



THE
Thief
OF
DUBAI



LOGLINE

In modern-day Dubai, ex-military officer Jack Stanford must retrieve the mystical Sword of Solomon, battling ancient curses and powerful foes, while torn between resurrecting a lost love or saving the world.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



LENGTH 102 minutes

SCENES 164

LOCATIONS Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Desert, Oman, Los Angeles

LOCALES Cave, Jail, House, Street, Beach

TIME PERIODS Present Day
Ancient Times 6,000 BC - 650 AD

EST. BUDGET \$\$\$\$\$\$

CONTENT RATING R
Language, sexual situations, and violence

WHAT IT IS

A broken soldier, trapped in the Middle East after the last Gulf War is searching for The (perhaps mythical) Sword of Solomon. He's also not leaving till he finds out what happened to his army girlfriend Sabia, killed when an air raid went wrong while Jack took too long to collect an important historical find. He blames himself. Jack's also terrified of sand and quicksand in particular after his father died in the stuff.

But Jack, in a previous life, stole the Sword and is doomed to wander the earth being reincarnated, again and again until he returns the Sword to the Temple of Solomon. Jack's nemesis, Ahmed Belgares also tried to steal the Sword in their past life and has been reincarnated to once more harass Jack. Jack also fell in love with Solomon's concubine Rezana and this, as much as the stealing of the Sword, has doomed him and cast Rezana into a magic lamp. When the Lamp emerges 3,000 years later after a huge storm Belgares is immediately after it and Jack is forced into searching for it once more.

What does unfold when you have the chance to have everything you desire? Is everything too much? Do you take Door No. 1 and the money or use it for more altruistic means? Is there a second chance for a thief? Can a sister pay back a sister for giving her the gift of life?

Jinni and the Lamp stories are popular because they confront our deepest desires and fantasies. And did Larry Hagman and Barbara Eden ever get it on in that cozy lamp?



PACE, VISUALS, STYLE, TONE

Imagine if you will an "I Dream of Jeannie" for grownups. It's not "Mummy" dark in tone but there are dark moments.

The pace is frantic and furious most of the time. The leading men do wisecrack with each other but only because they've seen a lot worse in the military. Call it gallows humor. This is a story, above all, about love and redemption — not getting the jinni to give you riches.

Everything is bathed in the dark orange light of Middle Eastern desert evenings. It's too hot to wander around in the daytime. Jack's, (our hero) house is modeled after Rick's Cafe in the movie "Casablanca" because Jack thinks he IS Rick. Dubai may be a futuristic city but our hero likes to spend time in the old quarter searching for ancient manuscripts and antiques (legally obtained). At night it resembles Agrabah — but by day Casablanca from the classic movie.

SYNOPSIS



Three thousand years ago in KING Solomon's Palace GRAND VIZIER BELGARES schemes to steal the Sword of Solomon and the heart of Solomon's favorite princess concubine Rezana. Our hero JACK STANFORD also wants the Sword and has fallen in love with the princess.

In the present day JACK, now a former intelligence officer moping in Dubai after the Gulf War, is tricked into finding a magic lamp that has the power to bring back life.

Jack and his war buddy NATE find the Lamp, but Jack falls in love with the beautiful jinni REZANA and wrestles over whether to use all three wishes to bring back his dead love, gain unlimited wealth or free the beautiful jinni.

The Lamp is also being sought by Islamists as a religious icon, the Israelis, the CIA, and the now fanatical Arab secret police chief BELGARES, who is going to use the Lamp to destroy America and Israel.

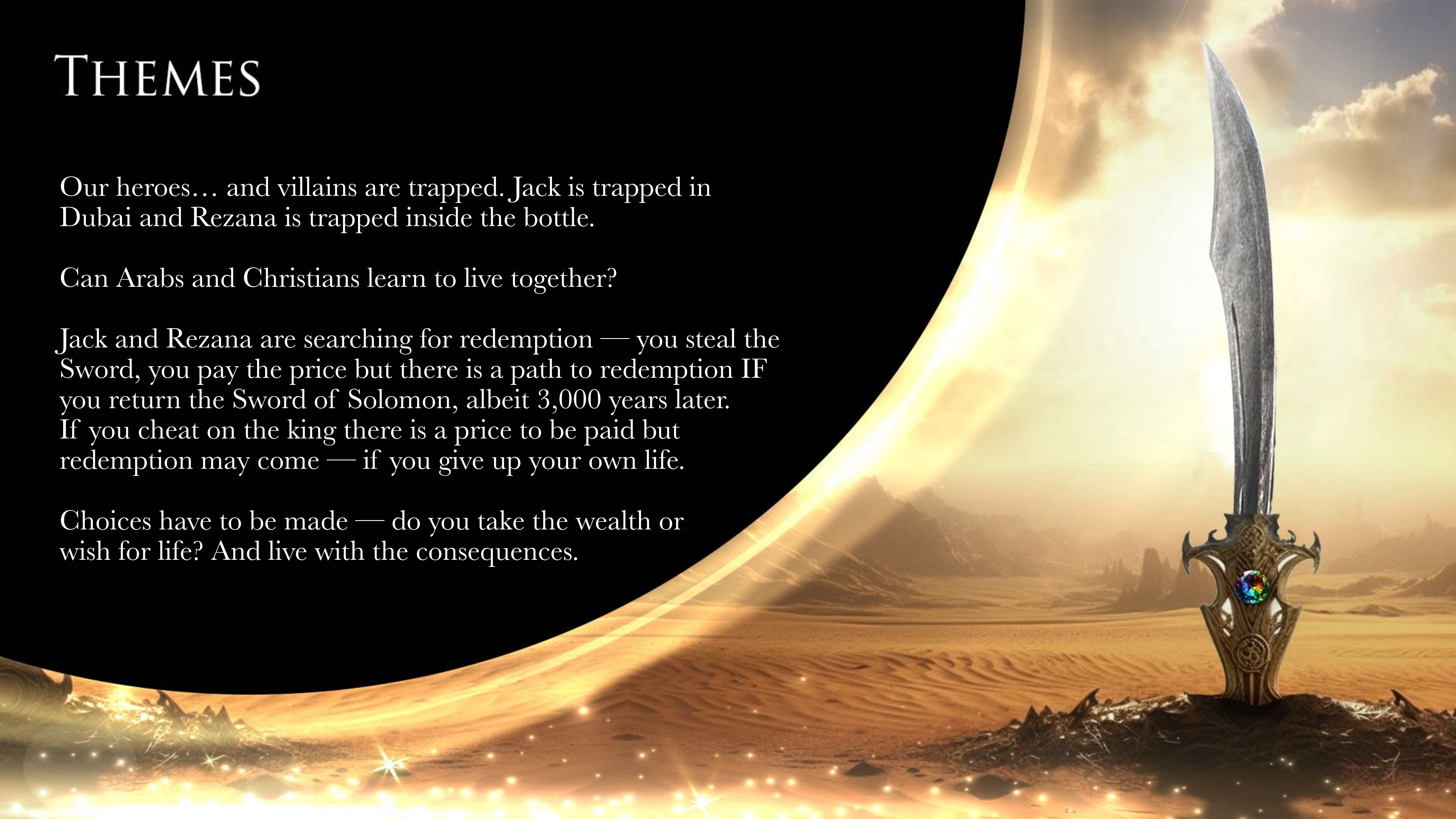
THEMES

Our heroes... and villains are trapped. Jack is trapped in Dubai and Rezana is trapped inside the bottle.

Can Arabs and Christians learn to live together?

Jack and Rezana are searching for redemption — you steal the Sword, you pay the price but there is a path to redemption IF you return the Sword of Solomon, albeit 3,000 years later. If you cheat on the king there is a price to be paid but redemption may come — if you give up your own life.

Choices have to be made — do you take the wealth or wish for life? And live with the consequences.

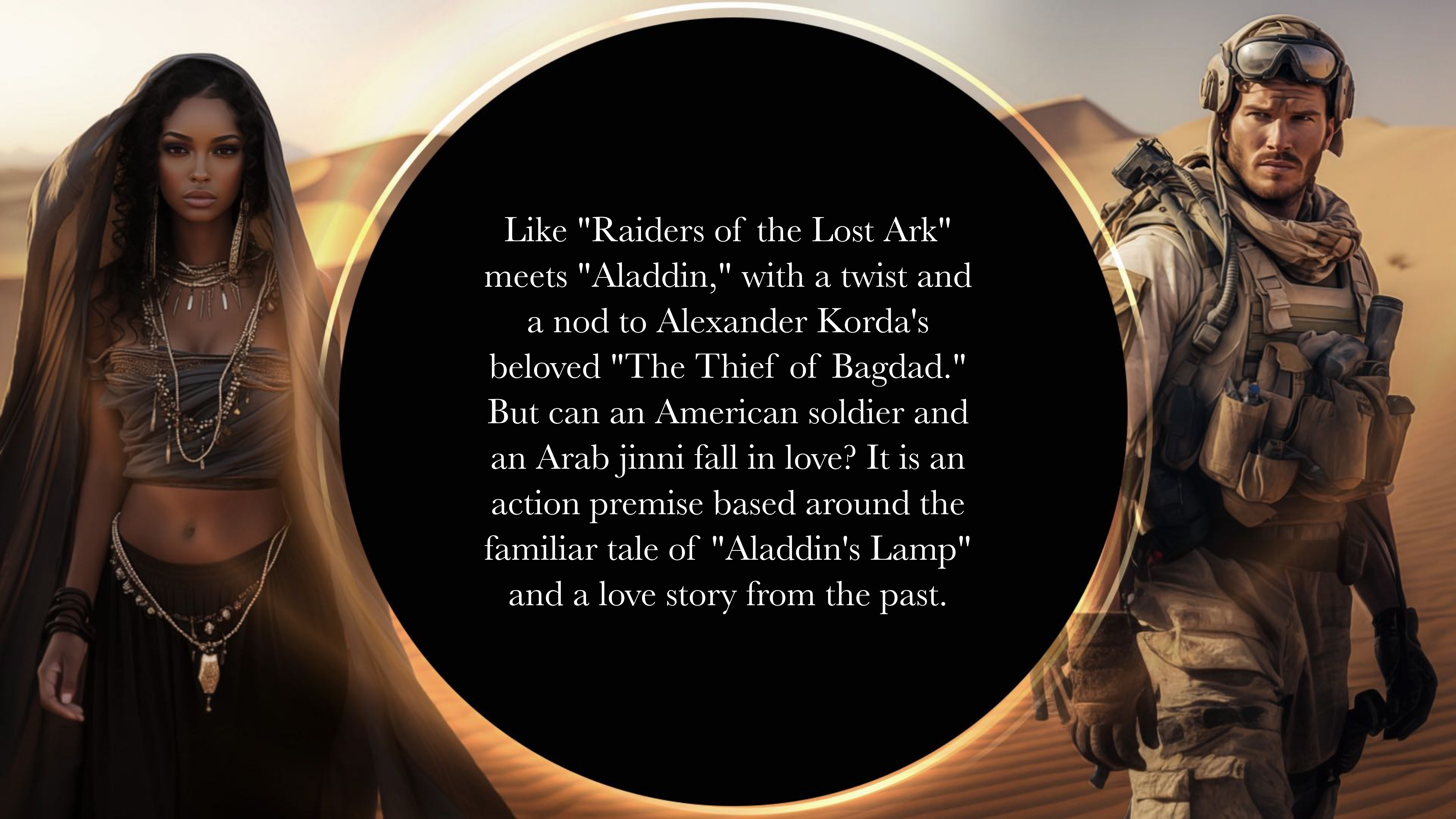




THE WORLD

The Burj Khalifa is set in Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates — a glittering futuristic city set in the desert and almost as big as the Palace our villain Ahmed Belgares creates. The desert near Oman is where three countries' borders cross and they fight over where the exact boundaries lie — it's a sort of no man's land with old minefields and jinni caves hidden for millennia in the shifting sands.

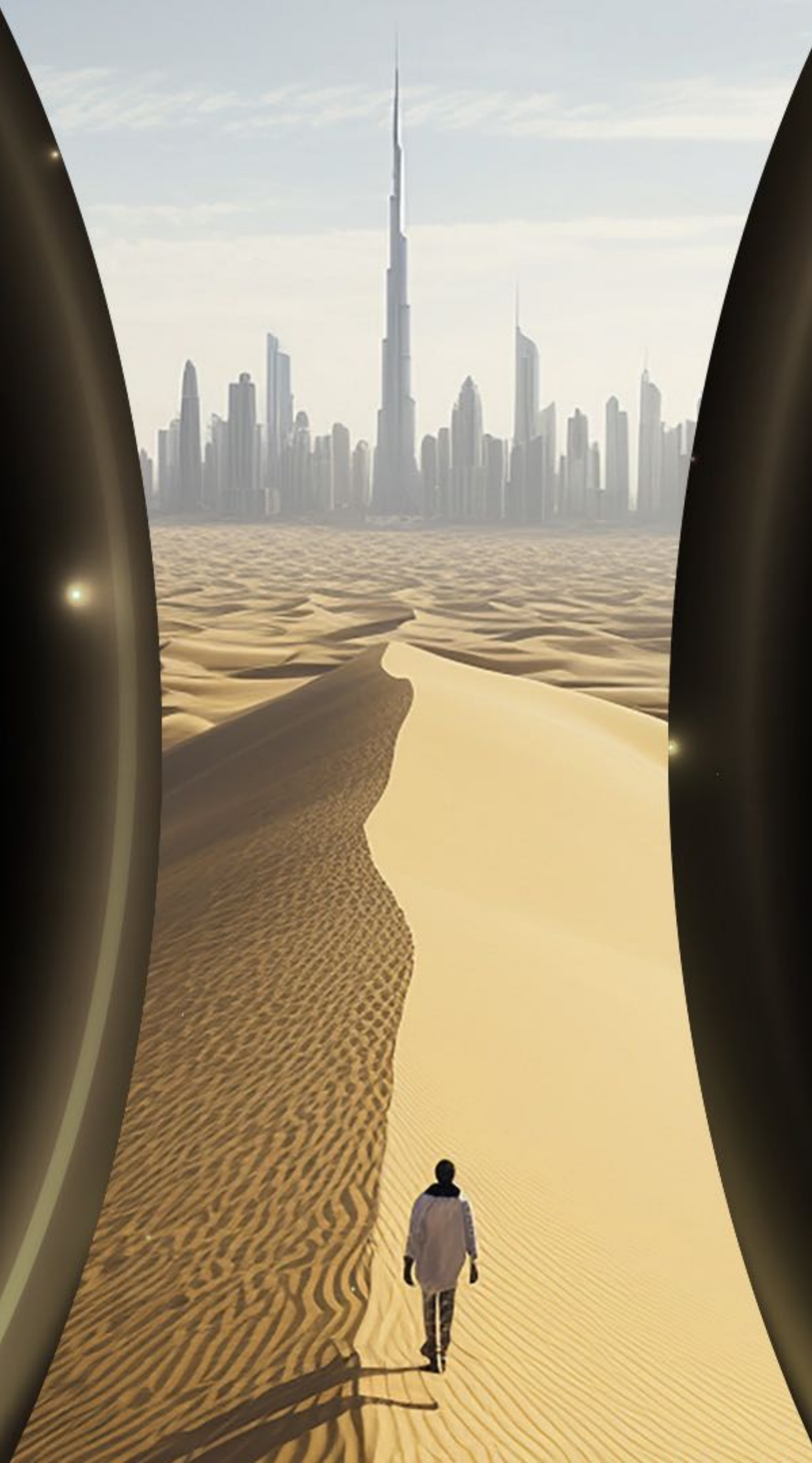
The sand is a key player too — Jack, after losing his father to quicksand, is terrified of the stuff and it's everywhere in the Emirates. It also holds up the finale — what looks like a stadium filled with the stuff is actually gold dust and it's just as deadly as the quicksand that killed Jack's father.



Like "Raiders of the Lost Ark" meets "Aladdin," with a twist and a nod to Alexander Korda's beloved "The Thief of Bagdad." But can an American soldier and an Arab jinni fall in love? It is an action premise based around the familiar tale of "Aladdin's Lamp" and a love story from the past.

CASE

Not another Aladdin cartoon. This is not your mother's evil Mummy/Jinni. The Gulf War(s) never quite seems to finish. Do we stay forever? Can Arabs and Christians ever get along? Can a man who has renounced God believe again? What would YOU do if you found a magic lamp and could wish for anything? Would you really cure aunt Melba of her stage four colon cancer or wish for world peace or simply ask for a trillion dollars in gold or non-negotiable bearer bonds or bitcoins?



FINANCIALS

"The Saudi Film Commission has announced its long-gestating incentive for film productions in the kingdom which consists of an up to 40% cash rebate. It provides up to 40% of spend in cash back for film productions that recruit Saudi crew and talent above and below the line and feature the kingdom's "culture, history and people along with showcasing the diverse selection of landscapes in Saudi Arabia," a statement said." — Daily Variety. Make it there. This is Raiders of the Lost Ark meets Aladdin. What if Barbara Eden had some chops as well? It's not Tom Cruise and The Mummy and it isn't Will Smith and Aladdin. It's more "The Three Kings" meets "The Thief of Baghdad" with an updated story to reflect what's going on in the Middle East. There's also a large domestic market as hundreds of movie theaters have sprung up in cities across the country, and revenues at movie theaters rose to \$238 million in 2021.

INTRO TO THE CHARACTERS

Our crew of reincarnated and royal well-to-dos are all searching for something — love, swords, or freedom. They find themselves together again 3,000 years in the future and get a chance for a "do-over" of which some take advantage. Others have not learned the lessons of the past and are doomed to repeat them.

The Lamp means different things to different characters — for Rezana it is a tomb, for Jack a ticket out of the United Arab Emirates and back stateside with his loot, for Nate a palace in LA, for Belgaes the heart he lost to Rezana figuratively and literally. For Sabia, Rezana's twin sister — a chance to pay her back for her life in a future time.



JACK

male - 40s - black - caucasian

Major Jack Stanford: 30s/40s. Ex-Army intelligence officer/ cryptographer, Jack is cerebral but not a geek, a man of action with a brain. Jack, in a former life, was an indentured consort to the Queen of Sheba and fell in love with Rezana when she was one of King Solomon's princess concubines. In present-day he's staying on in the Middle East after the war to collect swag (notably the mythical Sword of Solomon) for his antique 'collection' and another, harder-to-pin down reason: he lost his girlfriend Sabia in a military accident involving quicksand and is reluctant to return to the United States. Jack has somehow been reincarnated in the modern-day after stealing the Sword of Solomon in the past and he's still

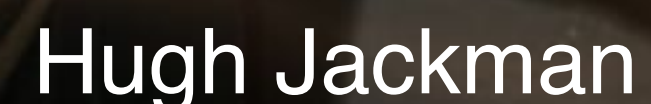
searching for it, somehow tainted by the theft and haunted by the memory. He also fell in love with Rezana, (now the jinni) in the past, and eventually falls in love with her in the present day after returning the Sword to its rightful home. After being blackmailed he sets out to find the Lamp and use it for his own ends — until the beautiful Jinni pops out and he seems to recognize her from a past life.

A portrait of actor Chris Pratt, looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. He has short, dark hair and is wearing a dark shirt.

Chris Pratt

A portrait of actor Dwayne Johnson, looking directly at the camera. He has a shaved head and a goatee, and is wearing a dark shirt.

Dwayne Johnson

A portrait of actor Hugh Jackman, smiling slightly at the camera. He has short, dark hair and a beard, and is wearing a dark shirt.

Hugh Jackman

Rezana

female - 20s - black - latin/hispanic

Rezana: 30s. Gorgeous, dark, smart, and sassy. Arabic, dark, and definitely almost Nubian in appearance. We find out later that she's also funny, a natural mimic, and a bit of a prankster. She's very graceful and walks like a delicate dancer. She was a princess and mistress of Solomon and is thrown into a lamp by Solomon, where she becomes a Mubarakin or good jinni. She falls in love with Jack when he visits Solomon as a servant consort to the Queen of Sheba. Rezana is selfless and kind, torn between her need to be free of the Lamp, giving Jack what he wants, and her love for her former lover, now modern-day Jack reincarnated as a 21st Century adventurer. After spending thousands of years either in the Lamp or servicing lascivious masters, she emerges in modern times and finds her long-lost love Jack doesn't recognize her so she sets out to rekindle their love while fighting off nefarious characters, mainly Belgares, who have set out to use the Lamp for evil purposes.



Halle Berry



Janelle Monáe





Kevin Hart



Jamie Foxx



Tracy Morgan

Nate

male - 40s - black

Nate Bell: African American, 40s, Jack's best pal, former Captain in Army Intelligence. Keeps Jack out of trouble during and after the Gulf war. Hates the Middle East. Nate is loyal and adores Jack but has little time for local Arab customs and niceties. He met Jack when they had a shared interest in astronomy and he'll pick up a telescope any time he can. Has a yet to be admitted, drinking problem. Nate is more practical than Jack by far and, apart from

his drinking problem, is very matter-of-fact about their "business" in the Middle East.

He can't wait to get home to LA and leave the dust behind. In fact, the first thing he does with the Lamp is facetiously wish to get out of Dodge and back to the LA Holmby Hills where the magic takes care of the planning permission for the property as he builds his own palatial Citizen Kane-type Xanadu.

Belgares

Old Beggar Man

male - 50s - latin/hispanic - middle eastern

Ahmed Belgares: 50s. Lost his family during the last Gulf War. Ruthless and driven head of Dubai's Secret Police. Outwardly religious but really led by self-interest. Determined to get the Lamp and use it to destroy America and Israel. Suffers from crippling migraines as a result of depleted uranium weapons in the Gulf war. He disguises himself as an old beggar man to peruse Jack's house and look for the missing keystone to a stela and find the locations of all the hidden Jinnis around the world. He also tries to convince Jack to help him find the Lamp using Jack's code-breaking skills.

Guilt-ridden over not using the Lamp to bring back his family. But he still longs for Rezana like a peevish lover — although he gives her up pretty quickly after she rebuffs him and we don't quite know it but suspect that he forced himself on her when Jack was stuck down in Cape Town in a sack with a snake, a boar, and an ape. He

has no heart. Literally. It was taken away in a past life by Solomon when he tried to blame Jack for stealing into the King's harem and also for purloining the magical Sword of Solomon.

He's secretly working for the US Government to help them find the Lamp and avert a regional war but aims to use it for his own nefarious reasons. He will start his own caliphate and rule the earth once he's found the locations of all the other Jinnis.



Joaquin Phoenix

F. Murray Abraham

Mark Strong



Angela Bassett



Viola Davis



Octavia Spencer

Pearce

female - 40s - black

Edwina Pearce: 40s. Ex-Army and now Defense Intelligence Agency. Hates Jack for dumping her ass and for his love of Arabs. Loathes the Middle East. Loves the military and the DIA. Haunted by the threat of nuclear war in the region, hounded by her superiors to find the Lamp. No scruples and will throw Jack into the Persian Gulf in a sack if he fails his mission. She's smart, sassy, and, after her experience with Jack, seems to have sworn off men but she still has a soft spot for him. Nate, she can't fathom — he's from the street and she grew up the daughter of a wealthy corporate lawyer in Santa Barbara. But she's tougher than nails and can ride pillion on the back of Jack's BMW dirt bike with aplomb, rarely losing her cool as she gets him to do her bidding, partly out of revenge, but mostly through her duty to her country.

Solomon

male - 50s - black -
middle eastern

Solomon: 50s/60s. King of Israel. Pompous, grandiose, spiteful, and powerful. Suborns Rezana into being a mistress/concubine in spite of her high-born status. Wars with Suleyman the king of the Jinn (Jinnis) and forces him and his followers into lamps to live there forever or until the end of time. Solomon's ruthlessness is somewhat offset by his legendary judgement. He doesn't kill Jack and Rezana but, wily as he is, puts one in a lamp and the other in an endless maze knowing God will join them up once more in the future — if he pleases.



Shaun Toub



Abbas Kiarostami

Moccio

male - 40s - black

Moccio: Giant, black, 40-foot Marida jinni (evil, soul-stealing) with a bad attitude not improved by spending 3,000 years in a bottle. Vows to kill whoever eventually sets him free. Sarcastic, blustering, and easily tricked, he nonetheless has great powers of destruction and is charged with guarding the magic cave and letting nothing escape. Moccio is a 3,000-year-old grumpy old man with a stiff back and bad attitude. He's sassy, not too quick on the updraw, and manages to get suckered into jumping back into his bottle and fooled into helping Jack find the Sword of Solomon. He can read minds as long as one of his long fingernails is laid on someone's tiny head. He can travel effortlessly across oceans faster than Rezana and when he finds out he's been crossed is very vindictive.

Lamont Thompson played Moccio in a table reading of my script a few years back and was so brilliant I vowed to use him if I ever sold my screenplay.



Lamont Thompson



Samuel L. Jackson

The Queen of Sheba

Female - 40s - black

The legendary Queen from North Africa, visiting King Solomon to talk trade, gossip, and defense strategies. Enraged when one of her male consorts starts getting it on with one of Solomon's 'concubines' as she sees it. Compassionate but ruthless with enforcing the law when it's revealed that Jack, one of her servants, entered the harem and stole the Sword of Solomon — but at her bidding. He was actually after the Eye of Wisdom in the sword.



Lorraine Toussaint



Debbi Morgan

TEASER

Rescued from the Jinni's cave Jack enjoys dangling nonchalantly from a helicopter which rises higher and higher as it flies over downtown Dubai. And from a boots' eye view looking down, we're 160 stories up the slim top column of the Burj Khalifa.

As Jack starts scaling down the lengthy interior ladder steps he feels a bullet WHISTLING by from an ASSAILANT who is three floors below. Jack holds his knife between his feet and drops straight down like a water tube ride. The knife skewers the shooter, who drops dead instantly and falls, entangling our hero in his rope who immediately starts to fall again. Finally, he pulls up, grabbing a rung opposite an Emirates stewardess pinup posted with some graffiti on the inside of the thin column.

Jack creeps out onto the observation deck but is set upon by Belgares who slams Jack backward with immense force into a window that SMASHES open. Jack clings on, upside down, on the outside of the 159th floor, his bare feet exposed. Tariq begins to beat the soles of Jack's feet with a rod. It's agonizing so Jack hurls himself backward in what looks like a suicide leap but he lands on top of a WINDOW CLEANER without knocking him off. One of Tariq's men, ADNAN, hurls himself after Jack and keeps on falling to his death. Tariq then grabs AKIL and hurls him after Jack too.

Akil, amazingly, lands on Jack and the stunned window cleaner, and the three men start hurtling to the ground as the climbing rope slips under their weight. Akil tries to

knife him with his jambiya and stabs at Jack's face viscously, SCREAMING hysterically, unnerving Jack. Finally, 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 the remaining line. Akil descends to his death with a muffled SCREAM. It looks like Jack and the window cleaner are done for. They drop like stones. It's curtains. But Jack lands in a pool in the outdoor observation deck with a huge splash, sending TOURISTS scattering. He drags the unconscious window cleaner out of the water and drags himself past the HORRIFIED ONLOOKERS to the elevators, bloody and bedraggled.