

HOPKINS AND ABDUL

*Enter HOPKINS from the front entrance. He sees ABDUL, who has closed his eyes, comes over to him and examines his face very carefully.)*

HOPKINS. It's amazing!

ABDUL. I know. I don't know how she does it.

HOPKINS. No. I mean you. You look just like the Major.

ABDUL. So I understand, but right now I'm too exhausted to care. I don't think I can keep it up much longer.

HOPKINS. What you need is a little "pick me up." *(He looks around, then goes to the newel post and starts to unscrew the knob.)* By the way, my name is Hopkins.

ABDUL. I am Abdul El Hajj. I used to be known as the Lion of the Desert. What on earth are you doing?

HOPKINS. *(Turning the knob.)* You'll see in a minute.

*(MAUREEN, now in her maid's outfit, runs out of the office past HOPKINS and exits U.L.)*

ABDUL. The women in this hotel — they all seem so — so active.

*(HOPKINS now has unscrewed the knob, reached down inside and produced a bottle of liquor and two small glasses. He replaces the knob, brings the bottle and glasses down to the two chairs and pours two generous shots.)*

HOPKINS. Here. *(Hands ABDUL a glass.)* Try a drop of this. It'll put you back on your feet in no time.

ABDUL. (*Looking at his glass.*) It's not alcoholic is it?

HOPKINS. Well, no, not very much.

ABDUL. (*Suspiciously.*) Well, what is it?

HOPKINS. It's — er — er Polish mineral water — yes that's it, Polish mineral water.

ABDUL. Is it good for you?

HOPKINS. Are you kidding? It's wonderful. (*He raises his glass.*) Well, bottoms up!

ABDUL. Not for a little while I hope, I need the rest.

(*He drinks.*)

HOPKINS. (*Pouring two more shots.*) There's nothing like a drop of mineral water.

ABDUL. (*Shaking his head.*) It certainly appears to have great restorative qualities.

(*He drinks again.*)

HOPKINS. (*Rubbing his hands together in anticipation.*) Right. Number nine.

ABDUL. Could I please have some more of that mineral water?

HOPKINS. (*Pours another shot.*) Why not?

ABDUL. What about you?

HOPKINS. Well, under normal circumstances, I would, but now things have changed. I've got to stay sober, my ship is about to come in. I've got to stay fit for later.

ABDUL. What's that?

HOPKINS. I said I've got to go and tip the waiter. Yes, that's it. I need coffee. I'll leave you the rest of the — er — mineral water. You look like you could use it.