

# SCHEHERAZADE -PAGE 1

**(SCHEHERAZADE enters.)**

SCHEHER. Because it's not your story.

CASSIM. **(incredulous)** What are you doing here?

SCHEHER. I'm the storyteller, remember? And I'm sorry, but it's curtains for you.

CASSIM. Curtains?

**(Tabs close behind them.)**

SCHEHER. Yes, curtains.

CASSIM. But I paid for this story.

SCHEHER. And I'm afraid the price is higher than you thought.

CASSIM. What?

**(FX. The sound of the stone moving.)**

I can hear the stone moving! **(Joyously.)** The cave's opening again! I'm free! I can go!



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SCHEHER. No, you can't. Mustafa Leikh and his band of twenty seven blood thirsty thieves have just arrived – and it was Mustafa who opened the cave.

CASSIM. Eh?

SCHEHER. They all knew the intruder must still be inside.

CASSIM. But, that's me. Why does it have to be me?

SCHEHER. Because the story works this way.

CASSIM. Yes, but -

SCHEHER. Try not to worry about it.

CASSIM. Try not to – ?

SCHEHER. **(interrupting)** You were cowering in the corner.

**(Tabs part to reveal the Puppet Theatre with the Cassim puppet. MUSIC.)**

CASSIM. I'm not surprised.

SCHEHER. **(pointing to puppet)** There you are, see? Shaking and trembling.

**(Puppet trembles.)**

CASSIM. Yes, OK, OK!

SCHEHER. You heard their approaching steps and hid behind a rock...

**(Puppet hides.)**

And then suddenly, Mustafa appeared in the chamber, his wicked eyes glinting as he let out a cruel laugh.

**(Mustafa Puppet appears.)**

MUSTAFA. **(off.)** Moohahahahaha! In you come lads!

SCHEHER. He cried, and the thieves poured in, their scimitars and swords flashing in the dim light. Look at them flashing!

CASSIM. I don't want to.

SCHEHER. And in a trice they had cut poor Cassim into... four...pieces.



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**(Two thieves chop at Cassim behind the rock. One leg, a second leg, his body and his head fly up separately.)**

CASSIM. Ouch! That looks really painful.

SCHEHER. Do you want to see any more?

CASSIM. No, I don't want to see anymore!

**(The light fades from the puppet theatre. MUSIC continues. ACTORS and CHORUS start to come on stage and into the Auditorium.)**

SCHEHER. The thieves gathered up the bits of Cassim and stuck them up outside as a warning.

CASSIM. What about Ali and Kamil? What happened to them?

SCHEHER. They saw the thieves coming and hid. There was nothing they could do to save you.

CASSIM. Is that it, then? Butchered into four and left to rest in pieces?

SCHEHER. Maybe you come back.

CASSIM. Do I?

SCHEHER. Maybe.

CASSIM. That's a big ask. How do I come back after that?

SCHEHER. Wait and see....

**(The music swells and the other actor sing. New NUMBER, or reprise opening number. Fade to BLACK.**

**CURTAIN.)**