

## Resource G: **QUEEN VICTORIA AND ABDUL, ACT 1 SCENE 13**

### Scene 13

#### **Windsor Castle**

VICTORIA is sat on a chair, dressed for a royal occasion. (Party noises in the back/g. Chamber music). She is holding court to a party but looks very tired and worn. ABDUL KARIM is stood next to her holding a tray with a glass on it. VICTORIA intermittently takes a drink and replaces the glass on the tray. She waves her hand around towards the audience to indicate the guests. LADY SARAH is also there, though standing at some distance.

VICTORIA All our subjects from all the corners of our Empire, come to see their Queen and Sovereign.

*ABDUL looks into the crowd obviously amazed*

ABDUL Ma'am, you are the most powerful and respected monarch in the world.  
Might I ask, when will you make it official?

VICTORIA You are too impatient Abdul.

ABDUL I have been extremely patient.  
There is whispering and gossip at Court that  
Your Majesty treats me as one would an exotic pet.

VICTORIA Ahh... but a beloved pet.

*VICTORIA laughs*

ABDUL Your Majesty enjoys my discomfort at these words?

VICTORIA We enjoy having you by our side.

ABDUL I am your loyal Servant but there are those out there who do not trust me. If you were to make the appointment official, I would not have to suffer the indignities of being ridiculed, Ma'am.

VICTORIA Come, come Abdul. There are procedures we must adhere to.

ABDUL You gave me your word.

VICTORIA Are you questioning our word Abdul?

ABDUL No Ma'am, I apologise. I am simply eager to serve you to the best of my abilities.

VICTORIA Bertie asked us if you were trustworthy.

ABDUL: Ma'am?

VICTORIA If you have any connections with Indian agitators?

VICTORIA looks at ABDUL

VICTORIA Well? Have you? Any connections that is?

ABDUL *(Affronted)* With all due respect to His Royal Highness I find that questioning of my character, extremely...insulting...

VICTORIA laughs. ABDUL looks even more affronted

VICTORIA There are people out there who have tried to assassinate us you know.

ABDUL Ma'am... I am so sorry for the suffering that has caused you...but to think...that I would attempt to hurt or conspire against your Majesty in any way... pains me to the core of my heart...

VICTORIA We have told Bertie you are harmless.

ABDUL If your Majesty wishes to dismiss me from her service, or if Your Majesty feels that I am unworthy of such office, close to your royal person...

VICTORIA waves ABDUL'S concerns away

VICTORIA Abdul – please.

ABDUL I am sorry to press the point but when will you...?

VICTORIA smiles at ABDUL coquettishly

VICTORIA It is already done.

ABDUL looks confused.

VICTORIA We have arranged it and it is official.