That's Showbiz

by Paul Illidge (December 2024)



Twenty Cent Movie (Reginald Marsh, 1936)

I'm dreaming of a white Christmas on the road to A desert golf course Riding some would-be camel With a pharaoh-like partner Behind me crooning That his love is buried deep In a false woman's heart When

Bing! Up ahead there's a mirage An oasis flickering and Shimmering And Charlton Heston with His hair parted down the middle Like the Red Sea Is dancing kind of funny With a cute Cleopatra Who could pass for Elizabeth Taylor anywhere

The music is ancient The hieroglyphics are real A thirsty extra in plus-fours Pipe between his teeth Sidles up to our caravan and requests permission to play through

Cut!

Yells the director So I return to wardrobe Feeling a strange and confusing Excitement that somehow I lived a long time ago In a kingdom history has All but forgotten Where the high priests of comedy Performed nightly for crowds Of wildly appreciative pyramid- builders

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Paul Illidge's most recent book is the true crime financial thriller *RSKY BZNS* (New English Review Press, 2022), a "fascinating story" (Frank Abagnale, Jr., author of *Catch Me if You Can*), a "gripping and intricate read" (Conrad Black).

His book THE BLEAKS (ECW Press), was a Globe & Mail Best Book of 2014. Books in his Shakespeare Novels series Hamlet, King Lear, Othello, Twelfth Night, Midsummer Night's Dream, Macbeth, Romeo and Juliet, are all available internationally at www.kobobooks.com

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