

SKETCH SHOW

written by

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SKETCH 1: DIGESTIVE BISCUITS
(ANNOUNCER)

SFX: A FINGER CLICK IS HEARD ONCE EVERY 3.5
SECONDS

ANNOUNCER

(After three clicks)Every time I click my fingers, a child dies. Equally, 182 packets of McVitie's Chocolate Digestives are sold. Biscuits: nearly 200 times as popular as child mortality.

SKETCH 2: PROPERTY ROPE-LADDER
(ESTATE AGENT, MALE PURCHASER, FEMALE PURCHASER)

SOUND: PEOPLE WALKING ON A WOODEN FLOOR

ESTATE AGENT

As you can see, this next property is a surprisingly spacious first floor studio-apartment-cross-tree-house. It's been on the market for a couple of months now, and should be perfect for a young professional couple like yourselves.

MALE PURCHASER

It does seem to be pretty much what we're looking for. Am I right in thinking it's a new build?

ESTATE AGENT

Not quite, there was one previous occupant, though it was only lightly used as a holiday house in summer weekends. You will be the first to really leave your personality in the walls here.

FEMALE PURCHASER

This previous occupant, why did he choose to move?

ESTATE AGENT

First let me assure you that it wasn't due to a fault in the property, it just didn't meet his needs. You see, it was commissioned when he was seven, but after an eleven year build he was already looking for a bigger place. Now he's selling it to recuperate some of the costs.

FEMALE PURCHASER

Well that's more than understandable.

MALE PURCHASER

So what part of the apartment are we in now?

ESTATE AGENT

This is the main living area, though it also serves as kitchen and dining room. And that corner over there is the bathroom.

FEMALE PURCHASER

I take it there are all the normal facilities.

ESTATE AGENT

Of course, for example the hole in the roof over there provides you with lukewarm running water all year round.

MALE PURCHASER

And what about access?

ESTATE AGENT

I see your concern: and whilst the land leading to your entrance is not a part of the deeds; you are guaranteed access through, so

(MORE)

ESTATE AGENT (CONT'D)

long as you take your shoes off when going through their lounge. It's a new carpet you see.

MALE PURCHASER

That is reassuring to know, but it's not really what I was asking. I was more thinking about getting to the apartment itself. It is quite a climb, and I was wondering if there were any alternatives. A lift, perhaps?

FEMALE PURCHASER

Not for us, you understand. It's just my mother, she likes to visit quite often, and she is very old now. She'd never make it all the way up.

ESTATE AGENT

I see where you're going with this. There is a simple rope-and-pulley lift over there, the only problem I could see in using it is that the official planning designation is as a cargo transport device. So technically, you'll have to apply for change of use. But I'm sure no-one would mind if you just used it to move a couple of geriatrics every once in a while.

SKETCH 3: DAME JUDI DENCH
(ANNOUNCER, ANNOUNCER 2, SPEAKER)

SFX: FM TUNING

ANNOUNCER

And now, a reminder of tonight's main headline: Ray Mears tragically died this morning after a fifty year battle with BEARS. The Queen has yet to release a statement regarding this. That concludes tonight's news. In a minute a depressing look at the life of a rural family, giving you small relief from the nagging thought that you never did buy the house in the country you always dreamed of, but first.

ANNOUNCER 2

Hello, I'm Radio Four, and this is the Dame Judi Dench appeal. Every year hundreds of anecdotes are abandoned mid-flow. This unfortunate tale had its punchline forgotten.

SPEAKER

(Fade in)so then I turned to the bishop and said (pause) wait, no that's not it at all. So the bishop said to me (pause) no, this was the one without the clergy.(Fade out)

ANNOUNCER 2

And this one wasn't funny to begin with.

SPEAKER

(Fade in)As it happens, the Marquis was there as well, and he (pause) How is your wife these days Jeffery?(Fade out)

ANNOUNCER 2

For just two pounds a week you can sponser an anecdote, and ensure this doesn't happen again. Each week, the anecdote will write to

(MORE)

ANNOUNCER 2 (CONT'D)

you, and we will discretely insert it into an after-dinner speech, allowing it to fulfil its true ambition as a breif account. Here at the Mark Twain institute for abandoned anecdotes, we never put a healthy story down, so please, find it in your wallets to give generously.

SKETCH 4: PAPAL FOOTBALL
(ANNOUNCER, ANNOUNCER 2)

SFX: BACKGROUND CHEERING ETC AS FOUND IN FOOTBALL GROUND

ANNOUNCER

And now we return to the heated semifinal of the European football tournament. It's 2 minutes before half-time, Germany are down two, and Vatican City curently have possession.

ANNOUNCER 2

Cardinal Gantin is running down the left wing, turns, and passes to the Arch-Bishop of Liverpool. Liverpool makes it into the box and...

ANNOUNCER

That is a nasty tackle from Hinkel. Liverpool is down, and it does not look like he's getting up soon.

ANNOUNCER 2

The referee has red-carded Hinkel, and awarded a penalty to Vatican city. Though this hold little solace for Liverpool as he

(MORE)

ANNOUNCER 2 (CONT'D)

is stretchered off, denied his hatrick for this game.

ANNOUNCER

It just remains to see who Vatican City have chosen to substitute for Liverpool. And (pause) yes, it looks like Pope Benidict the sixteenth, or Mr. Popey Pope as he is known among friends. is being sent on to the field.

ANNOUNCER 2

He was a contravertial choice from the start. Being German-born, there have been repeated petitions to remove him from the Vatican team altogether. This, combined with his performance on Eurovision clashing with kick-off undoubtedly lead to the decision to leave him of the starting eleven.

ANNOUNCER

Mr Popey Pope is lining up to take the penalty. Nerves evident in the German keeper's eyes, Ratzinger has repeatedly shown himself to be unpredictable in penalties. The Pope runs, kicks Nuer dives, and (pause)

ANNOUNCER 2

Nuer saves! The entire german crowd cheers in jubilation. They can still bring this game back.

ANNOUNCER

But Ratzinger does not look pleased at this. He is running at Nuer now, and (pause) Mr.

(MORE)

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

Popey Pope just punched the german keeper in the face, letting the ball roll backwards across the line.

ANNOUNCER 2

The ref has halted play while he works out what just happened. On the one hand, Nuer clearly had both hands on the ball, making that an illegal tackle. However, Benidict sixteen is claiming Papal infallibilty: if he did it, it must be within the rules.

ANNOUNCER

This leaves him with a tricky situation, because while Papal infallibility may have been Catholic doctrine since the late 19th century, UEFA have repeatedly ignored calls to make an official position on this, instead choosing to leave it to the referee's discretion.

SKETCH 5: SYMPATHY DEATH
(OFFICER, DOCTOR)

SFX: SOME FORM OF BLEEPING, LIKE A HOSPITAL

OFFICER

Doctor! Have you discovered the cause of death yet?

DOCTOR

(In a thick German Accent)Ja, officer. It vas quite simple. The death vas entirely natural.

OFFICER

Two hundred dead in Trafalgar square, from natural causes?

DOCTOR

Nein. Vun from natural causes, und ein hundert und neunety sefen cases of sympathy death.

OFFICER

Sympathy death?

DOCTOR

Ja, ja. Surprisingly common. It only takes vun particually empathic person to start a fatal chain reaction. You see, it is much easier to feel bad about two dead than vun. And it takes a monster to be unaffected by ein hudert und neuntey six corpses.

OFFICER

You said a hundred and ninety seven died of this...sympathy death. That leaves two unaccounted for.

DOCTOR

They vere (pause) lucky, they managed to surfife. Unavare of vhat vas happening, but not wanting to make ein scene, they simply lay down und pretended.

SKETCH 6: GUY FAWKES
(ANNOUNCER)

ANNOUNCER

November the Fifth can be a great holiday, but to keep Guy Fawke's Night fun for everyone involved, remember these important safety tips: first, when burning tyres remember to remove them from the car first. Secondly, remember to only burn Catholics in

(MORE)

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

effigy, as cassocks can produce toxic fumes when ignited. Finally, don't set up your bonfire until the day you plan to burn it; as Lumberjacks can become confused and build their nests inside fires left overnight.

SKETCH 7: GLOVE PUPPET

(MRS GORDON, TEACHER, MR GORDON, CHRIS)

MRS GORDON

Hi, thanks for meeting us on such short notice. We're worried about our Jenny's education.

TEACHER

It's quite all right, what is the problem?

MR GORDON

Well, it's Mr. Henrickson, her Geography teacher, we're not convinced he's a suitable teacher. Are you sure he's qualified?

TEACHER

Of course, all of our Teachers are fully qualified in their respective fields. What, exactly is your problem with him?

MRS GORDON

Well, ostensibly it's because, well, uh

MR GORDON

It's because he's a sock-puppet.

TEACHER

Don't you think that's a little racist?

MRS GORDON

Not at all, I've seen him. He's on the hand of who I can only assume is the caretaker.

TEACHER

(Appauled)Mrs Gordon. This school is an equal-opportunities employer. Furthermore I cannot believe that you would be so bigoted as to suggest that he should be disqualified from teaching just because he's not from around these parts.

MR GORDON

That's not it at all, I have nothing against them. Some of my best friends are marionettes. I just don't think it's suitable for him to be teaching geography.

TEACHER

He doesn't need to hear this, but I think it's only fair that he's given a chance to face his accusers.

SFX: INTERCOM BUZZER

TEACHER

Kate, could you send Chris in?

SFX: DOOR OPENING AND CLOSING, FOOTSTEPS

TEACHER

Chris, this is Mr. and Mrs. Gordon, they're Jenny's parents.

MRS GORDON

Hello

MR GORDON

It's a pleasure

CHRIS

SFX: INDETERMINATE SQUEAKING

TEACHER

Now, could you reiterate your complaints to his face?

MRS GORDON

We think it's your fault that Jenny isn't doing well in Geography. We don't think she will be able to pass her GCSEs with you teaching her.

CHRIS

SFX: INDETERMINATE SQUEAKING

TEACHER

Yes Chris, it's because of that.

CHRIS

SFX: SINGLE, DISGRUNTLED SQUEAK

MR GORDON

For a start, there's his voice. I can't understand a thing he's saying, and I doubt any of his students can either.

TEACHER

Nobody is denying that he has quite a heavy accent, but if you would take the time to listen to him, he's not hard to understand.

MRS GORDON

And look at him, he doesn't have any arms. How can he hope to demonstrate anything, or even mark the children's work?

CHRIS

SFX: SQUEAKY SOBBING, PERSISTS TO END OF SKETCH

TEACHER

You make me sick. The racism I could almost tolerate, but to mock him because of his

(MORE)

TEACHER (CONT'D)

quadriplegia is too far. Get out. Both of
you.

SKETCH 8: PHONETIC XYLOPHONE
(POLICEMAN, RADIO RECEIVER)

SFX: RADIO STATIC, RECEIVER BEING SWITCHED TO
TALK. THIS OCCURS BETWEEN EACH EXCHANGE.
ALSO, THERE ARE SOUNDS OF SCREECHING

POLICEMAN

This is unit two six eight four, a black
sedan is leaving the scene, we are in
pursuit. Registration is: Aubergine Xylophone
Two Five, Gnat Tsunami Phrontistery. Over.

RADIO RECEIVER

Receiving, how are you spelling Phrontistery?
Over.

POLICEMAN

That would be: Psychology Honour Rgveda
Over...

RADIO RECEIVER

(Interrupting) That doesn't seem long enough,
over.

POLICEMAN

That's because I'm not done yet. Over.

RADIO RECEIVER

Sorry, continue. Over.

POLICEMAN

Psychology Honour Rgveda Over Ntamani
Theramin Iulan Scabble Theramin Eugene Rgveda
Ylem. Over.

RADIO RECEIVER

That's better, could you use it in a
sentance? Over.

POLICEMAN

Could I have a moment to think about that one? Over.

RADIO RECEIVER

You can take as long as you like, just remember I can't send backup until you provide a correct answer. Over.

POLICEMAN

(Vague muttering)

RADIO RECEIVER

No conferring with your partner. Over.

POLICEMAN

Is "I had a phronitery with my breakfast this morning" acceptable? Over.

RADIO RECEIVER

I'm afraid not. I can give you one more chance. Over.

SFX: MORE SCREECHING TYRES, FOLLOWED BY GUNSHOTS, THE SOUND OF A CAR CRASHING, THEN SCREAMING.

RADIO RECEIVER

Wrong again. Don't be disheartened though, as a consolation I'm going to send you two PCSOs on a tandem. Over.

SKETCH 9: NORTHERN
(GAVIN, GAVINS DAD, GAVINS MUM)

GAVIN

Mum, Dad. This isn't easy for me to say, and I don't really know how to tell you, but I'm (pause) I'm Northern.

GAVINS DAD

That's nothing to joke about son.

GAVIN

I'm not joking dad.

GAVINS MUM

It's probably just a phase. Lots of boys your age experiment with light regional accents, it's nothing to be ashamed of. You'll be back to your Surrey ways in no time.

GAVIN

It's not a phase! It's who I am. Black pudding doesn't seem like a wholly disgusting proposition. I regularly go coal mining to feed my heroin addiction.

GAVINS DAD

Heroin? Is crack not good enough for you?

GAVINS MUM

(Sobbing) What have I done wrong? Why couldn't you grow up to be normal like everyone else?

GAVINS DAD

Don't blame yourself love, it's not your fault. We gave him the best upbringing we could: we even moved to the catchment area of the best Grammar School in the area. It's him who chose to throw this all away to go swanning off in Liverpool.

GAVIN

I'm still your son! Can't you just accept who I am?

GAVINS DAD

I have no son. Now get out, and don't even think about showing your face in Kingston again.