ACT ONE, SCENE FOUR

The Museum Staff - Dr Baker, Margaret, Nathan, Elizabeth and Dottie - are gathered together at the exhibition. They are clearly very worried indeed.

Dottie Who on earth would want to steal two mummies?

Nathan A greedy orphan?

Elizabeth Nathan, that’s tasteless.

Nathan Sorry.

Dr Baker Those mummies are priceless; they’d go for millions on the black market.

Margaret I just hope they’re being well looked after.

Elizabeth Hadn’t we better call the police?

Nathan (taking out his phone) Good idea. What’s the number?

Suddenly a booming voice is heard from the back of the theatre. It is Chief Inspector Bucket and his colleagues from Scotland Yard.

Bucket There’s no need.

Dottie (surprised, calling out into the audience) Why not?

Bucket Because we’re already here. Go on you lot, get about your business.

The police officers speed through the audience and swarm onto the stage, immediately seeking clues, moving bits of set and props, generally corrupting the crime scene. Chief Inspector Bucket and his deputy, Detective Sergeant Spade, make their way (with a good deal of swagger) over to the museum staff.
Bucket (to the museum staff) Gentlemen.

Margaret Er, actually three of us are women.

Bucket Or so you would have me believe, madam. But who’s to say you are not actually one of the criminals in disguise?

Margaret (panicked) What? I …

Dr Baker Don’t listen to him, my love. I mean, my dear. I mean … Margaret.

Bucket Allow me to introduce myself. I am Chief Inspector Bucket, and this (he gestures) is Detective Sergeant Spade.

Nathan Really? Bucket and Spade?

Spade We’re a match made in heaven.

Nathan Or at the beach.

Bucket Quiet. Now then, Upton?

PC Upton is upstage and comes down as his name is called, followed by the others when called.

PC Upton Yes sir.

Bucket Middleton?

PC Middleton Yes sir.

Bucket Abbey?

PC Abbey Yes sir.

Bucket Downton? (No answer. Pause) What’s happened to Downton, Abbey?

PC Abbey I miss it too, sir. Sunday nights will never be the same. Still, there’s bound to be another Christmas special at some point. Guaranteed ratings for ITV.

Bucket (irritated and confused) What?

PC Assissi (looking off) He’s just coming now, sir.

Downton arrives on stage doing up his flies.
Bucket: Where the hell have you been?

Downton: Sorry, Cap. Call of nature.

Bucket: Zip it, Downton. I want these four interrogated until they’re blue in the face.

Elizabeth: Don’t you mean red?

Bucket: I mean what I say, madam. You’ll find that I am far from predictable.

Nathan: I knew he’d say that.

Bucket: Spade, you take the good doctor and see what you can dig up. It wouldn’t surprise me if he knows a thing or two.

Spade: Well as long as it’s only a thing or two, I’m running out of space in my notebook.

Dr Baker: You can’t possibly think that we had anything to do with the mummies disappearing.

Elizabeth: It’s preposterous.

Bucket: Madam, I would appreciate you using shorter words.

Margaret: They’ve been stolen by crooks, kidnapped by ransomers. And you’re here accusing us!

Bucket: I have accused nobody. (pause) Yet. We are here to uncover the truth ... 

Spade: To expose the lies.

PC Apple: To blow the whistle.

Bucket: Easy, Apple, you’re not at the football now.

Dr Baker: You’re not filling me with a lot of confidence, I must say.

Bucket: Doctor, my record speaks for itself, and I’ll tell you what it says. It says I always find my man.

Elizabeth: Or woman.
Bucket (upset) No, sadly I’ve never found a woman, more’s the pity. It’s a bachelor’s life for me. Unless ... (to Dottie) I don’t suppose you’re looking for some … companionship?

Dottie No, thank you. I’ve got three cats and a pig already. I don’t need another one.

PC Coco Hey! Chief Inspector Bucket is no pig.

Bucket It’s alright, Coco, I can fight my own battles. Besides, I’m married to the force anyway.

Spade You’re a credit to it, sir. I believe in you. I know you’ll get to the bottom of this.

Bucket (rallying himself) I will indeed. We all will. We are Scotland Yard’s bestest, the boys in blue, aren’t we boys!

Police Yeah!

Bucket We will find these mummies, boys, and when we do, they’ll wish they’d never been born.

Spade The mummies?

Bucket The crooks.

Spade Oh, right.