

EMP. Party halt. Well done, Sergeant Ping. A splendid result. There's no one here to see us at all.

PING. Thank you, Your Majesty.

EMP. Well, isn't this nice? We're all on our own. No commoners to spoil things. A real royal occasion. Eh, Jasmine, my dear?

**(There is no reply.)**

Jasmine...? Jasmine!! Sergeant Ping!

PING. Yes, Your Majesty?

EMP. You've lost the Princess!

PING. No.

EMP. Yes!

PING. Yes?

PONG. **(appalled)** No!

EMP. Yes! Yes! Yes! **(Grabbing PING'S nose.)** You incompetent buffoon! This is utterly, totally and completely your fault!

PING. But, Your Majesty -

EMP. **(whacks hand which holds nose)** Shut up!

PONG. But, Your Majesty -

PING. **(whacking PONG)** Shut up!

**(Siren starts up.)**

EMPEROR. And stop that ridiculous noise.

**(PONG fumbles for his truncheon, which the EMPEROR snatches and whacks both him and PING repeatedly over the head.)**

I said stop it! ...Stop it! Stop it! Stop it!

**(Siren stops in a rather broken way.)**

This is a national emergency. We must find her. **(To ATTENDANTS.)** You two! Run as fast as you can and find the Princess. **(As they go off.)** Ping and Pong, follow that chair!