

START —

IBN

Salaam Alay...not Henry Flemming the famous American detective?

VERA

You've heard of him?

IBN

Who hasn't? His reputation is known far and wide.

KAREN

Really? I didn't know that. Is that true, Henry? You're famous.

HENRY

I'm afraid so, my dear.

KAREN

Why didn't you tell me? When people ask me what you do, rather than tell them you're a detective, there seemed to be more dignity in telling them you're between jobs. Well, good for you, Henry. May I get you something to drink Mr. Ben Abdul?

IBN

Please, call me Ibbby. That's what I've gotten rather fond of thanks to this magnificent woman.

(He hugs Vera)

VERA

Did I get lucky or did I get lucky?

HENRY

Tell me Ibbby, exactly what do they call you in your country?

IBN

Oh, it's the usual prince or your highness stuff.

KAREN

I'll call you, Prince if you don't mind. It might elevate the evening a little bit more, don't you think Henry?

HENRY

Possibly.

ARTHUR

I understand you were at a business meeting?

IBN

Yes. As you might guess my family's in the oil business. The profits have been so staggering lately we are constantly looking where to invest it. This evening I finalized a deal on some wonderful property.

VERA

Oh, good. What did you buy.

IBN

A large portion of Cincinnati. We overpaid but then we simply raise the price of oil and it all works out. I'm sorry I'm so late. I foolishly gave my driver the night off and had to take a taxi. Dressed the way I am, the cab driver's strip search took forever.

KAREN

I love the outfit. As a matter of fact, Henry, didn't you wear one of those on one of your cases?

HENRY

My very first case. It involved blackmail, murder, intrigue and betrayal.

IBN

It must have been fascinating.

HENRY

It was. But I have a feeling I'm about to be involved in one even more so.

IBN

Yes. Now about the drink you offered me. What do you say to a Bermuda Savage?

(MORE)

IBN (CONT'D)

That's rum, tequila, tabasco sauce and two ounces of Pepto Bismo. I haven't had one of those in years.

KAREN

I'm sorry your prince-ship but my husband and I are recovering alcoholics and we've been advised not to have anything of an alcoholic nature in the house.

IBN

Oh, well then, perhaps a marijuana cigarette?

KAREN

No, we stopped that too.

IBN

Well, how about some crystal meth? That also works for me.

KAREN

How about a plain grape soda?

IBN

If I must.

END

Karen goes to the soda cart and pours a soda.

IBN (CONT'D)

You have a lovely home, Mr. Flemming. The neighborhood seems so substantial. One always feels so much more comfortable being around the wealthy.

HENRY

Life is very good here in Westport.

LARRY

Yes. We're trying to pass an ordinance banning poor people from even visiting. I believe it has a good chance of passing.

IBN

Wonderful.

(MORE)