



Arabian Adventure

by Colin Barrow

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THE SCRIPT

First staged in 2003 and updated in 2020. The script has proved popular, fun and colourful. It gives a great alternative for an Eastern pantomime rather than Ali Baba, Sinbad, etc. Although the script lends itself to all the usual actor age ranges for pantomime, this script works very well if you are looking for something with a predominant senior cast. Easy to stage and costume with a lot of visual fun included. With it not following any traditional set story, the script includes some great aspects and a lot of fun and leeway in casting and fun costuming.

SYNOPSIS

Marge and Flora have a one-way travel ticket and a two-man tent in the hope to find two rich Sheiks and live in luxury. However, things go slightly awry when camping beside the Oasis and the sand getting everywhere, there are no rich Sheiks and just a neighbouring gang, The Scorpions, led by Mustafa Bhaji. The Sultan of El Jaffacake is said to have a vault of wealth in the Palace and Mustafa Bhaji and his gang have ideas to help themselves to some of it. But they didn't bank on Sapphire, a belly dancer, who joined their gang but is also working for the Sultan too as an informant. Baked Bean, the Genie, gets kicked up from the sand and joins forces with Sapphire to help the Sultan thwart the Scorpions. Mustafa Bhaji has plans to break into the vault, but Baked Bean uses one of his three wishes to remove the wealth from harm. Mustafa Bhaji and his gang then capture Princess Jasmine to hold as ransom. But with a cunning plan devised by the Genie and helped by Sapphire with a questionable troupe of belly dancers. Once again Mustafa Bhaji is beaten with Baked Bean casting his final wish turning the Scorpions from rogue baddies to delicate lovelies! Low and behold a life of great happiness and love falls on the citizens of El Jaffacake, or so we are told!

Approximate running time:- Two hours *(Not including the interval)*

USEFUL INFORMATION

Casting:- The casting can be quite flexible to suit your available performers. Although some are best played by male, it would be quite possible for them to be played by a female if your performer availability dictate to do so

Chorus:- This script can be used with or without a chorus. Where there are chorus speaking lines and you have no chorus, these can be delivered by performers or adult/child members.

General staging:- The scenery and lighting can be as simple and easy as you wish, especially if tight budget and logistics have a strong influence with your production. This also applies to costuming and properties, and yet still providing a brilliant pantomime. Of course, if budget and logistics dictate otherwise, the skies are the limit!

Scenes:- The script is written to use four full stage scenes and two front cloth scenes. These are not set in stone and re-name some scenes if you wish to run more cloths. Likewise, if you are running with limitations. The full stage scenes could use the same back drop of a nondescript mottled effect. And dress each scene where needed to suit its title. The front cloth scenes could be done front of curtain or again in front a nondescript mottled effect.

Set dressing:- Dressing for the scenes is entirely up to you and the stage space available. It will also depend on what type of back drops you are using too. Especially for those working with no chorus and have more stage space available.

Misc:- Additional jokes can be slotted in where or if you feel they are required to your choosing.

MUSIC AND DANCE

Song/dance numbers:- The script is written to allow the *maximum time* of ***one minute to one and a half minutes*** for each song or dance routine. In each case choosing and ending to give a natural finish. These can be shorter but watch if too many run longer as this could alter the pantomime's whole running time.

Not all character song slots required to be executed. They are there as ideal spots if you wish to use them. This helps those cast who do not feel comfortable to sing to opt out. Additional songs can be added to your own discretion if you feel the need to do so.

You do not need to use all the slots allocated for chorus song/dance numbers, especially if your chorus numbers are very low. Select, the slots most suitable to your chorus.

If you are working without a chorus and not using the song/dance slots allocated. You can add an extra cast member song or two or lengthen the other cast songs allocated slightly to make up the time.

The script does supply some song suggestions, but they do not need to be used. All other song/dance numbers are to your own choice. This allows the cast who are involved to select something that's comfortable for them and perhaps a little more modern. It also prevents the repetition of music from recent past productions you have staged.

Song/dance not with time restrictions:- The opening number, Principle boy and girl duet, the community song and finale song can take their own natural time length as they are important numbers. By keeping to these parameters, the production will run at a good pace; and be fresh and entertaining to your audience.

DISCLAIMER:- The performing licence of this script does NOT include permissions, licences or royalties of ANY music/songs used with the staging of this script.

For **ALL** music and song selected to stage this script, any royalties, licenses or permission has to be obtained by **YOU** the group, club or company according to the music performing rights laws. **These include ALL parody suggestion given with-in the script.**

*(The majority of premises are registered and you **must** contact to make sure the music/song selections used comply with the licence held by the premises. Do this prior or at the start of rehearsal to avoid complications near or on the production dates.)*

CHARACTERS

Main

MOLLY FLOGGIT.....Dame
SULTAN
PRINCES JASMINE.....Principal Girl
PRINCE JARAD.....Principal Boy
MARGE.....One of a comedy duo
FLORA.....One of a comedy duo
SAPPHIRE.....A belly dancer
BAKED BEAN.....A Genie
MUSTAFA BHAJI.....Leader of the Scorpions
MUSTAFA DIET.....One of the Scorpion gang
MUSTAFA HOLIDAY.....One of the Scorpion gang
MUSTAFA KNIT.....One of the Scorpion gang
MUSTAFA BLING.....One of the Scorpion gang
MUSTUFA SPORRAN.....One of the Scorpion gang

Small Cameo roles

(both can be double up from two Scorpion gang actors if wished)

AUSTIN.....One of a comedy duo taxi service
MORRIS.....One of a comedy duo taxi service

CHORUS *(if you have one)* **And/or adult/child members wishing to participate**

The is an option for one walk on walk off person as a airport attendant

CHARACTER GUIDELINES

The type of costumes and the amount of costume changes are entirely down to your own discretion. Those listed are required for particular scenes to fit with the script.

Most characters names, especially the Scorpion gang, indicate the style of costuming to fit the character. Also, the Scorpion gang has lost their hair in a sandstorm, so each will require a wig. The Character descriptions give an indication of a wig type, but this is not set in stone and only as a suggestion

MOLLY FLOGGIT: Dame. Costumed in the usual Dame style. For act two, scene one/two she will require a costume that can be removed on stage by two other characters without her moving. So, the use of velcro, poppers, etc, will be needed to achieve this. Underneath she wears comedy underwear as daring and funny as the actor is comfortable with and audience suitability. For act two, scene three, she requires a costume suitable for a belly dancer, a yashmak veil would add to the effect but not essential.

SULTAN: Costumed as one would be. Has moments of comedy and fun. For act two, scene three, he requires a costume suitable for a belly dancer, a yashmak veil would add to the effect but not essential.

PRINCESS JASMINE: Principal girl and daughter of the Sultan. Costume to her status throughout.

PRINCE JARAD: Principal boy. A wealthy Prince and costumed as such.

MARGE: One of a comedy duo, and can be acted by male or female. For act one scene five, the costume needs to be easily removed (*in the tent*). To be replaced with a giant pair of knickers and blouse that is shared with Flora to wear and put on in the tent. Act two, scene three, she also requires a costume suitable for a belly dancer, a yashmak veil would add to the effect but not essential.

FLORA: One of a comedy duo and can be acted by male or female. For act one scene five, the costume needs to be easily removed (*in the tent*). To be replaced with a giant pair of knickers and blouse that is shared with Marge to wear and put on in the tent. Act two, scene three, she also requires a costume suitable for a belly dancer, a yashmak veil would add to the effect but not essential.

SAPPHIRE: A belly dancer. Can be acted by male or female. As the name suggests, costumed in blues and typical of that of a belly dancer. When on stage, the character is always rhythmically dancing either on the spot or gently moving around on the stage, but keep it slow and gentle as not to distract. At the director's discretion there may be some odd moments in scenes when it is wished for the dancing to stop. For act one, scene five, she will require and oversized bosom for the song routine. For act two, scene one, the script asks for a glittery / fancy type 1960's pop artists dress with a handbag/clutch bag/shoulder bag

BAKED BEAN: A Genie. Costumed as one in whatever colours you wish. For act two, scene one, the script asks for a glittery / fancy type 1960's pop artists dress with a handbag/clutch bag/shoulder bag

MUSTAFA BHAJI: Scorpion gang leader and villain. Costumed typically as a desert dweller. The wig suggestion would be that of a Tina Turner style, punk or similar to fit his status and not be too humorous and wears throughout. For act two, scene one, the script asks for a glittery type 1960's style diva pop singer dress and over large handbag

MUSTAFA DIET: A member of the Scorpion gang. As the name suggest, the character is rather rotund and will require padding (*think of Friar Tuck*) and costumed to suit. A wig of a Georgian or 18th century style works well with this character and wears throughout. For act two, scene one, the script asks for a glittery / fancy type 1960's pop artists dress with a handbag/clutch bag/shoulder bag

MUSTAFA HOLIDAY: A member of the Scorpion gang. His costume always reflects that of a holiday maker in bright colours, etc. A wig of cork screws, plaits or similar works well if possible and wear throughout. For Act one, scene five, a snorkel, flippers, goggles, trunks, inflatable, etc, will be required for the song routine. For act two, scene one, the script asks for a glittery / fancy type 1960's pop artists dress with a handbag/clutch bag/shoulder bag

MUSTAFA KNIT: A member of the Scorpion gang. The character is always knitting and spectacles on the end of the nose can help the image. So, pieces of knitting, needles and a balls of wool or knitting bag helps with the overall effect. His costume should also reflect that of knitting. A wig of dreadlocks, Rastafarian or similar works well. For act two, scene one, the script asks for a glittery / fancy type 1960's pop artists dress with a handbag/clutch bag/shoulder bag

MUSTAFA BLING: A member of the Scorpion gang. As the name suggests always costumed with lots of bling, sparkle and adornments. A wig that is long and blond or glamorous works best. For act two, scene one, the script asks for a glittery / fancy type 1960's pop artists dress with a handbag/clutch bag/shoulder bag

MUSTAFA SPORRAN: A member of the Scorpion gang. As the name suggests the costuming has a '*Scottish*' look (kilt, sporran, waistcoat, socks, etc. The script is written to enhance a slight tongue-in-cheek Scottish dialogue/words. A wig that's very wild and unruly works well especially with a tam o' shanter hat. For act one, scene five, he wears a pair of frilly / jazzy underpants under his kilt. For act two, scene one, the script asks for a glittery / fancy type 1960's pop artists dress with a handbag/clutch bag/shoulder bag

MORRIS: A small cameo part that can easily be played by one of the Scorpion gang doubling up if needed if you are low on actors. Costumes as you feel fit to do so.

AUSTIN: A small cameo part that can easily be played by one of the Scorpion gang doubling up if needed if you are low with actors. Costumes as you feel fit to do so.

CHORUS (*if you have one*) **And participating adults/children:** Costumed to fit the scenes they are participating in

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT ONE

Scene one..... El Jaffacake City (full stage)

Scene two.....Somewhere (front cloth)

Scene three.....Inside the Palace (full stage)

Scene four.....Outside El Jaffacake (front cloth)

Scene five.....The Oasis (full stage)

ACT TWO

Scene one.....Inside the Palace (full stage)

Scene two.....Outside El Jaffacake (front cloth)

Scene three.....Inside Bhaji's tent (full stage)

Scene four.....Outside El Jaffacake (front cloth)

Scene five.....El Jaffacake City (full stage)

ARABIAN ADVENTURE

ACT ONE

SCENE ONE

EL JAFFACAKE CITY (full stage)

The scene opens with cast and/or chorus to sing/dance opening number. If the cast is used, they exit after the number. Set Molly, Austin and Morris up stage so They can exit first. All chorus/towns people remain on stage

Molly: (off) Stop! Stop! Will you two slow down - mind that pothole!
(Screams out) Ouch! Don't go so flipping fast!

Molly enters with Austin and Morris. Molly is in a 'mock cut out' sedan chair, where it only has sides (no roof, front, seat or floor) and supported by two carrying poles. Fabric is fixed down the back so the whole thing is flexible, simple but funnily visual (see instructions at the back of the script). Molly is inside running; she has a mop and bucket with her. Austin and Morris are the two so called carriers. They enter at speed, with all three running and circle the stage before stopping. Austin and Morris lowers so the two side bottom edges are resting on the stage and Molly's head appears fully out of the top

Austin: There we are missus, all safe and sound!

Molly: I'll have you know my suspension isn't what it was!

Molly walks out of the contraption beyond whoever is in front letting go of a handle and allowing her by

Molly: And another thing. I've ran all the way!

Morris: Ah, well. First class running is better than second class sitting!

Molly: Oh, very funny I'm sure.

Austin: (holds out his hand keenly) That'll be twenty, please?

Molly: But I've run all the way!

Austin: And very appreciated too. Poor old Morris there ain't as young as he was this time last year! And some of them hills be right steep and you ain't exactly a light weight.

Molly: That's only because that calorie-controlled diet didn't work owing to the calories getting out of control!

Morris: Tell you what. How about we only charge you half price as you were doing part of the driving?

Molly: How about you two clear off before I call the police?

Austin: Ah, point taken! Come on, Morris, we got another to pick up to do at the camel herder's level crossing.

Morris: And if we're late, they get the hump!

They both exit off with a trot with all on stage except Molly

Molly: *(looks as they exits)* Buffoons. *(To herself)* Now let me check myself, *(feeling about)* have I lost anything? Nope, still all intact and just as heavy! *(To audience)* Well. Hello darlings? Just in case you've not already guessed, I'm Molly Floggit. Known to sell ice cream to Eskimos, sand to the Arabs! I'm house keeper to the Sultan of El Jaffacake, and a bit of alright he is too. Rich beyond words with gems, jewels, and money. Mind you, they say his money is tainted! *(Points to various audience members)* Taint yours, taint yours, taint hers, taint his *(taps he chest)* and taint mine. Still, I can't complain, he's very generous. *(Indicates the mop and bucket)* I've had to buy this to keep his Sultanship happy because he wasn't happy with the appliance I already had. *(In a posh tone)* "Molly", he says, "if the bucket held water and the mop had a head, wouldn't the Palace floors not be cleaner?" *(In a normal tone)* So I says to him, "I don't tell him how to do his Sultaning, so don't tell me how to clean!" Anyway, after a bit of reasoning and I lost, he gave me some money to buy a new mop and bucket. *(Looks at the mop and bucket)* If you ask me, the thing looks like a lot of hard work that I'd sooner not experience. *(Ponders)* If only I could think of way to get rid legitimately!

Mustafa Bhaji enters left

Bhaji: *(speaking as he enters)* Out of the way pedlar woman. *(Pushes her away)*

Molly: *(squares up to him face to face)* On your bike, you old rat face.

Bhaji: *(pushing her away)* Don't talk to me like that, char woman.

Molly: *(plump bosom then squares up to him again)* Don't touch what you can't afford.

Bhaji: *(pushing her away)* You're not worth much!

Molly: But I am reasonable! *(Plump bosom and squares up to him again)* And if you don't mind, please keep your person away from my personage?

Bhaji: *(pushing Molly)* With pleasure, as I am a very important person.

Molly: *(squaring up to him)* Important my eye. You're Mustafa Bhaji and an evil old desert rat. *(Looking at his head)* Anyway, what's with the wig?

Bhaji: We got caught in a desert sandstorm and it sandblasted all our hair off! The Scorpions, the most feared gang of the desert are bald as can be, so we've all taken to wearing wigs 'till our hair grows back. *(Moves it so skew whiff)* You know, they ain't too bad when you get used to them! Mind you, some of the gang look a right sight!

Molly: And that includes you mate. *(Points)* I should wear the thing properly if I was you!

Bhaji suddenly straightening the wig

Molly: *(coughs a little)* I don't suppose you have some money on you and wishing to buy a quality item?

Bhaji: *(pushing pass)* What quality item?

Molly: *(smirks at the audience, then turn to Bhaji)* I have a super deluxe, top of the range mop and bucket for sale. *(Picks up the mop and bucket)* It's very nice, with an aerodynamic handle, low carbon footprint head and perfect to hold spring water fresh from the Oasis.

Bhaji: Why should I need such an implement?

Molly: For your tent in the desert with its floor of sand. That sand gets everywhere and this will mop it all up!

Bhaji: *(looks at the mop and bucket)* I'm not sure.

Molly: Look, I'll do you a special deal. I'll charge you fifty.

Bhaji: I suppose it could be useful. *(Takes out some paper money)* Fifty, you say?

Molly: *(holds out her hand)* And a bargain at that!

Bhaji: *(begins to count and placing the money in her hand one note at a time)* One, two, three. *(Stops)* How many years is it that you've worked for the Sultan?

Molly: Eight.

Bhaji: *(continues to count out the notes)* Nine, ten, eleven. *(Stops)* Do you know today's date?

Molly: Twenty fifth.

Bhaji: *(continues to count out)* Twenty-six, twenty-seven. *(Stops)* So how old are you? Sixty-five!

Molly: You saucy toad. I'm a young forty-seven.

Bhaji: *(continues to count)* Forty-eight, forty-nine, fifty. There paid in full!

Molly: *(looking at the money)* Are you sure that's correct?

Bahji: *(turns away)* You saw me count it out.

Molly: Yeah, I did, didn't I? *(Passes him the mop and bucket)* This is yours; I believe. *(Jumps with joy)* Money, money, money, it's a rich man's world. *(Exits)*

Bhaji: The dim-witted old fool thinks I've paid fifty when I've only paid eleven. *(Happily)* I won! *(Laughs out)*

Molly: *(just appearing)* The thing only cost me four. I think it's me that's won! Have a nice day! *(Laughs and exits quickly)*

Bhaji: *(not amused)* Bah! Outwitted by an old housemaid. *(Calls off)* And I do mean old! *(To audience)* To think that I, Mustafa Bhaji, the leader of the Scorpions has just been diddled by daft woman! *(With great expression)* Me! The nasty who put nasty in nastiness, the one who put wicked in wickedness and the one who put villain in villainous!

Song:- *Something suitable for a villain and the situation*

(Looks at the mop and bucket) Seems to me I shall have to sell this on with a profit especially now my wealth has somewhat fallen on hard times. *(Places the mop and bucket by that stage side. Begins to pace about)* Now, who do I know that has wealth and I can help myself to some or all of it? *(Stops with revelation)* Of course, the Sultan of El Jaffacake. With the biggest jewel collection in the country, he has far more than he needs. Now, who can I trust to help me get my hands on it? *(Smiles)* I have it. *(Calls out)* Mustafa Sporrان! Mustafa Bling!

Sporran and Bling enter

Sporran: Hoots man, did ye call?

Bling: The vibrations made all my glitters shimmer!

Sporran: Och, *(points to Bhaji)* it was him who done it.

Bling: *(to Bahji)* Whatcha cock.

Bhaji: *(rising with rage)* Mustafa Bhaji if you don't mind!

Bling: Whatcha, Mustafa Bhaji if you don't mind cock!

Bhaji: *(firmly)* Enough! *(Walks away slightly)* I need you to do a job. A job where I require you both to find out as much as you can about the Sultans jewels! Can I trust you?

Sporran: Of course, ye can trust us. Dinna teach yer Granny tae suck eggs!

Bhaji: I want you to find out where the Sultans jewels are kept and more importantly, how to get at them!

Sporran: Yer aff yer heid, man?

Bling: Wouldn't it be simpler to knocked on his door and asked him? *(Indicating himself)* I wouldn't want to damage all that glitters!

Bhaji: *(angrily)* No it wouldn't! Now, do as I ask, *(moves to exit left)* or you'll get it!

S & B: Get what?

Bhaji: *(picks up the mop and bucket)* You see this mop and bucket? It would be a difficult operation and a long hospital stay on its removal! *(Exits)*

Sporran and Bling react

Sporran: Och, life's no good when ye be half a loaf?

Bling: Life's no good when you have no bling!

Sporran: Aye, and the Sultan has plenty of bling about, if ye find it.

Bling: But at the bazaar, you can get plenty of bling on the cheap along with many other things.

Song:- *Suggestion - 'In The Old Bazaar In Cairo' (by Charlie Chester / K. Morris / Clinton Ford) This is a fun song that actions/choreography can be added to liven it up even more. The rest of the Scorpions also join in as the song starts (Mustafa Diet, Mustafa Holiday, Mustafa Knit, and Sapphire)*

Sporran: Hoots men. It's a good thing ye be here, aye. *(To Diet)* Hoo's tha weight loss going Mustafa Diet?

Diet: I've been eating loads of Weight Watcher sweets, but they haven't worked.

Bling: I didn't know Weight Watchers made sweets?

Diet: They don't. I discovered the W W written on the sweets was upside down and I had been guzzling packets and packets of M & M's

Sporran: *(see Sapphire)* Och. I see we still have fidget pants. Have ye got engine trouble, Lassie?

Sapphire: I am full of Eastern promise.

Sporran: Tis better than ye knickers full of fleas!

Holiday: Is there something you wanted? Only I got some serious sunbathing to get in.

Knit: And I got a jumper to finish knitting.

Bling: Our leader, wants us to find out where the Sultans jewels are.

Holiday: What's stopping him finding out?

Knit: Mustafa Holiday is right. What's stopping Bhaji finding out?

Bling: Because we are the Scorpions and the most feared gang in the desert.

Knit: Oh, get real. We look like something fallen off a carnival cart!
(Indicates each member) We got a Scotch bonnet, a bit of sparkle, one who's calorie control is out of control, one who is on a permanent holiday, the new recruit with an itch and can't scratch it, and me, Mustafa Knit that's a complete nitwit! And we're all led by an Onion Bhaji!

Sapphire: He's right you know. And the wigs don't help.

Sporran: Och aye. But if we dinna wear them, we'd get severe sunburn on tha bald heids.

Holiday: *(to Sapphire)* Look love. I know you're new to our gang, but can you stop wiggling about? I can't make up my mind whether your elastics too tight or you've eaten a dodgy curry!

Sapphire: *(dancing pass them)* I am Sapphire, the most revered Eastern dancer, and dancing is my art. I have rubbed shoulders with the rich and famous and perform every Saturday night at the camel herders' level crossing!

Diet: So why did you join our gang?

They all react with body language as Sapphire delivers the following line

Sapphire: *(dancing with seduction)* I had a desire to be with a bunch of - rough - nasty - mean - fearless - strong - villainous - grisly men in the hot dry desert. *(Briefly stops with disappointment)* Then I found you lot! *(Continues to dance)*

Diet: Can you turn your motor off for a minute love. You're reminding me of the exercise that I don't do.

Sapphire: *(stops dancing and rubs a finger down Diet face seductively)* For you, anything!

Diet: Cooo. *(Rubbing his belly)* At least you can see this protection is for an inner rippling body of muscle and a six pack to be jealous of! *(Goes all mushy and dazed)*

Sapphire: I'm a mysterious box of delights, with many surprises that only needs igniting.

Holiday: For goodness sake, no one strike a match!

Bling: Have you been in the Sultans Palace, and if so, can you help us?

Sapphire: I have, but it depends on what you want to know.

Sporran: Do ye know where the Sultans jewels be kept?

Sapphire: Sorry. That information is classified! *(Dances off)*

Knit: Fat lot of information we got from her.

Diet: *(still in a daze)* Oh, I don't know. I got a buzz.

All: You wait till you get the sting mate!

Knit: I suggest we go down town and see if we can find some leads!

They all begin to exit

Holiday: Not the dogs home again! The only lead I get there is always on the end of a thing that needs a saddle! *(Exits)*

Molly enters

Molly: Well now boys and girls. This is where I want you to join in with proceedings. I would have done it before, but as you saw, I had a financial gain to deal with. Now, what I want you to do is, everytime I say, "Hi-Di-Hi", I want you all to say, "Ho-De-Ho!" Do you think we could that? Let's give it a go. *(Do business with audience)* Right, I'd better get back to the Palace and think about doing some work. I won't do any, just think about it! *(About to exit)*

Sultan enters

Sultan: There you are, Molly. I've looked high and low for you!

Molly: If you looked in the middle you might have found me.

Sultan: Have you purchased the floor cleaning equipment as sent out to obtain?

Molly: *(pulls a face searching for an excuse)* Ah - well, the thing is - the thing is, it's like this, your Sultanaship, on raisin the currant situation! The shop only had cheap old rubbish and I thought his nibs, that's you, wouldn't want that in your houze!

Sultan: *(takes a sigh)* The word is, house, Molly. And as you know, I don't live in a house, but a Palace!

Molly: Still got four walls, a roof, an indoor lav and a musical bidet ain't it?

Sultan: I do wish you'd speak properly, Molly. Try this for an exercise. The rain in Spain falls mainly on the plain.

Molly: The King of Spain travels by aeroplane!

Sultan: *(miming a crown and rain)* The rain, Molly, not reign. The rain in Spain falls mainly on the plain.

Molly: Not when I were on holiday at the Costa Re-build. The rain fell through the roof and went down the drain.

Sultan: In Hertford, Hereford and Hampshire, hurricanes hardly ever happen.

Molly: In Hertford, Hereford and Hampshire, I experienced hurricanes lifting my skirt and rustling my gusset showing my small large knickers of medium capacity!

Sultan: *(surprised)* Well! Well! Well!

Molly: Very! Very! Very! Now if you don't mind, I'm going back to the Palace as it sounds like rain.

Sultan: *(to audience)* I do love these quaint old predictions. *(To Molly)* So what's informed you? Rheumatism? Arthritis? Camels laying facing north maybe?

Molly: Actually, it was...

Sultan: *(cutting in)* No, you said, "it sounds like". You must have heard something - wind blowing through the date palms maybe?

Molly: *(moves to exit right)* No, I heard it on radio! *(Exits)*

Sultan: *(to audience)* Do you ever get days when you wished you stayed in bed, turned over and went back to sleep? I got a feeling today is going to be one of those days!

Princess Jasmine enters left

Jasmine: Here you are, Father. You seem a little deflated?

Sultan: My dear Jasmine, two minutes with Molly Floggit is enough to deflate anyone.

Jasmine: She does like you.

Sultan: I have noticed.

Jasmine: I believe her feelings go beyond work, Father.

Sultan: Let's face it, her feelings have not far to travel as she does so little work!

Jasmine: I think Molly loves you!

Sultan: *(with surprised aghast)* Oh, blimey. Do you think so? I mean, does she really?

Jasmine: All it would take is a green light from you.

Sultan: If you don't mind, I shall stay a cautious amber on that one. Were you looking for me?

Jasmine: There's a snake charmer at the Palace who says that Molly sold him a snake that will come home if it escapes.

Sultan: And the problem is?

Jasmine: The snake escaped and didn't come home and he wants his money back!

Sultan: Looks like I shall have to charm the old snake charmer and hope he slithers away! *(Exits)*

Jasmine: Poor Father. He might be the richest, but he is also the most troubled. And if I was to find my true love and marry, I'd be a trouble less for Father to fret over. But there's no one here to marry. If only finding a husband was easy?

Song:- *A short love song*

Jasmine exits after the song

Bhaji, Sporrán, Bling, Knit, Holiday, Sapphire and Diet enter left. As they enter a Baked Bean tin is slid on stage right (just visible)

Bhaji: Well! What have you found out?

Sporran: Och, tha man's wealthy. Mony a mickle maks a muckle, ye know.

Bling: And it's all in the Palace, jewels, precious metals, money, the lot.

Bhaji: Then all we have to do is break in a steal it! *(Glancing to stage right at Baked Bean tin)* What's that?

Diet goes and peers at it closely

Knit: Rubbish left behind by holiday makers. *(Looking at Holiday)* Litterbugs.

Holiday: Don't look at me. I'm always too busy sunbathing to create rubbish!

Diet: *(stands and kicks the tin off)* It's okay, I've just recycled it!

Sporran: *(looks of stage right)* Hoots man. Tha things hissing! We're doomed! We're doomed!

Bling: Stand back and give it some room.

They all huddle to stage left as smoke emerges (and pyro if you have the means) with the entrance of the Genie 'Baked Bean' stage right

Bling: Oh, I say. Another bit of bling.

Knit: But what is it?

Holiday: Don't know, but how did it all fit in a Baked Bean tin?

Diet: You can compress air, so he must be like me, all wind.

Sporran: Aye, rings a bell does that. Baked Beans and compressed air.

Sapphire: Flatulence.

Bhaji: It certainly put the wind up me!

Bling: *(looking about Genie)* I wonder if he has has a cork somewhere to deflate him?

All jump as Genie speaks with suddenness

Genie: I am the Genie of the Baked Bean tin!

Sapphire: *(with surprise)* Well I'm blowed. He speaks.

Holiday: I bet he's all wind with dire fragrances that'll turn you green.

Diet: Speaking from experience. Do you think he's the sort that would eat beans in the morning to have a free bubble bath in the evening?

All: *(except Genie and Diet)* Now we know why the bath tent is always full of froth!

They jump as Genie speaks again. Chorus can quietly enter from left and right behind the characters

Genie: *(with command)* Enough! What is it you want?

Sporran: A wee dram would be nice, laddie.

Holiday: I've always fancied a cruise to some tropical Islands.

Knit: We want to know a lot about all sorts of things!

Genie: I have mystical powers given by the ancient nomads of the desert.

Diet: Coo, I think he's a desert Alexa!

Genie: May I add that I do not help with lottery or gambling wins, harm or violence, fraud or money laundering. *(Looks at Bling)* Nor do I tell the competition the whereabouts of my clothes supplier!

Bling: *(deflated)* That's taken the sparkle out of things.

Bhaji: It's certainly narrowed my expectations of getting wealth easily.

Sapphire: *(playing up to Genie)* We are the Scorpions and I am the newest recruit, but I think you would be a great addition to our gang. What do you think Mustafa Bhaji?

Bhaji: *(to Genie)* Well, Baked Bean. Do you wanna be in my gang?

Genie: *(giving Sapphire the eye)* For now, it could be - interesting.

All: Welcome to the Scorpions, Baked Bean!

Song:- *Any jolly upbeat song*

Black-out

ACT ONE
SCENE TWO
SOMEWHERE (front cloth)

Marge and Flora enter with some light luggage, camping items and passports

Marge: You've remembered your passport?

Flora: *(produces the passport)* I have, but the photo doesn't do me much justice.

Marge: They're not meant to. It's supposed to be a true image of how you look.

Flora: *(peers at the photo)* If that's a true image, no wonder I can't get a man!

Marge: You and Harry were getting on okay until you dumped him?

Flora: He was so bow legged, to sit on his knee I had to put a plank across! And that's how I got a splinter in my circumstance so I dumped him!

Marge: *(with innocent reflection)* I can remember my mother saying she would like me to remain chaste.

Flora: *(quickly)* I'm chased - but not as often as I'd like!

Marge: The last man cheated on me y'know. He was a woman chaser - a real philanthropist!

Flora: I think you mean, philanderer?

Marge: *(sighs)* Yes, he was that too. Course, I got problems with my speech impediment too.

Flora: I didn't know you had a speech impediment?

Marge: I find it so difficult to say - no!

Flora: I know the feeling. Can you remember your first ever date?

Marge: Remember it! I'd sooner forget it.

Flora: *(curious)* Oh. What happened?

Marge: I farted!

Flora: It's natural to let the odd teeny weenie one slip out, Marge.

Marge: But the one I did sounded like a deflating balloon asking a very long question!

Flora: Take my advice dear. Eat skittles and always wear a thong. That way you can whistle '*somewhere over the rainbow*' and get away with it!

Marge: You do have some stupid ideas, Flora.

Flora: And if you're on the bus at the time and four people turn around at your tuneful trumping. (*Quite proud*) It makes you feel like a contestant on, 'The Voice!'

Marge: Like I said, "stupid ideas!" (*Sighs*) I wonder what the men at El Jaffacake will be like? (*Shudders with delight*) I fancy someone - tall - dark - and handsome.

Flora: I'd settle for someone short, fat and hairy if he's rich!

Marge: Do you think the native men will be intense lovers?

Flora: Of course, in the desert they do everything in tents!

Marge: Then we have a lot to offer.

Flora: And it's all for free!

Song:-

Marge: Right, we have our one-way ticket to El Jaffacake.

Flora: A two-man tent for accommodation.

Marge: And basic essentials for the modern tourist.

Flora: I'm still not sure this plan will work to find man of wealth. We've already tried Texas and found out it's only their hats that's big!

Marge: (*pulls a face*) Yes, our success has not been good to date, has it? I remember Australia, I couldn't bring myself to waking up next to a didgeridoo every morning!

Flora: And those Russians wouldn't stay still.

Marge: Then there was the Eskimo's. I mean, what was the good of an Ig without a loo?

Flora: I was afraid to drink in fear of getting an icicle when widdling behind a snow drift!

Marge: No fear of freezing where we're going, just the sand to deal with!

Flora: And that can find its way where you'd never think possible too!

Announcer: Will all passengers to El Jaffacake check in luggage and proceed to gate sixteen ready for boarding please.

Flora: That's us, Marge (*Begin to exit*)

Marge: (*follows Flora*) You never know, we might find a couple of dishy pilots?

Flora: But I'm afraid of heights!

Marge: What are you on about?

Flora: Pilots! They are always up in the clouds. (*Exits*)

Marge: Oh, for goodness sake, Flora. (*Exiting*) They're not always at altitude, they've got to come down to earth sometimes!

The lights fade as the sound of an aircraft is heard taking off

Black -out

ACT ONE

SCENE THREE

INSIDE THE SULTANS PALACE (full stage)

The scene can open with a chorus number if wished. After the number, all remain on stage. Or the scene opens with chorus on stage as Palace staff

Sultan enters and all bow/curtsy

Sultan: Where's Molly with my afternoon tea?

All: She disappeared in a hurry, your Highness

Sultan: (*goes to the proscenium arch*) I shall have to ring for her. (*Looks and see the call bell is missing*) What's happened to the call bell?

All: It fell off in Molly's hand, your Highness.

Sultan: There are times I wish she'd fall off somewhere. (*Shouts*) Molly! Molly! Where for art thou? (*Starts to sing*) When I'm calling yooo oooo oooo!

Molly enters with a dummy call bell in her hand

Molly: (*singing*) Will you answer toooo ooo, oooooo? (*To audience*) Hi-De-Hi!

Audience reaction as Molly holds out her hand to the Sultan displaying the dummy call bell button. Sultan looks at Molly then the bell and with an over

exaggerated motion he presses the button. The sound of a ringing bell is heard as the Sultan looks surprised.

Molly: You rang, your Sultanship?

Sultan: I did. *(Puzzled with the bell)* But how did that happen?

Molly: It's a mod con connected to a whiffy. You just ask 'press here' and it tells you what you want to know.

Sultan: Why 'press here?'

Molly: Because that's what's written on the thing! *(Goes to demonstrate)* Listen, *(talks to the bell button)* press here, give me a recipe for scones?

Voice: In a glass bowl soak some sponge cake in booze, add fruit and jelly. When set, top with cold custard and whipped cream.

Molly: See how wonderful it is. You put scones in the oven and out comes a super luxury trifle. *(Holds her hand out with the bell)* You have a go.

Sultan: *(bends forward slightly to speak to the button)* Press here, what are the four seasons?

Voice: Salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar.

Molly: Listen to this. *(Asks the bell button)* Press here, am I a delightful scrummy cupcake for the Sultan and his ideal bit of buttered crumpet?

Voice: No, you're an undercooked fruit cake with a soggy bottom!

Sultan: *(laughs out)* Now that's right on the button!

Molly: *(not amused)* Is it now? Well, if you're not careful you could be wearing this button - on the inside! Now what do you want?

Sultan: Where's my afternoon tea?

Molly: I put the kettle on, *(to audience)* it didn't suit me and made me look like I was coming up to the boil! *(To Sultan)* Then I heard some idiot banging on the Palace door. So, I went to see who it was. Next question?

Sultan: Who was at the door?

Molly: It was that Sapphire. You know, *(mimics belly dancing)* the one that thinks she can do this better than me!

Sultan: Ah, yes. She's a private eye that I've hired.

Molly: I didn't notice her eyes, just a gert mesmerising belly button jiggling about.

Sultan: Show Sapphire in at once!

Sapphire comes to stage entrance (out of audience sight) that Molly is about to exit. As Molly reaches the exit, Sapphire comes into view stopping Molly.

Molly: *(begins to exit)* It's flipping miles to the front door. You should live a in a smaller houze! *(Stopped by Sapphire)* Oh, her that's got an itch and can't scratch it in public is here, your Currant bunship!

Chorus begins to exit

Sultan: Good. Now leave us in peace and go and make my tea?

Molly: *(exiting)* That's right, wear the old one - err - one that's still has youth on her side out first! *(Exits)*

Sapphire comes to Sultan and curtsies

Sapphire: Your Highness. I have news.

Sultan: And what is this news?

Sapphire: Having been part of the Scorpion gang for some time, they seem to have accepted me without suspicion. I'm afraid to report that Mustafa Bhaji has desires on stealing your wealth, your Highness.

Sultan: Then I'm afraid he will be disappointed. My money, jewels and all that glitters are safely locked away in a vault deep in the Palace. It is only I, who can attain access to it.

Sapphire: That is what I'm afraid of, your Highness. It is my fear that Mustafa Bhaji will try any unscrupulous method to obtain all that you own.

Sultan: When one has a housekeeper called Molly Floggit, one is used to unscrupulous dealings. Please keep me informed of any developments, Sapphire?

Sapphire: You will be the first to know, *(curtsies)* your Highness. *(Exits dancing off)*

Sultan: Being rich isn't always the luxury and easy life that many believe.

Jasmine enters

Jasmine: Father, what is it like to be married?