

SIDE 3: ABDUL & BRIAN

BRIAN. Major? Is that you? What the hell are you doing?

ABDUL. I beg your pardon

BRIAN. Oh Major, I haven't got time for this. Mr. Lewis'll be here any moment and the Barracuda, and don't forget when she gets here, you've got a job to do. Now go and get changed will you.

ABDUL. I beg your pardon, sir!

BRIAN. You've had your little joke, but we've got things to do, remember Major?

ABDUL. I'm afraid I haven't the faintest idea what you're talking about.

BRIAN. *(Pauses briefly and has his first doubt.)* You know you do that very well, but we all agreed your job was to head the Barracuda off at the pass.

ABDUL. Are we speaking the same language sir?

BRIAN. Very funny Major.

ABDUL. As I have no intention of being funny, perhaps it would be better if we re-started this conversation from the beginning. Allow me to introduce myself. I am Abdul El Hajj, at your service.

(He offers his hand with a slight bow.)

BRIAN. *(Shakes hands.)* How do you do! I'm Brian Cody.

ABDUL. Ah, Mr. Cody. How pleased I am to meet you. I understand your charming little hotel is for sale. I want you to know that I am seriously interested in it, and a little later when I have completed my observations, I should like to talk business with you.

BRIAN. *(Really doubtful now and peering at ABDUL'S face.)* Is it you or isn't it?

ABDUL. You're not making sense again Mr. Cody.

BRIAN. Well you've got me convinced Major. But Terri said not to do it, and every time we don't do as she says, you know we get into trouble, so why don't you just concentrate on the Barracuda.

ABDUL. I fail to see what diverting our attention to a fish has to do with our conversation.

BRIAN. What?

ABDUL. Are you confused sir?

BRIAN. Oh, I'm always confused. I say, you are the Major aren't you?

ABDUL. That's the third time you've asked me that question. I don't want to spend the rest of my life answering it. Please try to understand before one of us dies.

BRIAN. *(Looks at him.)* I think Terri had better handle this.