

“A Problem for Zelda”

A comic sketch

by

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A PROBLEM FOR ZELDA

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A PROBLEM FOR ZELDA

Scene. A living Room. Door stage right. Sideboard to rear with candles on. Table centre, four chairs round, long table cloth to floor

Cast. Madam Zelda..... Long, loud, flowery dress. Lots of scarves
Mavis.....Timid 40's well dressed.
Mans' voice.

Mavis (off) Hello. Is there anyone there? Hello!!

Zelda (off) Come on in Mrs. Lightfoot. I'll be with you in a moment

Mavis (off) Hello!! I am in. Hello!!

Zelda (off) Go through into the living room dear. You know the way.

Mavis (coming on)Hello!!!! Where are you? Hello!!

Zelda (off)Mrs. Lightfoot? No you are not Mrs. Lightfoot. Who have we here my dears, a stranger in our house, one without an appointment. I'll be with you in a moment dear, and don't you worry, we'll soon see an end to your problems. Make yourself comfortable.

Mavis Are you in here? What's that smell?

(enter Madam Zelda)

Zelda Hello my dear. You don't have an appointment do you?

Mavis No! But I thought you could.

Zelda I can my dear. Please sit Mrs.???

Mavis Mavis. Mavis Warwick.

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- Zelda So tell me Mrs. Warwick. Tell me? Do you pronounce the “W” as in Warwick. Or not as in Warick? What is your problem?
- Mavis Warwick. Your advert says that you’re a side kick is that right?
- Zelda Yes of course I am my dear.
- Mavis That you can see the future and the past. Is that true?
- Zelda Yes my dear. You can go to the circus side shows for your fortune to be told but they don’t have the seeing eye. Only I Madam Zelda has the seeing eye dear. Now what is your problem?
- Mavis Can you find where dead bodies are and things like that?
- Zelda If I turned my extensive experience to it yes I could my dear.
- Mavis So with this seeing eye thing, you can see everything can you?
- Zelda I help people in their search, yes.
- Mavis So if someone is searching for something you can help?
- Zelda We are, all of us, searching for something my dear. It’s just a question of knowing what.
- Mavis If someone knows what they’re searching for. Can you help them find it?
- Zelda I can try my dear, if the spirit world is willing to help.
- Mavis So you help the police to find things? To help them solve crimes do you?
- Zelda I think that you have been watching too many American television programs dear. I’m not saying that I can’t do that but the police over here don’t use psychics like the Americans do.

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Mavis So you are a side kick? If I lost something, just for instance, could you help me find it?

Zelda I could my dear, but you would have to make an appointment like everyone else does. Now when could I fit you in?

Mavis It's got to be today. It's got to be now.

Zelda But I already have the appointment for now dear. In fact she is late. Every week she comes and talks to her late husband. For two years she has been coming and has never been late before.

Mavis Is that Mrs. Lightfoot?

Zelda That is her yes.

Mavis I saw her on the way in and asked if I could take her place today. She didn't argue. I thought that you could see everything?

Zelda So I can my dear but I don't have the seeing eye turned on all the time. That would be so tedious and tiring, also I would be intruding into other peoples lives. Having the seeing eye is a great responsibility dear, you have to know when and how to use it.

Mavis You can switch it on and off then?

Zelda To put it simply, like you have just done, then yes dear. Now what is it that you so desperately need me for my dear.

Mavis You said that you could see everything? Can't you see what I want?

Zelda I can my dear, but I need you to confirm what I am seeing. Give me your hands dear.

(she pulls away)

Mavis What do you need to touch my hands for? If you can see then you don't need to touch me.

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Zelda We have one here my dears don't we? Physical contact helps dear. You have so much going on inside your mind that all I can see at the moment is a jumble of information. The touching of hands helps to filter out the rubbish and brings to the fore what I need to know.

Mavis Who were you talking to just then?

Zelda My husband dear.

Mavis (looking round) Where is he? Is he listening in? Is he upstairs?