

Hard Hearted Hannah: The World of the Strange and the Bizzare



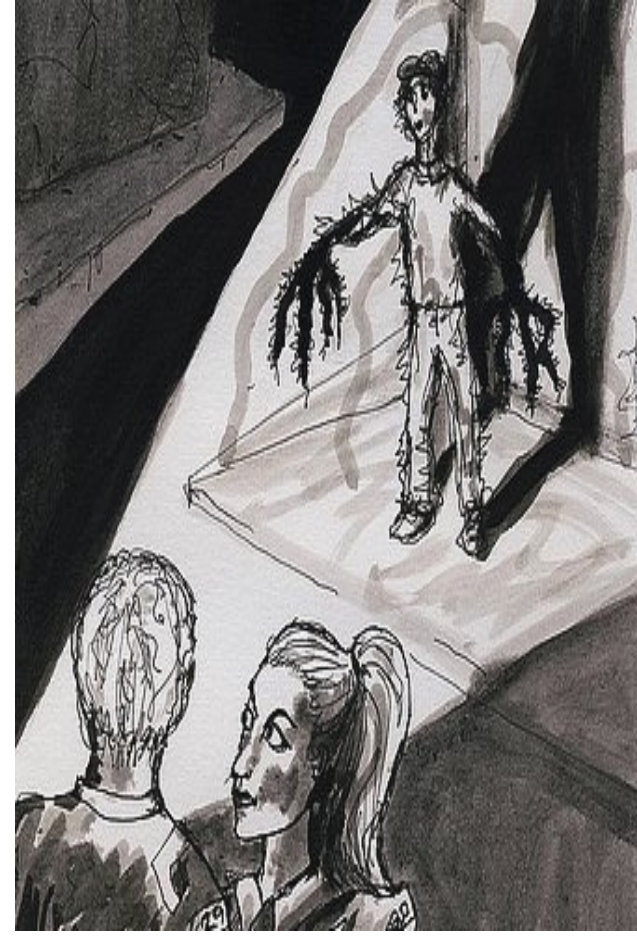
Hard Hearted Hannah : The world of the
Strange and Bizarre
by Cartoon de Salvo

Continuing the adventures of Cartoon de Salvo's voyage into
the unknown with *Hard Hearted Hannah and Other Stories*.

We like an adventure, enjoy a tall tale. We also committed
to never pinning down any rules about storytelling and
structure. We went out each night, and plundered moment
by moment our subconscious. Lee Simpson from *Improbable
Theatre* told us gloomily that 'it would never stop being
terrifying' and from my point of view he was right.
Maybe a bit of that fear created the following yarns which
could be ripped from 70's television, B-movies, pulp fiction
and trash culture. Maybe these strange ones were more fun
and scary to be in because they were so unpredictable.
Maybe it was the audience - because even the title's here
are a bit weird...

The Frighteners
Heavy
Black Light
Hotel Magnificent

Alex Murchoch, Artistic Director, Cartoon de Salvo



Glenn, his sister
Steven, a human-insect hybrid
Another human-insect hybrid

Professor Grundheim is re-wiring the hand of his android,
D48. He asks D48 to broadcast a message to the peoples of
Earth via Skyvision. It is the year 4519, and as the sun draws
closer to the Earth, humanity grows ever more desperate for
a way to stave off the apocalypse. Prof Grundheim has been
experimenting with cross-breeding humans and insects, to
evolve a species that might prosper in a hotter world. But
these have failed, and Grundheim now orders the rounding
up of the mutants, to be sent by prison ship to a space
colony. Android D13 enters to wash the Professor's feet.

Martin and Vanessa patrol the streets, heavy weaponry in
hands, looking for insecto-human mutants. A man, Kevin,
walks past with hands in pockets. They order him to reveal
himself. He shows his mutant hands, or claws. He begs to be
allowed to go home. But Martin and Vanessa have their
orders. They bundle him into a net and herd him away. The
trio take a hoverbelt to the prison facility, on which Vanessa
discusses her fondness for kitsch old icons of yesterday.
Kevin is left in a cell, tormented at the sight of scores of
other insecto-humans - all far more evolved, and less human
than him - in the other rooms.

Back at Kevin's house, his father, mother and his boyish sister
fret about him. Father blames himself for persuading Kevin
to volunteer for the experiments; he thought it was for the
good of humanity, and that it might be lucrative. Kevin's
mother had always opposed it, telling her son not to go.
They drink space-juice and watch a broadcast by Grundheim
that forbids any families of mutants from trying to save their
loved ones.

Cartoon de Salvo

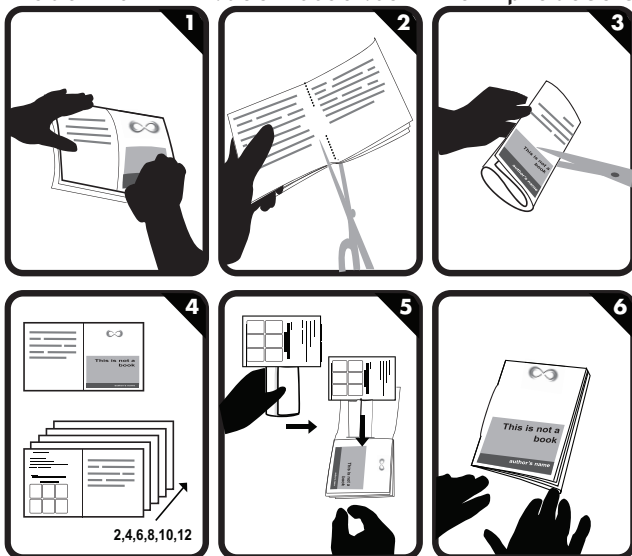
Hard Hearted Hannah: The World of the Strange and the Bizarre

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

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2,4,6,8,10,12

The Frighteners

Icklesham Village Hall, East Sussex, Friday 7 March, 2008

Song: Diamond Ring

Neil starts, camping with Alex

Characters

Tom and Sandra, a couple

John Parker, a farmer

Mary, his wife

Seth, his son

Sergeant, a policeman

Neville, his colleague

Some chickens

Tom and Sandra are pitching tent in the countryside on their 9th anniversary weekend away, and they get it on in the tent. Farmer Parker and his wife have a relationship based on rancour and resentment. And the TV is broken. Parker believes himself to have ESP, and says that a 'fissure' is open, that dark forces are abroad - and that their son Seth might therefore be liable to one of his turns. Seth agrees to be confined to his room. At the police station, Neville shows the sergeant a newspaper interview with the local eccentric, Parker. The sergeant laughs it off. He has recently relocated from London and can't take seriously these petty rural concerns.

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

downstairs to the cellar and seen a horrendous scene. He explains about Gretel, Rolf, and the mutilated Chet. The only thing he can think of that might help them in this drastic crisis is another book: *Frankenstein*, by Mary Shelley, that Hank has with him. In that book, the monster turns against its maker and rebels against its existential loneliness. Might Gretel be made to turn against Rolf? The trio head to the cellar to find out...

In the cellar, Gretel is turned against Rolf, as Hank persuades her she is doomed to a lonely freakish life. Gretel chainsaws the crazed hotelier to death. Chet's life is saved by Jack, referring to the medical manual as he sews on the American's dismembered limbs. The brain in the jar reveals itself to be Maria, Rolf's ex-wife, whom he murdered. Inspired, Jack stitches the brain together with Rolf's butchered body to create a new creature, with whom Gretel is left - in a bizarre lesbian love tryst - while the tenants beat their retreat.

The sleigh driver arrives at the strangely quiet Hotel Magnificent...



It's night-time, and Tom and Sandra are readying for bed. They are apprehended by Parker, bearing a rifle. He urges them off his land (well, it's not *his* land, but he acts as if it is). He warns them that tonight is set to be a dangerous night, then leaves them be.

The following morning, Sandra comes to the farmhouse to buy fresh eggs. Again she is threatened by Parker and Seth, who shoots a hen before her eyes. After she leaves, Parker and Mary berate Seth for not having laid claim to her. He's 14 now - not 12 anymore - and it's time he took a woman and produced heirs to the farming clan.

Tom and Sandra try to leave but the car gets stuck in the mud. The Sergeant appears and tells them that their best bet is to seek refuge at the Parkers' farmhouse.

Seth answers the farmhouse door. Sandra is admitted; Tom is chased away and shot as an intruder by Parker. Sandra is alone with Seth. Seth drugs her to sleep. With his father egging him on, Seth plans to dress Sandra in his mother's wedding gown and marry her this very night. They reminisce about John and Mary's wedding - when John tried to woo the young Mary with material promises but had eventually to resort to drugging her in turn.

Sandra wakes up in a strange dress.

Parker warns Seth that the moon is full - the night will end in tragedy.

Tom arrives at the police station with bullets in his arse, begging the Sergeant for help. The Sergeant follows Tom to the crime scene.

Sandra is being led up to a hilltop by the Parkers. Seth has almost fully transformed into a werewolf. Mary makes Satanic incantations by a hilltop altar on which a chicken is sacrificed.

professor in Washington DC. He wants help identifying the seemingly human brain in Rolf's cellar - and everything his professor tells him corroborates his chilling hypothesis.

Chet sneaks back into the hotel basement, and encounters Gretel, manically rounding on him. He realises instantly that something is up - which is confirmed when Rolf looms from the shadows. Chet will soon start feeling sleepy, Rolf warns him - the wine was drugged. Chet collapses into a seat, into which he is tethered by the mongrel Gretel. Rolf sizes up his new subject. Gretel, he decides, is to have the American's arms. He sends Gretel to the cupboard, from which she retrieves a chainsaw. Rolf wields it and advances towards Chet...

Hank and Judith and Jack are Alpine-dancing at the festival. Chet has mysteriously not shown up. Jack disappears to get drinks, leaving his wife with Hank who seduces her.

As they recline on the sofa in Hanks room, Hank tells Judith that he had sworn not to behave like this on the holiday. [Ginger Man] Hank breaks the post-coital bliss to wonder where Chet is. He resolves to go and look for him.

It's the middle of the night, and Jack is worried about Judith. He has returned home alone from the Alpine festival, with a sore head. But where is Judith at this late hour?

Jack asks if Hank knows where Judith is. Hank won't lie to Jack; he simply apologises, and says that Jack might find the answer to his question inside the room. Hank heads off to seek Chet, and Jack enters the room. Jack finds Judith cowering behind the sofa. Judith is a serial strayer, and Jack is used to dealing with it. Jack produces a book inscribed to him from the same professor he spoke to earlier. It is a medical manual about sewing on dismembered limbs.

19 Suddenly, Hank bursts back into the room. He has been

A sleigh-driver drives his two dogs ever onwards through the snow. He lets them off their leashes briefly, to stretch and run free. Then it is back to the sleigh ride through the snow... Jack and Judith enjoy a drink in the bar of the Hotel Magnificent. Jack mentions the scuzzzy, spooky nature of the place, which feels as if it's the site of a murder. As they examine the curious décor, Rolf suddenly appears, to serve them drinks. He tells them that the décor is his Frankenstein theme. Don't they know that the famous novel was set in the Alps?

Rolf departs and the two Americans appear. Hank is immediately dumbstruck to clap eyes on the gorgeous Judith, whose good looks seriously jeopardise his recovery. Chet ples him with pills, and chats with the English guests. Hank puts a tune on the jukebox [You Sexy Thing] to conceal his lust.

Rolf steals downstairs into the cellar. There, Gretel is inert in a chair. Rolf connects her by bulldog clips to a power source, and electricity surges through her. Rolf rejoices: Gretel is his creation, a Frankenstein's monster assembled using body parts of former guests to the Hotel Magnificent. She is an ongoing experiment, to which he hopes to add soon with new organs and limbs. Chet knocks on the door; he is looking for the wine cellar. Rolf admits him, and Chet spots what resembles a human brain in a jar. Rolf bluffs his way out of it and gives Chet a bottle of wine. As Chet leaves, Rolf admires his nose eerily.

Hank apologises to Chet for his display in the bar earlier. He professes to have calmed down. He goes to prepare for the Alpine festival, which the Americans are visiting later with the English guests. Chet, meanwhile, phones his old

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From the bushes, Tom and the Sergeant observe this ritual. The Sergeant has recalled that the only way to kill a werewolf is a spear through the heart - or a tent-pole. Tom pledges to do the deed if only the Sergeant will provide a distraction. The Sergeant enters and interrupts the marriage rites. The vulpine Seth bears down on him, fangs drooling - and then Tom strikes, spearing Seth clan through the heart from behind. The young couple make their escape. The Parkers cradle dying Seth in their arms. The Sergeant doesn't know who to arrest. The bereaved Parkers retire to their farmhouse, promising the Sergeant that this carnage will be cleared by daybreak.

On their 10th anniversary, Tom and Sandra finally enjoy a blissful, romantic camping weekend.

Godalming Borough Hall, Sat 10 May, 2008

Songs: No One Knows I'm Gone, The Wanderer & Ginger Man

Alex starts, hitchhiking

Characters

Bob, a runaway

Gerry, a lorry driver

Dominic & Lindsey, Bob's parents

Fraser, Dominic's friend

Donald, a DJ

Sonia, a landlady

Harry, the heavy man

Felix, his assistant

Donald's receptionist

Deborah, Bob's girlfriend

Bob is hitchhiking. Eventually a lorry stops and he gets into the cabin. Gerry, the Scouse driver, asks him about himself - but Bob is evasive, saying only that he's recently been on a gap year to the US, and that he's heading to London to seek his fortune. Bob nods off.

Dominic, Bob's father, speaks to his friend Fraser on the phone about his son's disappearance. Then he phones Donald. Donald is an amateur radio DJ who promises to help

of the Prof's experiments. Kevin believes that a return to the organic ways of old might save the planet, but D48 tells him he's too late. The only way is to evacuate the Earth on the prison ship - and take the whole population to the colony. The Prof appears. At last he has tracked down the fugitive mutant, and his runaway android. He tells D48 that he will thwart his evacuation plan. But the android has been busy, Grundheim's armies against him. Now the prison ships are being filled with escapee humans as the apocalypse draws near. D48 promises that, when the colony is reached, Kevin's idea about the old ways can be put into practice, to create a better world. As D48 broadcasts globally to rally the departing humans, the Professor screams at them to stay with him, to trust that his 'Black Light' experiments can yield success. They ignore him. The space-crafts leave the Earth, marooning the Professor, alone in his wheelchair, on this burning planet.

Months later, on the colony, Martin and Vanessa celebrate their wedding with a song. [Diamond Ring] Then Kevin makes a speech, and heralds the successful sex-change operation of his sister - now brother - Glenn.

Hotel Magnificent

Lyric Hammersmith, Sat 7 June 2008

Songs: You Sexy Thing, Ginger Man & All Worn Out

Brian starts, as a hotelier at reception, awaiting guests

Characters

Rolf Gunther, proprietor of the Hotel Magnificent

Gretel, his assistant

Jack & Judith Hubbard, English guests

Chet & Hank, American guests

Maria, a disembodied brain

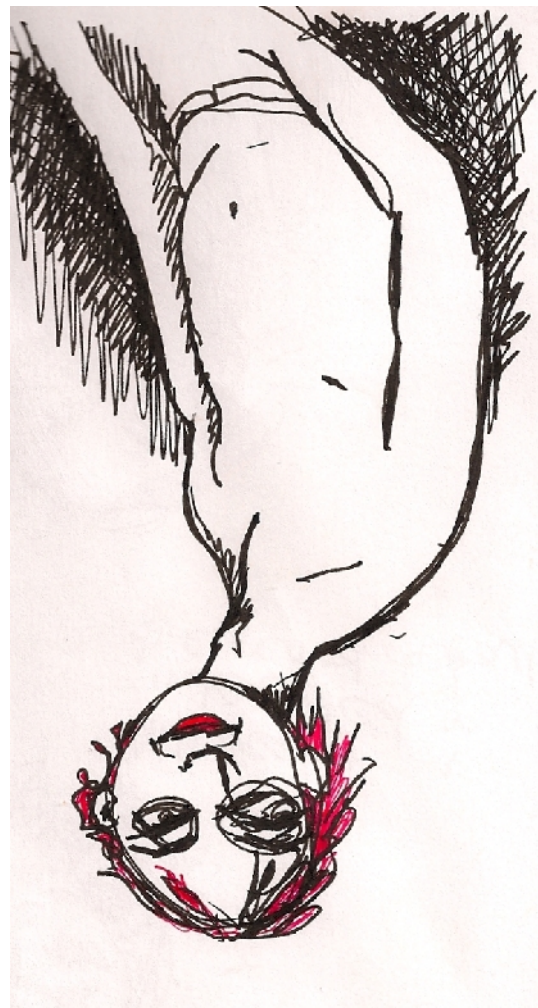
A professor, back in Washington DC

A sleigh-driver

His two dogs

Rolf, a hotel proprietor, sits at his reception, hand poised over bell. Finally, two English guests arrive: Jack and Judith. He welcomes them to the Alps. His hotel is a bit threadbare; he claims to have built it with his own hands. Breakfast is from 5am. Jack and Judith are a bit unnerved by his manner. He tells them there is an Alpine festival on in the village. He is expecting other guests too, he says. His statuesque chambermaid Gretel helps the visitors to their rooms.

Chet and Hank are driving up a mountain road. The two friends chat while guzzling burgers. They have come on holiday together from the US of A. Chet is a naturalist, come to research the flora and fauna of the region. Hank has been in trouble back in the States; he has been caught multiple-



as best he can.

Gerry wakes up Bob in the cabin of the lorry. They are approaching Gerry's destination: Stevenage. Bob has been overheard talking in his sleep: 'the heavy man is coming!' Gerry tells Bob he should work in haulage. He gives Bob his number, should he ever need help.

Donald broadcasts on Donald FM, chirpily asking his listeners for help to find the runaway Bob.

Harry, the heavy man, adjusts his eye patch, and instructs his assistant Felix to help him hunt down the boy Bob.

Bob checks in at a London hotel run by the landlady Sonia. He tells Sonia he works in heavy goods haulage, and that he can pay the weekly rent. Bob is left alone in his hotel room. [No One Knows I'm Gone]

Donald pays a visit to Dominic and reveals that Bob always confided in him in his adolescence - perhaps because he identified with Donald's rock'n'roll, DJ status. Whereas Dominic and his wife Lindsey were a bit too prudish. So Donald speculates Bob has got tangled up with a woman on his gap year. Donald promises to broadcast on his radio station - which is now online too! - to ratchet up the search.

Bob has breakfast in Sonia's hotel. Then he goes online, to tune into Donald FM.

Donald is playing records, and beaming out a message of goodwill to the missing Bob. He plays a tune for Bob, that Bob always loved and aspired to as a teenager [The Wanderer] Bob hears, and is touched, and phones Donald on his mobile. Donald broadcasts the call live on-air.

The heavy man and Felix hear the call on Donald FM, and realise Bob has given himself away.

his family in search of the reason for his resistance to mutation. D48 promises to return.

Kevin's family are at home, ruining their son's almost certain exile to the space colony. The doorbell rings. They open it, and greet their mutated son. He tells his story, and they give him space-juice. Suddenly, one of his claws turns back into a hand. His mandibles shrink. It must be the space-juice! Kevin asks his parents what this drink is, that they have drunk all their lives, but which few other people seem to know about. His father Reg explains that it's an old-times recipe, made from actual fruit and vegetables, which he and mother grow on a three-inch-square allotment on the roof of their pod. They are interrupted by a hostile broadcast by Grundheim on Skyvision, demanding the return of the fugitive mutant. He knows who the mutant is, and where he lives. Kevin decides to find D48 immediately and relate the space-juice discovery.

Martin and Vanessa are with the Professor, receiving their orders to hunt down the fugitive mutant. The Prof demonstrates his power by telling Martin and Vanessa that he knows all about them; knows that Martin has a crush on his partner; knows that Vanessa is an enthusiast for old-times memorabilia - vintage cars, for example. The Prof is getting more demented, and he exists announcing his deranged plan to save the world by using human beings with snooker balls.

While patrolling the streets, Martin and Vanessa discuss the Professor. Is he crazy? Should they be serving him? Are his experiments wise? They spot Kevin walking past, and round on him with their guns. Kevin shows him that his claws are hands once more, and that he has the means to cure the other hybrids. D48 appears, and tells them that he has reversed the trajectory of the prison ship, and that it is now orbiting the Earth. The space-juice of Kevin's contains an ingredient called 'white light', which cancels out the effects

Grundheim is asking D48 about his re-wired hand. Are there after-effects? It appears that the Prof has implanted emotional microchips into the android - and sure enough, D48 says he is indeed *feeling* things. D48 shows the Prof into Kevin's prison cell, and Grundheim interrogates the mutant to work out why Kevin has mutated so much less than the other insecto-humans. When the interview ends, Kevin is left alone in the cell, remembering his mother's wise words. [Mama Told Me Not to Come]

The Prof tries to de-activate D48 for further experiments, but D48 has tampered with the mechanism. His new-found emotion has sent him running amok, and now he is rebelling against the Prof. D48 throws himself out of the window of the Professor's HQ, and jetpacks off into the sky. Grundheim is alarmed.

The corridors of the prison spaceship teem with insect mutants. Kevin jostles through them, and speaks to one of the few that even remotely resemble the humans they once were, a rasping mutant called Stephen. The craft hurtles towards the space colony. [In the Jailhouse Now]

D48, jetpack on back, pilots to the hull of the prison ship and carves a route inside. Kevin is instantly sucked towards the vacuum, and screams at the android to patch up the breach in the hull. D48 does so. D48 has come to rescue Kevin. As the least evolved mutant, perhaps he holds the key to reversing the experiments and saving these doomed lives.... Kevin demands that all the prisoners, and not he alone, be saved. But D48 persuades him to come back to Earth with him first.

The pair, clinging to one another, jet-pack back to Earth.

They discuss Grundheim's notorious 'Black Light

experiments' with which he tries, ever more crazily, to save the human race. They land, and D48 tells Kevin to return to

Bob still have the component which could save him? Bob produces the widget - and makes to pop it into the socket under the heavy man's eyepatch. Felix struggles against this - tending to the heavy man's eyepatch is his *raison d'être*. But Bob prevails. The heavy man twitches and buzzes - and is cured of the accursed heaviness for good.

Dominic and Donald enter. Bob is reunited with his friends. Felix and Sonia pair off - much to Bob's dismay, for he has an eye for Sonia. But he is persuaded to leave her and return to the East Midlands with his loved ones. [Ginger Man]

Bob's old girlfriend, Deborah, welcomes him back fondly, as Bob struggles to reassure her that he has eyes for her alone.

Bob panics when he realises what Donald has done, and hangs up. Donald senses he has dropped a clanger.

Bob has been absent a week. Lindsey is distraught, and makes Dominic phone the police.

Gerry picks up more hitchhikers. It is the heavy man, and Felix. They sit next to Gerry in the cabin, like a ventriloquist and his doll. The lorry tilts to one side under the heavy man's weight. They explain that they want to go to Donald FM's HQ. Gerry takes a call from Bob, which inadvertently reveals to the heavy man that his prey is near.

The heavy man and Felix arrive at Donald FM mid-broadcast, and the heavy man disables his broadcasting equipment by using his incredibly high density to screw up the magnets in the mechanism. He demands that Donald help them find Bob - Donald reluctantly agrees, as long as the heavy man restores his ability to broadcast.

Bob talks with Sonia over breakfast. He invites her out for a drink. Sonia tells him she can see he is in trouble, and he should seek help from his friends.

Donald has driven the heavy man and Felix to London. Using internet data, he has traced his listenership - ie, Bob - to Hackney Marshes. Now the heavy man and Felix have found their prey. They enter the house.

Dominic appears, and with Donald, plans to rescue Bob. They steal towards the hotel with Donald broadcasting the stake-out live to his listeners.

The heavy man confronts Bob. He is extraordinarily heavy as a result of his freak scientific experiments. But, while he was in America on his gap year, Bob slept with the heavy man's wife and stole a vital component which could reverse his heaviness. As the heavy man speaks, he begins to sink through the floorboard and down into Hackney Marshes. Does

Characters

Professor Grundheim, the ruler of Earth

D48, his android

D13, his other android

Martin & Vanessa, security forces

Kevin, a human-insect hybrid

Reg, his father

Charlotte, his mother

Black Light

Lyric Hammersmith, Wed 4 June 2008

Songs: Mama Told Me Not to Come, In the Jailhouse Now & Diamond Ring

Brian starts, as a wheelchair-bound man fixing his android