

Audition Extract 1. KING GEORGE V & DAVID

KING GEORGE V (*unseen*) The answer is NO!

DAVID (*unseen*) For what earthly reason is the lady not invited?

(A spotlight snaps on revealing the two men in heated conflict. The elder is bearded KING GEORGE V, wearing a more elaborate version of the uniform BERTIE was dressed in. The younger is his eldest son, DAVID, Prince of Wales. He dress uniform is halfway between Bertie's and the King's in terms of elaborateness. His jacket however is unbuttoned and his bicorn hat held in hand.)

KING GEORGE V Two reasons. One: she is not a lady. Two: she is another man's wife.

DAVID My friendship with Mrs Simpson makes me sublimely happy, sir.

KING GEORGE V That's undoubtedly because she's sleeping with you.

DAVID I give you my word, we've never had immoral relations.

KING GEORGE V As my son, as my heir, as Prince of Wales, do you solemnly swear your friendship with this woman is an absolutely clean one?

DAVID I do.

KING GEORGE V Look me in the eye!

DAVID On my honour, sir.

KING GEORGE V You have the temerity to stare me in the eye and lie?!

DAVID What I cannot understand, dear Father is, why it pleases you to terrify me and destroy my happiness. But you succeed admirably on both counts.

KING GEORGE V Delighted to hear it. My father was frightened of his mother, I was frightened of my father, and I'm damned well going to see to it that my

children are frightened of me. (*Switching to faux sweetness*) Be a good boy . . .
(*Bellows*) . . . and do your duty!

(*DAVID is clearly terrified of his father.*)

DAVID (*nonetheless*) I think not, sir, I think not.