

Audition Extract 11. BALDWIN & CHURCHILL

BALDWIN'S STUDY, TEN DOWNING STREET

*The radio is being listened to by CHURCHILL and BALDWIN.*

CHURCHILL (*referring to Hitler*) Listen to him . . .

BALDWIN (*referring to the crowd*) Listen to them.

CHURCHILL Turn that devil off!

*(BALDWIN reaches over; the hysteria stops.)*

CHURCHILL If only one could do so in real life.

BALDWIN Chamberlain thinks Chancellor Hitler can be talked to.

CHURCHILL Neville is an old woman.

BALDWIN That's the direction it's going, Winston. You're out of step.

CHURCHILL We'll see who trips and falls.

BALDWIN Enough pleasantries. I've asked you here because you seem to be the only sensible member of the King's camp.

CHURCHILL Nice of you to say so, Stanley.

BALDWIN Is he willing to be responsible?

CHURCHILL Depends what's considered reasonable.

BALDWIN (*bluntly*) Has he seen the light?

CHURCHILL He has. (*BALDWIN brightens*) Our Monarch basks in the luminescence of a celestial orb. Her name is 'Wally'.