

"THE THIRD WISH"

written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. CITY - NIGHT

Thunderstorm. An old man rushes to roll up the carpet in front of his little stall picking up all the merchandise on it. He then brings them inside his store behind the stall accidentally leaving outside, under the rain, an ancient lamp.

Behind the corner, G (50s) hides his own face inside a long raincoat. His hat tied with a string on the top of his head. He limps under one palace's roof to the other to cover himself from the rain. He sees the entrance of a bar with a sign "The Flying Carpet". G rushes into it and opens the door.

INT. THE FLYING CARPET - NIGHT

G takes off his hat and raincoat then checks for a free seat at the bar and goes to sit there, only to lay his head on the barstools.

AL (35), on the other side of the bar, is cleaning a glass with an old rag. He places the glass in front of G, still with his head on the desk.

AL

What do you wish buddy?

G

(smirking)

"What do I wish". Could there be a more stupid question? There was a time in which I would have paid to have someone ask me this, and now look at me. Miserable, alone, without even knowing what is gonna ruin my life tomorrow. This thunderstorm is the metaphor of my life.

AL

I hear you pal. But that's why there are bartenders in this world, so you can tell your story to someone and realize that life is not that bad. Ok what can I get you?

G

Just give me a-

G rises his face.

G (CONT'D)
What? Aladdin?

Al stares back at G in dismay, making the rug fell from his hands to the ground.

AL
Geenie!?

Thw two stares at each other without saying a word until...

AL (CONT'D)
It's great to see you buddy! How long it has been? 10 ye-

G
It was all your fault!

AL
What? What do you mean by "my fault"?

G
I was invincible inside that lamp. I had cosmical power, I was like a god but you, with your third wish... you took that away from me.

AL
Ok, calm down and explain yourself.

Al pours a beer in G's glass and hands it to him.

AL (CONT'D)
You told me that you wanted to be free. You were the first one who wanted to travel the world and see what you could do outside that little lamp.

G
Well guess what, "master"? I can not do anything! I traveled for as long as I could the first year but, day after day, my powers started to disappear until one day, when I was using them to fly on a useless carpet, they totally vanished. The carpet stop flying and I crashed on the ground.

AL
Oh my god. That is awful, man.

G

Yep and the worse is yet to come. With no powers and no money I tried to find a job but, of course, with no resume and a broken leg no one even considered me.

AL

What you mean no resume? After all the millenia that you worked in that lamp there is no "Geenie's Commission" to protect your rights?

G

They do not take very seriously people who quit, Al. They told me that I got what I deserved and without my powers I am a dead weight. So here I am, a former invincible being getting drunk at the bar. Cheers.

G chugs his beer.

AL

Damn. I am so sorry that you had to face all of this, man. Life can be tough from time to time.

G

Life sucks. So what about you Al?

AL

Oh my life is great! Me and Jasmine moved to my house for the first couple of years living day by day.

Al pours another beer into G's glass.

AL (CONT'D)

But after she got pregnant we decided to move back to the palace for her safety and since I do not want to live on my wife's fortune and in order to set a good example to my son I opened this bar and I am working here every night.

G

Geez Al, my life is even worse now.

AL

It's all because of you, my friend. It's time I pay you back.

G

Pay me back? Now, that is a good plan. Can you bring me back inside the lamp?

AL

Nope, but I am going to grant you three wishes tonight. In this way we are going to be finally even.

G

Now that is great...a bartender who grants my wishes! Hey Al, first wish, pour me another beer.

AL

Sure thing buddy.

Al pours G another beer and G starts drinking it.

G

So now, are you really going to try to make me realize three wishes?

AL

Nope. You used the first one. Now you only have two left.

G

Are you kidding me? I was joking!

AL

Hey I don't create the rules. You better think more carefully for the next two.

G

One wish, one beer? That is insane.

AL

Ok, ok I am also going to give you an advice for your job issue.

G

Let's hear it.

AL

You need money, I need personnel. Come work here and both of our problem will be solved.

G

Are you serious? But...what could I do here?

AL

Just come on Monday's afternoon and we'll see what you are more inclined to do. No resume requested.

G

Ok...thank you, I guess. Since you appear to be serious, I have a request for the second wish.

AL

Sure, what's up my man?

G

I just wish to find the same thing you found with Jasmine. But every girl reacts so strangely when she sees that my face is blue.

AL

It's called racism, Geenie. It's a problem of this world. You will get used to it. In the meantime...

Al whistles to a table on the left side of the bar.

AL (CONT'D)

Ehy Sasha, come here pearl.

SASHA (31) bounces to the bar, drink in her hand. She stares back at Al with a joyful face.

SASHA

What's going on Al?

AL

(pointing to G)

This is my friend Geenie. He worked at the circus, that's why his skin is colorful, but from Monday he is going to work here with me.

Sasha stares at G in admiration.

SASHA

Really? And tell me, Geenie, did you do magic tricks at the circus?

G

(almost crying)

Well...I used to!

G starts sobbing so Al interrupts the conversation.

AL
Yeah...you see, he is still very sensitive about the "magic" topic.

SASHA
(to G)
Oh poor sweetheart. Guess what, why don't you join me and my friends at our table so we can talk about everything except for magic?

G
Sure. I would love that.

Sasha takes G under her arm and brings him to her table where three other girls and two boys are waving at them welcoming the new guest.

INT. THE FLYING CARPET - LATER THAT NIGHT

G comes back to Al walking triumphantly steps.

G
She gave me her number!

AL
That is amazing, man. And just in time. We are closing.

G
Oh ok. I will see you on Monday then.

G limps to the bar's entrance, he puts on his hat and raincoat and is about to open the door when Al starts yelling at him.

AL
Geenie wait! What about the third wish?

G
I guess Al, that tonight made me realize that I just need one thing in this world: you to be my friend again.

Al looks back to G. He picks the keys of the bar and his jacket and reaches the blue man.

AL
Why don't you come to Palace with me tonight?

(MORE)

AL (CONT'D)

I am sure Jasmine will be delighted
to see you and the little Raj sure
wants to meet his "uncle" Geenie.

G

(with tears of joy)
Thank you...my friend.

The two go outside the bar. It stopped raining. It's a
beautiful night and G and Al walk toward the palace laughing
to each other.

Behind the corner the old merchant opens his store's door
once again to find the ancient lamp left abandoned outside.
He picks it up and hugs it like an old friend lost from long
time.

FADE OUT.