

Scene #4  
Frederick  
Lloyd

**Frederick** Well, since we're stopped anyway.

**Lloyd** Why did I ask?

**Frederick** I mean, you know how stupid I am about plot.

**Lloyd** I know, Freddie.

**Frederick** May I ask another silly question?

**Lloyd** All my studies in world drama lie at your disposal.

**Frederick** I still don't understand why the Sheikh just happens to be Philip's double.

**Garry** Because he comes in and we all think he's, you know, and we all, I mean, that's the joke.

**Frederick** I see that.

**Belinda** My sweet, the rest of the plot depends on it!

**Frederick** I see that. But it *is* rather a coincidence, isn't it?

**Lloyd** It *is* rather a coincidence, Freddie, yes. Until you reflect that there was an earlier draft of the play, now unfortunately lost to us. And in this the author makes it clear that Philip's father as a young man had travelled extensively in the Middle East.

**Frederick** I see . . . I *see*!

**Lloyd** You see?

**Frederick** That's very interesting.

**Lloyd** I thought you'd like that.

**Frederick** But will the audience get it?

**Lloyd** You must tell them, Freddie. Looks. Gestures. That's what acting's all about. OK?

**Frederick** Yes. Thank you, Lloyd. Thank you.

**Lloyd** And it will be even more powerful when you do it with no trousers.

**Frederick** Of course. (*Takes his trousers off.*)

END

**Lloyd** Right, can we just finish the act? ~~From Belinda's beautiful line, 'You toss me aside like a broken china doll!'~~

**Lloyd** *returns to the stalls.*

I'm being so clever out here! What's going to be left of this show when I've gone off to do *Richard III* and you're up there on your own? Right – 'You toss me aside like a broken china doll!'

**Flavia** You toss me aside like a broken china doll! (*She hits him.*)

**Sheikh** What? What? What?

**Burglar** And what you're up to with my little girl down there in Basingstoke I won't ask. But I'll tell you one thing, Vicki.

*Pause.*

**Lloyd** Brooke!

**Brooke** Sorry . . .

**Lloyd** Your line. Come on, love, we're two lines away from the end of the act.

**Brooke** I don't understand.

**Lloyd** Give her the line!

**Poppy** (*off*) 'What's that, Dad?'

**Brooke** Yes, but I don't understand.

**Belinda** It's 'What's that, Dad?'

**Selsdon** Yes, I say to you, 'I'll tell you one thing, Vicki' and you say to me, 'What's that, Dad?'

**Brooke** I don't understand why the Sheikh looks like Philip.