

# **Ab-ra-ca-dab-ra**

by Honoria Mary Robertson Dick

## **A MELODRAMA**

### **IMPORTANT NOTICE - REGARDING MODIFICATION AND RIGHTS**

No part of this play may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, nor be otherwise circulated in any form other than that in which it is published, without the prior permission.

However - this play gives you the expressed ability and authorization to make alterations, deletions and substitutions to character names, business references and locale in order to have your production more closely match the needs of your playhouse, theatre troop, school or community. Other publishers and authors almost without exception expressly prohibit this right ... we do not. Please note however that all other rights not listed above, including but not limited to the professional, motion picture, radio, television, video, podcast, foreign language, tabloid, recitation, publication, and reading are reserved.

**Copyright © Estate of Honoria Mary Robertson Dick 2023**

**All Rights Reserved**

## **CAST**

<b>SELINA</b>	Selina Truelove
<b>HARRIET</b>	Harriet Truelove
<b>FRED/2<sup>ND</sup> BEDOUIN</b>	Frederick Flash
<b>ALISTAIR</b>	Lord Alistair Gaylord
<b>LALIQUE</b>	Lady Lalique/long lost niece of Harriet
<b>APACHE/BEDOUIN</b>	Comte of France
<b>THREE TURKS</b>	
<b>GENIE</b>	
<b>SHEIK</b>	Horace Truelove
<b>SWEET DREAMS</b>	
<b>SWEET DELIGHT</b>	
<b>PEDLAR</b>	Hava Shuffy
<b>BEY</b>	Bey of Biscay

## **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Honorina Mary Robertson Dick was born in Yorkshire, England but lived much of her adult life in Perth, Western Australia. Honorina read English Literature and Classics at the University of Western Australia and wrote a series of 13 original melodramas in the 1970s-early 2000s. They were performed exclusively by an amateur cast at St Michael's Anglican Church Mt Pleasant and St Christopher's Anglican Church Bicton-Attadale for church fundraising purposes.

It was Honorina's wish that her melodramas be made available for other theatre groups to adapt and perform as required.



**-ACT ONE-**  
**SCENE ONE: Truelove Hall**

**SELINA**

Come into my parlour dear, dear Freddie; she's upstairs so we are quite safe.

**FRED**

I'm always ready to come into the parlour with you my luscious lovely. Why talk when we can spend our time in delightful dalliance?

**SELINA**

Naughty! Naughty! Keep your distance Fred Flash – she'll be coming downstairs at any moment and we must consolidate our plans. Where is the place of assignation?

**FRED**

Marseilles, a week from today. Have you – er – prepared her for the trip?

**SELINA**

Without any trouble! She's so vague. I gave her a preamble about needing a change of air for the sake of my health and that you would deal with all the arrangements such as transport and hotels. Why are you so worried? We've never had any difficulties.

**FRED**

If my idiotic second cousin hadn't made such a watertight will there would never have been any difficulties. (We have to do the deed this time – a perfect opportunity to make a – er – double killing so to speak – ha! Ha! Ha!). Hark! Is she coming?

**SELINA**

Oh! Why here's my dear sister-in-law Harriet. And Harriet, here is your esteemed second cousin, Frederick Flash, come to visit us to confirm the date of our departure for France.

**HARRIET**

(Esteemed fiddlesticks! Flash by name and flasher by nature). Your solicitous attentions continue to amaze me Frederick. However, your visit is most providential. Do either of you realise the import of today's date?

**SELINA**

The date! Oh! Alas! Of course we do – don't we Freddie?

□ □ □

**FRED**

Indeed we do.

**SELINA**

Indeed! Indeed we do! It is, by the terms of my dear unlamented – I mean, dearly lamented – husband's will, the first day of the last week of the period of waiting before his estate is finally settled. Then you, dear Harriet, will be a very wealthy woman indeed.

**FRED**

Indeed you will. (If she lives to enjoy it). Ah! Yes, my dear second cousin Harriet you will be a veritable goldmine, but as a member of the family I must say that your brother, who was also Selina's husband, had maggots in his head when he made that will.

**SELINA**

Dear Fred, so kind, so considerate of my awkward position.

**HARRIET**

What awkward position? (All he's interested in is getting his filthy hands on any part of my brother's goods).

**FRED**

(Some part more than others). I merely wish to see justice done. Selina, my dear second cousin by marriage, will inherit a mere pittance from the estate.

**HARRIET**

You seem to forget the reason why my dear, departed brother Herbert, insisted that five years were to elapse before the estate was settled. He left me merely as guardian of the estate because he was convinced that his little daughter was not forever lost but was, so to speak, merely missing in transit.

**SELINA**

But it is almost twenty years since his daughter disappeared on her way from India to England and no trace of her has been found since the ship was wrecked. She had already been missing for fifteen years when Herbert met me at one of Freddie's musical evenings.

**FRED**

Ah how I remember! It was an organ recital that night and I had planned to play "variations on an original theme" just for you Selina.

**SELINA**

But your second cousin Herbert attended, fell instantly in love with me, married me and – alas! Collapsed on our wedding night.

□ □ □

**FRED**

What a tragedy! But he survived long enough to make his will, and to deprive you of a fortune and leave you almost destitute.

**HARRIET**

Destitute! Selina has a comfortable income, exactly the same as mine. Since dear Herbert passed on I am sure I have looked well after her and this is her home as long as she wishes to stay so she has no household expenses. Indeed on her income I am amazed at the beautiful dresses and knick-knacks she has managed to acquire, she is a wonderful manager.

**SELINA**

I am continually re-making my dresses dear Harriet. I am used to poverty.

**FRED**

Well you can hardly say that Herbert was generous to leave Selina only two thousand pounds a year out of a fortune of half a million.

**SELINA**

Of which you, dear Harriet, will inherit the residue.

**HARRIET**

I shall certainly inherit the residue but I regard it as a trust for which I am responsible throughout my lifetime, and then the money, and the estate, will pass to the next in line.

**SELINA**

That's Freddie, his next in line. Oh Freddie! How rich you will be – I mean when Harriet – I mean some day.

**FRED**

Never let it be said that I covet any part of my dear lamented second cousin's goods. (I want the lot). I am content to wait as long as you live, dear Harriet (just as long as it takes to reach Marseilles).

**SELINA**

You see, Harriet, we want only your eternal happiness!

**HARRIET**

Thank you Selina, and Frederick – so generous. (Fred Flash can't flatter me, he's up to something!). Now if you will excuse me, I must finish packing for our trip to France. Shall we see you again before we leave?

**FRED**

I have a pleasant surprise for you (ha ha ha). I am to accompany you this year. Two ladies travelling without male protection can find themselves in all manner of

□ □ □

difficulties.

**HARRIET**

How delightful! Well I must go – goodbye Frederick, I am sure Selina will accompany you down the garden path.

**FRED**

What a drab creature she is, neither brains nor beauty, not like you my seductive Selina. We shall soon have her completely in our clutches (and once aboard the lugger ha! Ha! Ha! Ha!).

**SELINA**

She is dreary, but she has been kind to me, I don't really like hoaxing her.

**FRED**

Listen my greedy little girl, you were quite happy to use her as a decoy when we first entered this scheme five years ago and you've enjoyed the money it brought you. Just think of your share of all that lovely money.

**SELINA**

You're right and I'm too far in now but until I listened to your blandishments I was a good little girl.

*SONG (Selina): I Was A Good Little Girl 'Til I Met You*

**FRED**

Come! Come! Selina – no recriminations please and don't try any tricks on me. You're too far in to cry quits, my lady, so just do as you're told. Anyway this will be our last transaction. (A consignment in and a consignment out, so to speak). You have such a slender throat my dear!

**SELINA**

It's only nerves Freddie, really. I shall do exactly as I'm told.

**FRED**

I shall meet you both in Marseilles and don't forget the you-know-what. We're in this together sink or swim. Come! Give me a parting kiss my pretty one.

**HARRIET**

I do wish that Selina was not so friendly with Fred Flash. I know he would cut me out of the will if he could, and why do we have to go to France every year? It doesn't make sense! Nor can I see where Selina fits into his schemes. Oh if only I had the benefit of a strong male arm to lean upon. What chance have I had to blossom? Papa deprived me of all male society while he was alive and now it's too late. I suppose I'm past hope – but not too old to dream, not too old to wish.

□ □ □

SONG (*Harriet & Sheik*): *I'm Wishing*

**End Of First Scene**

**-ACT ONE-**

**SCENE TWO: Gay Manor**

**ALISTAIR**

Today is spring, birds on the wing, the flowers are gay and so am I. Lord Alistair Gaylord – poet, peer and possessed of marvellous perception. Now let me see what delights the postman has brought me today. Typewritten addresses – no need to open those – bills for sure. Aha! Pink paper and with the odour of rose petals! This must be from one of the feminine sex! Yes! From my dear friend Lady Scott. No doubt an invitation to dine before the next sitting of Parliament.

Now what can this be? I've seen this handwriting before. Think, Alistair. Set to work your marvellous power of perception. Aha! Aha! My perception tells me it is from... Central Intelligence. What terrible trouble troubles them that they must trouble me?

*Reads:*

The smugglers are at it again. The next shipment will reach Marseilles within the week. We need you and your marvellous perception to apprehend the criminals. Do not fail us. Your old friend M.O.O.

Oh what it is to be famous! I am really the most modest of men continually concealing my marvellous power of perception from the world. None but my colleagues in Intelligence know that I am he, the super-sleuth famous throughout Europe, whose true identity is hidden under the pseudonym of The Juggler. Modesty will not permit me to acknowledge how marvellous I am, in fact I'm just too marvellous for words! You laugh! But my modesty must be obvious to everybody. Now! Now! Alistair, don't get carried away – to plans! I need some assistance to handle this assignment. I must contact my old chums – never name names! – to help me. Where's my trusty tool? Without it I'm helpless. Here it is! When I'm out sleuthing I and my trusty tool are inseparable. Now I, Alistair Gaylord, shall sally forth once more to juggle with destiny.

□ □ □

**-ACT ONE-**  
**SCENE THREE: France – An Estaminet**

**FRED**

I've been trying to get you alone ever since we arrived in Marseilles. It is tonight. We go for a walk now in the early evening, you pretend to feel faint, we go into a bar and – [*Whispers to Selina*]- and whatever you do, don't forget the you-know-what!

**SELINA**

Yes! Yes! Here comes Harriet, let's go now. The you-know-what has been arranged.

Ah! Harriet here is Freddie come to escort us on our walk.

**HARRIET**

We seem to have walked all over Marseilles today. Why don't the two of you go without me.

**FRED & SELINA**

No! No!

**FRED**

Come! Come! Harriet, the exercise is good for you and Selina needs fresh air.

**SELINA**

Besides, we have planned to walk to the harbour where it will be so pleasant to promenade in the cool of the evening.

**HARRIET**

It will soon be dark and the harbour district has a very evil reputation.

**FRED**

You need fear no evil when I am with you, my dear Harriet so take an arm, dear ladies, and let us away.

**ALISTAIR**

Fred the Flasher – now what dirty work is he up to? Can it be that he is one of them? I feel the power of my perception beginning to stir! I'll follow them and when the opportunity arises I'll put my trusty tool to work.

**SELINA**

We have walked for such a long time and I feel quite faint.

□ □ □



**FRED**

You shall rest my dear Selina. I perceive an estaminet where we can sit down and enjoy a glass of wine.

**HARRIET**

A common bar! Really Frederick I am sure it is not quite proper for us to enter such an establishment - and it's so dark inside.

**SELINA**

Don't fuss Harriet – think of my delicate health.

**FRED**

Sit down my dears, I will order wine for us. A little Madeira will be pleasant.

*SONG (Fred & Selina): Have Some Madeira M'Dear*

**HARRIET**

I really don't think I should drink any more, I feel so – so – so odd!

**FRED**

She's slipping fast – where's our contact? This one answers to the description – come Selina we will slip in to the restroom. (Oh lovely money – soon to be mine – all mine). We will await events!

*DANCE (Harriet & Apache): Danse Apache*

**SELINA**

Oh Freddie, you are so clever, won't Harriet be surprised when she wakes up in her bed at the Hotel. Now we can relax, get rid of IT and we're safe.

**FRED**

Selina, give me the you-know-what.

**SELINA**

But I thought you had it.

**FRED**

Oh hell and damnation she still has it and without it we've lost everything. She's already aboard a lugger en route to the slave market in Turkey.

**SELINA**

Slave market! Oh no! Oh no! You said she was only to be drugged. Oh you monster - what have I done?!

**ALISTAIR**

Ah pardon me – do you speak English? I am a lepidopterist – you know, a collector of pretty butterflies and I thought I saw one fly into this bar. Allow me to introduce myself – Lord Alistair Gaylord.

□ □ □

**SELINA**

Turkey oh dear!

**ALISTAIR**

I follow butterflies all around the world and am even now following their migration to Turkey. My ship leaves at midnight so I must hasten – so sorry to have disturbed you.

**FRED**

Doesn't look like a Gaylord to me – pompous idiot – he said Turkey. Hey there – did you say you were sailing to Turkey tonight?

**ALISTAIR**

Aye.

**FRED**

We have - er - mislaid a package which we believe has been sent to Turkey on a lugger that sailed an hour ago. Is your passage on a swift ship?

**ALISTAIR**

The swiftest. Well able to round the golden horn ahead of any lugger.

**FRED**

Much obliged. Come Selina, our plans must be altered.

**SELINA**

I want to go home – oh where are you taking me?

**FRED**

Shut up! Do as you're told and you'll be safe. One false move and – you have such a slender neck my dear!

**ALISTAIR**

Now what package is he after and – where's the other one, a tall female – she shall not escape me. I will pursue her with my trusty tool.

**-ACT ONE-**

**SCENE FOUR: A Street in Marseilles**

**HARRIET**

Oh dear! Oh dearie me! What shall I do? To whom can I turn for help in this wicked city? Oh! Some man is pursuing me – help – oh help! Whatever you be – fish, flesh or good red herring – help a poor feeble female.

□ □ □

**LALIQUE**

Oh madam, cover your shame with my cloak.

**HARRIET**

You don't understand – there is a man following me – he wants to kill me.

**LALIQUE**

Quickly then – bend down so that the cloak covers you – stay close behind me and do not speak.

**ALISTAIR**

Excuse me madam – mademoiselle! (What is happening to me? My marvellous perception is all awry).

**LALIQUE**

Sir! (Oh dear I feel quite faint, as though I was floating in space).

**ALISTAIR**

I – I – I – Mademoiselle – did you observe a tall woman running past you? She was wearing – (how can I mention those unmentionables to this fair flower of innocence?).

**LALIQUE**

I have seen no woman running past me. (Oh how noble, how handsome he is). Why do you pursue her?

**ALISTAIR**

I want to investigate her.

**LALIQUE**

Investigate her! Oh you wicked man – such infamy – away with you.

**ALISTAIR**

You misunderstand my intentions. (Oh that this lovely, lovely, lady should suspect me of dishonourable intentions). The female I pursue was last seen by me in very suspicious circumstances.

**LALIQUE**

Circumstantial evidence is not always a proof of guilt, dear Sir. (Why did I have to meet such a wonderful man in such a woeful manner?).

**HARRIET**

(Oh why do I have to get cramp in my derriere at a moment like this?).

**ALISTAIR**

Dear Lady, forgive my temerity in approaching you without proper introduction, and indeed would not have done so had you not been accompanied by your – er

□ □ □

– maid. I assure you, I am a gentleman. Lord Alistair Gaylord at your service. May I ask the name of her, whom I address?

**LALIQUE**

(I cannot tell him who I am, it could mean his death if it was to become known that he had gazed upon my unveiled face. O cruel fate – to bring me face to face with my heart’s delight, just to meet and then to part). Sir I have no name to give you nor shall we meet again but in remembrance of one sweet moment take from me this token [*a handkerchief*]. Farewell, farewell.

**ALISTAIR**

Dear Lady – leave me not thus! Oh unkind fortune to shower me with fame and riches and to snatch away the reality of the dream of love that I have held hidden in my heart. Sweet token! I vow to find her again, but dereliction of duty destroys happiness and my purest duty is to M.O.O. E-gad! I must hurry or I shall be late for boarding my ship to Turkey. Fred the Flasher shall not flash past me.

**LALIQUE**

And now that Lord Alistair has gone we are safe and I must ask you for an explanation as to why you were running away from him?

**HARRIET**

I have never seen the gentleman before now. I beg you to believe me my dear benefactor. I am running away from my second cousin Fred Flash and my sister-in-law, Selina Truelove. They drugged me and tried to have me abducted. I stand between them and my brother’s fortune, or so they think.

**LALIQUE**

But if you were indeed abducted how come you live?

**HARRIET**

I had not drunk all the drugged wine, I tipped most of it in the spittoon. A tall, rugged, handsome Apache dragged me out of the bar then another man attacked him and I was able to break loose. I seemed to hear a voice saying “run for your life” and I ran – to you. Now I am alone without friends, without money, to help me and I dare not go back to England.

**LALIQUE**

Such infamy! Do not despair, I shall befriend you. I will take you to my Papa, he is both wise and wealthy and he will find some way to help you, but you must do exactly as I tell you. I am (whispers) returning home from my finishing school in Paris. If you will trust me you shall accompany me to my home in Araby. You can be one of my entourage and your real identity will never be suspected.

□ □ □

**HARRIET**

Oh my benefactor – wherever you lead I will follow.

**LALIQUE**

Destiny plays strange tricks, I lose my heart but find a friend – hurry friend.

**-ACT ONE-**

**SCENE FIVE: Aboard The Ship**

**SELINA**

This is quite ridiculous! To be taking me out to Turkey. It's all your fault that the plan was imperfect and that the you-know-what is missing. I won't have any part in your plot to harm Harriet. You are a monster Fred Flash.

**FRED**

Cease your chatter you stupid female! You were happy enough to receive your share of the spoils when all went well. I told you, we're in this together, sink or swim. Don't try crossing me Selina – your usefulness is finished once we find the you-know-what and then we can part company.

**SELINA**

Oh what a fool I've been not to see Harriet's danger. You planned to dispose of her in order to claim Herbert's estate and fortune. O horror, you criminal.

**FRED**

Listen my girl! You have been accessory to my criminal activities for five years, open your mouth and I'll see you go to jail – jail Selina – for the rest of your life.

**SELINA**

I have no choice but to abet you. My greed has ensnared me.

**FRED**

We shall confine ourselves to our cabins, we must not be seen on this ship. (Once we get the you-know-what I'll dispose of her as I did Harriet).

**ALISTAIR**

What a swift voyage we have had. I feel my marvellous power of perception beginning to work. I must contact my contacts! I shall follow the motley crowd I see heading for the market place of Constantinople.

*SONG (Men's chorus with girls: Istanbul Not Constantinople)*

□ □□ □

**-ACT ONE-**  
**SCENE SIX: Constantinople**

**MEN**

Infidel! Infidel! Infidel!

**ALISTAIR**

Oh what has happened to my marvellous perception? I forgot my disguise, now I must run for my life.

**LALIQUE**

Who comes near and in such haste? Lord Alistair pursued by Turks. They will kill him if he is caught. How can I help him? O Papa! forgive your undutiful daughter for letting her heart rule her head but I love him!

Sir - this cloak will conceal you, it will disguise you as a pilgrim - see there is a garden nearby – follow me – you are safe now.

**ALISTAIR**

Oh I am quite exhausted but you have saved my life and I am indebted.

**LALIQUE**

How came you hither?

**ALISTAIR**

I came to Turkey to pursue a villain named Fred Flash and his female accomplice, they are suspected smugglers. I have been somewhat disturbed lately – in fact ever since Marseilles, my marvellous perception has been all awry.

**LALIQUE**

Marseilles – in France? What happened to disturb you so?

**ALISTAIR**

I owe you some explanation. I cannot tell you my name but I have told you why I am here. In pursuit of my query in Marseilles I met a beautiful girl and such was her effect on me that until now – how strange – I have not been thinking very clearly because I cannot get her out of my mind (or heart).

**LALIQUE**

(Oh dear how could I but tell you that I am she). Sir your story is a strange one.

**ALISTAIR**

I must put her out of my mind until this assignment is completed for not only my

□ □ □

own life is at stake but that of my comrades – I name no names. I must do my duty. I owe my life to you, may I know to whom I speak?

**LALIQUE**

In this country it is not safe to approach an unaccompanied female – you must go while you are safe.

**ALISTAIR**

Your devoted servant madam – I must take out my trusty tool and depart. Farewell.

**LALIQUE**

Oh sweet destiny – to have spoken once more with my love. My joy fills this garden. Everything is so beautiful here, I feel as though I have wings – as though I am suspended in space.

*Song: Stranger In Paradise*

**GENIE**

Be true to your love, Lady, for truth and love are potent weapons.

**LALIQUE**

What a strange dream! And dreams are all that I can keep of Alistair. The caravan is waiting to escort me to my father in Araby, once there what hope have I of ever again seeing my love? Farewell dear heart, I will be forever true. Now I must try to help Harriet, if Fred Flash is here she is in danger but will be safe in Araby where my papa is law.

**FRED**

You stupid female – don't you know any better than to ogle a Turk – we shall be lucky to get out of Constantinople alive.

**SELINA**

I wasn't ogling him, I merely smiled when he said I was like a piece of Turkish delight. Stop shaking me. You inveigled me into this business by telling me lies and I won't be ordered around as though I was a slave – do this – do that. You need me Fred Flash, without me you'll have trouble getting the you-know-what.

**FRED**

Be careful my dear – remember, you are wholly in my power and keep your silly mouth shut unless I ask for your opinion – hush!

*Men's voices – Turks*

If you value your life don't breathe – believe me Selina I am in earnest. Here, hide behind the bushes and don't move or we're done for.

□ □□ □

**1<sup>ST</sup> TURK**

The Bey is assembling a caravan to travel to Araby. There is a female daughter of the great Sheik that the Bey wants to possess. All offers of marriage have so far been refused by the Sheik.

**2<sup>ND</sup> TURK**

Aye! And she is no longer a young maid having more than twenty summers.

**3<sup>RD</sup> TURK**

An old woman – but with a dowry of fabulous wealth.

**1<sup>ST</sup> TURK**

She has been sought by Princes from many countries – her last suitor was a Prince of Russia.

**2<sup>ND</sup> TURK**

Russia – ha! A Turk cannot be compared to a Russian. A Turk will always succeed when a Russian has failed. Do you remember Abdul?

**3<sup>RD</sup> TURK**

The famous Abdul. Abdul Abulbul Amir.

*SONG (Men's chorus): Abdul Abulbul Amir*

*A sneeze is heard*

**1<sup>ST</sup> TURK**

What's that – eavesdroppers!

**2<sup>ND</sup> TURK**

Infidels and one a female.

**FRED**

Take your hands off me you scum.

**SELINA**

Fred! Fred! Help me.

**FRED**

Help yourself – I'm saving Fred Flash ha! Ha! Ha!

**3<sup>RD</sup> TURK**

He has escaped for the moment. Let's have a look at her.

**1<sup>ST</sup> TURK**

Too old for the harem but her skin is fair and such slaves are rare.

**2<sup>ND</sup> TURK**

She will bring a good price – her age will not matter if some wealthy trader should

□ □ □



fancy a pretty plaything.

**3<sup>RD</sup> TURK**

Wait! She would make a handsome gift for a Sheik. I say we take her with us if we can't sell her at a market between here and Araby we can suggest to the Bey that he buys her for the Sheik.

**1<sup>ST</sup> TURK**

I will have my wife buy suitable clothes for her and attend her on our way.

**2<sup>ND</sup> TURK**

Chain her in case she escapes. Listen! The caravans are assembling - some have already departed – we leave at dawn.

*SONG: Caravan*

**-END OF ACT ONE-**

□ □□ □

**-ACT TWO-**  
**Araby**

**HARRIET**

If the village glee club could see me now every man in it would sing off key. If it wasn't that I know Lalique to be real I'd swear I was dreaming. What a glorious adventure! If only – ah well – even dreams are not always perfect.

**LALIQUE**

Harriet! You are lovely, a flower that has blossomed in the desert, you are a dish of Rahat Loukoum.

**HARRIET**

A dish of what?

**LALIQUE**

Rahat Loukoum – it is the name of the most tantalising of oriental sweetmeats, of flavour unsurpassed, both sweet and spicy. It delights the eye, assails the senses with its fragrance and never jades the appetite because of the perfect blending of ingredients. You will learn much about it during your stay in Araby.

**HARRIET**

Do I hear a little tinkle?

**LALIQUE**

It is the bells on the horses of the Sheik's escort.

*Claps*

Sweet Dreams and Sweet Delight our master approaches – you will wish to greet him. Come Harriet, I will await Papa in my own serai – my own appartement.

**DREAMS & DELIGHT**

Welcome oh great Sheik – we prostrate ourselves at your feet.

*SONG: The Sheik Of Araby*

**SHEIK**

I am the mighty Sheik of Araby, I rule this land with an arm of steel and a heart of gold. Arise my jewels! My Sweet Dreams, my Sweet Delight. I can never have enough of your lovely company. Where is my daughter?

**DREAMS & DELIGHT**

The Lady Lalique awaits your presence O ye of excellent wisdom.

**LALIQUE**

Papa! I must speak with you in private –

□ □ □

**SHEIK**

And so you shall my treasure, but not until morning. See the caravans are already arriving and I have official duties to perform.

**LALIQUE**

Papa please!

**SHEIK**

I can refuse you nothing my love – let it be within the next hour – I will come to you, I promise.

**LALIQUE**

Harriet! My papa has arrived and will return shortly, I know that he will help you for my sake. Besides, he is always ready to assist a pretty damsel.

**HARRIET**

Me pretty! Oh no – but I do look rather –

**LALIQUE**

Enticing!

**HARRIET**

It is all your doing. Oh Laliq! He wouldn't, he won't, I will not be put in his harem? My life may have been dreary but I'd rather keep my dreams than end up as just another dish of what y'ma call it.

**DREAMS & DELIGHT**

Lady, Lady, the caravans are arriving, tonight the bazaar will be humming with news and there will be entertainers and pedlars. May we go Lady?

**LALIQUE**

Of course you may go – you shall take Harriet with you. I wish I could go with you.

**HARRIET**

Why cannot you go?

**DREAMS**

Because it is death – or worse for any man who sees the unveiled face of the Sheik's daughter.

**HARRIET**

Or worse!

**DELIGHT**

Worse! - A fate worse than death, but Lady! There is news of a famous juggler coming from Turkey with the caravans of the Bey, they say his dexterity is

□ □□ □

miraculous.

**LALIQUE**

Oh! How wonderful, juggling is my favourite entertainment – oh how can I see him?

**DREAMS**

Lady! There is a way. If we are all veiled when we leave the Eunuch will merely count heads. Provided that you are not too richly garbed he will not distinguish you.

**HARRIET**

Say yes! I know that this is all a dream and that I shall wake up to my old humdrum existence, but while I'm dreaming I want to taste the wine of life, I'll cope with the headache later. Listen!

**PEDLAR's VOICE**

Baubles, bangles, beads, come and buy. Lovely trinkets for your adornment, come and buy.

**LALIQUE**

There is danger in the plan but I want to go so very much. Papa will be busy with foreign emissaries tonight and there will be a full moon. I will go but you must all stay very close to me and if anyone should question us you must say that we are a troupe of dancing girls. (Oh Alistair where are you now? Shall we ever meet again?). There will be such beautiful things to buy, silks, perfumes –

**PEDLAR's VOICE**

Baubles, bangles, beads, silks, perfumes, Rahat Loukoum, come and buy, baubles...

*SONG: Baubles Bangles Beads*

*Enter Sheik*

**HARRIET**

(Impossible – I must be dreaming!)

**LALIQUE**

Papa! This is Miss Harriet Truelove, it is about her that I wanted to speak to you. I rescued her from a fate worse than death when I found her in Marseilles and I have brought her here so that you can hear her story and decide how best we can help her. Meanwhile I crave your protection and hospitality for her O Sheik.

**HARRIET**

Greetings to you, O Sheik! (Destiny has brought me to him!).

□ □ □

**SHEIK**

Welcome to Araby sweet lady. (It is she – out of all the women in the world to come to Araby. I must continue to see her alone). Forget your troubles lady, as soon as I am free you shall have a private audience with me. Tonight I have urgent official duties but Laliqie shall care for you, and for her safety let it be known that she is a new member of my harem. Leave me now.

**HARRIET**

(I must guard my tongue until I have spoken with him).

**SHEIK**

O what a tangled web we weave when first we practice to deceive. How often have I dreamed of her – but to meet her here in Araby! I must think on this.

**LALIQUE**

Papa has gone. I knew he would help you Harriet, in fact I cannot remember him ever before being so impressed by anyone. See! The moon is climbing high in the night sky – now is our opportunity to steal away to the bazaar. Come Sweet Dreams and Sweet Delight let us find this famous juggler.

*SONG: Persian Market*

**BEDOUIN**

Move you bow-legged quadruped – move you misinformed, misbegotten malingerer.

**1<sup>st</sup> TURK**

By Allah that flea-ridden son of a she camel was spurned by the devil, its back legs follow a different direction to its front legs.

**2<sup>ND</sup> TURK**

Get away from me you bag of bones. The cursed animal must be cross-eyed. Let us hurry to the slave market with this infidel woman.

**SELINA**

Don't you dare touch me you smelly infidel.

**BEY**

Who is this woman? An infidel in my caravan – by Allah someone's head will roll when I am answered.

**1<sup>ST</sup> TURK**

O Great Bey of Biscay O, we captured her in Constantinople and intend to sell her here in the slave market.

□ □ □

**SELINA**

I'm no slave. I am a lady you fool. I demand to be set free.

**BEY**

Silence slave! You are my property to do with as I please. You fools – there is no slave market in Araby, the Sheik forbids it.

**3<sup>rd</sup> TURK**

Allah! His Excellency why not buy her yourself. An infidel slave will make a rare gift for the Sheik.

**1<sup>ST</sup> TURK**

And her price is very cheap Excellency.

**BEY**

Cheap! What price can be less than nothing and that is my payment to you.

**SELINA**

I won't be bartered around like a bag of beans.

**BEY**

Truly the greatest gift to any man is a silent woman, and if I pluck out your tongue you will be silenced. Take her away to await my further commands.

**PEDLAR**

Bangles, baubles, beads, all the perfumes of Arabia, lamp wicks, oil, pretty postcards, naughty ladies, filthy pictures – you want – I got –

**ALISTAIR**

Ye dirty old man. What news Hava Shuffy?

**PEDLAR**

Greetings Ali Oop (the caravans have all arrived, that of the Turkish Bey carried strange cargo and, there are two Bedouins in the city). Bangles baubles, beads, pretty pictures, naughty ladies, filthy postcards – any offers – any offers?

**2<sup>ND</sup> TURK**

Hi there juggler – perform for us.

**ALISTAIR**

I don't know your name but your fez is familiar.

**2<sup>ND</sup> BEDOUIN (FRED)**

Do ye come from Turkey?

**3<sup>RD</sup> TURK**

Ay – he is the most marvellous juggler – never drops a ball.

□ □□ □

**ALISTAIR**

Step up! Step up! And see a performance that has dazzled the crowned heads of all the world. My feats of dexterity with my little balls will astound ye. Up they go! The quickness of the hand deceives the eye!

**1<sup>ST</sup> TURK**

Tell us, oh ye whose magical balls bewilder us, before what famous kings have ye performed.

**ALISTAIR**

O King this! And King that! Too many to remember.

**PEDLAR**

A boaster must make good his boast. At which court did ye last perform?

**ALISTAIR**

Why – er – um – at the court of a most famous king. Er – that – er – famous monarch – er – er – Old King Cole.

**BEDOUIN**

And did he shower you with praises Ali Oop?

**ALISTAIR**

My modesty which must be obvious to everyone, prevents me from telling ye all of his praises. Let it suffice that whenever he needed entertainment he sent for his jugglers three, and I am the best of them all.

*Tosses balls in the air*

None can compare with me.

**2<sup>ND</sup> BEDOUIN (FRED)**

Ye said ye came from Turkey, have ye come with this caravan?

**ALISTAIR**

Yes! And yes! (What a streak of a Sheik!).

**2<sup>ND</sup> BEDOUIN (FRED)**

There are backshush for ye if thou can't tell me ought of two infidel women.

**ALISTAIR**

(My marvellous perception is all agog!). Such information could be dangerous, who art thou? (Jumping Jehoshaphat! This ain't a Bedouin – it's a spy of some sort).

**2<sup>ND</sup> BEDOUIN (FRED)**

I am a Bedouin Sheik known as... The Scarlet Runner – speak juggler.

□ □□ □

**ALISTAIR**

(You can tell he's going to end up as a "has been"). Ah! Exalted Sir, I know of one individual female, slave to the Bey of Biscay O, they name her Selina. (He said two women – my marvellous perception is running riot – who could have guessed that this Arab is my old enemy, Fred the Flasher).

**2<sup>ND</sup> BEDOUIN (FRED)**

(Selina here – but where's Harriet? – where's the you-know-what? Now what?) Is that all you can tell me juggler?

**ALISTAIR**

It is! (old bean!).

**BEDOUIN**

The Bey has come to sue for the land of the Lady Lalique and tomorrow night the Sheik gives a great reception to which all the Chiefs are invited. Will ye accompany me O brother Bedouin?

**2<sup>ND</sup> BEDOUIN (FRED)**

(Selina would be lodged in the palace with the Bey's entourage – I have to see her and this invitation will give me entry to the palace!). I thank ye for your company O Sheik.

**PEDLAR**

Baubles, bangles, beads, lamp wicks (here comes the Bey of Biscay) sleeping pills, aphrodisiacs, filthy postcards all for a few backshush.

**BEY**

I have heard much of your famous tricks O juggler of balls and it is my command that ye attend the great reception tomorrow night to perform for the Sheik and his guests.

**ALISTAIR**

I obey, O Bey! (Fred the Flasher expects both females to be here and I know that one of them is already in the palace. Where's my trusty tool – I must keep it at the ready for any eventuality, a rusty tool is not a trusty tool!).

**PEDLAR**

O bounteous breeze to blow these buxom blossoms into the market place! Ye must be hours from paradise. See my wares – all the perfumes of Arabia to anoint your loveliness.

**HARRIET**

We come to see the famous juggler.

□ □ □



**LADIES**

A trick! A trick! O juggler.

**LALIQUE**

We want to see your marvellous dexterity.

**ALISTAIR**

What! Here in the market place! Ah! Beautiful ladies, for you I have a special performance. Pay attention and see what my little serpent can do.

*Snake Music*

See how he dances, just for ye.

**PEDLAR**

He can outdance Salome – see how he curves and sways.

**BEDOUIN**

A dancing serpent is no substitute for Salome.

**PEDLAR**

Are ye not a troupe of dancing girls?

**SWEET DREAMS**

Yes! Yes!

**SWEET DELIGHT**

We are to perform for the Sheik of Araby.

**PEDLAR**

You want – I got! Is it too much to ask you to display your talent? I mean, to dance for us? Come my pretties, emulate this serpent and slide into some sensuous steps.

*SONG & DANCE: Salome*

**BEDOUIN**

Now here's a pretty plaything.

**LALIQUE**

Touch her not – she belongs to the Sheik of Araby. Come ladies, the hour grows late.

**ALISTAIR**

(E-gad! My marvellous perception is no longer awry. That is no Arabian woman but she belongs to the Sheik – think, Alistair think! Oh how can I keep my mind on my duty when my heart keeps straying to my mysterious lady).

□ □□ □

**PEDLAR**

Hi! Ali Oop – wake up, there are people coming to see ye perform.

**ALISTAIR**

Roll up – roll up – the quickness of the hand deceives the eye.

**LALIQUE'S APPARTEMENT IN THE PALACE**

**LALIQUE**

What an adventure, and you see Harriet you are attractive. When that tall Bedouin approached you I thought he would sweep you into his arms but I don't think anyone saw your face.

Oh Papa! I didn't see you enter.

**SHEIK**

I told you I would return and here I am. The great Bey of Biscay O has come to sue for your hand in marriage, he brings rich gifts and craves your consideration of his suit.

**LALIQUE**

Papa! I can't marry anyone I don't love and all his gold cannot buy my affection. You promised, you promised I wouldn't have to marry anyone I couldn't love.

**SHEIK**

But you haven't even seen the Bey. Come Lalique, you must meet him before you pass judgement. You must listen to his proposal and remember he is our guest. I have promised that you shall not be compelled to marry unless of your own choosing.

**LALIQUE**

I will listen to him but I won't marry him, I won't, I won't.

*Exit Lalique*

**SHEIK**

Sweet Dreams and Sweet Delight leave us, I wish to speak to this lady, alone.

**HARRIET**

Oh! My own dear love, how I have pined for news of you. Why did you not write to me dearest?

**SHEIK**

My sweet Harriet, lower your voice. How came you here and with Lalique? Tell me all as briefly as possible.

**HARRIET**

Twenty three years ago Herbert's wife of only one year of marriage expired after

□ □ □

giving birth to a little daughter. Herbert later returned to England leaving the child, now a toddler, to follow him home from India in the care of her nurse. The ship on which they travelled was lost at sea, no survivors were ever found. Fifteen years later Herbert met, and married, a much younger woman – Selina – and alas! Collapsed on their wedding night. He survived long enough to make a new will leaving her a comfortable income with the bulk of his fortune to be mine if, after a further five years, no trace was found of a nearer relative. Selina fell under the influence of Frederick Flash – exactly!– a most unscrupulous man. In Marseilles on holiday, they drugged me and tried to have me abducted, thereby leaving Frederick as sole claimant to Herbert’s estate. Lalique found me as I was running away from them and here I am. Oh my darling for the sake of what we once meant to each other please help me.

**SHEIK**

You have all my devotion my dearest. This dastardly debaucher shall be denounced! I’ll have him carved into bite-size meat cubes and fed to wild dogs, I’ll annihilate him. Don’t be frightened Harriet, I will protect you. Just stay in Lalique’s care. Harriet, do you know what it is that troubles my Lalique?

**HARRIET**

No my love – but she seems sad at times.

**SHEIK**

I must find her. Sweet sleep Harriet – give me a kiss for old time’s sake. Come, I will take you to your quarters.

**2<sup>ND</sup> BEDOUIN (FRED)**

Selina ah ah ah – Selina ah ah ah – Selina ah ah ah.

**THE MARKETPLACE**

**ALISTAIR**

My perception is never wrong, it always rises to the occasion when it’s needed. I knew if I waited that Fred Flash would make a move to find his accomplices.

**2<sup>ND</sup> BEDOUIN (FRED)**

Selina ah ah ah.

**ALISTAIR**

Ah ah ah. Ah ah ah.

**2<sup>ND</sup> BEDOUIN (FRED)**

These alleys are full of echoes.

□ □ □

**SELINA**

Freddie, oh Freddie, I'm over here, chained to the gate post.

**2<sup>ND</sup> BEDOUIN (FRED)**

Selina – don't scream you nit wit – it's me, in disguise. Listen Selina, you are being presented as a gift to the Sheik of Araby and will be taken to the palace tomorrow night. I shall be there as a Bedouin Sheik. Inside the palace is Harriet.

**SELINA**

Harriet – you're mad, how could she be here?

**2<sup>ND</sup> BEDOUIN (FRED)**

I don't know – perhaps sold in the slave market, but with us both inside the palace we can search for the you-know-what.

**SELINA**

You ran away and left me to my fate. You betrayed me.

**2<sup>ND</sup> BEDOUIN (FRED)**

Betrayed you – never! How could I have found you and helped you to escape if I had not been free (I need her help but once I get the you-know-what – ha! Ha! Ha!). I have to go, if I'm found here we are both done for. Just be on the alert tomorrow night.

**ALISTAIR**

So he did glimpse the face of the dancing girl – what did he call her? – Harriet. But if they don't want her to know their plans it means that she is innocent. I must reconstruct the crime. Now what is the you-know-what? Until I have done my duty and apprehended these criminals my love must wait. No lady of character would want to marry a man who neglected his duty. But wherever she is, I shall search until I find her. I've written a love poem for her, if only I could read it to her. Oh dear, I do feel queer, I've got lights whirling in front of me. I'd better get some sleep.

**GENIE**

You cannot see or hear me, but I promise that she whom you love shall hear your poem.

**THE PALACE**

**LALIQUE**

It is such a beautiful night, a night for lovers – oh Alistair, where are you?

**SHEIK**

Lalique! Why are you alone?

□ □ □

**LALIQUE**

Papa! I came out to enjoy the cool night air. Oh Papa! I have to tell you – I'm in love. When I rescued Harriet in Marseilles I gave her my cloak and my face was unveiled. The young man pursuing Harriet spoke to me and...

**SHEIK**

A strange man saw your face? I'll stifle his trifle. Who was he?

**LALIQUE**

No! No! Papa! I was wearing my European clothes and we exchanged the merest commonplaces. I met him again in Constantinople but I was veiled and he didn't recognise me. He was fleeing from some terrible Turks and I gave him my cloak as a disguise. He is an English gentleman Papa, but he is some sort of official, his name is Alistair Gaylord and since I met him my heart belongs to him forever. I know I shall never see him again but I cannot love another man now.

**SHEIK**

(An Englishman – here's a pretty kettle of fish). Always, I have tried to give you what your heart desires my treasure and if he can be found I shall find him. But first we must entertain the Bey. I want you and the Harem to sing and dance for him at the feast tomorrow night. Goodnight my child. Rest awhile in the cool of the garden and let your troubles drift away like rose petals.

**LALIQUE**

When I had my dream in the beautiful garden the Genie told me to be true to my love and I will be, but how shall I find my love? Where is he now?

**GENIE**

Your love is nearer to you than you imagine.

**LALIQUE**

O Genie from the garden of dreams, do you really know where my love is? Perhaps he has forgotten me? I know my own heart but I do not know his.

**GENIE**

I know his heart. Tell me of your beloved and I will reply for him.

*SONG: AND THIS IS MY BELOVED*

**GENIE**

Be true to your love. Believe me, true love is your strongest weapon and your greatest defence. Salaam Lalique!

**SWEET DREAMS & SWEET DELIGHT**

Lady Lalique the night is almost sped and it is time to rest.



## **THE PALACE FEAST**

### **SHEIK**

Now let our merriment commence. I see the guests approaching. Greetings O Great Bey of Biscay O. Welcome to the feast.

### **BEY**

Allah be with ye. Accept from me the gift of an individual slave.

### **SELINA**

You're the infidel! I'm not a slave, I am a traveller taken captive in Turkey and my name is Selina Truelove. I demand to be set free.

### **BEY**

I advise the plucking out of her tongue O Sheik, for truly her chatter never ceases.

### **SHEIK**

Pearls of wisdom drop from your lips O Bey! (This is the sister-in-law, I must warn Harriet). Woman! Before craving a boon you must merit it. Learn to please me. If you can dance and otherwise entertain me I will at least spare your tongue.

### **BEY**

And for your further entertainment, the famous juggler Ali Oop and his assistant, the pedlar, Hava Shuffy.

### **ALISTAIR**

Salaam O Sheik! (They're a bit too ready with the knife for my liking).

### **BEDOUIN**

Sheik of the Riff-Raffs at your command, and a fellow Bedouin – the Scarlet Runner.

### **SHEIK**

Welcome to all of ye. Call hither my daughter and her ladies.

### **HARRIET**

Lalique, if Selina is here – and it is her – Fred Flash can't be far away.

### **LALIQUE**

Stop worrying Harriet, Papa will protect you. Look at the Bey – how could I give him distaste of me? I have to be careful not to offend him but yet make him dislike me.

### **SHEIK**

Lalique, ye and your ladies shall dance for our pleasure and this slave shall dance for her tongue.

□ □ □

**BEY**

Oh! She is enchanting, so obedient, I demand obedience from all my wives.

**LALIQUE**

Obedient – to him? I'll curb his ardour, there will be an opportunity later when I sing for him. He'll find that there is more than sugar and syrup in me.

**SHEIK**

Come hither juggler, I have heard much of your skill and wish to see ye perform.

**ALISTAIR**

Up they go, to and fro, dancing in the air, dancing here, dancing there, dancing, dancing everywhere.

**LALIQUE**

(My token, my token, he wears my token. Is he some thief that has stolen it from my love? His voice! That face without the foliage. It is he, my love, Alistair. Oh! If the Bey should suspect! I shudder to think of the punishment, death or worse. I must keep silent and be alert to any danger threatening him. Harriet! Oh dear can he possibly suspect her identity?)

**SHEIK**

But juggler, you juggle with only two balls.

**ALISTAIR**

Aye Oh Sheik, that is what makes me famous. But later, at your command I have a new trick never before performed.

**2<sup>nd</sup> BEDOUIN (FRED)**

Juggler! Why does that name cause me to tremble? Can it be he, the famous sleuth? I must search the palace, I must find the you-know-what.

**SHEIK**

Lalique my jewel, will ye not sing for the Great Bey?

**LALIQUE**

Indeed O Mighty One. (I'll shatter his serenity – pompous idiot). I will sing of the sweet Rahat Loukoum but as it is only right that the Bey should see the face of her to whom he proposes I ask that all but he and three depart during my song.

*Unveil*

**2<sup>ND</sup> BEDOUIN (FRED)**

I'll grasp this opportunity to search the palace.

**ALISTAIR**

I'll hide and watch the ladies. Hava Shuffy, you follow Fred the Flasher.

□ □□ □

**PEDLAR**

Ye know Ali Oop if ye are caught it's death, or worse, they're very handy with the knife.

**ALISTAIR**

Ye can't mean?

**PEDLAR**

I do!

**ALISTAIR**

Oh! The unkindest out of all. My perception would never operate again. I'll follow Fred – you guard the exit.

*SONG: Rahat Loukoum*

**BEY**

Oh I am ravished, I mean ravished! What fire under the ice.

**LALIQUE**

Oh I am undone!

*Re-veil*

**SHEIK**

Where is the juggler? We will see his special performance. Call back the guests.

**ALISTAIR**

I have, O Sheik, a rare gift of marvellous perception.

**2<sup>ND</sup> BEDOUIN (FRED)**

I've looked in every Persian pot in the palace – it's not there. I've got to get hold of Harriet and then, my clever second cousin, I'll choke out of you the whereabouts of the you-know-what.

**ALISTAIR**

I am possessed of a crystal ball wherein I can see marvellous things. Look ye! I see a woman locked in the embrace of a tall, rugged, handsome man – a crossing of water and a... what is it? The glass is clouding but it looks like a pink cushion tied around a lady. On that is written – Death! I see nothing more, my perception is paralysed. (Now we will see some action!).

**HARRIET**

A pink cushion – every year Selina insisted! A bustle – my bustle.

**2<sup>ND</sup> BEDOUIN (FRED) & SELINA**

He knows, I have to get the you-know-what before...

□ □ □



**SHEIK**

(Harriet, I heard you). Guards, do not let anyone depart. Sweet Dreams - bring this lady's bustle to me.

**ALISTAIR**

I hope my friends – I name no names – are on the alert.

**HARRIET**

Here is my bustle O Sheik – quite harmless and of no other use than to warm my – of no use whatsoever.

**SHEIK**

You are wrong, what is this package concealed in your bustle?

**HARRIET**

Concealed in my bustle?

**SHEIK**

It is gold dust worth a King's ransom.

**HARRIET**

To think that all this time I've been sitting on a fortune.

**2<sup>nd</sup> BEDOUIN (FRED)**

That gold dust belongs to me, it was stolen from me by these two women in Constantinople. They lured me to their – ahem – abode, and while I slept they robbed me.

**ALISTAIR**

He lies – he is the very father of lies. He and his accomplices have been smuggling gold through France for over five years. I am a British agent sent to apprehend them.

**SELINA**

Oh no! Not smuggling, merely acting as carriers!

**HARRIET**

I always knew that Fred Flash was involved in furtive fiddling.

**SHEIK**

Silence! We shall try the villain – he claims the gold, ergo, he is guilty.

**BEY**

O wise Sheik – pronounce the sentence, I have need of a new eunuch.

**2<sup>ND</sup> BEDOUIN (FRED)**

I can prove that I am not guilty.

□ □ □

**ALISTAIR**

And I say that he is and that he must face British justice. (These Arabian Knights do get carried away).

**SWEET DREAMS & SWEET DELIGHT**

Look! Look! The juggler is wearing a handkerchief belonging to Lady Lalique, he is a thief.

**ALISTAIR**

I'm not a thief, I told you, I'm a British agent and I don't know any Lady what ya ma call it. This handkerchief was given to me by the lady I love and shall forever seek, a French lady I met in Marseilles.

**SHEIK**

A French lady! (Could it be?). Did ye see her face?

**ALISTAIR**

Of course I did, I looked into her lovely eyes and gave her my heart.

**SHEIK**

Lalique, and my ladies, remove your veils, let all gaze upon your loveliness.

**ALISTAIR**

My love, oh rose of my delight, at least we meet again.

**SHEIK**

Stay! The penalty for gazing upon the face of Lady Lalique is death, or worse, for any but her chosen husband.

**BEY**

I claim forfeit from this juggler who has gazed upon the face of my future wife.

**ALISTAIR**

Is this what is known as being on the horns of a dilemma?

**LALIQUE**

No! No! What can I do to save him?

**BEY**

Marry me.

**SHEIK**

Are ye willing to spare the juggler in exchange for my daughter's hand in marriage?

**BEY**

Aye!

□ □ □

**SHEIK**

Lalique come here. The deal is made. I give ye to the Bey but only if he agrees to permit you to practice your Christian faith.

**BEY**

A Christian! An infidel! As my wife – never!

**SHEIK**

Then renounce your claim and depart. This child is not mine. I found her wandering alone on the seashore some twenty years ago, around her neck was a golden crucifix and in her little hands she held a bottle of great antiquity. I adopted her and had her educated in France by those of the Christian religion.

**BEY**

I renounce all claim, I desire neither infidel nor one who is of unknown origin.

**2<sup>ND</sup> BEDOUIN (FRED)**

O! Cease this idle chatter! I am Frederick Flash and this female stands between me and my rightful fortune, quite apart from the gold, I am the true male heir of Herbert Truelove.

**SHEIK**

Rightful fortune! True heir! Oh no my flash friend, there is one who has better right than thee. I am the true male heir. Other than Harriet and the lost child I inherit the loot. I, am Horace Truelove, twin brother to Harriet and banished for a misdemeanour committed by your father. Papa would not listen to me. I was sent to the colonies but, jumped ship at Suez and took service with the Shah, prospered and became the great Sheik of Araby. Seize him and that slave.

**ALISTAIR**

My case is solved, my marvellous perception is astonishing. Lady I owe my life to thee. How can I repay you?!

**LALIQUE**

You have robbed me of my suitor therefore ye must repay me by taking my hand in marriage.

**ALISTAIR**

My love, my love! O Sheik, I claim this flawless jewel.

**LALIQUE**

Not flawless dear heart, alas I do have a flaw... it is only a birthmark shaped like a heart.

**HARRIET**

A birthmark, a heart? Herbert's child has such a mark in the centre of her back.

□ □□ □

**SHEIK**

And so has Lalique, I had forgotten all about it.

**HARRIET**

Horace – Lalique is our long lost niece, Herbert's daughter, heir to the Truelove fortune.

**SELINA & 2<sup>ND</sup> BEDOUIN (FRED)**

Foiled! Foiled! Twice foiled.

**SHEIK**

I have thought how best to punish ye for the fear and sorrow ye have brought upon my beloved twin sister Harriet. Lord Alistair can claim you but an open scandal will bring dishonour to our family. Therefore as I am the authority in Araby I sentence you... to be married one to the other and be put aboard a lugger bound for America.

**SELINA**

Your flashing days are over dear Freddie. (I have always loved him).

**2<sup>ND</sup> BEDOUIN (FRED)**

Dear Selina (once aboard the lugger – ha ha ha).

**HARRIET**

O Horace you don't know how wonderful it is to have a strong, male arm to lean upon. Let me stay with you, I have been so lonely sitting on the shelf.

**BEDOUIN**

Ye shall never again be lonely. O Sheik I beg the hand in marriage of this exotic flavour. I had long perceived the treasure beneath the drab exterior she once wore.

**HARRIET**

Exotic flavour! And I always considered myself as nothing better than a dandelion – but a Bedouin!

**BEDOUIN**

Nay! A Comte of France and a bosom friend of Lord Alistair Gaylord.

**HARRIET**

The Apache, the man in the market place, Oh Lalique, Araby is the place of magic.

**BEDOUIN**

Come, meet our other accomplice.

□ □ □

**HARRIET**

O Horace, say yes before he has time to change his mind (tall, rugged and handsome!).

**PEDLAR**

I am Hava Shufly, mi real name don't matter, and the boon I crave is to stay here and be your diplomatic agent, I have a rare gift for intrigue.

**SHEIK**

Ye shall both have your wishes, and to Alistair, I give my rarest jewel, Lalique.

**SWEET DREAMS**

Farewell Lalique, now that ye have found your master we must depart.

**SWEET DELIGHT**

We belong to the Genie whom you released when you unstopped the antique bottle you found on the shore where you were cast up after the shipwreck.

**SHEIK**

Am I to be all alone?

**LALIQUE**

O Genie! Wherever you are, grant me one boon, let Sweet Dreams and Sweet Delight stay to solace the Sheik of Araby as long as he needs them.

**GENIE**

Granted sweet lady.

**LALIQUE**

Farewell dear friends. O Alistair, promise that never again will your marvellous perception part us.

**ALISTAIR**

I gladly give my promise. I shall spend my days composing poems for you. Have with a loaf of bread beneath the bough, my marvellous perception and thou, beside me singing in the evening light, and everything in life will turn out right.

*FINALE: Princes Come, Princes Go*

□ □□ □