

The Torrent

The Secret Parlour

Who beat up Jimmy Jazz?

The Ghost in the Tower

Perhaps when you begin a story with no idea where it's going to end it's likely to end up being a mystery. We might here have been influenced by a fantastic 'long form impro' company we trained with in San Francisco called True Fiction Magazine who borrow from that world of intrigue and derring do. Like the famous five but with only three, we set out to unravel these mysteries and found ourselves in ripping adventures.

Hard Hearted Hannah: Tales of mystery and adventure by Cartoon de Salvo

cartoon de salvo

Hard Hearted Hannah: Mysteries



Who Beat Up Jimmy Jazz?

Uckfield Community Technical College, Fri 9 May, 2008

Songs: *You Sexy Thing*, *Ginger Man* & *The Mercy Seat*

Brian starts, as a mafia don dining with his two nephews

Characters

Don Gianluigi, a Mafioso

Vittorio & Paolo, his nephews

Momma Peroni, his mother

Fabrizio, his long-lost nephew

Jimmy Jazz, a hoodlum

Stevie, his underling

Crackerjack, aka Elsie, his underling

A barmaid

Some dock-workers

It's Don Gianluigi's 60th birthday, and he's invited nephews Paolo and Vittorio for meatballs - juts like his late wife used to make them. Paolo gives Gianluigi a present of a snowdome of old Sicily. Gianluigi tells the boys he's getting old - and it's time to decide which younger man should take over as boss of 'the family.'

Jimmy Jazz is in his den with his minions, Stevie and Crackerjack. The latter is a woman styled and dressed as a man. She is desperate to be given a gun, but first, says

Soaked through, Philomena returns home. She regrets leaving the house alone. [Mamma Told Me Not to Come] Davis Madison appears, manhandles her, tells her she will once more serve as his cover while they hijack Pierre and Mrs Hawkins imminent trip to France. But no. In a puff of smoke, Franklin appears and challenges Davis. As someone who has been employed by the CIA (or at least, the forerunner of the CIA), he knew that Davis was a criminal all along, wanted for assassinating several state governors in the US - and known now to be gunning for London's very own Boris Johnson. Franklin claims to have been testing Davis by leaving the briefcase out. But Davis scorns Franklin. He has read the notebook, and is impervious to anything Franklin can do. Franklin shoots Davis - but the bullet pings off his head. So Franklin challenges him to the ultimate test: the Torrent. Under the downpour outside, both are to be bound in straitjackets and lowered into a London lake. Has Davis learned enough about escapology to free himself?

By the side of a lake, Philomena, Pierre, Mrs Hawkins, the police and Mr Schultz are all assembled - the latter charging 2/6 - admission. Franklin and Davis are bound. Davis appears pessimistic. They throw themselves into the deep lake, and sink downwards, struggling with their bindings.

Pierre calls time on the challenge and the lake is drained. There is Davis, dead in a sodden heap. But wait - closer inspection reveals that the body is that of Bartholomew Franklin. Is this another identity-swap trick? - or has the friend Davis made good an incredible escape?

Franklin flees the scene of the trick, morphing back into Davis as he does so. Now, he says, for Boris Johnson.

Brad explores his new loft. He summons Sarah to look at this new house they've moved into, its fascinating bell-tower, etc.

An old woman sits watching the telly, playing with her cats.

Brother Frank prays at an altar, then browses through his books. He asks God for help to quell Brother Martin's 'raging spirits,' then settles with his *Richard III* - to read about the murder of the princes in the tower. Jittery, anxious Brother Martin enters, clearly struggling to keep his spirits at bay. He borrows some Shakespeare to calm him down.

Sister Margarita, a nun

Brother Martin, a highly randy monk

Brother Frank, a high-ranking monk

Old Mrs Flanagan

Mike, Paul's friend on the telephone

Paul, their friend

Brad and Sarah, a young couple

Characters

Brian starts, a new tenant exploring his attic

Song: Ginger Man

Tower Theatre, Folkestone, Sat 29 Feb, 2008

The Ghost in the Tower

Hard Hearted Hannah and Other Stories is created by
Cartoon de Salvo.

Co-commissioned by Farnham Maltings and the Lyric,
Hammersmith

Performers - Neil Haigh, Brian Logan and Alex Murdoch

Design - Rebecca Hurst

Musical Direction - Paul Kissaun

Production Management - Naomi Pirie

Cartoon de Salvo are of the few companies in the UK working with whole story, rather than sketch-based improvisation formats. Read more about the artistic process on their blogs at www.theatrevoice.com and visit www.cartoondesalvo.com

The Salvo's are produced by Ed Collier, who can be contacted on ed@cartoondesalvo.com

You leave in awe of the human imagination and feeling like you've been to the best party in town. Magic

The Daily Telegraph, Top Ten Comedy Shows 2008

Like Tales of the Unexpected on Acid

Audience member, Icklesham, Kent

cartoon de salvo

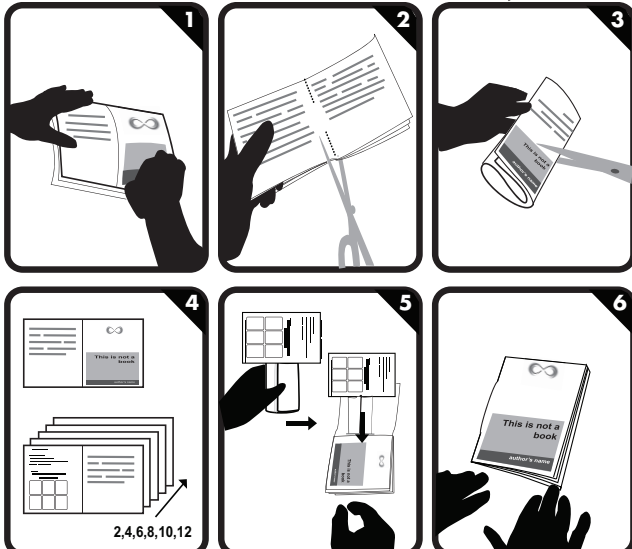
Hard Hearted Hannah: Mysteries

Cartoon de Salvo

Cartoon de Salvo (Neil Haigh, Brian Logan & Alex Murdoch) improvised each of these stories in front of a live audience, over 2008-09, in this book Brian Logan retold the tales & Alex Murdoch did the pictures.

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She finds herself in a secret parlour. She snoops around, discovering a horde of treasure and looted dosh. She is surprised by Stephens, pistol in hand. What is she doing here?, he demands to know. But as Stephens aggresses the hapless chambermaid, Lady Elizabeth appears. She braces Millicent for a surprise: the chambermaid is not an orphan, she is the daughter of Lady Elizabeth. And the father is... Wilkins the butler. But Wilkins is not what he seems. He is in fact the notorious highwayman Dick Turpentine, who has been plundering treasure from the wealthy in rebellion against his lowly state in life, and so that one day he can flourish as a wealthy man and claim back his daughter and his lover. Millicent is horrified at these revelations. Suddenly, Henry appears in the secret parlour and rounds on Dick Turpentine with a pistol. He has been tipped off by Stephens, who has turned on his highwayman partner in a huff about never being paid. Henry gives Turpentine the chance to flee; and Elizabeth begs him to join her in India, where her family live. But Turpentine closes on Henry aggressively, and the young factory worker pulls the trigger. Dick Turpentine is fatally wounded. Millicent falls into Henry's arms. Elizabeth is given leave to flee to her Indian family. Henry decides that he has now no desire to claim his reward. After this display of the evils of avarice, he would rather stay poor and marry Millicent. He tells Stephens that the booty is his; but as Stephens gathers up the treasure, the expiring Turpentine rallies his energy, and shoots his old accomplice dead. Millicent and Henry are left alone, in love, amid the carnage - wondering how Millicent's mother will fare on her escape. [New Delhi Freight Train]

they are to be marry, he must be able to promise her more than a life of poverty and drudgery. He recites to her a ditty pan out. [Diamond Ring]

Richard and Stephens are on horseback once more, and they spy a carriage hurtling towards London. It is Cartwright's carriage, full of the profits from his factories, being ferried to the banks of London. The highwaymen pursue the gig, hold it up as before, and Richard opens its door. Lord Cartwright is inside, outraged as the effrontery. The coachman is bound up by Stephens. Richard clobbers Cartwright over the head and threatens to kill him, until Stephens intervenes. They loot the coach of its abundant booty - but again Richard refuses to split the profits there and then. They tip the inert Cartwright into a ditch and depart.

Lady Elizabeth is waiting in the Cartwright's mansion for her husband. Where, she asks Wilkins, can he be? Suddenly, Arthur staggers in. He has walked home from Hitchin; his coachman, still trussed up, has bounced alongside him. He has been held up and robbed, and he knows by whom - the notorious highwayman Dick Turpentine. As he rages, he notices his wife gazing at Wilkins. What do they know of Turpentine? Only that he is legendarily dashing and brave, says Wilkins. Lord Cartwright insists that Turpentine has held up his last carriage. He announces a campaign to capture the blighter, which carries a huge cash reward.

Wilkins posts up the 'Wanted' posters around the village, as Lord Cartwright declares he won't rest until Turpentine is executed. [You Rascal You] Henry sees them, and realises that this is his chance to make a name for himself and make the money that will allow him to marry Millicent.

Millicent is cleaning Wilkins' quarters. As she dusts, she finds



an unusual mask. As she dusts further, she find a gold candlestick which she knows to be part of the Cartwrights' stolen goods. She explores the room further, and finds that Wilkins' bookcase yields to the touch, spinning away to reveal a hidden passageway.



Brad and Sarah find some old documents in the loft. The house, it seems, used to be a priory, which was closed a hundred years ago because _____ And here the words are scored out. Sarah finds a goblet or chalice with a Latin transcription on it, which Brad asks her, as a Latin scholar, to translate. 'Beware my bones,' it says. Their friend Paul arrives to share in their discovery.

Brother Martin is reading Shakespeare. Brother Frank and Sister Margarita discuss his plight with concern.

The old woman continues to watch the telly.

Sister Margarita tries to help Brother Martin with his raging spirits, but Brother Martin fends her off. He is sexually frustrated, and a nun's wimple might just push him over the edge.

Sarah is in the loft when she thinks she hears a ghost. He is saying, 'my kingdom for a horse.' She calls Brad, but by the time he arrives, the voice has gone.

Brother Martin is reading *Macbeth*: 'unsex me here.' That is what monastic life has done - unsexed him. He is increasingly unstable.

At the pub, Sarah tells Paul about the ghost, and about the goblet. Brad pooch-pooos her superstitious talk.

The old lady still plays with her cats and watches telly.

Sister Angela introduces herself to Brother Frank - then reveals her-himself to be Brother Martin, cross-dressed, having been inspired by *Twelfth Night*. He sheds his wimple, much to Brother Frank and Sister Margarita's consternation.

Sarah is in the loft again and sees Brother Frank's 'green ghost' on the rocking chair. She screams, Brad comes - but the ghost has gone. Sarah is hysterical and Brad tells her to

The Torrent

Bottesford Village Hall, Notts, Sun 27 April, 2008

Songs: New Delhi! Freight Train, His Latest Flame & Mama Told Me Not to Come

Neil starts, as an escapologist in his dressing room

Characters

Bartholomew Franklin, an escapologist

Molly, his assistant

Mr Schultz, manager of the Adelphi Theatre

Lord Mandeville

Philomena, his ward

Harris, their butler

Mrs Marie Hawkins, their housekeeper

Pierre, a French teacher

Davis Madison, a fugitive

A police constable

Stebson, his sidekick

Lilian MacIvor, an actress

One of her fans

Mr Franklin's assistants

snap out of it. Her superstitions are ruining the excitement of moving into a new home.

Brother Martin tells Brother Frank about his past. The reason he joined the monastic order was because his womanising lifestyle was getting out of control. He turned to the church to save himself (and others) from his own libertine dissipation - but it isn't working.

Brother Martin prays to God. He is interrupted by Brother Frank, who reveals himself to be the father of a young woman, Kitty Flanagan, who Brother Martin had made pregnant then abandoned in his previous, promiscuous life. Brother Frank ties up Brother Martin then forces him to drink poison from a distinctive goblet.

Paul calls his friend Mike to discuss the discovery of the goblet, the haunting of the priory and the whereabouts of 'old Mrs Flanagan.'

Paul and Sarah climb the bell-tower to disinter the bones of Brother Martin. The ascent is haunted by the vision of Brother Martin dying in his chair; and by his restless Shakespeare quotations. Sarah is terrified but perseveres. The bones are retrieved from the priory and planted instead at the bottom of the garden of Mrs Flanagan, the cat-owning woman and the last descendant of Brother Frank. The ghost has been laid to rest. On television, a new production of *Richard III* is screened.

The Secret Parlour

Lyric Hammersmith, Tue 3 June 2008

Songs: Diamond Ring, You Rascal You & New Delhi! Freight Train

Neil starts, as a chambermaid, dusting

Characters

Millicent, a chambermaid

Lady Elizabeth Cartwright

Lord Arthur Cartwright, an industrialist

Wilkins, their butler

Dick, or Richard, Turpentine, a highwayman

Stephens, his accomplice

Lady Alexandra, a rich traveller

Henry, a factory worker

His father, a landlord

Two coachmen

A chambermaid, Millicent, is cleaning the sitting room. She dusts under the carpet. Her employer, the genteel Lady Cartwright, enters, and takes a seat. She commends Millicent's work. Lord Cartwright, a gruff, low-born northern industrialist, enters, kicking off his riding boots. Millicent exits, and Lord and Lady Cartwright discuss her. She was a foundling baby raised by the staff, who now, at 17, has

stared working as a chambermaid. Wilkins the butler enters, and tells the Lord and Lady that dinner will presently be served.

Richard and Stephens ride their horses through the night. Richard spots a carriage, and the two men pull on their masks. They ride up to the carriage, and Stephens holds a knife to the driver's throat. Richard leans into the gig, where Lady Alexandra is to be found, draped in expensive jewellery. On pain of death, Richard has her hand over all these gemstones - which, given the highwayman's sexy demeanour, is an arousing experience for both of them. Stephens hears the clattering of hooves, a sign that the pair must flee into the night with their booty. But, once they are safe, Richard refuses to split the loot with Stephens. He will do so soon, he promises. They part, with Stephens averring that when he next sees Richard's sign - the word 'Dick' spelt in the sky by bats - he will come once more.

Arthur and Elizabeth Cartwright dine at opposite ends of a long table. Wilkins pours wine. They discuss Millicent, and their own childlessness. Lord Cartwright asks Wilkins to send in Millicent. He wishes to speak with her. He bids Millicent to sit at the table, which she is uneasy doing - as is Lady Cartwright at this breach of social convention. Arthur asks Millicent if she has any memories of her distant childhood, before she was found by the Cartwrights in a basket. He has been moved by her story. Millicent leaves presently, and Elizabeth castigates Arthur for initiating this awkward scene.

Millicent is in The Crow tavern, chatting with the landlord about the Cartwrights. They see bats in the sky. Millicent asks if Henry is in. Henry comes down when called. He is a factory worker for Cartwright, and an avid book-reader, who is trying to better himself so that one day he'll be good enough to marry his sweetheart Millicent. Millicent tells him he is good enough already - but Henry is determined that, if

Don Gianluigi pulls his gun on Jimmy. Jimmy tells him Fabrizio is back in town. Jimmy says he would never have turned to crime if Fabrizio hadn't stolen his girl. Don Gianluigi is touched by this. Did Jimmy's girl make wonderful meatballs too? Yes, she did. The Don sees reflections of his own life in Jimmy's, goes to hug his adversary - at which



she is able. Downstairs, Don Gianluigi and Vittorio hear the gunshots nervously. They enter Jimmy's room, and confront him. Upstairs, Stevie and Crackerjack hear the sounds of this and sneak up on Jimmy's quarters. This could be Crackerjack's moment to prove herself.

point the gun-toting Crackerjack fires, and Don Gianluigi slumps lifelessly onto Jimmy. Now Jimmy, Vittorio, Crackerjack and Stevie are frozen together at one another's gunpoint. Fabrizio appears and sees Don Gianluigi's body. But instead of avenging him, there is a squabble between Fabrizio and Vittorio about whom now heads the clan - a squabble which Jimmy slyly stokes. While the Italians argue, Jimmy's gang sneak out towards the fire escape - where Momma Peroni, rifle in hand, stops them.

Momma Peroni is the real head of the mob. When she hears Don Gianluigi has been killed, she isn't happy. Gunshots come from Jimmy's quarters. Stevie reports that Fabrizio and Vittorio have killed one another. Momma shoots Jimmy Jazz dead. Stevie and Crackerjack beg for their lives. We're a couple, they say. Looks like I've found myself a new family, says Momma.

With his dying breaths, Don Gianluigi hauls himself up to a seated position and surveys the scene of carnage. It gets him to thinking about Sicily, about the bad choices he made - and about his imminent death. [The Mercy Seat]

tells him he intends to retain his services in London. Davis asks if Franklin wishes him to carry his briefcase - but Franklin says no, this is his top-secret briefcase full of magic. Davis asks for Franklin's help negotiating immigration. They switch his first- and surnames in order to bypass immigration control. Harris announces to Lord Mandeville and Philomena that their carriage awaits to take them to the opening performance of Bartholomew Franklin's show at the Adelphi. They ride off in their gig. At the theatre, Philomena spots *le professeur*, Pierre, with Mrs Hawkins. They are being very intimate. Mr Schultz welcomes several fantastical escapology feats, which repeatedly bamboozle the crowd into thinking he is disappeared or dead. One trick involves Franklin appearing at the end of an escape in the guise of Mr Schultz. Then the final set-piece sees Franklin lowered into a tank of water. When he doesn't emerge, his assistants smash it open, water cascades over the stage, and Franklin miraculously appears in disguise from elsewhere. This trick is known as... the Torrent. In a London police station, the telephone rings. The constable picks it up, and learns from New York that a gunman has come to London aboard the same ship as Bartholomew Franklin. The constable and his sidekick Stebson vow to track down the fugitive. Davis Madison enters Franklin's dressing room under the pretext of congratulating him on the show, and clocking off for the night. He spies Franklin's briefcase full of magic tricks. He leaves and lurks by the door, as Franklin sets off home.

Bartholomew Franklin changes in his dressing room. The great escapologist asks his assistant Molly to count the box-office takings. A visitor arrives from London. It is Mr Schultz, who has booked Franklin for the Adelphi Theatre in the West End.

A hubbub on the streets of London. Newspapers fly from the newsstands, as the city anticipates Franklin's arrival. The escapologist is amazing!, say the cockneys - almost as amazing as Boris Johnson for London mayor.

The renowned actress Lilian MacIvor changes in her dressing room. Mr Schultz enters and tells her that 'The Country Wife' is to close. It is being replaced by an American escapologist. Lilian is outraged, and flounces out.

An old gent summons his batman, Harris, to ask about the fuss surrounding this escapologist. Harris promises to secure tickets for Lord Mandeville and his ward. The gent summons his ward and niece, Philomena. They discuss her French lessons. She has learnt the phrase 'je t'adore.'

[New Delhi Freight Train]. A gunman and fugitive from the southern states, Davis Madison, has arrived in New York. He sees Bartholomew Franklin set to board a ship for England. He offers to carry Franklin's bags - at the very moment at which Franklin's current porter quits. Davis is hired, and boards the vessel with Franklin.

Philomena is taking her French lessons with *le professeur*. He is teaching her everyday phrases, but she is more interested in the phrases of love. As the lesson ends, the housekeeper Mrs Hawkins enters, and *le professeur* invites her for a drink. Philomena is scandalised with jealousy.

Davis Madison is aboard the ship bound for England. He counts the three bullets left in his gun, and vows to cut and run when the new country is reached. Franklin appears and



Philomena is at home, aggrieved about Pierre, *le professeur*. [His Latest Flame] She calls her housekeeper, Mrs Hawkins, and spans her for her dalliance with *le professeur*. Philomena has decided that she will go out alone, to walk the London streets awhile. The batman, Harris, advises against it - Philomena's late mother always warned her not to go out alone, and it has been expressly forbidden until now.

Davis enters Franklin's dressing room, opens his magic briefcase, which teems with fantastical things, and purloins a secret notebook. Mr Schultz enters and challenges him, but Davis pretends her has authority to be there. Davis leaves.

Philomena walks the streets. So to do the constable and Stebson, hunting down the American fugitive. A shopkeeper from the north-east tells them she hasn't seen anyone resembling the likeness they show her - but then the constable spots Davis Madison out of the shop window. They corner him, and threaten him with their truncheons. Davis takes flight, down into the London sewer system. He emerges through a manhole, sees Philomena, and grabs her. Hiding behind this human shield, he faces off the police, waving his gun. The constable closes in on him, as Davis and Philomena edge towards the canal. Just as the constable has Davis in his clutches, the fugitive jumps into the canal, taking the young aristocrat with him.

The constable and Stebson survey the canal. Philomena has struggled to the surface, but there is no sign of Davis Madison. They dredge the canal. Davis has disappeared. In a London pub, Davis is served a pint.

Bartholomew Franklin appears at the canal-side to help the police with their enquiries. He has noticed his secret notebook has been pilfered.

Jimmy, she has to prove herself. Jimmy wants to move in on the Gianluigi mob's turf. They plan to confront the Italians at a warehouse later that day.

Paolo and Vittorio receive their instructions to go collect a shipment in the warehouse.

Don Gianluigi pushes his ageing momma around in a wheelchair. They stop by the side of the Hudson river, and reflect on their 54 years in America. Don Gianluigi asks her advice about choosing between Paolo and Vittorio, and regrets that his third nephew, the eminently capable and sumptuously ginger-haired Fabrizio, fled back to Sicily many years ago, after having womanised his way around Manhattan. Maybe Don Gianluigi will try and look him up...

Jimmy Jazz stumbles back from the warehouse, bleeding and bruised, and into a bar. He summons Crackerjack, then Stevie appears. He has been beaten up while skulking by the warehouse. His minions are amazed: Jimmy is a monster of a man and no one beats him up. It was dark, Jimmy doesn't seem to know who did it. They hatch a new plan, to intercept some of the Italians' shipments at the dock later that evening.

The docks. Ships honk, birds squawk, and Jimmy Jazz's gang case the joint. They see a flurry of activity at the shore. Crackerjack is sent to deal with the dockworkers. She clobbers a couple. Paolo and Vittorio manhandle a curiously shaped shipment off a rowing boat, and are struggling to get it back to their car. Jimmy and Stevie see them, take aim, and shoot. Paolo falls to the ground dead; Vittorio runs away. Jimmy's gang tip Paolo's body into the water, and escape with the shipment.

Stevie is even more twitchy than usual. He asks Crackerjack: who beat up Jimmy Jazz? He is on edge. He asks Crackerjack how she got into the mobster game, being a woman and all.

She is reluctant to talk about her femininity. He says it would be nice to see her as just Elsie, in a dress, with long hair. Maybe they could go out sometime. [You Sexy Thing]. She implies that she might, if Stevie would only give her his gun. Stevie is reluctant to do so.

At the wake for the murdered Paolo, momma Peroni and Vittorio grieve. Don Gianluigi enters, distraught, and tells Vittorio that at his last remaining nephew - well, one of only two remaining - the family must now come under his charge. And revenge must be theirs.

Jimmy Jazz is in his den, with the curiously shaped box. What could be inside? He slowly prises it open - and out jumps Fabrizio. It was Fabrizio who beat up Jimmy Jazz the other night; and now he has anticipated Jimmy's dockyard heist and hidden himself in the shipment to scupper the plan and avenge Paolo's killing. Two towering men, Jimmy and Fabrizio exchange blows, coolly, while discussing their old friendship and current enmity. Fabrizio left town 15 years previously with Jimmy's girl in tow. But now the ginger man is back in town [Ginger Man] to inherit control of the Gianluigi mob. And by nightfall, he promises, either Jimmy or Fabrizio himself will be dead.

Vittorio is in a call box. He tries to phone his old friend Elsie - but she tells him she's tied up with another guy right now.

Stevie apologises to Jimmy. He's lost his gun. Can he have another one? They both know who has the gun, and a stern Jimmy insists Stevie recover it himself.

The Gianluigi clan gather outside Jimmy Jazz's hideaway. The wheelchair-bound Momma Peroni, Don Gianluigi, and Vittorio cock their pistols and break in through the fire escape. While Stevie tries to persuade Crackerjack to return him his gun, downstairs Momma is told to wait in the corridor. Crackerjack shoots the gun around to show Stevie