

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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