

The Four Wishes

Summary & Vocabulary

This summary & vocabulary file will help your students to follow the play scene by scene. The chosen sentences/expressions are a useful aid to enable students to follow the plot of the play. They have been picked from the original script and will be used in the different scenes.

The play starts in a very strange shop, where two very shady Sales Assistants – James and Bonnie - operate... A young man called Matt wants to buy a present for his girlfriend Aoife. The only thing he can afford is a strange, old teapot which has a genie inside... But this genie will only appear for those with a brave heart.

- We must sell as many items as possible: objects
- It is eco-friendly and organic: it respects the environment and was made without any pesticides nor chemicals
- A genie who can grant wishes: to make dreams come true

Barry Potter, did you say Barry Potter?

Aoife calls Matt's idea, "Nonsense!" Though, nevertheless she is touched by the good intentions of Matt. She jokes "It's not just as simple to shout "Genie! Genie! Genie!" and the Genie will appear." Or is it? Matt's idea may not be quite "Nonsense" after all, as many surprises await Aoife and Matt.

- She is always complaining: to voice discontent, dissatisfaction
- Why don't you mind your own business: don't interfere, I didn't ask for your opinion, focus on your own life
- They have tricked you both: they have lied to you and you fell for it, to deceive, to mislead
- This teapot is home to a genie: a genie lives in this teapot
- The genie appears to those with a brave heart: courageous people will be the only ones to see the genie

Then, with Aoife and Matt, we will meet Bobby Ready, a nice Genie! Today, he has a special offer: he will give them 4 wishes for the price of 3... Imagine the dreams you could live out for real with those wishes? Their first wish is to get new clothes, so they can go to an excellent restaurant!

- That is bullshit, genies don't exist: it's a lie, it's not true
- It's weird, I didn't imagine a genie like that: it's strange, bizarre, unexpected
- You will be able to break your vows if you don't like them: you will have the opportunity to change your mind, to come back to the initial situation.
- It's a shame: it's a pity, it's regretful (here)
- I'm starving, let's go to the restaurant: I'm extremely hungry
- If only I dared: to be brave enough to do something

Back in our shady shop: Oscar, the Big Boss of the gangsters (because, yes they really are gangsters) realises that his two salesmen have made an unforgivable mistake! They have sold the teapot with the genie inside that he was keeping for his wife Meena; the cruel Meena! He had even found a student with a brave heart to make his plan work! The sales assistants (or gangsters) need to find the teapot, or else...

- Partying is not forbidden: it's not illegal to party, it's acceptable to enjoy oneself
- You won't disappoint me: I won't be dissatisfied, I won't regret your choices
- The boss is madly in love with her: He is very much in love
- He/she is not very appetizing: (s)he doesn't look tasty, yummy, delicious.

Back from the restaurant, Matt and Aoife are dying to ask Bobby Ready to fulfil one more wish, but what? They finally agree on Matt becoming a famous Rock star!

The fame and the glory is great, but they also meet some very sneaky people interested in making money out of Matt's new talent! Robert Posh the nasty artistic agents, paparazzi fearing neither god nor man and Angela Brainless the conscienceless journalist! Help, Bobby Ready, help!!! Of course, the nice genie can fix everything...

- You've always had the dream to please people with your music: to make people happy
- I bet they have sweet moves: I am sure they are good dancers
- We will make it lively by dancing: animated, it will be great fun
- They are a perfect match for each other: They are soul mates, they are made for one another
- A mattress: soft part of our bed we sleep on
- Angelica Brainless, The Sun. I'm here to take some pictures on the spot: The Sun is a daily newspaper. It is one of the most popular tabloids in the UK. Its journalists are mainly interested in celebrities and gossips.
- She is believed to be pregnant and expecting twins: She will have two babies at the same time in a few months.
- They are mad: crazy

We will sadly realise how bad the nasty gangsters are! They are ready to commit all kinds of crimes to get that teapot back. The audience needs to watch out!

- Those fools won't say anything: stupid people
- These scared students are cowards: contrary of brave
- Bang on it: Exactly!
- Hit the road: go away
- We are completely broke: We don't have any money left, we are penniless
- We have nothing to fear: To be afraid of
- Be careful that this money does not bring you misfortune!: bad luck

After experiencing the high life of a Rock star, the young couple is back in the real world and find out how tough it is being penniless again... Could it be their lucky night with a Lottery scratch card? It is easy, cheap, and the jackpot is huge! Yes, that is definitely going to be Aoife's next wish! Bobby Ready has warned her: money cannot buy happiness. How true that is!

They will go from one disappointment to an even bigger disappointment. The situation will turn very awkward!

- Are you sulking, my love?: To show one's anger, disappointment, unhappiness by refusing to talk, to take part in activities,
- Stop throwing tantrums: To show one is angry as a child would: screaming, ...
- Matt, my old buddy/ How are you dude?: familiar synonyms of "friend"
- It may be a little cheesy: out of fashion
- Never mind: It is not important, it's doesn't matter
- I was blind: unable to see

In the last scene, Bobby Ready will go through all the wishes Matt and Aoife had. And this will open their eyes...

And for once, the end seems to be good for the gangsters too. Or at least, it seems to be...

- Happy people can see their happiness ruined: destroyed
- You are the only people to blame: to make reproach to somebody because they're responsible of a difficult situation
- You become a bit wiser: Wise: Mature, experienced; reasonable
- We want to get rid of that damned teapot: we don't want to keep it
- That was rubbish: it was a joke, a lie (here)