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Episode 6: "A Shocking Betrayal"
A mysterious, dramatic, Middle Eastern melody plays.

ANNOUNCER

From the mysterious east, from the
not-so-distant past, RKO Radio and
Luxo Linaments are proud to
present...

Musical stab.

ANNOUNCER

Bellydancing Ninjas!

Musical stab.

ANNOUNCER

Episode six -- "A Shocking
Betrayal".

Music resumes.

ANNOUNCER

In our last episode, our heroes
saved Marrakesh from the deadly La-
Zo-Tron, and were about to ride
back to the palace, when suddenly,
Prince Nabeen himself appeared! But
things were not what they
seemed....

NABEEN

Deploy the net... NOW!

FX: fabric, throwing noise.

FX: horses neigh.

ANDALIB and SADIRA scream.

FX: they thump down in the sand.

FX: dramatic chords.

NABEEN

And with that simple effort, we
have captured the ninjas at last.

ANDALIB

What?!

NABEEN

Take them away!

NAZI #2 laughs fiendishly. NABEEN joins in.

FX: big jarring chords.

ANNOUNCER

We begin this week's episode as
Sadira and Andalib are led out into
the desert.

FX: Grunting, dragging noises.

Andalib has a bit of trouble talking while being dragged.

ANDALIB

Surely we don't need to be
handcuffed while you're dragging
us in the big net.

GUARD #1

Unh. Following orders.

ANDALIB

You're ordered to drag us out to
the desert.

GUARD #1

No.

SADIRA

No?

FX: Dragging stops.

GUARD #1

I've been ordered to drag you to
right here.

FX: Departing footsteps.

SADIRA

Hey!
(to Andalib)
Where's he going?

ANDALIB

Back to the compound.

SADIRA

And what's so special about this
spot?! I mean, in one direction,
there's Marrakesh. In the other,
there's that big... ray... gun.

Beat.

ANDALIB

Oh no.

SADIRA

They're going to kill us *and*
destroy Marrakesh!

ANDALIB

Quick, we've got to get out of
here. Do you have your hairpin?

SADIRA

Yes, but grunt I can't *reach*
it....

ANDALIB

Let *me* have it.

FX: Various sounds of exertion.

ANDALIB

Okay, and...

FX: Click.

ANDALIB

... that's me, and...

FX: Click.

ANDALIB

... that's you.

SADIRA

Ah my hands.

ANDALIB

Now let's take care of that net...

SADIRA

Got it!

FX: zill sound, several times consecutively.

SADIRA

Done!

FX: Click.

FX: Rising pure tone.

FX: Slowly oscillating pure tone.

ANDALIB
Right -- let's go!

FX: Various thereminy-noises.

FX: Andalib thumps on the ground.

ANDALIB
What happened?

SADIRA
We're trapped in some kind of....

NABEEN
"... force field?"

SADIRA
Prince Nabeen!

ANDALIB
What is the meaning of this?!

NABEEN
See? This is another of Doktor
Vellnit's inventions. It will keep
you here until the weapon has been
fired.

ANDALIB
But why?!

NABEEN
It's very simple, ladies. I wish to
rule all of Marrakesh. And not just
all of Marrakesh, but all of North
Africa! And after that, dare I
hope...

SADIRA
The world?

NABEEN
Hmmm. Clever as always.

SADIRA
Those were *your* plans for world
domination!

NABEEN
Ha. The Throat knew nothing about
it!

SADIRA
What do you mean, 'knew?'

NABEEN

The silly man thought he *was* an arms dealer.

SADIRA

What have you done with him?

NABEEN

Let's just say he's getting acquainted with your little scorpion friends.

SADIRA gasps.

NABEEN chuckles fiendishly.

ANDALIB

But why, in the name of all that is holy, did you send us to steal back your own diamond?!

SADIRA

And why did the Throat steal it from you in the first place?!

NABEEN

Ha! The Throat stole nothing but what I graciously *gave* to him. And as for stealing it back, well -- did you ever wonder who tipped off the Throat about your identity, Andalib?

ANDALIB

You told him?!

NABEEN

And why he had so many of his foot soldiers at the ready?

ANDALIB

It was a setup?

NABEEN

It was a trap! I would have made a show of trying to get the precious Hassid Diamond back... and the two women who could have uncovered my entire plot would have come to a tragic end.

SADIRA

He's climbing up to the La-Zo-Tron!
No!!

NABEEN

Ha! There will be no escape fo you
this time, bellydancing ninjas!

FX: the La-Zo-Tron starts its firing sequence.

NABEEN

Soon I will be rid of you, *and*
Marrakesh!

SADIRA

Didn't he want to rule Marrakesh?!

ANDALIB

You're a madman!

NABEEN

Not a madman, ladies. Just a
politician looking at the long
term.

Nabeen laughs fiendishly, the laughter fading a bit into the
distance.

FX: Digging sounds; Andalib grunts with exertion.

SADIRA

What are you doing?

ANDALIB

Digging out! We've got to get out
of this force field!

SADIRA

Hmm.

ANNOUNCER

Sadira picks up a handful of sand
and flings it at the force field.

SADIRA

It looks like a perfect sphere in
all directions.

FX: The 'force field resisting entry' noise

ANDALIB

Ow!

SADIRA

Digging won't help.

ANDALIB
(still digging)
Well have you got a better idea?

SADIRA
Hmm. There's the generator...

FX: Zill noise.

SADIRA
If I can just aim for the exposed
wires....

FX: Flings zill.

FX: The 'force field resisting entry' noise.

ANDALIB
It's hopeless, Sadira! It's a force
field! Nothing gets in, nothing
gets out!

Sadira sighs.

FX: Gleam!

SADIRA
Hey!

ANDALIB
What?

FX: Zill noise.

FX: Sustained "Gleam!" sound.

Andalib takes a brief break from digging.

ANDALIB
You're just sitting there.

SADIRA
I figured out what can get out of
the force field.

ANDALIB
What?

SADIRA
Light.

ANNOUNCER

With indefatigable concentration,
Sadira uses her zills to
concentrate the rays of the
blinding desert sun on to a single
spot in the electronics of the
force-field generator.

FX: Sustained "Gleam!" sound.

Andalib keeps digging frantically.

ANDALIB

Maybe... down here...

FX: The 'force field resisting entry' noise.

ANDALIB

Ow!

FX: Electronics sparking, 'fzzting', and crackling.

ANDALIB

What was that?

SADIRA

It overheated!

ANDALIB

Did it work?

ANNOUNCER

Sadira picks up a handful of sand,
and lets it go, and the wind
carries it away, into the infinite
desert.

Andalib digs a bit.

SADIRA

Why are you still digging?

ANDALIB

We're still being watched. Don't do
anything suspicious.

SADIRA

What **are** we going to do? In three
minutes that ray-gun will kill both
of us and most of Marrakesh!

ANDALIB

We wait for a good moment.

SADIRA
A good moment?

ANDALIB
Some kind of distraction.

SADIRA
Then what?

ANDALIB
Run.

Beat.

FX: Gunfire!

FX: Dramatic music.

ANDALIB
Oh my god!

ANNOUNCER
We'll resume Bellydancing Ninjas in
just a minute.

FX: Serious music.

ANNOUNCER
Now, we have a special announcement
from Doctor Gene Clarkson, of the
Bethesda Naval Hospital. Gene?

GENE
Thank you. Ladies and gentlemen, as
you are no doubt, skin ailments are
alarmingly on the rise. You may
wonder how you can protect yourself
and your children from the painful
inconvenience of psoriasis, eczema,
hives, and other forms of dry,
itchy skin. Luckily, help is on the
way!

BACKUP SINGERS
Lu-xo!

GENE
Remember: nothing is healthier than
smooth, luxuriated skin, and Luxo
is clinically proven to luxuriate
your skin like no other brand of
luxuriating cream can.

FX: Musical phrase.

ANNOUNCER

Thanks, Gene. And remember the name: Luxo Luxuriating Cream! It feels good... and it's good *for* you.

BACKUP SINGERS

Lu-xo!

ANNOUNCER

And now, back to our program.

FX: Gunfire!

ANDALIB

Oh my god!

SADIRA

It's... it's....

FX: Gunfire briefly stops.

THROAT

I have three minutes to live, and I'm taking all of you down with me!

FX: Gunfire resumes!

NABEEN

You imbeciles! Kill him immediately!

FX: Gunfire all around. General sounds of pandemonium.

SADIRA

IS THAT A GOOD DISTRACTION?!

ANDALIB

RUN!!

SADIRA

WHERE?!

ANDALIB

THIS WAY!!!

FX: Pandemonium continues.

FX: Running footsteps.

THROAT

Die!

FX: More bursts of gunfire.

Pandemonium dies down.

NABEEN
My men, they... they....

THROAT
(out of breath)
Dead. Dead.

NABEEN
There... there are more inside.
This isn't over!

THROAT
We sealed all the exits when we
tried to... gas them....

NABEEN
Gas who?

THROAT
I padlocked the last door behind
me.

FX: Gun cocks.

NABEEN
Now let's not be hasty, sir.

THROAT
There will be... no help... for
you... Nabeen.
(gasps)
Ulllp.

FX: Thud.

FX: Big Dramatic Chords

NABEEN
Ha. Give me that weapon.

FX: Some kind of gun-grabbing noise?

NABEEN
Only one last problem.

FX: Musical phrase

SADIRA
(really, really winded)
Why do... we have to... take the
long way... up.

ANDALIB
 (only slightly winded)
 Because it keeps us clear of the
 shooting.

SADIRA
 They're not... shooting... any
 more.

ANDALIB
 Well they were before -- look, it's
 just at the top of that ridge.

SADIRA
 I need... to sit.

ANDALIB
 It's just at the top of this ridge.

Sadira sighs.

ANDALIB
 Okay. Stay here.

SADIRA
 Ungh.

FX: Brief musical phrase.

Climbing sounds; sounds of exertion from Andalib.

NABEEN
 Andalib Hassan, how nice of you to
 join me.

ANDALIB
 Prince Nabeen. I'm sorry I have to
 do this, but -

NABEEN
 Ah ah ah. I'd be sorry if I had to
 shoot you.

ANDALIB
 Right.

NABEEN
 Have a seat over there. It gives
 the best view.

ANDALIB
 View of...

NABEEN

If my calculations are correct, in a mere thirty seconds, the La-Zo-Tron will fire an energy beam of incalculable power into dirty, squalid Marrakesh. And my humble beginnings, of the lowest royal blood and the most hardscrabble existence imaginable for a ruler of men, all will be, in an instant, incinerated!

ANDALIB

You were never going to sell it. The test was...

NABEEN

Just... whimsy? No, Miss Hassan. The first step of a plan! Where I, like the Phoenix of classical legend, shall be reborn from those ashes, and I shall be fit to rule the world!

ANDALIB

Please... Prince Nabeen... you are insane. You have always been benevolent and kind. You need *help.*

NABEEN

I need... to know where Sadira is.

ANDALIB

Why should I tell you?! So you can kill her, too?!

NABEEN

(offended)

No! I have no plans to *kill* either of you!

ANDALIB

Oh. Then why the --

NABEEN

Not until after you've seen the... glorious destruction of Marrakesh.

ANDALIB

Okay.

FX: Cocks gun.

NABEEN

Tell me, and your death will be quick!

ANDALIB

Never!!!

FX: Click.

Andalib sighs with relief.

NABEEN

Hmm. Empty chamber. How long can your luck hold out, Andalib?

ANDALIB

Hmm. Let's just say I'm willing to find out.

NABEEN

Very well. One more chance. Where is Sadira?!

ANDALIB

Behind you, re-targetting the La-Zo-Tron.

FX: Weapon-retargeting noises (servos, etc).

NABEEN

Now, see, that wasn't so -- WHAT?!

SADIRA

Hello!

NABEEN

(pleading)

It is to be aimed at Marrakesh...

SADIRA

Get out of the way Andalib!

NABEEN

... not... me...

ANDALIB

Aaaaghh!

FX: Thump.

NABEEN

NoooOOO!!!!

FX: Huge Thereminny blasty sound.

SADIRA

Wow.

Beat.

ANDALIB

I THINK YOU CAN TURN IT OFF NOW!

SADIRA

I DON'T KNOW HOW!

ANDALIB

IT'S TEARING INTO THE COMPLEX! TURN
IT OFF!!

SADIRA

I DON'T KNOW HOW!

FX: Series of muffled explosions getting louder and louder.

ANDALIB

GET THE DIAMOND OUT OF THERE!!!

SADIRA

I CAN'T HEAR YOU!

ANDALIB

I SAID GET THE DIAMOND OUT OF
THERE!!!

SADIRA

I STILL CAN'T HEAR YOU!

FX: Even louder explosions.

ANDALIB

TAKE COVER!!!

SADIRA

WE SHOULD TAKE COVER!!

FX: Running footsteps.

ANDALIB

DOWN!!

FX: Huge mega-explosion

FX: Various bits of stuff thump to the ground.

SADIRA

My god!

ANDALIB

No one could have survived that!

FX: Diamond-glittery sounds

Kind of absent, distracted conversation.

SADIRA

Oh, look.

ANDALIB

Ow.

SADIRA

The Hassid Diamond.

ANDALIB

Rrrrm.

SADIRA

The thing you were supposed to recover.

ANDALIB

For Prince Nabeen.

SADIRA

Who just exploded. Andalib, our employer just exploded.

ANDALIB

Yes. I saw that part.

SADIRA

What do we do with the diamond now that Prince Hassid just exploded?

ANDALIB

Hmm.

FX: Diamond-glittery sounds

Andalib grunts slightly

FX: A 'whoosh' sound, and the glittery noises disappear in the distance.

SADIRA

Wow. Look at it go.

FX: hoofbeats approach

SADIRA

Oh, Andalib...

ANDALIB

I know.

SADIRA

That was worth a lot of money.

ANDALIB

I know. Some things... deserve to
be lost in the desert.

FX: Hoofbeats approach nearer.

FX: Neighing.

SADIRA

Our horses!

ANDALIB

They're not ours, Sadira.

SADIRA

But their original owners just...

ANDALIB

Exploded. Okay.

FX: Radio static.

ANDALIB

What's this in the saddlebag?

SADIRA

Some kind of shortwave radio...

FX: Tuning noises.

RADIO VOICE (FILTERED)

This is Abdul-Salam Ali, calling
anyone who can hear me... the Oasis
of Peace is overrun! Bandits are
attacking from all directions! We
can't hold out until nightfall!
Anyone who can hear this
transmission, please: help us!!!

SADIRA

The Oasis of Peace!

ANDALIB

That's just west of here!

FX: Triumphant music.

FX: Sounds of saddling up.

FX: Additional neighing.

ANDALIB

Are you sure about this? It has
been a long day....

SADIRA

I'll be fine. Let's fight those
bandits!

FX: Galloping horses.

FX: A particularly triumphant, martial variation on the
opening theme plays.

ANNOUNCER

And so we take leave of Andalib and
Sadira, as they ride off into the
sunset, on to new adventures across
the mysterious east. We hope you've
enjoyed this production of
Bellydancing Ninjas, and would like
to thank RKO radio and Luxo
Linaments for their continuing
support. Thank you for listening,
and until next time: Good night!

Musical stab.