

Isabella Audition Material (I)

Isabella is annoyed at her father for losing yet another insult-duel...

ALCHEMIST

Of all the black-hearted, bilge-drinking, puss-filled, wench-rubbing, life-snubbing, corn-cobbling, horse-hobbling, sons of a goat!

ISABELLA

Father! Why didn't you say any of that during the duel? Those are much better insults than the rubbish you came out with!

ALCHEMIST

How dare you, stripling! Insult duelling is an ancient and delicate art. Not to be soiled by a woman's tongue!

ISABELLA

But why do you always use the same insults? Every time you use the same list and every time the Undertaker comes out with more!

ALCHEMIST

Ha! You are just showing how little you know of my fiendish strategy! Using the same insults, as I have ALWAYS done, is the very LAST thing that old fool will expect!

ISABELLA

But he does *expect* it, Dad! That's why he beats you *every* bloody time!

ALCHEMIST

How DARE you lecture ME! I was losing to the Undertaker before you were even born!

ISABELLA

I know! And you wouldn't stop even when mum got ill. Perhaps if you'd been there....

ALCHEMIST

How dare you mention her name! How dare you blame me for her death! I who fed you, housed you, taught you how to turn rats yellow! Ungrateful, unfeeling child! This is how you repay me after all these long years!

ISABELLA

But Dad...

ALCHEMIST

Enough! Get out! Never darken my towels again! Begone!

ISABELLA

Fine!

Exit.

Isabella Audition Material (II)

Clive is explaining his current predicament to Isabella...

CLIVE and ISABELLA are sitting on the step.

CLIVE

So that's how things stand - we've got just under two days to come up with the rent and save the business.

ISABELLA

I'm so sorry Clive. I wish I could do something to help. You know, this won't be the first time I've seen a business pull itself back from the brink. When I was travelling around Europe with Pips—

CLIVE

Pips?

ISABELLA

...oh, that's what I used to call Pied. Silly really. Anyway we were in Germany and there was this one town—Hamelin—that refused to pay Pips for solving their rat problem. So Pips kidnapped every child in the town and held them to ransom in a cave.

CLIVE

He did what!?!

ISABELLA

Oh he really didn't have any choice, Clive! That's how things are done in Germany.

CLIVE

This Piper guy sounds like a bit of a nutter if you ask me. And I thought your father didn't let you have boyfriends?

ISABELLA

Oh, daddy liked Pips! Daddy can't stand rats, so he and Pips got on like a house on fire. He was *most* upset when I gave Pips the shove.