

EMILY

Actually, I'm on my way to work. Would you like to walk with me?

WAYNE

Who wouldn't?!

(WAYNE somewhat self-consciously offers EMILY his arm and they exit as the scene shifts to reveal:)

Scene 4: The Midway at the Temple of Wonder – immediately following

(To one side of the stage is the Temple of Wonder, the Test-Your-Strength game to the other side. FAIRGOERS are coming and going as THE ASTOUNDING STRALENKO gives his pitch on a platform in front of the Temple of Wonder. He's decked out in harem pants, a bejeweled vest and a heroic turban. Despite his getup, there is something about him more Grossinger's than Marrakech – maybe it's the black horn-rimmed glasses.)

STRALENKO

(In a faux Eastern European accent.)

Step right up, ladies and gents! Welcome to The Temple of Wonder. Presenting the saucy Siamese twins, Ruth and Esther, and those maidens of Marrakech – Cleopatra's Carnal Cuties!

(He hits a gong; VIVIAN and JEANNE, two Egyptian-esque cooch dancers, go into their enticing preview performance. PAT GILBERT enters, the press pass in his hat indicating that he's a newspaper reporter. He's followed by CHARLIE, a photographer.)

PAT

I tell ya, Charlie, I've had some lousy assignments in my day but the old man really stuck me this time.

CHARLIE

He thinks you've gotten too big for your britches so he's taking ya down a peg.

PAT

With what I wrote during the war, for crying-out-loud. I covered Bataan – I covered Midway.

CHARLIE

Yeah, well now you're covering the midway. Look, enjoy the sunshine, do your job and shut up about it.

PAT

I got no interest in this human interest junk.

(Music out.)

STRALENKO

And believe me, gentlemen, you'll see a lot more of these exotic beauties, but only on the inside. Step right up!