

"The A Team"

We go down, boy.

Douglas Adams

It saves all that tedious mucking about in hyper-space. [The Hitch-Hikers Guide to the Galaxy]

There's a frood who really knows where his towel is. [Ibid]

Well, Zaphod's just this guy you know. [Ibid]

So this is it: we're going to die. [Ibid]

Frances Alexander

The rich man in his castle / The poor man at his gate / God made them high or lowly / And ordered their estate. [All Things Bright and Beautiful, verse 3]

Anonymous

In Carlartis in tattis. (You live in a cess-pit.)

Weit vom Schuss gibt alte Krieger. (Far from the battle makes old soldiers.)

Love is like a locomotive: it hurts anyone who stands in it's way.

Hard work pays off in the future but laziness pays off now.

I vomited throughout your saxophone solo.

Let the prisoner be drawn to the gaol from whence he came; and from thence he must be drawn to a place of execution; and when he comes there he must be hanged by the neck, but not until he be dead, for he must be cut down alive; then his bowels must be taken out and burned before his face; then his head must be severed from his body, and his body divided into four quarters; and these must be at the King's disposal. [Death sentence for Treason]

A gentleman should never be seen on the streets before 9 am unless he's returning from the night before. [Quote, Unquote, BBC Radio 4 27 September 1999]

This is a thoroughly beastly boy. [John Peel's school report]

No cash, no hash. No dope, no hope. [Graphitti in East Kilbride subway]

Excreta Tauri Astutos Frustrantur. (Bullshit Baffles Brains.) [Special Boat Section Motto]

Who has started this silly shooting? In God's name, someone is going to get hurt." [German 109th Reserve Regiment grenadier to company commander at start of British Somme bombardment]

Smoke de grass and de ganja and play de bongos. [Local Radio Phone-In Contributor]

You don't know what they get to up in them mud huts. [Radio 4 Phone-In Contributor]

I'm not a dentist but I recognise this. [TV Advertisement]

And cooking that's nouvelle / That is my idea of Hell. [Ibid, Olde English cider]

We sought sanctuary in the kitchen-sink over-flow, but there was to be no hiding place. [Ibid, Domestos]

In every bath-room in the town / There's something soft / And brown and round. [Radio Advertisement]

Blofeld is God [Banner seen in the crowd at the Oval test 1996]

To be given at bedtime and retained. [Instructions for using Boot's Improved Enema Apparatus: Injection for Bleeding Piles]

A woman's voice will only very rarely be at such a pitch that sustained listening can long remain a pleasure. [BBC memo]

The endless nagging pain which is characteristic of a bad attack of sciatica may reduce a happy, good-tempered man to a querulous nervous wreck as his days go by in restless pain and sleeplessness. ["A Harley Street Specialist:" The Practical Home Doctor.]

Attention, Comrades. An unsatisfactory radio-active situation has occurred at the Chernobyl atomic power station. [Soviet evacuation announcement]

Paddy Ashdown

Free cheese only comes in mouse traps.

"Back to the Future"

Sorry, Guys. You're just too Goddamn loud.

Correlli Barnett

Thus in the early 1850s was born the Whitehall mandarin, able at a touch to transmute life into paper and turn action to stone. [Audit of War]

John Betjeman

We "own" British Railways, but we are allowed no say in them.
[Foreword to L T C Rolt's "Railway Adventure"]

"BlackAdder"

Where am dat warty melon? [Blackadder II, Potato]

Give me the bloody money, Baldrick. [Blackadder III, Dish and Dishonesty]

I hardly think that a nation [France] which eats snails and would go to bed with the kitchen sink if it put on a tutu is in a position to judge couthness. [Ibid, Nob and Nobility]

Wish I could come but not pos with this tum. [Ibid]

I'd no more place her in the hands of an unworthy man than I'd place my John-Thomas in the hands of a lunatic with a pair of scissors. [Ibid, Amy and Amyability]

Sausage time! [Ibid]

He's madder than Mad Jack McMad the winner of last years Mr Mad competition. [Ibid, Duel and Duality]

It's eleven-thirty in the morning and you're moving about. Is the bed on fire? [Ibid]

I always said smoking was good for you. [Ibid]

A turkey so large you'd think its mother had been rodgered by an omnibus. [Blackadder's Christmas Carol]

I don't care if he's been rodgering the Duke of York with a prize-winning leak. [Blackadder Goes Forth, Corporal Punishment]

Ball-bouncingly funny. [Ibid, Major Star]

Well frankly, Sir, I'd rather spend an evening on top of a stepladder in no man's land smoking endless cigarettes through a luminous Balaclava. [Ibid]

It's no good crushing a revolution over here only to get back home to blighty and find that everybody's wearing overalls and breaking wind in the palaces of the mighty. [Ibid]

"Do you like Charlie Chaplin?" Yes, that is a good question for a candidate, to which, my answer would of course be, "Yes, I love him. Love him, Sir, particularly the amusing kicks."
[Ibid]

A war hasn't been fought this badly since Olaf the Hairy, high chief of all the Vikings, accidentally ordered eighty-thousand battle helmets with the horns on the inside. [Ibid]

I want to cover every inch of your gorgeous body in pepper and then sneeze all over you. [Ibid]

Well it was mostly awful but I enjoyed the slug-balancer. [Ibid]

We're in the stickiest situation since Sticky the stick insect got stuck on a sticky bun. [Ibid]

Saucier than a direct hit on a Heinz factory. [Ibid, Private Plane]

God, it's a barren, featureless desert out there. [Ibid]

You know I've always had my doubts about you trenchy-type fellows. Always suspected there might be too much of the battle-dodging, nappy-wearing 'I'd rather have a cup of tea than charge stark naked at Jerry' about you. [Ibid]

I couldn't be more petrified if a wild rhinoceros had just come home from a hard day at the swamp and found me wearing his pyjamas, smoking his cigars and in bed with his wife. [Ibid]

It would be as pointless as trying to teach a woman the value of a good forward defensive stroke. [Ibid]

Personally I'd recommend you get hold of a cocker spaniel, tie your suspect down on a chair with a potty on his head then pop his todger between two floury baps and shout "Dinner-time, Fido." [Ibid, General Hospital]

When I joined up we were still fighting colonial wars. If you saw someone in a skirt you shot them and nicked his country. [Ibid]

Well bugger me with a fish fork. [Ibid]

She probed me expertly about tank movements. [Ibid]

We've been sitting here since Christmas 1914 during which millions of men have died and we've advanced no further than an asthmatic ant with some heavy shopping. [Ibid, Good-byeee]

Mad as a Bicycle. [Ibid]

"Blazing Saddles"

Piss on you! I'm working for Mel Brooks.

Where d'white women at?

Napoleon Bonaparte

[Of the English] Men who were continually at table, almost always intoxicated, and of uncommunicative disposition.

Laurence Lewelyn-Bowen

Spare our children from minimalism. [The Joy of Home, BBC2, 2 January 2003]

Frankie Boyle

The whole of television and celebrity is simply a distraction aimed at keeping you sedated while your pockets are picked by vested interests that may or may not be lizards. [My Shit Life So Far]

The British Encyclopaedia

A rude process of brewing is carried on by many uncivilised races; thus chicha or maize beer is made by the South American Indians, and Millet beer by various African tribes. [Brewing]

Combs have been used from the earliest times by rude as well as by civilised races. [Comb]

The negro, like the Australian, retains many primitive characters, such as the black skin, and the small brain, but in other respects, such, for example, as the extremely flattened and curved hair ('pepper-corns'), he has become highly specialised and sharply differentiated from all other varieties of mankind. [Ethnology - Negro and Negroid Races]

Isambard Kingdom Brunel

A dispute with my father. He threatened to give me a clout. This I will not stand. [Diary, 1823]

Sent for Doctor Bardell. Leeches etc etc. [Diary]

Fripp, Plain gentlemanly language seems to have no effect upon you. I must try stronger language and stronger methods. You are a cursed, lazy, inattentive, apathetic vagabond and if you continue to neglect my instructions I shall send you about your business. I have frequently told you, amongst other absurd, untidy habits, that of making drawings on the backs of others is inconvenient. By your cursed neglect of that you have wasted more of my time than your whole life is worth. [Letter to Fripp, 12 October 1840]

[The SS Great Britain] has been left, and is lying, like a useless saucepan kicking about on the most exposed shore that you can imagine, with no more effort or skill applied to protect the property than the said saucepan would have received on the beach at Brighton. [Letter to Captain Claxton, December 1846]

If hundredweights don't keep it down, try tons. [Ibid]

Alexander Cadogan

I can't tell you anything about De Gaulle except that he's got a head like a pineapple and hips like a woman.

Agatha Christie

How strange that a girl could trouble your innermost soul so long as she kept her mouth shut, and that the moment she spoke the glamour could vanish as though it had never been. [The Moving Finger]

Every man has his own way of courting the female sex. I should not, myself, choose to do it with photographs of spleens, diseased or otherwise. [Ibid]

Most successes are unhappy. That's why they are successes - they have to reassure themselves about themselves by achieving something that the world will notice. ... The happy people are failures because they are on such good terms with themselves that they don't give a damn. [Sparkling Cyanide]

It is very dangerous to believe people. I never have for years. [Sleeping Murder]

Count Galeazzo Ciano

On the way to the station he [Göring] wore a great sable coat, something between what automobile drivers wore in 1906 and what a high-grade prostitute wears to the opera. [Diary, 2 February 1942]

Victory always finds a hundred fathers but defeat is an orphan.

Jeremy Clarkson

Pensions are all about planning, and planning is all about hope. And hope, invariably, leads to despair. [Radio Times, 2-8 October 1999]

[France] A pretty country spoilt, like Wales, by the people who live there. [Ibid]

Jarvis Cocker

Good evening. We're Pulp and we're going to play a song called Common People for you which is the national anthem for the Netto Generation. [BritPop Now, BBC2, August 1995]

What's the point of having a position of influence if you can't abuse it? [Radio Times 14-20 March 1998]

[Of a play by Russell Senior] The stage directions were "Put vacuum cleaner on stage, switch it on. Leave it on until audience becomes restless" and then it finished with me

devouring a plate of shit. Luckily it wasn't real. [Pulp: Do You Remember The First Time? BBC Radio One, 15 March 1998]

Life doesn't necessarily have a gripping plot. [Ibid]

Noel Coward

This turbulent year ends today and I am not sorry. It has brought me a certain change of heart about my own country which I do not like. I have a core of sadness about England. Sadness mixed with a sort of desolate irritation that a country and people so rich in tradition and achievement should betray itself and all it stands for by so wholeheartedly submitting to foolish government, natural laziness, woolly thinking and above all the new religion of mediocrity. [Diary, 31 December 1945]

R H W Cox MISAC

The power behind the supply is making it increasingly necessary to rely upon a central distribution fuse-board system, not only to ensure the highest efficiency in the fusing arrangements provided, but also to avoid subjecting the householder to the disturbing effects of fusing in his immediate vicinity. [Electrical Wiring and Contracting Volume III, Section XII: Switching]

Jim Davidson

Imagine the speed the French'll run down that tunnel when the Germans invade them again. [Room 101, BBC2, 13 August 1999]

Tony Blair would align himself with a dog-turd if it'd vote for him. [Ibid]

Edward Docx

In other words "Balls to everyone! I'm the Peoples' Prime Minister and I want to build an empty white elephant as a monument to my dreams." [What The Papers Say, BBC2, 18 November 2000]

Grossadmiral Karl Dönitz

Words at this moment will be superfluous. [On his arrest, Flensburg, 23 May 1945]

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

I cannot agree with those who rank modesty among the virtues. To the logician all things should be seen exactly as they are, and to under-estimate oneself is as much a departure from truth as to exaggerate one's own powers. [The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes, The Greek Interpreter]

The good Watson had at that time deserted me for a wife, the only selfish action which I can recall in our association. [The Case-Book of Sherlock Holmes, The Blanched Soldier]

Charlie Duke (Apollo 11 CapCom)

Roger, Tranquillity, we copy you on the ground. We got a bunch of guys about to turn blue; we're breathing again. Thanks a lot.

Admiral Sir John Fisher

The essence of war is violence, and moderation in war is imbcility. [Paper on submarine warfare, 1912]

C S Forester

Men deprived of tobacco were men who could not be relied upon. [The Happy Return]

Clement Fraud

I've never quite understood the allure of going into a gentleman's convenience and writing "Bollocks" on the wall. [Just a Minute, BBC Radio 4, 31 January 2000]

George V

The weather has gone mad and so has the world.

Guy Gibson VC DSO DFC

Once again we had to spend two hours over Hamburg city, dropping a bomb every thrtly minutes in order to cause despondency and lack of sleep to the dwellers down below. Needless to say, we came back dithering wrecks. Never had so many guns fired at so few. [Enemy Coast Ahead]

On November 29 my crew and I dropped the first 8,000-pound bomb of the war on Italy. Turin received it with displeasure. [Ibid]

Paul Giesler (Gauteiter of Bavaria)

I want to say a word about the special role of women in this war. They have healthy bodies! Let them bear children! That is an automatic process which, once begun, continues without the least attention. There is no reason why every girl student should not, for each of her years in the university, present an annual testimonial in the form of a son. I realise that a certain amount of co-operation is required. If some of the girls lack sufficient charm to find a mate I will assign to each

of them one of my adjutants whose antecedents I can vouch for. I can promise her a thoroughly enjoyable experience. [Speech, Munich University, 17 February 1943]

Sgt John Gilvary, 419 sqn Bomb Aimer

Ghastly business funerals, weeping relatives all over the place. [Diary, quoted in Kevin Wilson "Bomber Boys"]

Dr Paul Josef Goebbels

Why can't women be like us? Can they be educated? Or are they by their very nature inferior? Only in exceptional cases can women be heroines! [Diary, 16 December 1925]

Once we have the power we will never give it up. They will have to carry our dead bodies out of the ministries. [Ibid, 6 August 1932]

Churchill is a romantic adventurer, with whom one can't talk sensibly. [Ibid, 10 September 1943]

I takes a bomb under his backside to make Hitler see reason. [Remark, July 1944]

Hermann Wilhelm Göring

If we lose this war, then God help us! [Remark 3 September 1939]

When I criticised Ribbentrop's qualifications to handle British problems the Führer pointed out to me that Ribbentrop knew "Lord So and So" and "Minister So and So." To which I replied: "Yes, but the difficulty is that they know Ribbentrop." [Nuremberg Interrogation]

Maxim Gorki

[On jazz] In the deep stillness resounds the dry knocking of an idiotic hammer one, two, three, ten, twenty strokes and after them, like a mud-ball splashing into clear water, a wild whistle screeches and then there are rumblings, wails and howls like the smarting of a metal pig, the shriek of a donkey or the amorous croaking of a monstrous frog. This insulting chaos of insanity pulses to a throbbing rhythm. Listening for a few minutes to these wails one involuntarily imagines an orchestra of sexually-driven mad-men, conducted by a man-stallion brandishing a huge genital member. [Pravda, 1928]

Alison Graham

Because of clever screen formats and all-round "progress" in film-making, we are now used to the fact that watching

television dramas is often akin to peering through a letterbox into a coal mine. [Radio Times, 4-10 September 1999]

Ernest Hall FRSH

Until quite recently the bidet was regarded as an exotic piece of continental decadence - certainly not a desirable fitting for a respectable British home. [The Newnes Guide to Home Plumbing]

A rim supply, or ascending spray, bidet has a flushing rim round which water passes to fill the bidet and warm the seat for the user and an ascending spray directed towards the parts of the body to be cleansed. [Ibid]

The thought of sewage backing up into the kitchen sink is one that lacks appeal. [Ibid]

Sir Arthur "Bomber" Harris

The Nazis entered this war under the rather childish delusion that they were going to bomb everybody else and nobody was going to bomb them. At Rotterdam, London, Warsaw and a half a hundred other places they put that rather naive theory into operation. They sowed the wind and now they are going to reap the whirlwind. [Newsreel interview, 1942]

Now a lot of people who say [sic] that bombing can never win a war. Well my answer to that is that it has never been tried yet and we shall see. [Ibid]

The feeling, such as there is, over Dresden could be easily explained by any psychiatrist. It is connected with German bands and Dresden Shepherdesses. Actually Dresden was a mass of munition works, an intact government centre, and a key transportation point to the East. It is now none of those things. [Letter to Sir Norman Bottomly, Deputy Chief of Air Staff, 29 March 1945]

I was not about to start keeping a gamebook of dead Frenchmen. [Conversation with Max Hastings, October 1976]

Michael Heseltine

Anybody here want to buy a post office? [Party conference speech]

Reinhard Heydrich

The reason he is alive is because he was approached by the Gestapo and, er, persuaded to work for them. The man would appear to love his wife and his freedom in equal measure. Provided he is co-operative we see no reason to deprive him of either, although naturally we mentioned the possibility. [In briefing Scellenberg]

Adolf Hitler

Everybody who properly estimates the political intelligence of the masses can easily see that this is not sufficiently developed to enable them to form general political judgements on their own account. [Mein Kampf]

The receptive power of the masses are very restricted, and their understanding is feeble. On the other hand, they quickly forget. Such being the case, all effective propaganda must be confined to a few bare necessities and then must be expressed in a few stereotyped formulas. [Ibid]

As soon as one point is removed from the sphere of dogmatic certainty, the discussion will not simply result in a new and better formulation, but may easily lead to endless debates and general confusion. [Ibid]

What is refused to amicable methods, it is up to the fist to take. [Ibid]

It [the folkish state] must see to it that only the healthy beget children; that there is only one disgrace: despite one's own sickness and deficiencies, to bring children into the world; and one highest honour: to renounce doing so. And conversely it must be considered reprehensible to withhold healthy children from the nation. [Ibid]

A folkish state must therefore begin by raising marriage from the level of a continuous defilement of the race and give it the consecration of an institution which is called upon to produce images of the Lord and not monstrosities halfway between man and ape. [Ibid]

Only terror is capable of smashing terror. [Ibid]

The Marxists taught - If you will not be my brother, I will bash your skull in. [Speech, Munich, 18 September 1922]

Subserviency towards the enemy, surrender of the human dignity of the German, pacifist cowardice, tolerance of every indignity, readiness to agree to everything until nothing remains. [Ibid, 12 September 1923]

We are the result of the distress for which the others were responsible. [Speech, Munich, 24 February 1933]

I go the way that Providence dictates with the assurance of a sleepwalker. [Ibid, 15 March 1936]

Works of art that cannot be understood but need a swollen set of instructions to prove their right to exist and find their way to neurotics who are receptive to such stupid or insolent nonsense will no longer openly reach the German nation. [Ibid, 18 July 1937]

England too, was led by adventurers when she built her Empire. Today she is governed merely by incompetents. [Conversation with Count Galeazzo Ciano, Berchtesgaden, 24 October 1936]

We did not gather here to speak of the fine view or the weather.
[To Kurt von Schuschnigg, Conference, Berchtesgaden, 12
February 1938]

I'll cook them a stew that they [the British] 'll choke on. [31
March 1939]

Idiots, have I ever told a lie in my life? [Conversation with
Edouard Daladier, Berlin, 27 August 1939]

France is, as ever, not to be trusted. [Letter to Mussolini, 21
June 1941]

Bolshevism is the doctrine of people who are lowest in the scale
of civilisation. [Meeting with Mussolini, Brenner Pass,
September 1941]

A man who has no sense of history is like a man who has no ears
or no eyes. He can live of course, but what is that? [At
table]

If the English are clever, they will seize the psychological
moment to make an about-turn - they will march on our side.
[Ibid, 26 October 1941]

I was obliged to lie and what saved me was my unshakeable
obstinacy and my amazing aplomb. [Ibid, 27 January 1942]

At Munich we lost a unique opportunity of easily and swiftly
winning a war that was in any case inevitable. [Ibid, February
1945]

All the rubbish of small States still existing in Europe must be
liquidated as fast as possible. The aim of our struggle must be
to create a unified Europe: the Germans alone can really
organise Europe. [Meeting of Party leadership, Berlin, May
1942]

This time we shall get even with them in the way to which we
National Socialists are accustomed. [Radio broadcast, 21 July
1944]

Words build bridges into unexplored regions. [Remark]

If a man is no more than a living wreck, why prolong life? No
one can halt the decay of his physical powers. [Ibid, March
1945]

The descendants of a genius have a hard time in the world. They
face the same expectations as the famous forefather and are not
forgiven for being mediocre. Apart from that they usually turn
out to be idiots. [Conversation with Christa Schroeder]

It is good that the enemy started the war so early as it would
have been a much harder task if they had waited to build up
their strength. [Conversation with Otto Kretschmer, 12 November
1940]

Experts are only good at one thing: explaining why something will not work! [Conversation with Lieutenant-General Werner Kreipe, 30 August 1944]

For a man with great ideas, two hours concentrated work a day are more than enough.

Richard Homles

There can be few soldiers in the English-speaking world who have not, at some time or other, been called the bluntest of all Anglo-Saxon synonyms for what my dictionary terms 'the female pudenda'. [Firing Line]

"Hot Metal"

I see. You want to sell your horse.

It's a school of thought I'll grant you.

Indeed, Dickie.

Sir Bernard Ingham

Everybody says that Europe is a good thing and Europe reminds me of Perry Mason: irrelevant, incompetent and immaterial. As well as expensive, undemocratic, protectionist, riddled with fraud, unreliable, bureaucratic, centralist, pretentious, obsessive and a Franco-German ramp. [The Beaton Generation, BBC Radio 4, 7 June 1998]

"Inspector Morse"

You ever thought about the person who invented the sports skirt? Somebody sat down, drew a fantasy and made it compulsory uniform. I can never watch Wimbledon without thanking that man. [Last Seen Wearing]

Roy Irons

Governing circles in Britain seem to have an aversion to letting their electors know the truth under any circumstances. [Hitler's Terror Weapons]

David Irving

The crippled Dr Goebbels has much to learn about the mysterious fluids and capillaries that, mixed together, make up the female brain. [Goebbels: Mastermind of the Third Reich]

Brian Johnston

One of the other chaps who shared an office with me used to toss me for sixpence a time. [Someone Who Was]

Steve Jones

Hold on, give us some bollocks! [Friggin' in the Riggin']

Phil Jupitus

The mid-1970s was a nasty business. [Top Tens: One Hit Wonders, Channel 4, 22 January 2000]

Ian Kershaw

Hitler later described his own ideal woman as "a cute, cuddly, naive little thing - tender, sweet, and stupid." [Hitler 1889-1936: Hubris]

Rudyard Kipling

Trust your Uncle Stalky, who is a very great man. [Stalky and Co]

Field Marshal Lord Herbert Kitchener

My house wants looking after and I find a lady is quite necessary but it is too difficult find one to marry. [Letter to sister, 14 January 1891]

Humphery Littleton

[Of Delia Smith] Who can resist seeing her turn-over steaming on the table? [I'm Sorry, I Haven't a Clue, BBC Radio Four, 15 November 1997]

Well as the sleepy toad of time confronts the whirring hover-mower of destiny and the unsuspecting dog of complacency cocks a leg at the electric fence of fate I notice it's the end of the show. [Ibid]

So, ladies and gentlemen, as the pleasant sitting-room of time is mutilated by the Lawence Llewellyn-Bowen of destiny I notice it's the end of the show. [Ibid, 31 May 1999]

Korvettenkapitän Wolfgang Lüth

I have not permitted the men to hang pictures of nude girls on the bulkheads and over their bunks. If you are hungry, you

shouldn't paint bread on the wall. ["Command of Men in a U-Boat" in Harald Busch "U-Boats at War"]

Stuart Maconie

Ambition without innate talent - what we cultural theoreticians call the Ainsley Harriott Phenomenon - that can be a desperate thing. [Hope I Die Before I get Old, BBC Radio 2, 30 September 1999]

There are few things in life more crushing than an empty pie. [BBC Radio 2, 12 October 2009]

Lobster termidor, kangaroo, lychee, truffle; there is no foodstuff so unusual or arcane that Wiganers will not attempt to encase it in a crust and eat it at a bus stop. [Cider with Roadies]

Miss Marple (TV Series)

I'm dieing to see ITV; I hear it's ghastly. [At Bertram's Hotel, BBC1, 1986]

He's rather like one of these diesel engines that are appearing all over our railways: most unappealing but, I am told, efficient. [The Murder at the Vicarage. BBC1, 1986]

"The Mary Whitehouse Experience"

Oh no! I've just blown out a definite shag! What a tosser!

It's all got a bit tricky now.

Oh no: what a personal disaster.

James May

So beer isn't complicated. It's just a few simple ingredients all brewed up together. But you can still get it wrong: you can get lager. [Top Gear, BBC2 7 December 2003]

I put it to you, Sir, that you are more than adequately versed in the sin of Onan. [James May's Man Lab, BBC2 7 November 2010]

Pete McCarthy

There are estimated to be 3,180,000,000 grains of sand in the average child's bucket, yet it only takes five or six grains to effectively ruin an egg and cress sandwich. That's the power of sand. [Tracks, BBC2]

Because of the sensitive political situation I've been asked to say that in the new series of Country Tracks we won't be talking to the pro fox-hunting lobby. But, in the interests of balance,

we won't be talking to the foxes either. [Country Tracks, BBC2, 4 September 1999]

Andrew McGibbon

Back then [mid-1980s] sartorial dullness was a crime on a parallel with animal buggery. [I Was Morrissey's Drummer, BBC Radio 4, October 2005]

Capt Harold McGill, MO 31/CEF

I never liked the sound of snoring, but it is much preferable to that of a trench mortar or airplane bomb. [Medicine and Duty]

Anne McKevitt

[Of Christmas wreath] Now it's ready for some sardines. [Home Front, BBC2, 3 December 1997]

Jonathan Meades

There has always existed an interestingly large minority whose instinct for self-preservation is so un-evolved that it will trash its dwelling and piss in the lift. [Abroad Again, BBC2, 16 May 2007]

Geogre Melly

Those kind, plump, promiscuous girls who occupy an underrated and therapeutic position in this frequently lonely and often desperate life. [Owning Up]

Rob Mitchal

A place like Sheffield's not a very good place to be a nutter. It's the kind of place where if you don't wear a white short-sleeved shirt and have a tash in the middle of winter and drink twenty pints then you're fair game for being beaten up. [Pulp: From Disco to Hard-Core, BBC Radio One, 22 March 1998]

Gladys Mitchell

I like a burglar even less than I like a murderer. The life, it is not so important, but the money - that is another matter. [The Man Who Grew Tomatoes]

Married happiness was extremely rare in any case, and was almost impossible of achievement when one of the protagonists was forty-seven and had a weak digestion, and the other was twenty and played the ukulele very indifferently. [The Saltmarsh Murders]

I never did, and I never shall, believe that vile things affect the minds of any but the vile. [Ibid]

We must always have the moral courage to release from life those who are not fitted to bear life's burdens. [Ibid]

Daphne, who, of course, is full of the milk of human kindness and drips it about rather after the manner of a punctured coconut - that is to say, where it is neither expected nor desired. [Ibid]

Dr Theodor Morell

I sent word over at midday that he [Hitler] should only have tea and a biscuit, with no sweetening in the tea. He ordered spaghetti and strawberries... By one a.m. he had had five watery bowel movements. [Diary, 8 August 1941]

The Führer mentioned how he longs to have pea and bean soups and suchlike but doesn't dare because of flatulence. [Ibid, 3 July 1943]

Allen Mornington-West

All too often it seems that pride and prejudice play ponderously upon the purse as the purveyor and purchaser of such over-complicated technological implementations fail to engage the faculty of rational thought. [Audio & Hi-Fi Handbook (Second Edition): Interconnections]

Benito Mussolini

Even I do not disturb my servants at night but the Germans make me jump out of bed at any hour without the least consideration. [Remark to Count Galeazzo Ciano, 21 June 1941]

"Nip/Tuck"

Erotic films are when you use a feather. Porn films are when you use the whole chicken. [Sophia Lopez]

Alfred Nobel

[Of lawyers] Bloodsuckers who devour fortunes after the delivery of short-sighted interpretations of meaningless court rulings whose obscurity darkens the darkness itself.

"Not the Nine O'Clock News"

You arrested him, Savage.

Is not to be undertaken lightly, unadvisedly or wantonly to satisfy men's carnal lusts, although that's a pretty good reason.

That needn't matter.

Patrick O'Brian

Jack, you have debauched my sloth.

"For me tobacco is the crown of the meal, the best opening to a day, a great enhancer of the quality of life. The crackle and yield of this little paper cylinder," he said, holding it up, "gives me a sensual pleasure whose deeper origins I blush to contemplate, while the slow combustion of the whole yields a gratification that I should not readily abandon even if it did me harm, which it does not. Far from it. On the contrary, tobacco purges the mind of its gross humours, sharpens the wits, renders the judicious smoker sprightly and vivacious" [The Ionian Mission]

John O'Farrall

No bed is so comfortable that it's worth lying there and listening to 'Thought for the Day.'" [Quote, Unquote, BBC Radio 4, 17 October 2001]

Jack Osbourne

I would never squash my knackers in a vice. Never, ever, ever. [X-Rated: The Pop Videos They Tried to Ban, Channel Four, 24 July 2004]

Jeremy Paxman

Railway privatisation has got as many friends as a skunk with halitosis. [Newsnight, BBC2, 24 May 1993]

John Peel

And if that doesn't get to number one I'm going to come and break wind in your kitchen. [Top of the Pops, BBC1, 1986]

Guitar Storm with Drug-Maddened Vocalist Howling Through Nose. [Radio Times, 13-19 May 1995]

My own enthusiasm for going out and having a laugh with the lads almost exactly equals my enthusiasm for rectal surgery. [Ibid, 28 March-3 April 1998]

I think you'd find me a most unsatisfactory lover, James. Many have in the past. [BBC Radio 1, 3 January 2001]

There are few things in life more wonderful than a crap idea carried to ridiculous lengths. [Ibid]

Catalogue number BONKERS007. Have it tattooed on your labia, if you've got them. [Ibid, 28 February 2002]

We fall upon them and falate them with much enthusiasm. Those are the Beat-Box Saboteurs. [Ibid, 23 October 2002]

I've supported Liverpool for fifty-five years and this team is what we doctors call shit. [Ibid, 8 January 2003]

If I said any more the management would stuff my fundament with radishes and I don't want that. [Ibid, 19 August 2003]

The thorght of eggs and ketchup is ungodly. [Home Truths, BBC Radio 4, 18 January 2003]

Although it's almost fifty years since I left school I'm not terribly interested in seeing any of my class-mates, unless it's through the sights of a high-powered rifle. [Ibid, 28 August 2004]

Alan Plater

If her accent was from LA it was more likely Lower Attercliffe than Los Angeles. [The Beiderbecke Affair]

A huge man, the size and texture of a mature Pennine hill. [Ibid]

Ah, Bix. Cool. [The Beiderbecke Connection]

Dudley Pope

Hitler was a successful batsman if he could rely on bad bowling and inept fielding. [73 North]

John Powell

I have no proof of this, but I think the decibel was invented in a bar, late one night, by a committee of drunken electrical engineers who wanted to take revenge on the world for their total lack of dancing partners. [How Music Works]

Pulp

Please deliver us from matching sweatshirts and 'Chicken in the Rough', from evenings sat on Couple Row admiring the flock, from Sundays spent parading the aisles of Meadowhall. We don't want to live like this. It's bad for our health. Do something soon or it's curtains (just as long as they match the walls and sofa). [Sleeve notes, His 'N' Hers]

Wear your jacket with pride - or don't wear your jacket at all.
[Ibid, Mis-shapes]

Please understand. We don't want no trouble. We just want the right to be different. That's all. [Ibid, Different Class]

David Quantick

Bucks Fizz were a perfectly acceptable second-rate pop group who were a sort of Abba for the dead. [I Was Morrissey's Drummer, BBC Radio 4, October 2005]

2

"Red Dwarf"

Now you've got it in stereo, Baby. [Red Dwarf I, Me]

No bugger'll drink it. [Red Dwarf II, Kryton]

Is that 'Female' as in soft and and squidgy? [Ibid]

They've got less meat on them than a Chicken McNugget. [Ibid]

No way are these my boxer shorts - these bend. [Ibid]

Please rush me my portable walrus polishing kit. Four super brushes that will clean even the trickiest of water-bound mammals. [Ibid, Better Than Life]

I don't think he had one screw fully tightened to be honest with you. [Ibid]

I like my food to move. [Ibid]

It's like a cross between food and bowel surgery. [Ibid, Thanks For The Memory]

Pub? Ah yes. A meeting place where people attempt to achieve advanced states of mental incompetence by the repeated consumption of fermented vegetable drinks. [Red Dwarf III, Timeslides]

James H Reeve

You tragic child!

Vic Reeves

Well, I love shitting so much that I want an extra arse to double my fun. [Vox May/June 1995]

Wiping your arse isn't particularly pleasant, but it has to be attended to, otherwise you start walking funny. It's the effect of chaffing. [Ibid]

Frank Richards

Bunter vanished into the night, leaving Coker uttering weird, horrible, and ghastly sounds, such as were seldom heard even in a jazz band. [Magnet no 1,336 w/e 23 September 1933]

Now, it is true that a large nip of whiskey will send a man to sleep. It is also true that it will wake him up later, when it turns cold on his unhappy inside, with a deadly wakefulness that is worse than ever. / Sleeplessness, temporarily banished, returns, like the evil spirit in the parable, with seven devils worse than itself! [Ibid 1,616 w/e 4 February 1939]

"The runawayfulness is not the proper caper, my esteemed fat funky Bunter," remarked Hurree Jamset Ram Singh. [Billy Bunter Afloat]

Festina tente. [Ibid]

"The ratherfulness is terrific," remarked Hurree Jamset Ram Singh, "but the howfulness is a boot on the other leg." [Ibid]

A stout young gentleman - unusually plump - in spectacles. [Ibid]

L T C Rolt

The period following the passing of this measure [railway nationalisation] has been marked, not only by a tremendous increase in transport charges but by a more ruthless pruning of unremunerative branch lines than ever private enterprise had undertaken. [Railway Adventure]

The appetite soon sickens of the fruits of any form of self indulgence unless they come as a reward for hard labour and difficulties overcome. [Ibid]

Paul Ross

You see the cliché in television circles goes: "Well, we haven't got a lot of money but actually that's very liberating because that means we can use our imaginations." Bollocks. If you ain't got a lot of money you got crap television. [The 100 greatest TV Moments from Hell, Channel 4, 1 January 2001]

I would rather eat a bowl of my own arm-pit hair than go back to Ikea but I know I'm going to go back there, like a lemming drawn towards the cliff. [To DIY For, Channel 4, 2001]

Shaun Ryder

Turn it up, Simon, we want it louder.

Dorothy L Sayers

I'm determined never to be a parent. Modern manners and the break-up of the fine old traditions have simply ruined the business. I shall devote my life and fortune to the endowment of research on the best method of producin' human beings decorously and unobtrusively from eggs. All parental responsibility to devolve upon the incubator. [The Unpleasantness at the Bellona Club]

Even the closest of one's friends turn out to be secret thinkers. They think in private thoughts which they publicly repudiate. [Unnatural Death]

Even blacks are God's creatures and we might all be black ourselves if He had not in His infinite kindness seen fit to favour us with white skins!! [Ibid]

Always start the day with a pint of bitter, sir. It's 'olesomer than tea to my mind and don't fret the coats of the stomach. [Ibid]

"Perhaps the long-toed gentleman was a nigger," suggested Parker. "Nigger taste runs rather to boots and hair-oil." [Ibid]

An English girl in the hands of a nigger. How abominable! [Ibid]

I always drive more mellowly on a pint of beer. [Have His Carcase]

I always have a quotation for everything - it saves original thinking. [Ibid]

Can't waste public money fishing for drowned dagoes. [Ibid]

"Wot this country wants," said Padgett, "is a 'Itler." [Gaudy Night]

With tobacco and literature one could face out any situation, provided, of course, that the book was not written in an unknown tongue. [Ibid]

In the course of a mis-spent life I have learnt that it is a gentleman's first duty to remember in the morning who it was he took to bed with him. [Busman's Honeymoon]

I would point out that there is a slight leak in the copper which creates difficulty as tending to extinguish the fire. [Ibid]

A tone which might have suggested that Newton's apple had been observed to fly upward or a BBC announcer heard to use a bawdy expression. [Ibid]

Walter Schellenberg

In the SS, one met a better class of person. [The Schellenberg Memoirs]

Kurt von Schuschnigg

Conversation [with Hitler at Berchtesgaden 12 February 1938] was somewhat unilateral. [Austrian Requiem]

Russell Senior

I've shared a bed with Jarvis more than most people other than his girl-friends and he never seemed terribly attractive to me. It's horrible. [Pulp: From Disco to Hard-Core, BBC Radio One, 22 March 1998]

Brian Sewill

That jazz musician who sounds as though he's blowing bubbles in a pound of sliced liver, George Melly. [Quote, Unquote, BBC Radio Four, 5 April 1999]

The other had a mini-skirt on and she had legs that were mean and muscular, legs utterly without charity and warmth. [Ibid]

I love red geraniums; so there. [Snobs, ITV, 13 January 2000]

Ant and Dec are the most loathsome little twits ever to have made dim-witted provincial mediocrity the vehicle of millionaire success. [Radio Times, 2-8 June 2007]

William Shakespeare

'Twill serve. [Romeo and Juliet]

Martin Shankleman

You can't go on air and incite revolution. It's not in the BBC Charter. [Johnnie Walker Show, BBC Radio 2, 24 October 2005]

"Shelley"

I appreciate the honour and all that, but I'm simply not prepared to fund the nation's economy single-handed.

That's not deduction, it's amputation. It makes the Godfather look like a shop-lifter.

"I apologise for my attitude when I came in," I told him. "I was in a state of shock. I'd just had my money removed."

The Shamen

A great philosopher once wrote. [Ebenezer Goode]

William L Shirer

Many of its top leaders, beginning with its chief, Roehm [sic], were notorious homosexual perverts. Lieutenant Edmund Heines, who led the Munich SA was not only a homosexual but a convicted murderer. These two and dozens of others quarrelled and feuded as only men of unnatural sexual inclinations, with their peculiar jealousies, can. [The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich]

He explained that Hitler had been in such a maniacal mood over the Czechs the last few days that on more than one occasion he had lost control of himself completely, hurling himself to the floor and chewing the edge of the carpet. [Ibid]

"Smash Hits"

A "Happening" Publication.

Martin Luther King (man who had a dream and got shot).

More tune for your bob.

Win a bloody coal scuttle!

Arthur Smith

In my book people who lead busy interesting lives are in denial. You've got to confront the natural boredom of being alive, unless you're fighting for your life or something; it's the natural state. It's all bull-shit, boredom, mediocrity surrounding you. You don't have to get involved. [Grumpy Old Men, BBC2, 19 May 2006]

Eric Smith

Do not use metal polish on a silvered dial or ring, or it will be silvered no longer. [Renovating Clocks]

Linda Smith

We're all in the gutter but some of us are pissed and eating kebabs. [Booked, BBC Radio 4, 22 June 1999]

For what is a line dance if not a queue possessed of a demon? [Linda Smith's Breif History of Time Wasting, Ibid, 12 July 2001]

Will Smith

Love for him at his [Gareth Gate's] age, it's just about showing your love bites and discussing, you know, what feels more like a vagina: a pot of yoghurt or a loaf of bread. [The 100 Worst Pop Records, Channel Four, 1 January 2004]

"Spitting Image"

"It's all starting to make no sense at all." "That's the way I like it in my newspapers".

Bugger Botham bastard evil satanist KGB.

It's more potatoie than the other one.

It was a very old joke, Mr Tarby.

We've all heard that one at least 500 times before; a marvellous start for the older man.

Handy bendy Ghandi with detachable loincloth.

OK, so I'm the Marquis of Blandford occasionally. It's nothing I can't handle.

Ah well, it's for the best; I've never been fond of Mike Reid.

It's a bloody potato, my love!

The tedium is beyond belief.

It will be etched bold in legend where-ever men revel and quaff.

With you, with you. Cheeky or Saucy?

Bastard Bear.

A man in his pyjamas has got in there with him, and I think I need say no more than that.

Tell me, my good sir: Is it possible to become a Buddhist in haircut alone?

The whole thing's crap. It means bugger all, mate. It's useless. [Book]

Dervishes, garlic eaters, yellow hordes and people who shit in your airing cupboard if you let them. [Ibid]

David Stafford

I don't know if you've ever been in the second row of the scrum but it's got all the discomfort of sodomy with none of the rewards. [True Lies, BBC Radio 4, 4 February 2000]

"Star Trek"

Keyboard? How quaint. [Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home]

Die well. [The Next Generation]

You only get one shot at the Latinum stairway. [Deep Space Nine]

She's a female, Rohm, and the one constant in the universe is: females are trouble. [Ibid]

David Starkey

I'm not sure that what goes on in a great many heads can be dignified by the term 'thought'. [Radio Times, 14-20 July 2001]

Robert Stephenson

I dislike his [Dickson, John Scott Russell's Cheif Engineer] face immensely. I felt it an imperative duty to treat all his suggestions irreverently. [Letter to Brunel, 1856]

Steptoe and Son

Just 'cause a prune's got wrinkles it doesn't mean it isn't tasty.

It's like eattng a apple: if the first bite's sour, turn it round and have a nibble somewhere else.

Adlai Ewing Stevenson

A lie is an abomination unto the Lord and a very present help in time of trouble.

Myra Syal

I find that for those moments in your life where you feel that life doesn't have any meaning, you watch the shopping channel and you know that it doesn't. [The 100 greatest TV Moments from Hell, Channel 4, 1 January 2001]

"Test Match Special"

I suppose he's not quite at silly mid-off, but it's certainly far from advisable. [Christopher Martin-Jenkins - Second One-Day International, England Vs Australia, at the Oval 25 May 1997]

[Of a shot by Adam Hollyoak] ... and he's dismissed that like a hitting a tennis ball with a stick of celery. [Henry Blofeld, Ibid]

If I turn the television sound up I get bloody Boycott.
[Listener's letter, read by Henry Blofeld - Third Ashes Test, at Old Trafford 5 July 1997]

[Of streakers] We've had three in nine overs. [Bill Fringle - ibid, 6 July 1997]

[Sunday crowds] ... come along, have a good time, make lots of noise and take their clothes off at the end. [Jonathan Agnew - ibid]

Progress doesn't always mean things get better. [Graham Fowler - England Vs Sri Lanka, The Oval, 27 August 1998]

We're enjoying a day's constipated cricket: it hasn't really flowed. [Henry Blofeld, ibid]

Oh no: We've got another one of these stupid arses running onto the middle. [Ibid, 30 August 1998]

"Third Rock From The Sun"

Hasn't tonight been great? Just us boys drinking beer, yelling like idiots, emitting various gasses. [Dick is from Mars, Sally is from Venus]

Watching television is amazing. I haven't had a single thought in my head for three hours. [Angry Dick]

Such primitive technology. I wonder if these people will ever discover the superior sound of vinyl? [Dicks They Are a Changin']

Well I don't pay seven bucks to see an alien playing with a puppy. At that price he'd better eat it. [Hotel Dick]

When you're in love with someone you're allowed to completely screw-up their lives. That's what love is. [Much Ado about Dick]

What's the point of having a democracy if people go around voting wrong?

David Thomson

This attitude was shared by Tories and Whigs alike: the growing mass of the labouring classes were unfit to take any responsible or intelligent part in politics; in time, with prudent government, their lot might improve; but radicalism and democracy bred only dangerous delusions. [Europe Since Napoleon]

The many problems of street paving and lighting, drainage and sanitation, water supply and fire precautions, the prevention of epidemics and an adequate medical service, had hitherto been left to be tackled by local authorities. This meant that usually they had not been tackled at all, or had been tackled

badly; and the situation was worst of all in the large and growing industrial towns where these problems were especially acute but where local pride and civic responsibilities were weakest. [Ibid]

Rt Rev Eric Treacy

The young have created their own image. I don't like it, but obviously they do. The aim now is to look as scruffy and grubby as possible, to equate games playing with imperialism, and to lurk in dark corners listening to barbaric music.

Anthony Trollope

It is difficult for a man to go back to the verdure and malleability of pupildom, who has once escaped from the necessary humility of it's conditions.

Dan van der Vat

This is the only footnote that will be found in this volume. As stated at the beginning of this Preface, the book is intended for the general reader. In other contexts the author is also a general reader, and as such is powerfully prejudiced against texts besplattered with numbers, whether they refer to footnotes or entries at the back, which usually contain such illuminating references as "ibid." or "op. cit." These are of use to few and a nuisance to most readers as well as the writer. [The Atlantic Campaign]

The author sought permission to cite some forty words from Churchill's 'History of the Second World War.' Cassell PLC, uniquely in my experience, asked a fee of £25. On this tariff, quoting a total of 2,000 words from copyright material would cost £1,250. The quotation, an embellishment rather than a revelation, has therefore been omitted. [Ibid]

Viz

AAAAARGH! My ring-piece. [Nobby's Piles]

Haway, man: Sid's got a pan-handle. [Sid the Sexist]

Roy Walker

May you live for as long as you want to and want to as long as you live. [Catchphrase]

May you be in Heaven half an hour before the Devil knows that you're dead. [Ibid]

Patricia Wentworth

How comfortable to be dead and buried, with your virtues proclaimed upon the headstone of a nicely tended grave and all your faults forgotten. [The Watersplash]

I am told it has become the fashion to publish the writings of children and of uneducated persons. Another symptom of modern decadence! [Vanishing Point]

So much hair and so badly controlled. [Ibid]

John Wilkes

Life can little else supply but a few short fucks and then we die.

Kenneth Williams

What's the bloody point? [Final diary entry]

Quentin Wilson

Very modern. Very socialist. [All The Right Moves, BBC2, 16 July 1998]

Evelyn Waugh

You're reading History? A perfectly respectable school. The very worst is English literature and the next worse is Modern Greats. You want either a first or a fourth. There is no value in anything between. Time spent on a good second is time thrown away. [Brideshead Revisited]

Beware of the Anglo-Catholics - they're all sodomites with unpleasant accents. [Ibid]

Jar Wobble

[The Sex Pistols] were the Spitfire to the Clash's Hurricane. [Radcliffe and Maconie, BBC Radio 2, 28 September 2009]

P G Wodehouse

I endeavour to give satisfaction. [Carry on, Jeeves]

She was one of these quiet, appealing girls who have a way of looking at you with their big eyes as if they thought you were the greatest thing on earth and wondered that you hadn't got onto it yourself. She gave a fellow a protective kind of feeling, made him want to stroke her hand and say, 'there, there, little one!' or words to that effect. She made me feel that there was nothing I wouldn't do for her. She was rather like one of those innocent-tasting American drinks which creep

into your system so that, before you know what you're doing, you're starting out to reform the world by force if necessary and pausing on your way to tell the large man in the corner that, if he looks at you like that, you will knock his head off. What I mean is, she made me feel alert and dashing, like a knight-errant or something of that kind. I felt I was with her in this thing to the limit. [Ibid]

Lay off the sausages. Avoid the ham.

I mean, I had wanted a braced Fink-Nottle - indeed, all my plans had had a braced Fink-Nottle as their end and aim - but I found myself wondering a little whether the Fink-Nottle now sliding down the banister wasn't, perhaps, a shade too braced. [Right-Ho, Jeeves]

Is it by your wish, madam, that Mr Fink-Nottle is making faces at Monsieur Anatole through the skylight of his bedroom? [Ibid]

I am so mad as a wet hen. [Ibid]

She had that direct, honest gaze which many nice girls have, and as a rule Bill liked it. But at the moment he could have done with something that did not pierce quite so like a red-hot gimlet to his inmost soul. [Ring for Jeeves]

Terry Wogan

A closed mouth gathers no feet. [Countdown final, Channel Four, 27 June 1997]

"Yes, Minister"

Yes; and no, Minister.

"Yes, Prime Minister"

While one does not seek the office, one has pledged oneself to the service of one's country and if one's colleagues persuaded one that that was the best way one could serve, one might reluctantly have to accept the responsibility, whatever one's private wishes might be. [Party Games]

Desmond Young

At home, Rommel played the violin in an amateurish fashion but was otherwise easy to live with. [Rommel]