

(Name of Project)

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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, Art Institute
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 the meeting wasn't going as
planned....

NABEEN

Deploy the net... NOW!

FX: WHOOSH! as they throw the net.

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 dragged 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 into
the desert wastes.

FX: Dragging stops.

GUARD #1

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

FX: Departing footsteps.

SADIRA

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

ANDALIB

Oh no.

SADIRA

They're going to blast us to
smithereens *and* destroy
Marrakesh!

ANDALIB

We've got to get out of here. Do
you have your hairpin?

SADIRA

I can't reach it.

ANDALIB
Let *me* have it.

Various sounds of exertion.

ANDALIB
Okay, and...

FX: Click (handcuffs opening).

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

FX: Click (handcuffs opening).

ANDALIB
... that's you. Now the net --

SADIRA
Got it!

FX: Zill sound, several times consecutively.

SADIRA
Done!

FX: Rising pure tone. (Force field starts up.)

FX: Slowly oscillating pure tone. (Force field running.)

ANDALIB
Right -- let's go!

FX: BZZZT!

FX: Andalib thumps on the ground.

ANDALIB
Ow! What happened?

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

NABEEN
"... force field?"

SADIRA
Prince Nabeen!

ANDALIB
What is the meaning of this?!

NABEEN

This is another of Doktor Vellnit's inventions. It will keep you here until the weapon fires.

ANDALIB

But why?!

NABEEN

It's very simple, ladies. I wish to rule all of North Africa! And after that, dare I hope --

SADIRA

The world?

NABEEN

Clever as always.

SADIRA

Those were **your** plans for world domination!

NABEEN

The Throat knew nothing about them! The silly man thought he was an arms dealer.

ANDALIB

"Was?" What have you done with the Throat?

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! I **gave** him the diamond.

NABEEN(cont'd)

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

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

NABEEN

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

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

NABEEN

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

ANDALIB

You're a madman!

NABEEN

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

Nabeen laughs fiendishly.

FX: Digging sounds.

Sadira grunts with exertion.

ANDALIB

What are you doing?

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

ANDALIB
But it looks like a perfect sphere
in all directions.

FX: BZZZT!

SADIRA
Ow!

ANDALIB
So we can't dig out.

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

ANDALIB
Hmm.

ANNOUNCER
Andalib spies the generator for the
force field. She borrows a zill
from Sadira, carefully aims it at
the device, and --

FX: Zill noise.

FX: BZZZT!

ANDALIB
It's hopeless! Nothing can escape
this force field!

SADIRA
Wait -- one thing can.

ANDALIB
What?

SADIRA
Light.

ANNOUNCER
With indefatigable concentration,
our heroes uses their 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.

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

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.

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

ANDALIB
First, we need kind of distraction.

FX: Gunfire!

FX: Dramatic music.

ANDALIB
Look out!

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! It lu-xu-ri-ates your skin!

ANNOUNCER

And now, back to our program.

FX: Gunfire!

ANDALIB

Look out!

SADIRA

The shots are coming from... the scorpion cage!

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

THIS WAY!!!

FX: Pandemonium continues.

FX: Running footsteps.

THROAT

Die!

FX: More bursts of gunfire.

Pandemonium dies down.

NABEEN

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

THROAT

Dead. Dead.

NABEEN

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

THROAT

We sealed all the exits when we
gassed the ninjas.

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. Now to
tie up the last loose end...

ANNOUNCER

Meanwhile, Andalib and Sadira make
their way up to the La-Zo-Tron,
which is powering up on the high
promontory.

FX: Musical phrase.

SADIRA

(winded)

Why do... we have to... take the
long way... up.

ANDALIB
(winded)
It keeps us clear of the shooting.

SADIRA
They're not shooting any more.

ANDALIB
It's just a little bit further.

Sadira sighs.

ANDALIB
Stay here.

SADIRA
Ungh.

ANNOUNCER
So, Andalib makes it to the La-Zo-Tron alone, but someone is waiting for her.

FX: The La-Zo-Tron powers up.

NABEEN
Andalib Hassan, how nice of you to join me. 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,
but you still wanted the Throat to
go through with his test. It
was...

NABEEN

It was the first step of a plan!
Where I, like the phoenix of
classical legend, shall be reborn
from those ashes, fit to rule the
world!

ANDALIB

But Prince Nabeen, you have always
been benevolent and kind!

NABEEN

I need to know where Sadira is.

ANDALIB

So you can kill her, too?

NABEEN

(offended)

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

ANDALIB

Oh. Then why the --

NABEEN

No, not until after you've seen the
glorious destruction of Marrakesh!

ANDALIB

Okay.

FX: Cocks gun.

NABEEN

Tell me, or you die this instant.

ANDALIB

Never!!!

FX: The gun 'clicks'. Empty chamber.

Andalib sighs with relief.

NABEEN

One empty chamber. How long can
your luck hold out, Andalib?

ANDALIB

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

NABEEN

One more chance, then. 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

Aaaagh!

FX: Thump.

NABEEN

NoooOOO!!!!

FX: Huge Thereminny blasty sound.

SADIRA

Wow.

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 SAID 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 SAID I 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 we were supposed to recover.

ANDALIB

For Prince Nabeen.

SADIRA

He just exploded. Andalib, our employer just exploded.

ANDALIB

Yes he did.

FX: Hoofbeats approach.

FX: Neighing.

SADIRA

Our horses!

ANDALIB

They're not ours, Sadira.

SADIRA

But their original owners just...

ANDALIB

Exploded, with the rest of the complex. 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.

SADIRA
Let's saddle up!

FX: Sounds of saddling up.

FX: Additional neighing.

ANDALIB
Are you sure about this? It has
been quite a 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 our leave of Andalib
and Sadira as they ride off into
the sunset, on to new adventures
across the mysterious east. We
would like to thank Art Institute
radio and Luxo Linaments for their
support, and we hope you've enjoyed
this production of... Bellydancing
Ninjas!

Musical stab.