape in one hand, rubbing his foot with the other. *The man is Jack/Jacob, and the woman is Rezana.* Nate closes his eyes as the air conditioning blows open another page.

It shows Jack returning the Sword of Solomon to its rightful place. Barbara Eden notices it and goes to show Nate but stops when she realizes he's already fallen asleep.

INT. TEMPLE OF JERUSALEM - NIGHT

Jack's (Jacob's) handless stumps gently replace the Sword of Solomon in the temple as his hands miraculously grow back. But the Sword is missing the Eye of Wisdom.

INT. QUEEN OF SHEBA'S PALACE - ETHIOPIA - DAY

Jacob, kneeling, places the Eye of Wisdom gem on a silken pillow in front of the Queen of Sheba. She takes his head in her hands and gently kisses his forehead.

TEXT OVER BLACK

On-screen title: "River Tigris, Baghdad, 2,000 B.C."

EXT. EXOTIC RIVER BARGE - TIGRIS RIVER - BAGHDAD - DAY

As the heat shimmers off the river, a hand peels a grape, visible through silken curtains on an exotic river barge.

JACK

Another?

REZANA

Another.

The hand is Jack's, feeding grapes to Rezana, recumbent on silk pillows. He sits at HER feet. She has a slight tummy. Jack rests his hand tenderly on her stomach.

Jack flings a grape and it is caught by Cleo Cat, who paws it into the mouth of Pharaoh Dog. Rezana smiles and looks back towards the drifting desert sands and into their future.

FADE OUT.