

THE 48,000 KM STORY OF A MAN, A WOMAN,
AND AN OLD LONDON TAXI

ALFRED AND JAKOBINE

1x60, 1x81 HD



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During the summer of 1954, Danish artist Jakobine Schou met American merchant seaman Alfred Hobbs in Japan, and the two began an incredible romance. After they married, the couple moved to Casablanca where they discovered an old 1930s London taxi and set out on a journey that would take them around the world in four remarkable years.

Their world tour began with a daring solo crossing of the Sahara Desert and ended with near-celebrity status in Japan. Along the way, they encountered dangerous animals, a tribe of pygmies, swindlers, bandits, and the newly deposed Dalai Lama. For Jakobine it was truly the journey of a lifetime, but for Alfred it was deeper—it had defined him, and he would spend his life seeking another adventure to equal it.

When the couple returned to America to settle down, Alfred began to grow stir crazy until one day he left with little warning. Devastated, Jakobine struggled to put her life back together, but she would never forgive Alfred. After several years of separation, the two reconnected at a party, and Jakobine became pregnant. She gave birth to a baby boy, Niels, who would grow up without Alfred as his father.

Forty years later—nearly half a century after travelling the world—Alfred Hobbs looked out his window at the deteriorated London taxi, a symbol of the adventurer he once was and of the marriage he destroyed. At 84-years-old, Alfred had a plan. With the last bit of money he possessed, and with the help of the son he barely knew, Alfred brought the taxi back to life for a final trip to offer Jakobine one last ride in their beloved old London taxi.

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CREDITS

Producer: Rob Fletcher

Executive Producers: Paul Carlin, Catrin Cooper, Geoff Horton, Adam Partridge, Tom Roberts

Director: Jonathan Howells

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