

MIKE  
BARFIELD

THE WORLD'S FIRST

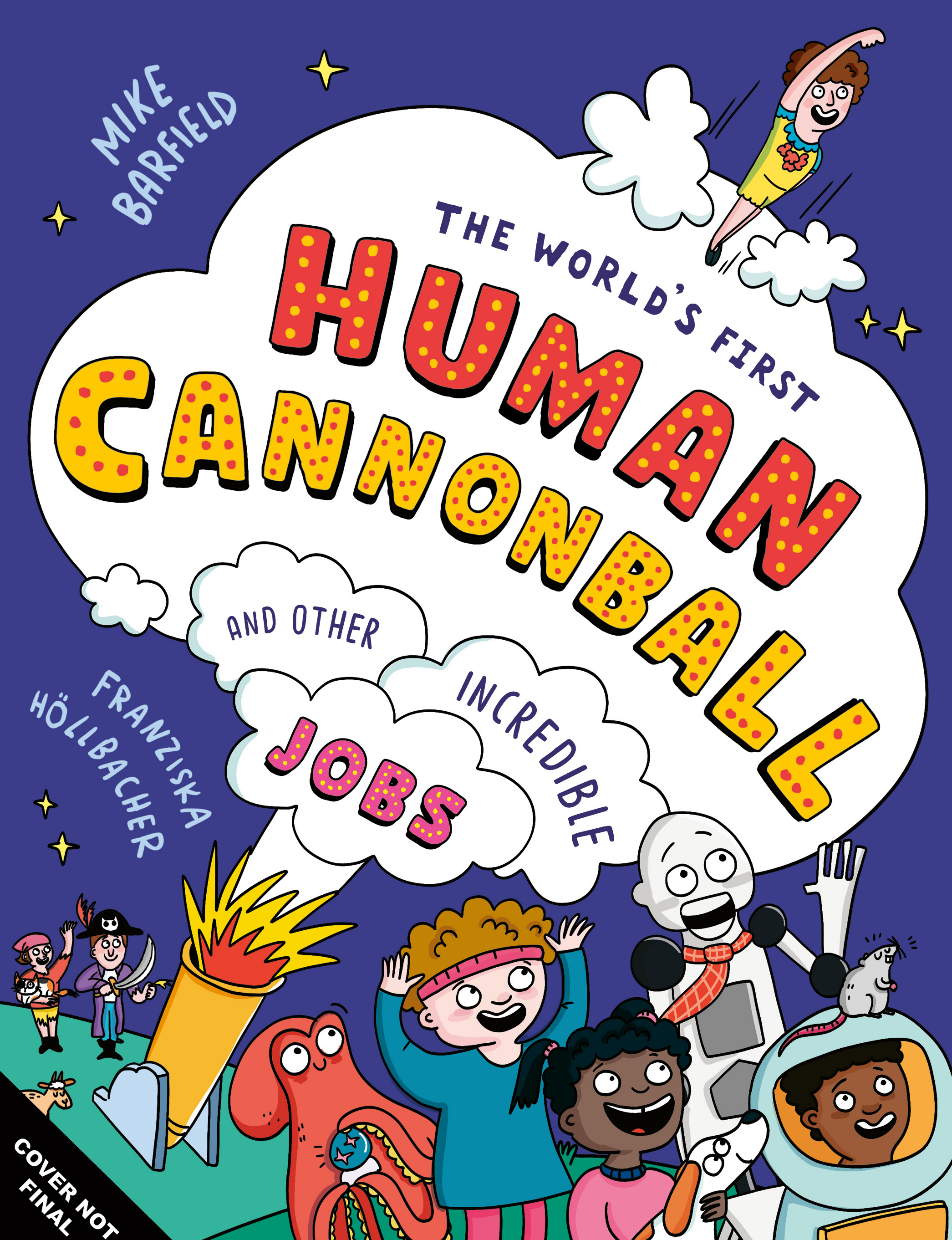
# HUMAN CANNONBALL

AND OTHER

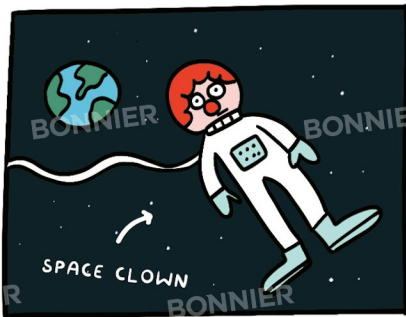
JOBBS

INCREIBLE

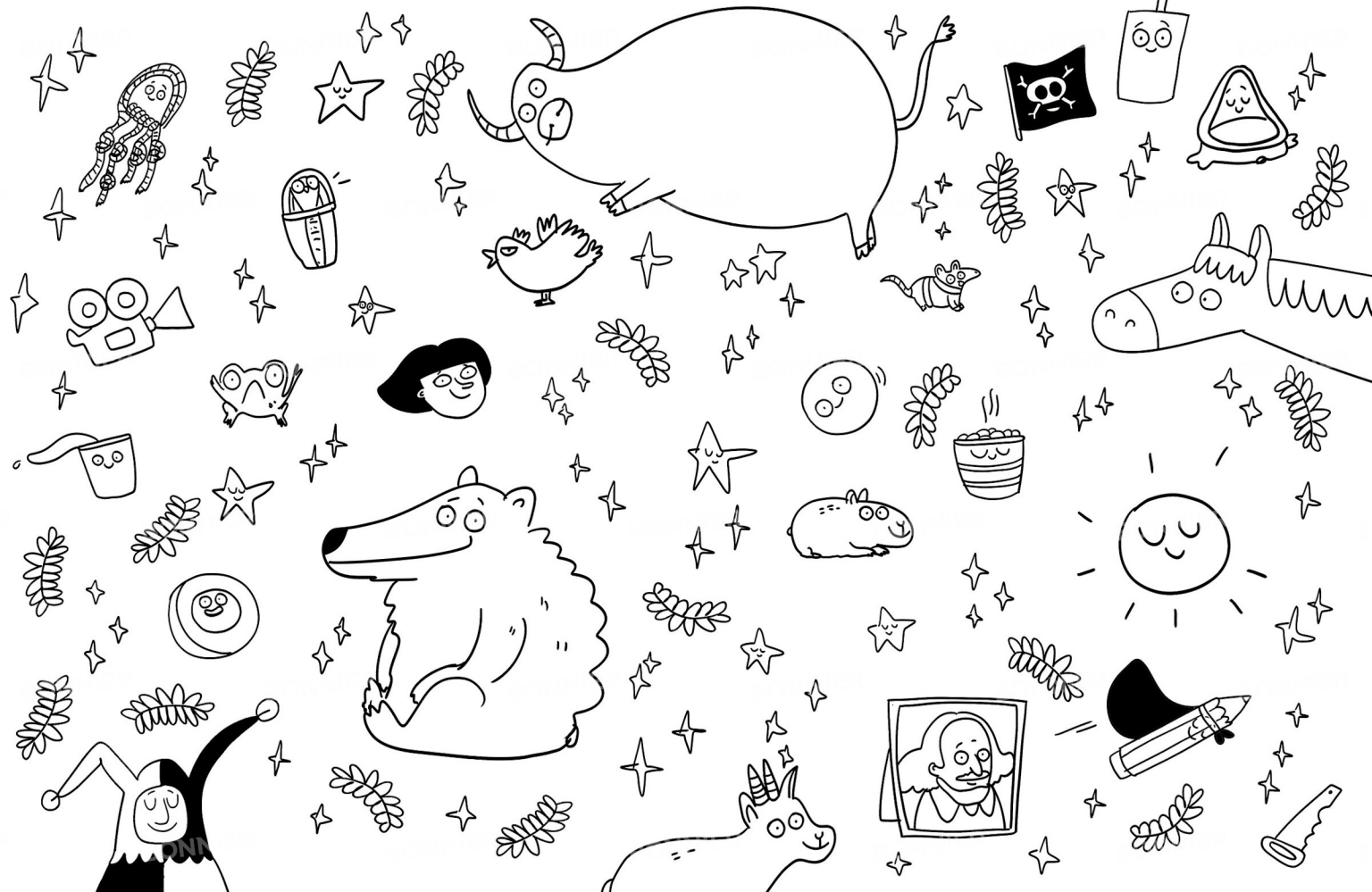
FRANZISKA  
HÖLLBACHER



COVER NOT  
FINAL



THESE JOBS  
ARE **NOT INCREDIBLE.**  
HEY ARE JUST **SILLY!**





Dedication 1

[small Zazel in the sky]

[another job/detail]

Dedication 2

[device for dedication 2]

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# THE WORLD'S FIRST HUMAN CANNONBALL

## AND OTHER INCREDIBLE

# JOBS



MIKE  
BARFIELD



FRANZISKA  
HÖLZBACHER



Early humans moved around in search of food. Simply surviving was a job in itself. Since we settled down, there have been lots of odd occupations, past and present, that involve transport or travel. That's what this first section is all about, so here are four fab facts to get you going!

### NEED A LIFT?

Sedan chairs carried fashionable people across filthy city streets 200 or more years ago. The chairs were heavy, rides were bumpy, and crashes often occurred!

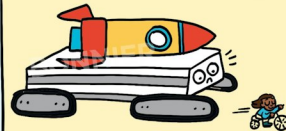


### WORLD'S LONGEST SHIP



Scrapped in 2009, the Seawise Giant oil tanker was four football pitches long. Its captain always planned ahead, as the ship took 9 km to come to a halt.

### LARGEST LAND VEHICLE



US space agency NASA uses huge crawler-transporters to take rockets to their launch sites. With a loaded top speed of less than 2 km/hour, no speed fiends need apply!

### FIRST AIR STEWARDS



For men, it was German Heinrich Kubis in 1912, and for women, American Ellen Church in 1930. Ellen, a trained pilot, worked on planes while Heinrich served on giant Zeppelin airships!

# INCAN MESSENGER

Hi! I'm a piece of string in the Incan Empire some 1000 years ago!

ME TOO!

AND ME!

The Empire is vast. Over 3000 km long on the coast of South America.



We help the Incan ruler in Cuzco send important messages - but first we have to get knotted!

WHAT?

HOW RUDE!

KNOT!

TWIST!

TIE!

See? Our knots contain coded information.

WOW! REALLY!

COOL!

We're part of a 'mop' of lots of string messages called a quipo...



WHAT A LOT OF KNOTS!

KNICE!

This gets carried by a messenger called a chasqui - chosen for being speedy...

I can run at a rate of knots!

Chasquis run in relay between shelters called tambos, keeping the quipo moving quickly between them...

RUNNING IN THIS HEAT?

YES I'M HOT FOOTING IT!

HURRY UP!

I'M WAITING!

WUM! PHEW!

Blowing a sea snail horn as an alert, a quipo can cover over 200 km in a day between chasquis...

PAAARP!

WORLD'S FASTEST MOVING SNAIL!

Eventually, the quipo reaches its recipient and gets decoded...

HERE YOU GO

DOH! POST!

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

SEND MORE STRING - WE'RE RUNNING OUT!

# JUST THE JOB: GET THE MESSAGE

## WINGING IT

Winston the pigeon became a celebrity in South Africa in 2009 when he flew home 96 km with a 4GB memory stick faster than the data could be downloaded online. Cool!

## HIGH OFFICE

The China Postal Service runs the world's highest post office at Base Camp on Mount Everest. Climbers can send postcards in warmer months. Wish you were there?

## DRONING ON!

Drones are already replacing delivery drivers in hard-to-reach places around the world. In Rwanda, Africa, they carry medical supplies - just what the doctor ordered!

## DON'T MISS THE BOAT!

A mailboat on Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, USA, keeps moving slowly along the shoreline, while young 'mail-jumpers' jump off and on stuffing mailboxes on piers. Sometimes they fall in!

# CHARIOT RACER

It's 336 BCE. WELCOME TO OLYMPIA, HOME OF THE ANCIENT GREEK OLYMPIC GAMES.

HERE, MEN - AND ONLY MEN - GET TO SEE WHO IS FASTEST AND STRONGEST.

ME!

NO ME!

ME!

WOMEN ARE BANNED FROM EVEN WATCHING. LET ALONE COMPETING.

PEHE! SILLY BOYS' GAMES.

DON'T WANT TO WATCH ANYWAY.

BUT, DO YOU KNOW WHO ARE THE FASTEST AND STRONGEST COMPETITORS?

NO!

WHO!

US HORSES, OF COURSE. OUR JOB IS TO POWER THE CHARIOTS IN THE SUPER-POPULAR RACES.

THAT'S RIGHT! IT'S A HARD WORK!

GALLUP!

SPEED!

WE RACE TWICE TIMES ROUND A LONG COURSE CALLED A HIPPODROME.

YOU CALLED?

NO GO AWAY! HIPPO IS GREEK FOR HORSE.

IT'S A DANGEROUS JOB. EACH TIME WE TURN SHARPLY, ACCIDENTS CAN HAPPEN.

MOVE OVER!

NO YOU MOVE OVER!

**KER-ASH!**

ALL THAT... AND WHAT DO WE GET FOR WINNING!

A WOOLLY HERDASAND!

IT ITCHES!

MEANWHILE, OUR OWNER, PRINCESS KYNIXIA OF SPARTA, GETS FAME AND SOME FAB PRIZES!

MAKING ME APOSTASY'S FIRST EVER FEMALE OLYMPIC WINNER!

YAY!

GIRL, POWER!

# JUST THE JOB: HORSE POWER!

**HORSEING AROUND**

Legend has it that crazy ancient Roman emperor Caligula made his horse, Incitatus, a judge and fed him horse, incitatus, a judge and fed him horse, oats mixed with gold. Neigh! Surely not?

**TAKE A BOW**

A horse called Trigger was a world famous film star in the 1940s. Owned by US cowboy actor Roy Rogers, Trigger could bow to applause and sign his name with an 'X'!

**BLACK BEAUTIES**

The horses used by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police - nicknamed the Mounties - are all black because someone decided that it best showed off the red tunics of their riders.

**SMALL WONDERS**

Miniature horses can replace dogs as guides for the visually impaired. Unlike dogs, horses' eyes face sideways and they can spot potential hazards over a much wider area.

**PICK UP AFTER YOUR HORSE!**

**13**

# RED FLAG LAD

Hi! I'll come to the point I'm a pencil, and this story is true.

It takes place in Catford, South London in 1895.

This innocent-looking boy is working as a look-out...

I'm a fine looking look-out if I say so myself! Gwui!

He is looking-out for police officers, who are looking-out for motor cars like the one behind him.

HELLO HELLO HELLO!

It belongs to Henry Hewetson who hates going slowly.

I FEEL A NEED FOR SPEED!

But the law says he can't go faster than 2 MPH\* in town.

\* 3.2 km/hour

Plus, you're meant to have someone in front waving a red flag to warn people.

WAVE!

SLOW!

WHAT HAVE WE HERE?

So, when the look-out spots the officer, he signals to the car, which slows to let the passenger out, who is carrying... me!

The law does not say what size the flag needs to be!

SAH!

HAI!

TINY!

The speed limit was raised soon after - and I bet cars go much faster in the future... Don't they?

FAST FORWARD TO YOUR TIME!

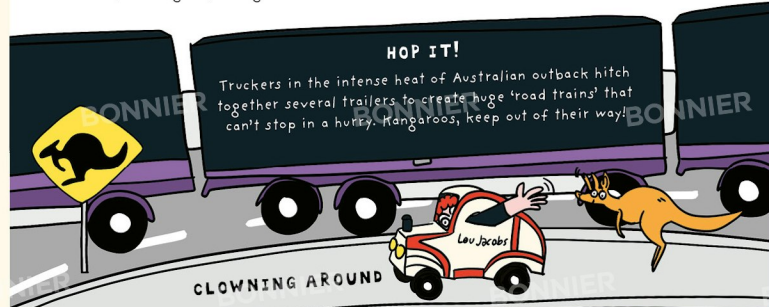
GRR! TRAFFIC JAM!

MONNY! MONNY!



**CHILL OUT!**

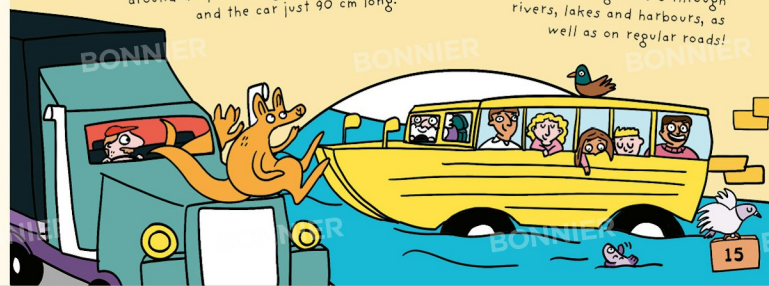
Truckers supplying mines in northern Canada have to drive over frozen lakes and rivers. The trick is to never stop moving or you might break the ice. Eek!



German-born Lou Jacobs invented the one-person clown car in the 1950s. He could squeeze inside and drive it around despite being 1.85 metres tall and the car just 90 cm long.

**QUACKERS!**

Many cities have so-called 'duck tours' where special amphibious buses take sightseers through rivers, lakes and harbours, as well as on regular roads!





# THE DAY JOB

## AVIATRIX



NAME: BESSIE COLEMAN  
NATIONALITY: AMERICAN  
OCCUPATION: AVIATRIX

# BESSIE COLEMAN

Hi! My name is Bessie Coleman. I was born in Atlanta, Texas, USA in 1892, one of thirteen children. What's an aviatrix? Well, keep reading and you'll find out!

In my early 20s, I moved to Chicago and worked in a beauty parlour. The First World War was underway and soldiers back from France told me they had seen something amazing...

**women pilots!** I was so excited. If men could become aviators, then I wanted to be an **aviatrix** – a female flyer. But no one would teach me because I was black and a woman.

PFFH!

But I showed them. I studied French at night school and in 1921 I took my savings and sailed to France to take flying lessons in Paris. Magnifique!



MY PILOTS LICENCE

I proved to be a brilliant and brave pilot. I was the first African-American woman to get a pilot's licence, and when I went home in 1925, I was hailed a heroine!

Now I had a new career as a daredevil stunt flyer in public air displays across America. I also had a smart new flying outfit made for me to wear!

I performed loop-the-loops, figures-of-eight and death-defying dives – but only on condition that black folks and white folks were not separated in the audience below...

I became so famous, the press called me **'Queen Bess'** and now there are roads, schools and airports named after me. You could say that when it came to my job, I was a real high flyer!



# SPACEMAN

**Hi!** I'm a wheel on a bus and, yes, I do go round and round!

Been doing the same old job for a long time - unlike this guy...

This is Yuri Gagarin, and on 12th April 1961, he launched a super new career choice - spaceman!

Let's go!

Yuri was the first person to fly in space as a Soviet Union cosmonaut aboard the Vostok 1 spacecraft.

Yuri was picked as he ticked a lot of boxes.

He was squished inside a tiny capsule on top of a big rocket.

Cosy in here!

Then he was blasted into space, orbiting Earth at over 27,000 km/hour!

Not that he had much to do as his flight was controlled from Earth.

100 minutes later, he parachuted back to Earth - a hero!

Well, I'm afraid he's not a hero to US bus wheels.

Before lift-off Yuri did a wee on the back wheel of the bus taking him to the launch pad.

Cosmonauts ever since have copied him for luck!

Lucky for them, not so lucky for us.

## JUST THE JOB: GIMME SOME SPACE!

**STAR TURNS**  
Almost 40 countries have now sent people into space. In 1992, Mae Jemison became the first African-American female astronaut and took with her a picture of Bessie Coleman (see pages 16-17).

**SOFT JOBS**  
Soft toys play a part in space travel, floating about harmlessly when zero gravity conditions have been reached. And they are fun!

**THIS JOB STINKS!**  
NASA actually employs people to sniff objects on Earth to check their smell won't annoy astronauts in space. Phooey!

**ASLEEP ON THE JOB**  
Any future trip to Mars will take at least seven months. US space agency NASA pays people to sleep for weeks to see what effect prolonged rest has on their bodies.

**TASTE OF SPACE**  
The European Space Agency (ESA) asked French chefs to create dishes using crops that might grow on Mars. The result? Pond slime pasta (yumi) and a Martian bread with green tomato jam.



# BROUGHT TO BOOK

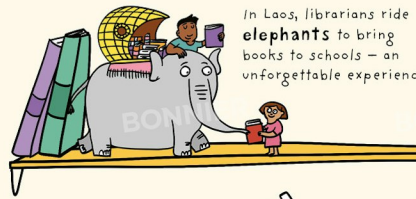
Books are brilliant. They can take you to another place without ever leaving your seat. Better still, mobile libraries can bring you fresh books for free! Check these out!



In Colombia, the **Biblioburros**, (Donkey Library) brings books to remote villages. Two donkeys – Alfa and Beto – do the, er, donkey work.



In Mongolia, **camels** carry books to desert-dwelling nomads, so they are no longer lost for words!



In Laos, librarians ride **elephants** to bring books to schools – an unforgettable experience!



In Argentina, an artist turned a car into a **tank** that drives round offering free books. Take cover!



In southern Italy, a retired teacher travels round in a bright blue **book house** with a tiled roof and a little chimney. Smoking!



Books-ahoy! Remote islands in Sweden get visited twice a year, the **bokbaten** (book-boat).

# CHAPTER 2 BODY WORK

The human body is a brilliant bit of kit. There are tons of tasks it can take on, as well as providing jobs for people who claim they can fix it when hit breaks down – not all of them honest or reliable! This chapter gets a bit grisly in places, but if you've got the guts for it, let's work that body – beginning with four fab facts!

### OLDEST KNOWN SURGERY

A skeleton found in Borneo had successfully had a foot removed 31,000 years ago, when only stone tools existed! Ug!

### REST IN PIECES

Three centuries ago, thieves known as body-snatchers stole corpses from fresh graves to sell to medical students who then cut them up.

### HANDY WORK

You don't have to show your face to get a top job in TV and films. Some people have lovely hands and get paid to show them in close-up shots.

### BENDIEST BODY

Nicknamed 'The Rubberboy', US professional contortionist Daniel Browning Smith has super-flexible joints and can even turn his head behind him like an owl!

# MUMMY MAKER

Hi! I'm a chief embalmer in ancient Egypt over 3000 years ago, preserving the corpses of kings and rich people.



I work with dead bodies, so obviously I need to wear a mask...



It's of the jackal-headed Anubis, our god of the Afterlife and Mummification.



I look like a dog, and work like one too!



First, my assistant removes the brain through the nose...



Next, we slice open their side with a sharp stone knife.



Then we remove all the organs, save the heart and pop them in jars with the heads of different gods.



This jar with the intestines is of the god Qebensuef!



Finally, we wash the corpse with wine, add aromatic oils and herbs, then pack it with a special salt to dry it out.



Then, of course, we'll end by covering it in linen strips to make a mummy.



What shall I do with the brain?



You don't need brains in this job!



# JUST THE JOB: WORK LIKE AN ANCIENT EGYPTIAN

## SAD BUSINESS

Ancient Egyptian funerals might be attended by professional mourners – women paid to wail with grief. To do the job, they had to be childless. Being a real mummy was not allowed!

## IT'S A STEAL

Tomb-robber was a profitable job in ancient Egypt, stealing the treasures placed in pyramids alongside mummified royals. The objects in museums today are the things they missed!

## MONKEY BUSINESS

Not all thieves got away with their crimes. Egyptian officials used trained baboons to catch suspects. It's the long tail of the law!

## WORKING MUMMIES

Being dead didn't stop mouldy old mummies being useful. Millions of mummies were made, and in the past they have been turned into brown paint and magic 'medicine'.

## MOUSEWORK

Cats worked hard keeping homes and the harvest safe from hungry rats and mice. No wonder they were worshipped as gods and also made into mummies!

# BARBER-SURGEON



SAW! CUT! SCREAM! AAAAAH!

THIS PANEL HAS BEEN CENSORED TO PROTECT SENSITIVE READERS.



# JUST THE JOB: CURIOUS CURERS



## POLE POSITION

As well as lopping limbs, barber-surgeons let blood out of people's bodies. The striped poles outside many modern barbers represent the bloody bandages involved.

## SO LONG, SUCKERS!

Water-living worms called leeches were also used to suck blood from patients. Leech-collectors stood barelegged in lakes to attract them.

## DOCTOR DOG

Dogs are more than just our best buds. - They can be trained to sniff out diseases, and bring people medicines. What cat would do that?

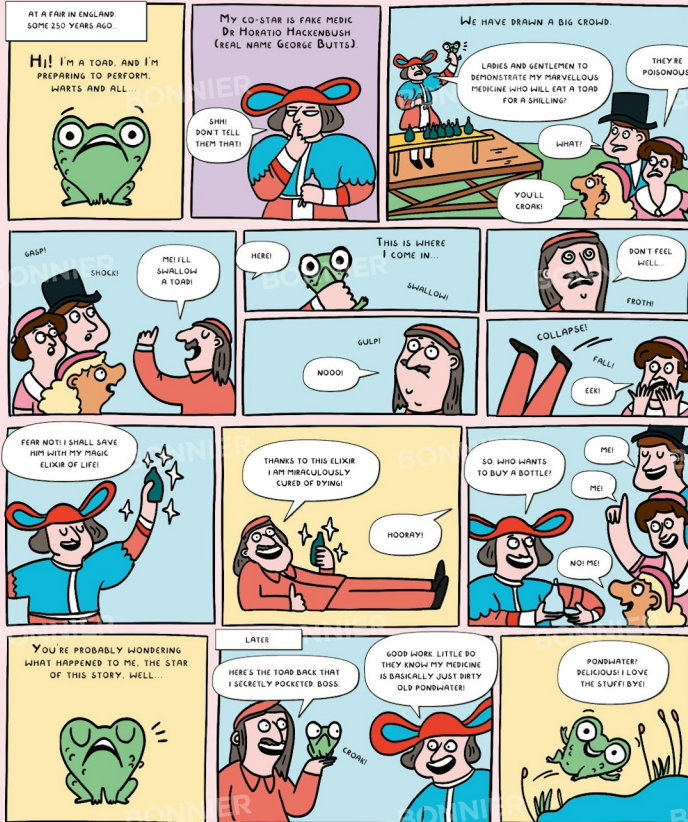
## THE HOLE STORY

Prehistoric people drilled holes in skulls to let out 'evil spirits'. Called 'trepanation' surgeons use the same technique today to help some head injuries heal!

## FLY GUYS

Maggots are flies in the making. Disgusting as it sounds, they are used to clear dead flesh from wounds so they mend more quickly.

# TOAD-EATER



# THE DAY JOB

WAXWORK  
MAKER



NAME: M TUSSAUD  
NATIONALITY: FRENCH  
OCCUPATION: WAXWORK MAKER

## MADAME MARIE TUSSAUD

**Bonjour!** My name is Madame Marie Tussaud, and over 170 years after my death, I am still the most famous waxwork-maker ever. No one can hold a candle to me!

I was born in Strasbourg, France in 1761. Aged six, my mother became housekeeper to a Swiss Doctor who also made wax figures. He taught me everything. I was a model pupil!



At 15, I completed my first full figure of the big French thinker, Voltaire. Other models followed, and one day I was asked to move to the Royal Palace of Versailles to teach wax-modelling to King Louis the Sixteenth's sister, Elisabeth.

Sadly, ordinary French citizens were starving while the rich lived in luxury. I mean, look at this place!

In 1789, the French people revolted, took over the country, and arrested the whole Royal Family – and me! Lots of nobles lost their heads on the guillotine.



I might well have lost mine too, only I was spared and asked to make wax masks of the dead heads in the executioner's basket, including those of the King and Queen!

France went wild for a while, so I moved to Britain and toured my waxworks around the country. Most popular was my figure of French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte. For a little man, he was a big attraction!

I eventually settled into a museum in London, and in 1842 I made a model of myself which you can still see today! When it came to making waxworks, I broke the mould!



# HUMANOID



# JUST THE JOB: REAL LIVE WIRES

**SPACE-TALK**  
In 2013, Kiroro was the first robot to speak in space. Just 33 cm tall, he chatted to Koichi Wakata, the first Japanese commander of the International Space Station.

**SEAL OF APPROVAL**  
Developed in Japan, PARO is a cuddly robotic baby seal that interacts with patients in nursing homes. PARO's battery charger looks like a baby's dummy!



**OH, BROTHER!**

In 2010, robot expert Hiroshi Ishiguro made a twin robot of himself. Unlike a real baby brother, you could turn him off!



**NOT TO BE SNEEZED AT**

Launched in 2014, Pepper is a robot that can respond to human emotions. Thousands of friendly Peppers now work in banks and airports.



**BRIGHT DAWN**

DAWN is a Tokyo cafe where robot waiters are controlled remotely using the eye movements of people suffering from paralysis who cannot leave home to work.





# STAND-OUT STAND-INS

Some jobs are too dangerous or too dull for humans, so dummies, dolls or robots replace real people, instead. Amazingly, some humans work by pretending to be sculptures. Who is the dummy now?

## ME FIRST!

Before Yuri Gagarin orbited Earth in 1961, a **rubber rocketeer** called Ivan Ivanovich beat him to it!



## DUMMY RUN

In 2022, NASA tested its new Artemis rocket with three dummies nicknamed **noonikins** – a play on the word ‘mannequin’.



## KISS IT BETTER

**ReSUSci-Annie** is the name of the medical doll used to teach **Kiss-of-life**. Invented by a Norwegian, it now comes in a variety of skin tones too.



## DON'T MOVE!

**Living statues** are street-buskers that stand still for hours. A world championship for these perfect posers is held annually in the Netherlands.

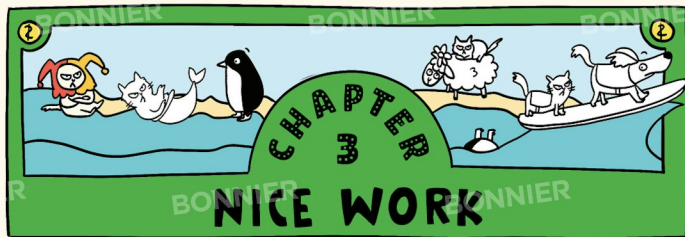


## COP STOP

**Indore** in India got the country's first robot highway cop in 2017. Over 4 metres tall, it certainly stopped traffic!

## LIVING DOLLS

The tiny Japanese village of **Nagoro** has **life-size dolls** instead of real people, including a class of cloth school-kids.



Royals have long been the envy of less lucky humans. Compared to most working people, they had it easy. Today, some still dream of being king or queen, but others want to be pop stars, social media influencers or perhaps even authors and illustrators! This chapter is about jobs that just seem better than others – beginning with four very cushy numbers.

## LONGEST SERVING ROYAL



**Louis XIV** had France's top job for 72 years and 110 days. He held court squatting on a potty built into a throne, which is what you can do when you're king.

## JUST WATCH IT!



Streaming giant **Netflix** pays people to watch its shows and 'tag' them so others can find new things to view. You call that work?!

## BEST JOB EVER?



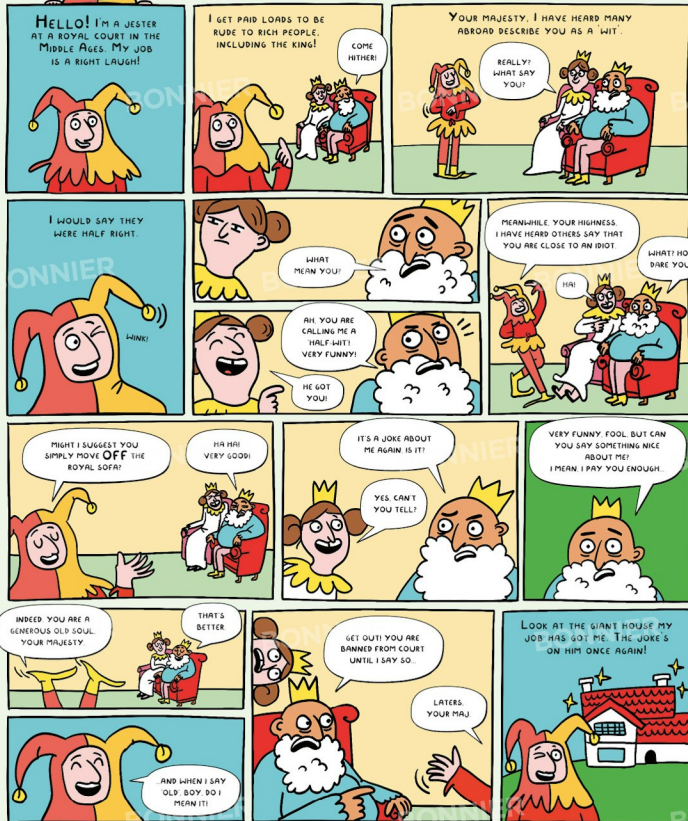
In 2017, a Chinese wildlife sanctuary advertised for a 'panda nanny' to cuddle newborn pandas. Unsurprisingly, over 100,000 people applied!

## NEXT BEST JOB EVER?



American **John Harrison** spent 30 years as an ice cream tester for a food company. He used a golden spoon and insured his taste buds for \$1 million!

# COURT JESTER



# JUST THE JOB: JEST FOR LAUGHS

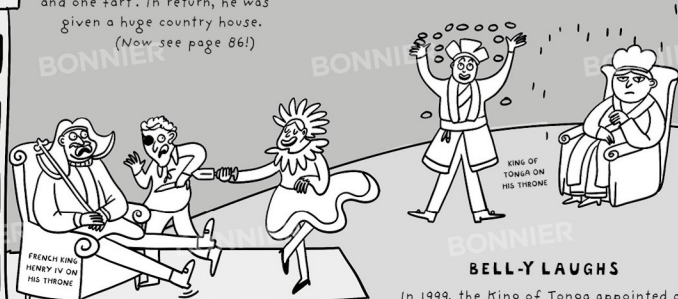
## BLOWN AWAY

Roland the Farter was jester to mediaeval English king Henry the Second. His job was simple: every Christmas he entertained the court with 'one jump, one whistle and one fart'. In return, he was given a huge country house.

(Now see page 86!)

## SILVER LINING

Shen Jiangao, jester to 10th century Chinese emperor Liezu, famously joked during a drought that rain would not fall because the emperor might tax it. Legend says the emperor cut taxes as a result, and it rained the very next day.



## BELL-Y LAUGHS

In 1999, the King of Tonga appointed an American businessman, Jesse Bogdanoff, to be the official jester to the island nation. His duties included wearing the traditional three-pointed coxcomb hat, complete with bells.

## NO LAUGHING MATTER

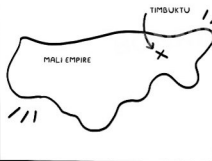
Mathurine the Fool was a female jester at the French court in the sixteenth century. She dressed as a warrior from the Amazon region of South America, and once helped foil an attempt to kill the French king Henry IV.



# PLUTOCRAT



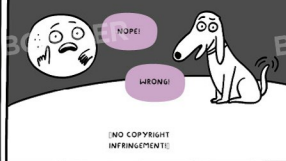
THE WEST AFRICAN KINGDOM OF MALI IN THE FOURTEENTH CENTURY WAS HUGE.



I'M ITS RULER, MANSA MUSA AND I'M A PLUTOCRAT.



NO, THAT DOESN'T MEAN I'M KEEN ON SHINY PLANETS OR GOOFY-LOOKING CARTOON DOGS.



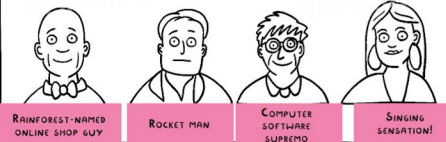
(NO COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT)

IT MEANS I AM INCREDIBLY, STUNDEFULLY, UNMAGINABLY WEALTHY...



PINE ALL PINE... AND THIS IS ONLY A TINY BIT OF IT!

IN FACT, I'M THE RICHEST PERSON EVER TO HAVE LIVED. FAR RICHER THAN THIS MODERN LOT PUT TOGETHER.



RAINFOREST-NAMED ONLINE SHOP GUY

ROCKET MAN

COMPUTER SOFTWARE SUPREMO

SINGING SENSATION!

IN 1324 I DECIDED TO GO ON A RELIGIOUS PILGRIMAGE TO MECCA...



I SHALL DO THE HAJJ!

GOOD IDEA YOUR MAJ!

I TOOK A CARRAVAN OF TENS OF THOUSANDS OF SOLDIERS, SLAVES, ENTERTAINERS, SHEEP, GOATS, AND 100 CAMELS EACH LADEN WITH 136 KILOS OF GOLD...



TRUST US TO GET STUCK BEHIND A CARRAVAN

THIS GOLD IS SOODD HEAVY

IT'S GIVING ME THE HUMP!

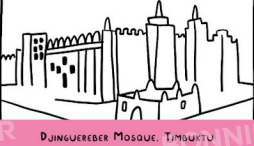
ALONG THE JOURNEY, I SIMPLY GAVE THE PRECIOUS METAL AWAY... KILOS OF GOLD...



IS THIS A SCAM?

NO GOOD AS GOLD PATE

AND WHEN I RETURNED, I BUILT UNIVERSITIES AND MOSQUES - SOME OF WHICH STILL STAND...



DJINGEBERER MOSQUE, TIMBUKTU

BUT BEST OF ALL, I PUT MALI AND ME ON THE MAP - LITERALLY!



GOLD STAR FOR ME, I THINK!

## JUST THE JOB: POWER MAD?



### CASTLES IN THE AIR

In the nineteenth century, King Ludwig II of Bavaria (now part of Germany) spent big bucks building fairy tale castles. Some said he was mad, but today tourists love them!

### STICKY SITUATION

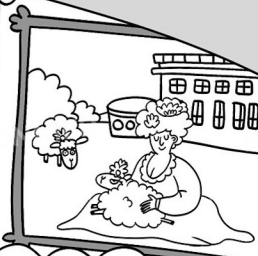
Ancient Egyptian pharaoh Pepi the Second hated flies so much he had someone stand, coated in honey, in every room so they would bother them instead of him. Buzz off!

### ARE EWE KIDDING?

French queen Marie Antoinette had a cute model farm built in the grounds of the Royal Palace so she could play at shepherding lambs. She herself got the chop soon afterwards! (See page 29)

### DIY, HRH?

Many claims have been made about the daily duties servants perform for the UK's King Charles the Third. These include ironing his shoelaces, squeezing his toothpaste, and correctly positioning his bathplug.



# HERMIT

HELLO! IT'S THE EARLY EIGHTEENTH CENTURY, AND I'M A PROFESSIONAL HERMIT - A PERSON PAID TO LIVE ALONE.

My employer is an aristocrat with a huge house and gardens...

I HEREBY STATE MY ESTATE IS GREAT.

...WHILE THIS IS WHERE I HAVE TO LIVE - A HOVEL IN THE HILLSIDE.

I HEREBY STATE THIS IS NOT SO GREAT.

INCREDIBLY, IT'S BEEN BUILT AT GREAT EXPENSE, JUST FOR ME.

THIS RUIN NEARLY RUINED ME!

RICH PEOPLE LIKE MY BOSS HAD FALLEN IN LOVE WITH ROMANTIC RUINS THEY HAD SEEN ON GRAND TOURS OF EUROPE...

THAT'S A MUST-HAVE HOVEL!

SO, BACK HOME, THEY BEGAN BUILDING THEIR OWN AND LOOKING FOR OCCUPANTS...

HERMIT WANTED  
(PLEASE HAVE OUR BEARS)

IN EFFECT, I'M THE HUMAN EQUIVALENT OF A GARDEN GNOME.

NO PLACE LIKE GNOME, EH, BATEY?

My job is to drift around dressed in DIRTY RAGS ADDING AN AIR OF MYSTERY TO HIS ESTATE...

THERE'S CERTAINLY AN AIR OF SOMETHING.

I GET FOOD AND WATER, AND IF I LAST A YEAR I WILL ALSO GET PAID...

IT'S A FAIRLY EASY JOB - BUT I MUST NEVER BE CAUGHT SPEAKING TO ANYONE.

I WON'T RAT ON YOU.

OH HERMIT WHO ARE YOU SPEAKING TO?

OOOPS!

WELL, THAT WAS YOUR FAULT NOW MY CAREER AS A HERMIT REALLY IS IN RUINS... Bye!

I'LL MISS YOU.

YOU'RE FIRED!

YES YOUR LORDSHIP.

# JUST THE JOB: LIMITED COMPANY

## GUIDING LIGHT

Sally Snowman (her real name) is the USA's last lighthouse keeper. Her lighthouse on a tiny Massachusetts island dates back to the 1700s, and she dresses in clothes from the period!

## STRICTLY FOR THE BIRDS

The 'guardian' of Gabo Island, off the coast of the Australia, is its only human resident. However, there are 30,000 little penguins to keep them company. Squawk!

## OFF THE RAILS!

Freight trains in India can be over 2 kilometres in length! Both the engine driver at the front and the guard in the rear wagon are totally alone on long, slow journeys through the jungle.

## FAR AND AWAY

Concordia scientific research station in Antarctica is one of the world's most remote workplaces. The crew of the International Space Station are actually closer to other human beings!

# THE DAY JOB

## GRUMPY CAT

### INTERNET CELEBRITY



NAME: TARDAR SAUCE  
(AKA GRUMPY CAT)  
NATIONALITY: CAT  
OCCUPATION: INTERNET CELEBRITY

Hello. Pleased to meet you, even if I don't look like it. That's what made me famous: I'm a sourpuss puss, known to millions by my showbiz name, Grumpy Cat.



I was one of a litter of kittens born in Arizona, USA, in 2012. My 'owner' (she thinks!) was called Tabatha Bundesen, but it was her brother Bryan who you could say 'let the cat out of the bag'.

In September 2012 he posted this snap on an internet news site, and it went viral – I think that's the right word. Frankly, I've been uninterested in computers since I discovered their mice were inedible.

People began sharing images of me and adding words as if they were my thoughts.



They're called **memes** – though I think mine should be renamed 'Meme-aows'.

The Bundsens got me on TV shows, and my grumpy mug onto mugs and other 'merch'. On social media, over 7.6 million people follow me on Facebook alone.

After making two movies, I also got a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame – and people everywhere wanted to stroke me and take a selfie with me. It's a dog's life being a celebrity cat.



It was world news when I died in 2019, but I'll live on the internet forever, I guess. Oh, and being a cat, I still have eight more lives left. I wonder if I'll look any happier in those. I hope not. Ciaow!





# BONNIE EASY MONEY



You don't have to be rich or a royal to have one of the best jobs on the planet. People actually get paid to do these things!

In Japan, you can get a job as a fake wedding guest to help make up numbers!



A Dutch company testing stay-clean clothes will pay you to wear the same outfit for a week – including socks!

In China, secret sleepers test the comforts of luxury hotels. For a happy napper, it's a dream job!



Laughter yoga started in India in 1995. Giggling is good for you – and a funny way to make a living!



In California, USA dogs can hang-ten alongside humans thanks to professional dog surfing instructors! Woof!



A school in Canada teaches people to become working mermaids. You then get paid to make a splash at parties!

# CHAPTER 4 RISKY BUSINESS

Some jobs are dream jobs, some are a nightmare – difficult to do, and dangerous with it. Throughout history, really risky work has tended to be forced upon slaves, the poor, and women – including having babies. Working animals, too, have been in danger of death or injury. So, let's start this chapter as safely as possible with four fearful facts.

### WORLD'S RISKIEST DISHES

Ancient Roman emperors made food tasters check their meals weren't poisoned. Despite this, Emperor Claudius died from poisoned mushrooms in 54AD.

### NO LAUGHING MATTER

Hat-making might sound safe, but 200 years ago the toxic chemicals used made people ill, hence the Mad Hatter in Alice in Wonderland.

### BREAKING NEWS

US stunt performer Evel Knievel was famous in the 1970s for attempting crazy motorcycle jumps. He holds the world record for most bones broken: 432 times!

### BIOLOGY LESSON

Teaching is a safe profession, though there are occasional surprises. In 2022, a very cross cougar turned up in the toilets of a Brazilian primary

# NORSE FARMER

Hi! I'm a Norse farmer living 1000 years ago.

HE IS.

THE NORSELANDS ARE THIS BIT OF NORTHERN EUROPE. HENCE THE NAME.

NOW, YOU MIGHT BE THINKING FARMING ISN'T THAT DANGEROUS A JOB, EXCEPT FOR BAD-TEMPERED BIRDS LIKE THIS...

ANY CLOSER AND I'LL PICK!

BUT ONCE OR TWICE A YEAR WE SWAP FARMING FOR HARMING AND GO ON RAIDS ACROSS THE SEA IN OUR SPEEDY LONGSHIPS.

ERIC OLAF

THIS IS WHAT I WEAR WHEN I'M BEING A VIKING RIDER...

HELMET → SCOUT  
SPEAR → SHIELD  
AXE → SWORD

NOW, YOU MAY HAVE SPOTTED THAT MY HELMET ISN'T LIKE HORNS. HORNS WOULD LOOK RIDICULOUS!

NOT ON ME!

OUR LONGSHIPS GET US CLOSE TO PLACES TO PILLAGE.

LOOK THE VIKINGS ARE STRIKING!

THAT'S NOT TO MY LIKING!

WE DON'T STEAL, WE RAID - MAKING SURE WE FIGHT PEOPLE FAIRLY...

WHAT DO YOU WANT!!

FIRST YOUR LIFE THEN YOUR GOLD

BY FIGHTING, WE WIN A REPUTATION FOR BEING HEROIC...

WIFE I KILLED THAT WE UNRAIDED PIGS AND SET A VILLAGE ON FIRE!

MY HERO!

ALSO, IF WE GET KILLED OURSELVES, THEN WE WILL FEAST FOREVER IN THE VIKING HEAVEN VALHALL!

ROAST BOAR LARNE SLAIN HARBOR!

THIS IS WHAT I CALL A HERO'S WELCOME!

NOW, HEN, I'M NOT STEALING YOUR EGGS. I'M RAIDING YOU, REMEMBER?

PREPARE TO BE PECKED!

## JUST THE JOB: NORSE POWER

**KEY WORKERS**

Norse women ran the farms while their husbands were off raiding. They held the keys to all the doors and treasure chests, and were often buried with a bundle of keys to show their high status.

**MAD FOR IT**

Perhaps the scariest Viking warriors were the 'berserkers', who dressed in bear-furs and ate poisonous plants to put them into a rage before fighting. They really did go berserk!

**CARVING OUT A LIVING**

Vikings craftspeople carved ivory from the tusks of walrus, like the famous Isle of Lewis chess-pieces. An ancient ivory carver was called a schrimpschonger!

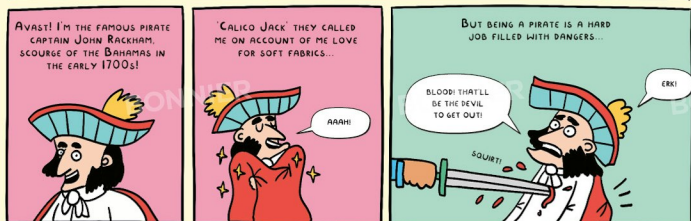
**CLIFFHANGER**

Vikings ate seabird eggs that were collected from their nests by lowering plucky egg collectors down the sides of steep cliffs on long ropes.

**DON'T FORGET!**

Poets held an important position in Viking society - but you needed a good memory for the job as none of their myths were written down. You also needed a good memory.

# PIRATE





# THE DAY JOB

## HUMAN CANNONBALL



NAME: ZAZEL  
NATIONALITY: BRITISH  
OCCUPATION: HUMAN CANNONBALL

# ZAZEL

Hello! Can you imagine getting fired every day? Well, that's what happened to me as the world's first human cannonball. I was shot out of a giant cannon, sometimes twice a day, for entertainment!



My stage name was 'Zazel', but my real name is Rossa Matilda Richter. I was born in London in 1860, and was tightrope-walking at the age of six. Life really was a circus!

In 1877, aged 17, my career took a new direction – upwards! A showman calling himself 'The Great Farini' (real name Bill Hunt!) shot me 20 metres across a stage to the delight of audiences. Business boomed!

The newspapers called me the 'Miss who was a Missile' and there were even songs written about me. I was a star! A shooting star!

TOP SECRET

The cannon actually used a hidden spring to fire me into the air, not explosives, but it was still very dangerous. One time the safety net broke and I hit the ground hard. I needed the next day to recover!

I continued as a cannonball for a while, then went back to my tightrope-walking.

I also showed how you might use safety nets to escape from burning buildings by jumping out of high windows!

Eventually, there were public protests about the act, saying it wasn't right to be firing a child from a cannon for fun. Really? So, I just joined a circus in America instead.

I PROTEST!

ME TOO!

STOP THIS NOW  
BAN ZAZEL

I retired after a bad accident, but I don't regret my high-flying career. You could say, 'I had a ball!' Bye!

# ESCAPOLOGIST

Hi! I AM THE GREAT HARRY HOUSINI, THE FRANCISFF KING, AND I CAN ESCAPE FROM ANY BOX...



JUST MY LITTLE JOKE - BUT I AM THE MOST FAMOUS ESCAPE ARTIST THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN...



See? I DID IT AGAIN! BUT GETTING OUT OF A STRATITURCKEY IS FAIRLY EASY...



SO, I USED TO DO IT HANGING FROM A SKYSCRAPER TO HUSC CROARDS BELOW...



I WAS BORN ERICH WELISZ IN HUNGARY IN 1874.



BUT I BECAME FAMOUS FOR DEATH-DEFYING ESCAPE TRICKS...

MY FAMILY MOVED TO THE USA, WHERE I STARTED WORK AS A 50-50 MUSICIAN.



KEY TO THIS WAS BEING ABLE TO HOLD MY BREATH FOR OVER THREE MINUTES - PLUS THE ODD WELL-HIDDEN KEY!



BUT SOME TRICKS WENT WRONG, LIKE THE TIME IN 1917 WHEN I WAS BURIED ALIVE AND ALMOST DIED...



I SURVIVED ALL THOSE STUNTS BUT DIED OF AN ILLNESS IN 1926.



# JUST THE JOB: HOW DARE YOU?

## IN THE BALANCE

Niagara Falls, the giant waterfall between the USA and Canada, is a magnet for professional daredevils. In 1859, French acrobat Charles Blondin was the first person to tightrope walk across the gorge. He also went over on stilts and pushing a wheelbarrow!



## BASKET CASE

Italian Maria Spelterini is the only woman to have tightrope walked the Falls. In 1876, she crossed blindfolded, and once with her feet in baskets!



## BARREL OF FUN

In 1904, American Annie Edson Taylor rode the falls in a large oak barrel and, amazingly, survived the 50m drop. She was 63 - and a former schoolteacher!

## BOUNCING BACK

Canadian Jean Lussier went over the Falls in a giant inflatable rubber ball in 1923. He then made a living selling pieces of it to tourists.



## CROSS COUNTRY

Stunts at the Falls were banned after several tragic accidents. However, in 2012 American Nik Wallenda was allowed to attempt the first wire-walk for 116 years. He took along his passport to show on the Canadian side.



# MINE-FINDING RAT



## BIRD BRAINS

The PDSA, a British veterinary charity, awards its Dickin Medal to brave working animals. Its first three winners in 1943 were all homing pigeons who helped rescuers find crashed aircraft and save their crews during World War II.

JUST THE JOB:  
PAWS FOR THOUGHT

**HOOFING IT**  
The novel *War Horse* by Michael Morpurgo was made into a hit movie. In 2014, a real war horse called Warrior was given the Dickin Medal on behalf of all the brave animals of World War I, 100 years earlier.

## TOP CAT

Simon is the only cat with a Dickin Medal. In 1949, despite being injured, he kept food supplies on board the British warship HMS Amethyst safe from rats after it was hit by a missile. In return, he was made 'Able Seaman Simon'.

## DAREDEVIL DOG

A dog called Satan was a French hero of World War I. Wearing a gas mask, and despite being shot in the leg, he got a vital message through to trapped troops at the Battle of Verdun.

## REARGUARD ACTION

Sergeant Stubby of the US Infantry was the most decorated dog of World War I. He helped warn of poison gas attacks, and once held an enemy soldier by the seat of his trousers!

# WORLD OF WONDERS

## BONNIE DANGER MONEY

Some jobs are not for the squeamish, especially if you are afraid of heights. Or snakes. Or lightning. Could anyone ever pay you enough to do these?

Nervous flier?

Don't get a job with 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron. Known as **Hurricane Hunters**, they fly into storms in the name of science!

In Thailand, **crocodile wrestlers** entertain audiences by putting their heads between the reptiles' giant jaws.

At 829 metres, the **Burj Khalifa**, Dubai, is the world's tallest building. Its windows are washed by people dangling on ropes!

Farmers in the Amazon basin in Brazil climb crazy tall palm trees to harvest **acai berries** - bare-footed!


Australia has plenty of poisonous snakes. Captive snakes are milked by hand for their **toxic venom** to make medicine to beat **unbearable**.

**Steeplejacks** work way up high. In Japan, such a worker is called a **tobishoku** and wears baggy trousers that flap to show how windy it is.

# CHAPTER 5 WORKING WONDERS

In the far past, humans were super-superstitious. They trusted priests, wise women, and other mystics to protect them from bad stuff, as well as predict the future. Today, we think we know better, but jobs that involve mysterious powers won't be going out of business anytime soon. Here are four lucky facts to start us off.

### MOST FAMOUS FORECASTER



French astrologer **Nostradamus** wrote weird poems in the 1500s that some claim predicted future events such as the Great Fire of London and World War II.

### DOWSE THAT!




In the 1950s, Australian dowser **Evelyn Penrose** was asked to locate hidden oil wells by swinging a pendulum over maps of land thousands of miles away!

### HOW TOUCHING!



In mediaeval France and England, it was the job of a king or queen to touch people with diseases, as royals were said to have magical healing powers!

### RUN OF LUCK



In 1920s America, **Lady Wonder** was a famous mind-reading horse who used with her nose to type out prophecies. She even forecast winning racehorses!

# ORACLE

Hi! It's ancient Greece over 2500 years ago, and we're both goats.



Our owner has brought us to a holy place called Delphi to see Greece's greatest fortune-teller...



...the Oracle of Delphi - also called the Pythia - who sits on a stool over a crack in the ground...



A series of Pythias did the job for over 1000 years

To consult with her, first our owner has to get past the priests...



I wonder what my fortune will be!



He also has to hand over goats and gold...

Finally, he may then get to grill the Oracle...



Fumes from the crack put the Oracle into a 3-1/2-1/2 ft. in which she spouts wobblish.



KAKA-KAKA!  
KAKA-KAKA!

This is then helpfully interpreted by the priests...



ER, WELL, SHE SAYS THAT ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, YOUR HARVEST WILL BE OUTSTANDING.

SUPER!

Even powerful rulers like Alexander the Great have consulted the Oracle.



SHE WAS GREAT - JUST LIKE ME!

Though you can't visit her temple in the winter as it closes for three months.



ASIDE FROM THE FUMES, THIS IS QUITE A CUSHY JOB.

So what happens to us now?



ER, WELL, WE GET SACRIFICED TO THE GOD APOLLO.

PFFH HOW PREDICTABLE.

Six months later



OH YOU PRIEST! MY HARVEST WAS OUTSTANDING - OUTSTANDINGLY BAD!

SORRY NO REFUNDS!

# JUST THE JOB: FORTUNE-SELLERS

## CHICKEN FEED

Ancient Roman armies consulted a fortune-teller before going into battle. They threw corn to sacred chickens and if the birds didn't eat, then they didn't fight. Chickens?



## SET IN STONE

Vikings scattered stones known as runes bearing letters from the Norse alphabet to read the future. Ask the runes, 'Should we go raiding?' and the answer seems to have often been, 'Yes'. (See page XX)



## NUT JOB

Obi is an ancient West African prediction method. Fortune tellers throw kola nuts - seeds of the kola tree - to see how they land. The nuts can be given their name to fizzy cola.



## COOKIES ENABLED

Fortune cookies date back to the early twentieth century. Three billion get baked each year, so cookie companies always need new writers for the slips placed inside them.



## HAVING A BALL

Magic 8 Ball is an American fortune-telling toy. Inside the ball is a 20-sided dice that floats up to a little window where its answer can be read. Spooky!



# THE DAY JOB

## CHARLATAN



NAME JAMES RANDI  
NATIONALITY CANADIAN/AMERICAN  
OCCUPATION CHARLATAN

Aged 13, I had a bad accident and was bed-bound for a year, so I read lots of books about magic. One of my heroes was the Great Houdini (see page 50). Later, I copied some of tricks!

## JAMES RANDI

Hi! I'm James Randi, and I'm a **charlatan** – a word for a cheat or trickster. I can't work any wonders, so what am I doing here? Good question! Always ask questions!

I was born Randall James Hamilton Zwenge in Canada in 1928. I shortened it to James Randi but I was better known as The Amazing Randi! Let me explain...



Anyway, I recovered and at 17 started working as a magician, reading people's minds on stage.



Yes, I was a charlatan. It was just a trick, but it meant I could challenge others who pretended they did it for real!

I decided to make a career out of tricking the tricksters – those dishonest people who make money from others by pretending they have paranormal powers. Being a phony myself, I set out to challenge those who claimed to be certified psychics!



One psychic said they could move the pages of a book with their mind...

I showed they were secretly blowing on them. It takes a charlatan to spot a charlatan. They blew it!

I also went up against a guy who famously claimed he could bend spoons using mind power. Well, he couldn't do it when the spoons weren't his own. Why? Well, I think you can mind read my answer!

In my life, I made enemies from challenging other charlatans, and died aged 92, not having found anyone who could really read minds or speak from beyond the grave. Seems I'm doing that myself now! But remember, I'm a charlatan! Bye!

# PROGNOSTICATOR



Hi! I'm the Sun. You humans are crazy about knowing what I'm going to do tomorrow.



You make stars of TV weather-forecasters...



All hail!

Long may she rain!

But none is more adored than this guy, a groundhog from Punksutahney, Pennsylvania, USA...



No autographs, I can't actually write anyway.

Punksutahney Phil has been the star of a ceremony in the town every February 2nd since 1887.



I wish every day was Groundhog Day!

Me too!

After a long snowy winter, huge crowds gather in a park called Gobbler's Knob to hear Phil prognosticate.

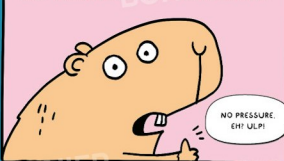


What does prognosticate mean?

I guess, I guess.

I guess you're right.

It's Phil's job to reveal whether spring will come early or winter will last another six weeks...



No pressure, eh? Ulp!

If he exits his burrow and spots his shadow, then winter will linger longer...



Showtime, here goes.

He passes on his prognostication to the head of the town's Groundhog Club...



Try and keep it under your hat, but whisper! Whisper!

He then addresses the crowd:



Punksutahney Phil, prognosticator of prognosticators, has seen his shadow! Six more weeks of winter!

Boo!

I've had my fill of Phil.

In truth, Phil is wrong more often than not.



To be fair, I am only a rodent and supposedly over 130 years old.

Shh!

But, I still get the blame for any extra weeks of winter. Bah!



You made his shadow happen!

This is your fault!

# JUST THE JOB: ANIMAL MAGIC

## FLIGHT OF FANCY

In ancient Rome, an augury told the future by watching birds in the sky. This pigeon is predicting someone will be going on a long journey.

## MIRACLE MOLLUSC

Paul the Psychic Octopus is the most famous of many animals that have supposedly predicted World Cup football match results by selecting food. He said Spain would win the 2010 Final. They did!

## CAT FLAP

In 2017, a cat called Charles Utkins made world news. His Russian owner said the cat had used mind-control to make him buy fish and sausages at 5am.

## SNAKES ALIVE!

In China, scientists are studying the use of snakes to predict earthquakes. The sensitive serpents slither off to safety ahead of them hitting.

## BIRD BRAINS

India is home to parrot astrologers – roadside fortune-tellers who use green parakeets to choose tarot cards for paying customers. The bird then gets a treat. That is lucky!



# WORKS LIKE A CHARM

Talismans, amulets and lucky charms having been bringing people good fortune for thousands of years, especially if you're the one selling them! Here is a charming selection.



In Peru, pairs of painted pottery bulls called Toritos are hung on houses to bring prosperity.

Brightly decorated dala horses carved from pine have become a symbol of strength and courage in Sweden.

In Thailand, elephant mascots may bring good luck – but some say only if their trunks point upwards! Don't forget!

In Turkey, blue glass amulets called nazar hangings are worn to ward off bad luck.

In Britain, chimney sweeps have a side-hustle in attending weddings, where they kiss the bride for luck!

Beckoning cats called maneki-neko welcome people all over Japan. A waving right paw means 'Make me rich!' Miaow!



# WORK HARD, PLAY HARD

The human race: the name says it all, really. People are always trying to outdo each other. In the past, the person who could throw a spear the furthest would have been the most valuable hunter. Nowadays it's the superstars of track and field who get the gold medals. In this chapter, we look at sports, some of them rather risky, beginning with four world-class facts.

**WORLD'S MOST POPULAR SPORT**

Association football – known as football, for short – has over 4 billion fans across the planet. In fact, the planet is even football-shaped!

**OLDEST PRO-ATHLETE**

Polish veteran Stanislaw Kowalski became the world's oldest professional competitor in 2015 for the 100 metres, discus and shot put. He was 105 years old, making all his results world records!

**ODDEST OLYMPIC EVENTS**

Since the modern Games began in 1896, it has included tug-of-war, ballooning, rope-climbing, and ski-ballet. Video-gamers hope to compete in the future!

**MOST SUCCESSFUL PARALYMPIAN**

Blind American swimmer Trischa Zorn-Hudson won 55 medals across seven Paralympic Games from 1980 onwards, 41 of them gold. Her record will probably never be beaten!



# MARTIAL ARTIST

WELCOME TO GREECE, AND THE OLYMPIC GAMES OF 336 BCE. I'M THE ATHLETE DIOXIPPUS...

AND THIS IS A WELL-PLACED GREEK VASE.

I AM!

IT'S WELL-PLACED BECAUSE I'M A COMPETITOR IN A VIOLENT EVENT CALLED PANKRATION WHERE MEN FIGHT AGAINST EACH OTHER NAKED.

IT'S NOT RUDE TO BE NUDE.

IT'S THE RULES.

NO.

NOT THAT THERE ARE VERY MANY RULES IN PANKRATION. JUST TWO MORE. IN FACT, NO STABBING AN OPPONENT'S EYES...

JUST MAKING A POINT.

OHH! CHEAT!

AND NO BITING.

YOU'RE A TASTY FIGHTER.

OHH! MORE CHEATING!

BREAK THESE AND THE JUDGES WILL STEP IN.

STICK TO THE RULES, OR I WILL RULL WITH THIS STICK!

OHH! SORRY!

ASIDE FROM THESE, PRETTY MUCH ANYTHING ELSE GOES...

OHH!

PUNCHING

OHH!

KICKING

OHH!

CHOKING

OHH!

ARM LOCKS

OHH!

TICKLING

THIS IS THE WORST STOP!

BONES GET BROKEN, AND BACK IN 564 BCE THERE WAS SHOCK RESULT...

I PRONOUNCE YOU THE WINNER AND DEAD TOO!

TRUE STORY!

BUT BACK TO TODAY AND I'VE BEEN DECLARED CHAMPION AS EVERYONE IS TOO SCARED TO FIGHT ME.

TREMBLE!

WE ARE!

SO I GET THIS LAUREL CROWN.

ANOTHER TRUE STORY!

AND BEING SUCH A HERO, I GET PICTURED NAKED ON HUNDREDS OF VASES ACROSS GREECE.

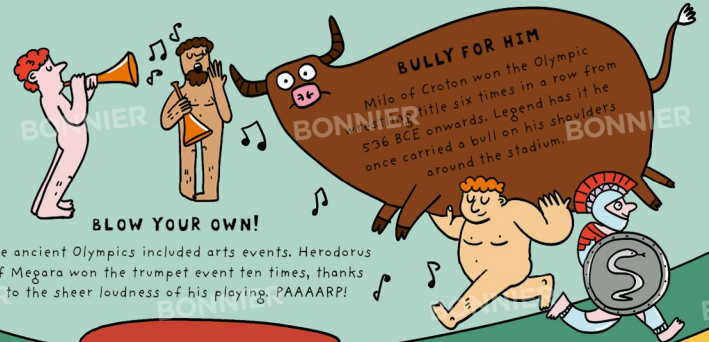
I'M ANOTHER WELL-PLACED VASE!



# JUST THE JOB: GREEK EARNERS

## STAR JARS

As well as leafy crowns, winning athletes in local games were given jars of olive oil – a prize more precious than gold!



## BLOW YOUR OWN!

The ancient Olympics included arts events. Herodorus of Megara won the trumpet event ten times, thanks to the sheer loudness of his playing. PAAARR!

**BULLY FOR HIM**

Milo of Croton won the Olympic title six times in a row from 536 BCE onwards. Legend has it he once carried a bull on his shoulders around the stadium.



## FALL FROM GRACE



Theagenes of Thasos was a hugely successful boxer, winning over 1000 bouts. A statue of Theagenes fell on a jealous rival boxer, killing them. The statue was then tried for murder, found guilty, and thrown into the sea!

## FOOT SOLDIER

Leonidas of Rhodes won 12 foot races from 164 BCE onwards, making him the greatest ancient Olympian. One of his events, the hoplitodromos, involved running in bronze armour with a heavy shield!



# AZTEC BALL GAME PLAYER

OVER FIVE HUNDRED YEARS AGO IN THE AZTEC EMPIRE CAPITAL OF TEOTHUACAN NOW IN MODERN MEXICO...

I'M PART OF A GAME BEING PLAYED BETWEEN TWO RIVAL TEAMS OF PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS...

THEY ARE IN THIS SPECIAL STONE-BUILT COURT SHAPED LIKE A LARGE I IN FRONT OF A NOISY CROWD...

Hi! I'm a heavy rubber ball. Follow me!

MINI! BOUNCE! NO MINI!

COME ON!

HAVE US A GOAL!

KNOWN AS THE MESO-AMERICAN BALL GAME, AZTEC RULERS AND NOBLES PLUS THE PUBLIC ARE WATCHING ME BOUNCE AROUND...

DESPITE THE GAME'S POPULARITY, THE PLAYERS ARE VERY HANDS OFF... THEY CAN ONLY USE THEIR ELBOWS, KNEES, HIPS AND HEADS...

BUT, AS I WEIGH OVER 3 KG, THIS CAN BE PRETTY PAINFUL...

TO YOU!

TO ME!

ON ME HEAD!

OH ME HEAD!

PLAYERS' HIPS GET HURT TOO.

THE TRICK IS TO KEEP ME IN THE AIR AT ALL TIMES - AND AT ALL COSTS...

TEAMS CAN SCORE POINTS BY HITTING SPECIAL MARKERS ON THE WALLS...

LOVELY PURPLE SHORTS!

OH!

OH!

FUN!

THOSE ARE BRUISES, SALLY!

OH!

OH!

OH!

THEY ALSO LOSE POINTS IF I BOUNCE ON THE GROUND MORE THAN ONCE...

OOPS! DOUBLE TROUBLE.

THIS MATTERS, BECAUSE POINTS AREN'T ALL A TEAM CAN LOSE AFTER A WINNING GOAL IS SCORED AND THE GAME ENDS...

ONE OR MORE PLAYERS GETS RITUALLY SACRIFICED TO THE GODS...

AT LEAST MY HEADACHE'S GONE

IT IS NOW!

I THINK IT'S ALL OVER.

# JUST THE JOB: INJURY TIME

Pankration and the Meso-American ball game were two ancient events where players had more than a sporting chance of getting hurt. Below are four more modern sports from around the world where risk is all part of the game.



GLOVE STORY

As its name suggests, chessboxing is a mix of chess and boxing, originally invented for a comic book story. Players switch between a boxing bout in the ring and an ongoing chess match on a table placed alongside.

**SNOW JOKE!**  
Snowboarding is one of the most dangerous sports in the modern Olympics. To add extra thrills, you could slide down the slopes of Mauna Kea, a super-high snow-capped volcano in Hawaii!



## IRON MAN

Extreme ironing was invented by a bored British mountaineer, Phil Shaw, in 1997. He had shirts to iron but preferred to spend his time rock-climbing, so he combined the two!



## TAG TEAM

Kabaddi is hugely popular in Asia. Two teams face off on a hard court while individual players race forward to tag their opponents before being tackled to the ground in a punishing pile-on.



# THE DAY JOB

## LILY PARR

### FOOTBALLER



NAME LILY PARR  
NATIONALITY BRITISH  
OCCUPATION FOOTBALLER

**Hello!** Want to know which football player scored almost 1000 goals in their 30 year career? Well, it's me – Lily Parr. Back of the net!

I was born in a small town in the north of England in 1905, but there was nothing small about me! I grew 1.8 metres tall and being big I could soon match my older brothers at football and rugby!



Back then, men were away fighting in World War 1, so the factory formed a female football team to entertain people. Under captain Alice Kell, their matches raised huge sums for charity. And players got paid!



Aged 14, I started playing football for a local ladies' team, but was poached to play for a local factory's female team called the Dick, Kerr Ladies. Begun in 1917, they soon became world famous.



CAPTAIN KELL

We played men's teams, and beat them too!



ME IN ACTION

In 1920, we also played the first women's international match against a team from France – and beat them: 2-0!



THE TEAM IN 1921

However, we proved too popular. The men who ran football banned us from their pitches in 1921. Well, like one of my shots, we weren't that easily stopped!

We played on any field we could find, and even toured the USA in 1922. Eventually, the team was renamed Preston Ladies, and I played for them until 1951, running up a tally of 986 goals!

I met my partner Mary whilst working as a nurse, and lived to see the ban on women's football finally lifted in 1971. In fact, I'm now considered a football legend, and they made a statue of me! She shoots, she scores!





# COSTUME DRAMA

Lots of jobs involve special workwear, such as firefighters, nurses and the police. The people the extreme, adding to the fun and excitement. Fancy fitting into any of these outfits?

## BLUE BIRD

Lily Parr would be pleased! The mascot for the 2023 Women's Football World Cup in Australia and New Zealand was a penguin called Azuni.



## BOWLED OVER

Bouncer, a big green ball with purple shades, was chosen as the mascot for the Caribbean Cricket Premier League.



## STAR PLAYER

Scottish football side Partick Thistle has a scary sun-shaped mascot called Kingsley. Luckily, fans have taken a shine to him!



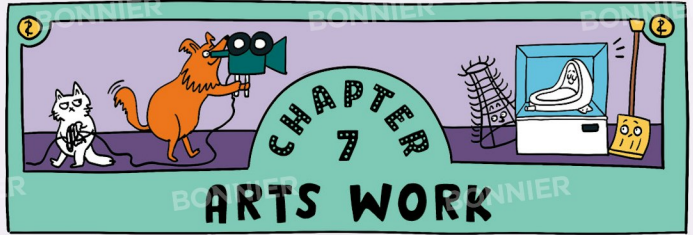
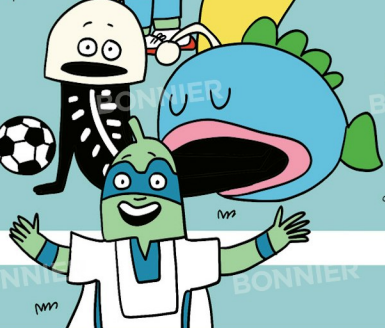
## TURTLE POWER

Olly, a furry version of a rare Olive Ridley turtle is the mascot for all sports events in Odisha, India, including the 2023 Hockey World Cup.



## GREEN GIANT

The mascot of the Spanish football team CD Leganes is a two metres tall pickle known as the 'Cucumber Knight'. Cool!



Humans have been singing, dancing, painting and creating other forms of art for thousands of years – even our relatives, the Neanderthals, decorated caves with depictions of animals. Today, the arts is a huge industry from poetry and drama to music, TV, films and video games. In this chapter, human creativity takes centre stage, with four fab facts as our opening acts.

### SPOT ON!

In the past, Neanderthals painted coloured dots on cave walls. In 2023, tiny dots painted by British artist Damien Hirst landed on Mars onboard the Beagle 2 spacecraft. Time flies!

### MOST WATCHED MUSIC VIDEO

'Baby Shark dance' launched in 2016 by the South Korean Pinkfong Company now has over 12.5 billion views on a planet with a population of 8 billion people! Doo-doo, doo-doo!

### BEST-SELLING CHILDREN'S BOOK

Not Harry Potter, but 'The Little Prince' by French aristocrat Antoine de Saint-Exupéry. Since 1943, this tale of a crashed pilot and a golden-haired boy who lives on an asteroid has sold over 200 million copies.

### MOST EXPENSIVE VIRTUAL

'Everydays: The First 5000 Days' is a collage of 5000 digital images by American artist Mike 'Beeple' Winkelmann. You can't hang it on your wall, but it sold in 2021 for \$69 million!

# ACTOR



HELLO. I'M A FEMALE ACTOR GETTING READY TO GO ON STAGE.

YOU'RE PROBABLY THINKING, "WHAT'S ODD ABOUT THAT? NO BIG DRAMA THERE."

WELL, THIS IS A THEATRE IN LONDON, ENGLAND IN 1661 AND, UNTIL RECENTLY, THERE WAS NO BIG DRAMA HERE EITHER.



NOT FOR A WOMAN, ANYWAY. ACTING WASN'T THOUGHT TO BE A FIT JOB FOR WOMEN. SO WHO FAKED THE FEMALE ROLES INSTEAD?

KNOCK! KNOCK!

HELLO. I'M A BOY ACTOR AGED JUST 12 WITH MY CHILD'S VOICE. I PLAY WOMEN'S PARTS IN WOMEN'S CLOTHING. IT'S CALLED CROSS-DRESSING.



BEING BANNED MADE REAL WOMEN VERY CROSS, INDEED.

PREVIOUSLY, BOYS EVEN PLAYED WOMEN IN THE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, THE BARD OF AVON.

IT'S THE BARD OF AVON, ACTUALLY. TCH!



IN ONE PLAY, I WAS A BOY DRESSED AS A GIRL WHO DRESSES AS A BOY PRETENDING TO BE A GIRL.

KNOCK! KNOCK!

GRRRR! GRRRR!

EXCELLENT BEAR COSTUME.

THAT'S NOT A COSTUME! RUN!

HURRY! HE'S STILL PURSUING US!

EXIT!

# JUST THE JOB: ACT ON IT!

## TRADING PLACES

In Britain, Christmas pantomimes are funny family shows where the top female role of 'Dame' is played by a man in a crazy costume, while a woman plays the lead part of 'Principal Boy'. Pairs of actors also pretend to be comedy cows and horses!



## DEAD CLEVER

Many TV shows and films need someone to play a corpse. Lying still without breathing or blinking is a special skill – one that US actor Chuck Lamb specialised in since 2005 as the 'Dead Body Guy'!



## LASSIE FETCH HELP!

Clever animation and puppets are now often used in films instead of actual living animal actors as training can be very expensive. Lassie, perhaps the most famous female film dog ever, was originally played by a male dog called Pall.



## THE NEXT STAGE?

A science museum in Krakow, Poland, puts on short plays performed by a cast of robots known as RoboThespians, after Thespis, a famous ancient Greek actor. Will robots one day put actors out of work?



# MODERN ARTIST

Hi! I'm a type of men's toilet called a urinal.

NOT PRETTY, EH?

BUT, PUT ME ANOTHER WAY UP AND I'M ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST IMPORTANT WORKS OF ART!

DO NOT TOUCH

AND THIS FRENCH GUY IS ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST IMPORTANT ARTISTS EVER - MARCEL DUCHAMP.

SOMETIMES KNOWN AS MY FEMALE OTHER ME, ROSE SELAVY.

IN 1917, MARCEL WAS LIVING IN NEW YORK, USA, WHEN HE BOUGHT ME BRAND NEW FROM A PLUMBING SHOP AND ADDED A SIMPLE SIGNATURE AND THE YEAR.

**K. MUTT**  
1917

VOILA! I WAS TRANSFORMED INTO A WORK OF MODERN ART THAT'S CALLED 'FOUNTAIN'.

FUNNY NAME FOR A URINAL, HUH?

THIS WAS A NEW WAY OF WORKING FOR ARTISTS, ONE BASED ON IDEAS ALONE.

I CALLED THIS CONCEPT AN 'ER CONCEPT'.

MARCEL NAMED HIS CREATIONS 'READYMADES' - FOUND OR BOUGHT OBJECTS, OFTEN LEFT UNCHANGED BUT WITH A NEW WAY OF THINKING ABOUT THEM...

A COAT HOOK ON THE FLOOR.

TRAP

A BOTTLE RACK.

HERDHOOD

A SHovel.

IN ADVANCE OF A BROKEN ARM?

A BIKE WHEEL ON A BAR STOOL.

BICYCLE WHEEL.

HE EVEN 'IMPROVED' A PRINT OF ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS PAINTINGS...

WE ARE NOT ANGRY - OR ARE WE?

MOST OF HIS ORIGINAL READYMADES WERE LOST, BUT IN MODERN TIMES, COPIES HE MADE GO FOR A FORTUNE!

SOLD FOR \$176 MILLION!

DAMN!

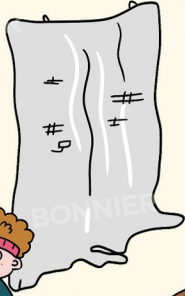
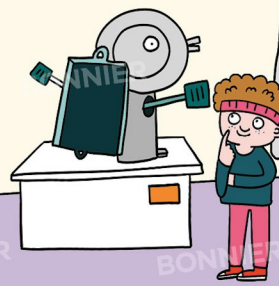
...WHICH IS WHY I'M NOW UNDER A PROTECTIVE GLASS CASE...

AT LEAST IT MEANS NO ONE CAN WEE ON ME!

# JUST THE JOB: RUBBISH ARTISTS

## TOP DRAWER

Born in Yokohama, Japan, sculptor Sayaka Ganz combines throw-away household utensils such as spoons and spatulas to create amazing models of animals in action.



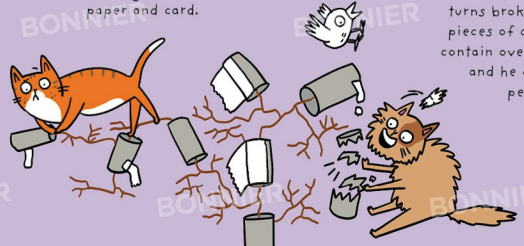
## METAL WORKER

Ghanaian-born artist El Anatsui is famous for his 'bottle-top installations' - large sheet-like sculptures made from thousands of small pieces of reclaimed metal sewn together with wire.



## ON A ROLL

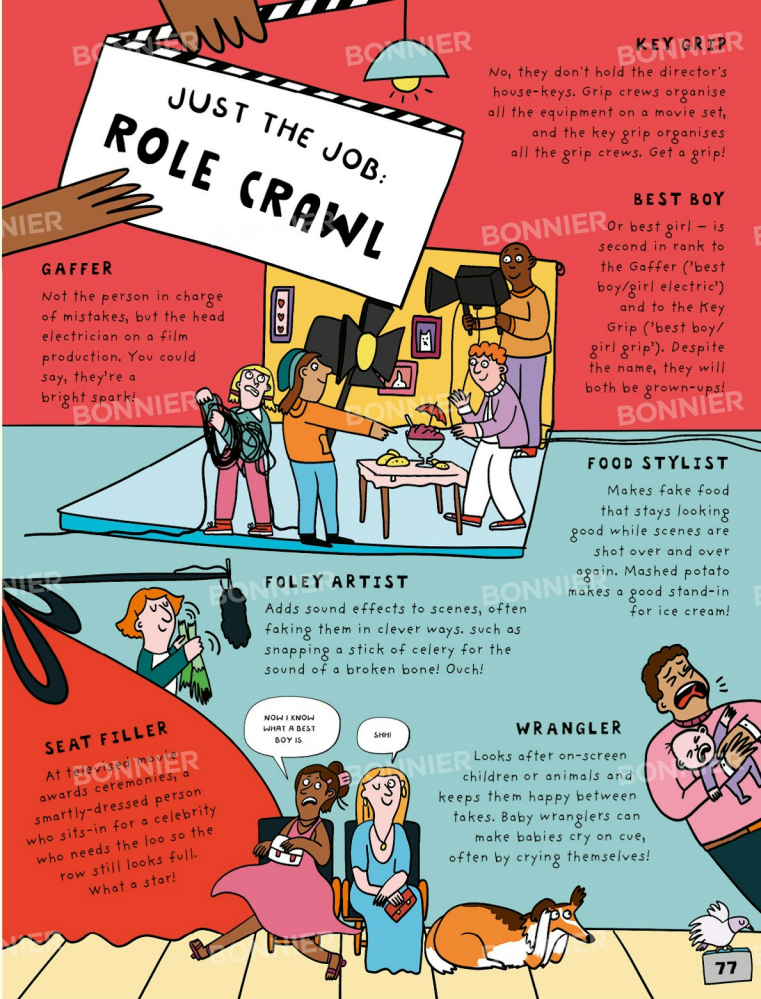
Based in Berlin, Yuken Teruya works with waste paper and discarded toilet roll tubes to craft intricate sculptures that celebrate trees: the original sources of paper and card.



## PET PROJECT

UK upcycler Robert Bradford turns broken toys into playful pieces of art. Some sculptures contain over 3,000 components, and he can even portray people's pets!

# FILM STAR



**KEY GRIP**  
No, they don't hold the director's house-keys. Grip crews organise all the equipment on a movie set, and the key grip organises all the grip crews. Get a grip!

**BEST BOY**  
Or best girl - is second in rank to the Gaffer ('best boy/girl electric') and to the Key Grip ('best boy/girl grip'). Despite the name, they will both be grown-ups!

**GAFFER**  
Not the person in charge of mistakes, but the head electrician on a film production. You could say, they're a bright spark!

**FOOD STYLIST**  
Makes fake food that stays looking good while scenes are shot over and over again. Mashed potato makes a good stand-in for ice cream!

**FOLEY ARTIST**  
Adds sound effects to scenes, often faking them in clever ways, such as snapping a stick of celery for the sound of a broken bone! Ouch!

**SEAT FILLER**  
At televised movie awards ceremonies, a smartly-dressed person who sits-in for a celebrity who needs the loo so the row still looks full. What a star!

**WRANGLER**  
Looks after on-screen children or animals and keeps them happy between takes. Baby wranglers can make babies cry on cue, often by crying themselves!

# THE DAY JOB

## BAD POET



READ THIS STORY  
ALoud. THE POET IN  
YOU WILL BE PROUD!

NAME: WILLIAM MCGONAGALL  
NATIONALITY: SCOTTISH  
OCCUPATION: BAD POET

## WILLIAM MCGONAGALL

I am the great William McGonagall, Scottish poet and tragedian. Though people who read my verses often considered me a comedian. Some said my poems did not scan well nor have a proper rhythm, but I took time to make them rhyme, so I would have an argument with 'em.

I was born in Scotland, or possibly in Ireland, in 1825. (There is some confusion over the country, but – hooray! – I was alive.) My father was a weaver in the beautiful Scottish city of Dundee and that was the job I did myself after he taught his trade to me.

But in the historic year of 1877, I left my weaving loom behind, after an urge to become a poet suddenly entered my mind. So, henceforth, I penned dramatic verses about all sorts of tragic tales including collapsing railway bridges and the deaths of monster whales.

Instead, mistakenly, one stormy December day in the year of 1878, I walked 60 miles from Dundee to the Queen's castle on her big Scottish estate. There, I was told she already had a famous poet called Alfred, Lord Tennyson. So, I returned home rejected post rabbits and wild deer (whose meat we know as venison).

To make a living, I later got a job performing my poems in a circus ring, while the audience threw eggs and vegetables, or whatever they had to fling. Sadly, this proved so popular and drew such a noisy crowd, that eventually the local lawmakers said it could not be allowed.

And so, I finished my poetry career relying on the kindness of friends, who recorded my verses for posterity in a book called 'Poetic Gems'. So, remember this: some people achieve fame by being best or the first, but, I, the great poet McGonagall, did it simply by being the worst!





# BONNIE HANDIWORK

Puppetry is a form of theatre that was common in many ancient cultures that was world, and is still to be seen being performed today. Here are some examples from countries with a hand in keeping it alive!



## HOT RODS

Wayang is a form of puppet theatre from the Indonesian island of Java. Rodded flat leather puppets cast shadows onto a white linen screen.



## PUNCHY PERFORMANCE

Punch and Judy is an old-fashioned British entertainment dating back to the seventeenth century. Puppeteers call themselves 'Professors'.



## MASTER PUPPET MASTER

Yaya Coulibaly is a famous performer from Mali, West Africa – keeping alive an ancient tribal tradition. He has hundreds of puppets!



## THREE'S COMPANY

Bunraku is a traditional Japanese show with puppets operated by three people, often cloaked and hidden from view!

## WATER WORKS

In Vietnam, audiences can enjoy traditional tales featuring puppets that perform scenes in water, including fishing, rice planting and duck herding.



# CHAPTER 8 DIRTY WORK

'It's a dirty job, but someone's got to do it,' is a popular saying – just bad luck if that person is YOU. Jobs involving poo, wee and other distasteful wastes are frequently frowned upon, though they can be vital and even well-paid. This chapter holds its nose and peers from a distance at some of history's most horrible occupations, beginning with four foul facts.

### THAR SHE BLOWS!

Canadian marine biologist Justine Hudson collects snot sprayed from the blowholes of Beluga whales. She scoops it from the sea to examine later in her laboratory.

### WORLD'S BIGGEST BLOCKAGE?

In 2017, a 250-metre long mass of old cooking fat and disposable nappies was cut free from London's sewers. The 'fatberg' took nine weeks to remove, and then went on display in a museum!

### SORRY TO BRING THIS UP...

The ancient Romans had puke-collectors at banquets to collect vomit from guests that had eaten too much. Today, theme parks employ staff to clear the vomit from below rollercoaster rides. Don't look up! (And wear a hat...)

### GET A WIGGLE ON!

Maggot farming is a smelly business but might help save the planet. In South Africa, food and farm waste is turned into millions of maggots (fly larvae) that can be fed to chickens instead of ground-up fish taken from the sea.

# FULLER



WELCOME TO THE ROMAN CITY OF POMPEII IN 79CE...



I'M A POT PLACED IN A PUBLIC STREET... AND, NO, IT'S NOT RAINING...



BIT OF PRIVACY HERE PLEASE!



THERE ARE LOTS OF POTS LIKE ME FULL OF PEE, ALL OVER POMPEII...



THAT'S BECAUSE THIS MAN'S JOB RELIES ON A STEADY STREAM OF URINE...



FOR ME IT'S A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY!

HE IS A FULLER - A PERSON WITH A LAUNDRY THAT WASHES WOOLLEN TOUGS IN WEE



FIRST IN GOES THE WEE, THEN THE TOUGS AND ME!



THE JOB ISN'T JUST VERY HANDS-ON, YOU USE YOUR FEET TOO!

SOMETIMES SEVERAL PEOPLE TRAMPLE ON A TUB FULL OF TOUGS TOGETHER, SINGING WHILE THEY WORK...



IT'S WALKING IN URINE. WHOA!

AND DON'T IT FEEL GOOD!

SMELLS AWFUL, THOUGH.

THERE ARE CHEMICALS IN URINE THAT ACT LIKE A BLEACH TO MAKE THE WOOL WHITER. THAT'S WHY ROMANS USE IT AS A MOUTHWASH TOO.



JUST REMEMBER TO SPIT IT OUT!

(DON'T TRY THIS AT HOME!)

AFTER BEING THOROUGHLY WASHED IN WEE, THE FULLER RINGS THE TOUGS IN CLEAN WATER AND HANGS THEM OUT TO DRY.



AFTER THAT, MY FEET ARE KILLING ME.

THEY SMELL PRETTY DEADLY TOO!

RICH ROMANS PAY GOOD MONEY TO HAVE THEIR CLOTHES CLEANED THIS WAY.



HOW! HOW DID YOU GET IT SO CLEAN!

BELIEVE ME, YOU DON'T WANT TO KNOW.

LATER...



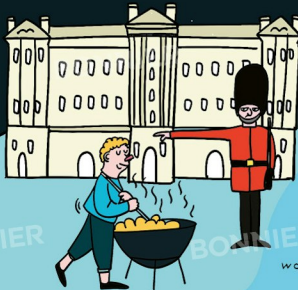
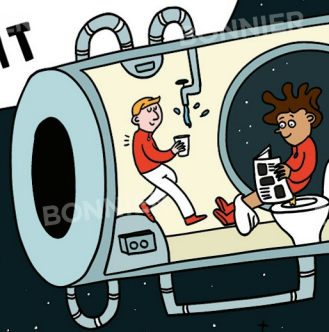
OH NO! WASH ALL OVER MY NECK! CLEAN TOU!

THERE'S THE LEAST OF YOUR PROBLEMS, FRANKLY.

# JUST THE JOB: PEE FOR PROFIT

## TO BOLDLY GO

Urine is very valuable in space. If you fancy being an astronaut on the orbiting International Space Station, bear in mind the job involves drinking clean water recycled from the crew's drinking water machine. Cheers!



## DYEING FOR A WEE?

Woad is a plant once used to produce a bright blue dye. Making it involved rotting leaves in urine, producing a smell so bad English queen Elizabeth I banned woad-dyers from working near her palaces!



## THE SOILS OF WAR

In seventeenth century Europe, chemicals in wee were vital in making gunpowder. So-called 'saltpetre men' had the power to harvest wee-soaked soil from under the floors of farms and churches, as people often wet themselves during super-long sermons.



## URINE LUCK?

From Roman times and earlier, urimancers were fortune-tellers that predicted your future from bubbles in a bowl of wee. Big bubbles meant money coming in, small bubbles spelled troubles!



# GONG FARMER



LONDON, ENGLAND IN THE  
EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.



HELLO I'M  
A GONG FARMER  
AND I KNOW WHAT  
YOU'RE THINKING.

SOMETHING LIKE THIS?



SADLY, THAT'S WRONG. 'GONG' IS ANOTHER  
WORD FOR HUMAN POO, AND I DON'T FARM IT.  
I SHIFT IT WITH A SHOVEL.



THOUGH I SAY IT  
MYSELF I'M A SUPER-  
SHIFT SHIFTER.

RIGHT, NOW I AM LITERALLY  
UP TO MY NECK IN WORK.



IT'S A PILE OF  
POO THIS JOB!

I'M STOOD IN A CESSPIPE - A BIG HOLE  
IN THE GROUND UNDER AN OUTSIDE  
TOILET, FULL OF THE POO PEOPLE DO.



GO BUSY! I'M  
BUSY IN HERE!

ME TOO!

WHEN IT FILLS UP, THE OWNER  
PAYS ME TO PUT THE POO INTO  
BUCKETS WHICH MY ASSISTANT  
REMOVES WITH A ROPE.



WHEN  
THEY'RE FULL, I  
PULL!

WE WORK IN DARKNESS THROUGH THE  
NIGHT SO PEOPLE CAN'T SEE US.



THE LAW SAYS  
WE HAVE TO

THEY CAN  
STILL SMELL  
US THOUGH!

THE LAW ALSO INSISTS WE GET RID  
OF THE POO OUTSIDE THE CITY.



WE'RE OFF  
TO PUMP  
THESE DUMPS!

MHI!

USUALLY, WE SELL IT TO  
FARMERS AS FERTILISER.



THIS STUFF  
IS GREAT ON  
STRAW-BERRIES!

I PUT SUGAR  
ON MINE.

THE LAW ALSO SAYS WE CAN'T LIVE  
IN THE SMART PARTS OF THE CITY.



WE DON'T WANT  
YOUR SORT  
AROUND HERE.

AT LEAST NOT  
UNTIL OUR POO  
NEEDS REMOVING.

IF WE BREAK THESE LAWS,  
PEOPLE WILL KICK UP A  
BIGGER STINK THAN THE  
ONE IN HERE.



BUT, AS NO ONE ELSE WANTS THE  
JOB, WE GET WELL PAID FOR IT.

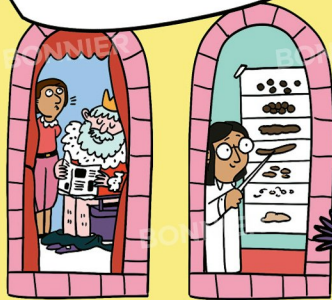


I'M  
FILTHY  
RICH!

# JUST THE JOB: WHAT A WASTE!

## ROYAL FLUSH

Groom of the Stool was once one of the most privileged positions in the English royal court, especially in Tudor times. It involved helping the King go to the toilet in a bowl hidden inside a fabric-covered stool, which is why today poos are also called stools.



## OFF THE SCALE

In medicine, poos are clues to a person's health. Doctors worldwide use the Bristol Stool Scale chart to describe them, from Type 1 (tiny dry lumps) to Type 7, (runny liquid). Types 3 and 4 – soft sausages – are the ones to aim for!

## PURE LUCK

In Victorian London, pure-finders walked the streets picking up dog poo with their bare hands and popping it into lidded buckets. It was sold to be used in softening leather used for book covers. (Don't worry! This book uses card!)



## JUMBO JOBS

In Thailand, elephant dung is collected by hand to make environmentally friendly paper that doesn't involve cutting down trees. The poo is packed with plant fibres that are turned into colourful craft paper.



# THE DAY JOB

## FLATULIST



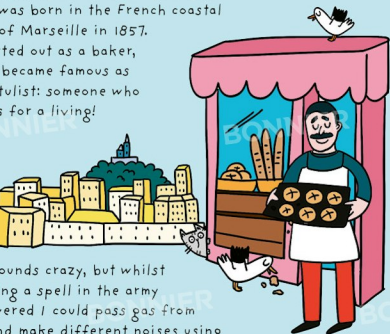
NAME JOSEPH PUJOL  
NATIONALITY FRENCH  
OCCUPATION FLATULIST

## JOSEPH PUJOL

**Bonjour.** My name is Joseph Pujol, and I was born in the French coastal town of Marseille in 1857. I started out as a baker, but I became famous as a flatulist: someone who farts for a living!

It sounds crazy, but whilst serving a spell in the army I discovered I could pass gas from my rear and make different noises using my muscles, such as the parp of a bugle and rifle shots. My fellow soldiers thought it hilarious, so on returning home I started to perfect the art of the fart.

Back at the bakery, I practiced whilst serving customers. My repertoire grew to include squeaky boots, various musical instruments, cannon fire, and a thunderstorm. Everyone laughed, so I made a break with baking and took my wind on stage!



I toured local music halls as 'Le Petomane', which means 'The Farting Maniac'. Dressed smartly (I think one should look smart to fart) I let rip with my many impressive impressions.



At this point, I should explain that though I was farting furiously and ferociously, my act did not stink. In fact, I was able to simply move clean air in and out of my posterior at will. Indeed, I could expel it with enough force to blow out a candle - a highlight of my performance!

Anyway, in 1892 I became a star turn at the Moulin Rouge, the world famous musical theatre in Paris. People flocked to see me, and I bent over backwards to entertain them. By now my act included farmyard animal noises as well as playing a small flute and an ocarina by fart power alone!



My success took me all over the world, and made me very rich. I bought a huge house, I married and raised ten children. However, I stopped performing in 1914 at the outbreak of World War 1, and went back to baking. Fancy an 'air biscuit' anyone?

PAAAARP!





# YOU HAD ONE JOB...

The world of work is not always wonderful. People are human (most of them), and they can – and will – make mistakes. Here are some of recent history's most famous fails. Try not to drop the book while reading them!



## ART FAILURE

French artist Henri Matisse French created collages from cut-paper towards the end of his career. One work, 'Le Dafeul' was shown upside-down by New York's Museum of Modern Art for 47 days in 1961 before a visitor spotted it!



## ASLEEP ON THE JOB

In 2013, a German bank clerk tried to transfer 62 euros to a customer's account, but fell asleep with their finger on a single key of their computer, the number '2'. As a result, they instead transferred 222,222,222.22 euros! The dozy mistake went unspotted for hours!

## HOLY MOLY!

In 2020, Italian priest Paolo Longo also fell foul of video filters. Live-streaming a service for stuck-at-home worshippers, he was turned into a wizard with a pointy hat, a black-and-white cat, and also grew a bright pink moustache. Heavens!



## CAT-ASTROPHE!

In 2021, Texas lawyer Rod Ponton was on an important video call to an American courthouse unaware that a filter on his computer had swapped his face for a fluffy white kitten with goo-goo eyes. A recording of his 'Lawyer Cat' chat went viral!



## NOT SO WIZARD

Can you imagine rejecting the best-selling series of books ever? Twelve publishers turned down 'Harry Potter' before one – Bloomsbury – finally took it on. Even then, author J K Rowling was told, 'You'll never make any money out of children's books, Jo.' Expelliarmus!

## THE FARCE IS WITH YOU

Imagine acting in one of the most famous movies ever – and clumsily bumping your head on a door frame. That what actor Laurie Goode did playing a Stormtrooper in 1977's sci-fi epic, Star Wars – Episode IV: A New Hope. He claimed tummy trouble made him do it!



## NOT SO FAB FOUR

British band The Beatles the most successful pop group ever, selling over 290 million records. However, in January 1964, a boss at the Decca recording company turned down the chance to sign them up, saying: 'The Beatles have no future in show business.' Oops!



## SLICE OF LIFE

'The icing on the cake' can mean something extra-special. However, photos of crazily-iced cakes are an internet celebration of epic failures, often involving simple misunderstandings. For example: Bakery: 'Want anything written on top?' Customer: 'Nothing, thank you.' End result: the words, 'Nothing, thank you,' piped across it!



# EARLY STARTERS

Do you consider yourself lucky to go school? The answer may depend on how tasty you find your school dinners, but for much of human history, most children went to work from an early age. Often these jobs were dirty, dangerous and sometimes deadly. As this last chapter shows, there have been lots of horrible jobs for juniors in the past as well as some wonderful ways to make a living today. Which of these positions would you pick?

## CROSSING SWEEPER

Horses filled the streets of big cities before motor cars, and those same horses then filled the streets with their poo. Gangs of poor children armed with brooms cleared poo from the paths of smartly dressed people in return for pennies.



## CLIMBING BOY

In the nineteenth century, chimney sweeps across Europe employed 'climbing boys' to sweep soot from inside the narrowest parts of chimneys. Little better than slaves, many died from their awful working conditions.



It might sound fun, but this was an awful occupation. In Victorian London, poor children scavenged in the mud of the River Thames in the hope of finding things they might sell, even though the river was basically a big open sewer.



## WHIPPING BOY

Hard to believe, but English royal princes once had a boy who sat by them in lessons and took a beating from the teacher on their behalf if they made a mistake. To whip the future king would be considered treason.



## MUDLARK



## MONARCH

Tutankhamen became Egyptian pharaoh at nine. In 1650, Christina was made queen of Sweden, aged six. In 1384, a 10 year old girl called Jadwiga was crowned KING of Poland. Go figure!



## EMPEROR

Two year old Puyi became the last ruler of Imperial China in 1908. As supreme emperor, he was both super-spoilt and incredibly cruel: beating servants and having other people blow on his soup to cool it for him.



## POP IDOL

South Korean 'K-pop' is the world's fastest-growing music scene, with bands such as BTS, Twice and Blackpink now known all over the globe. K-pop stars are discovered as teenagers and taught the moves that may make them famous.



## FILM STAR

The 'Harry Potter' films made stars of many young actors, including Emma 'Hermione' Watson. She remains one of the world's highest earning actresses. Better still, she got turned into action figures!



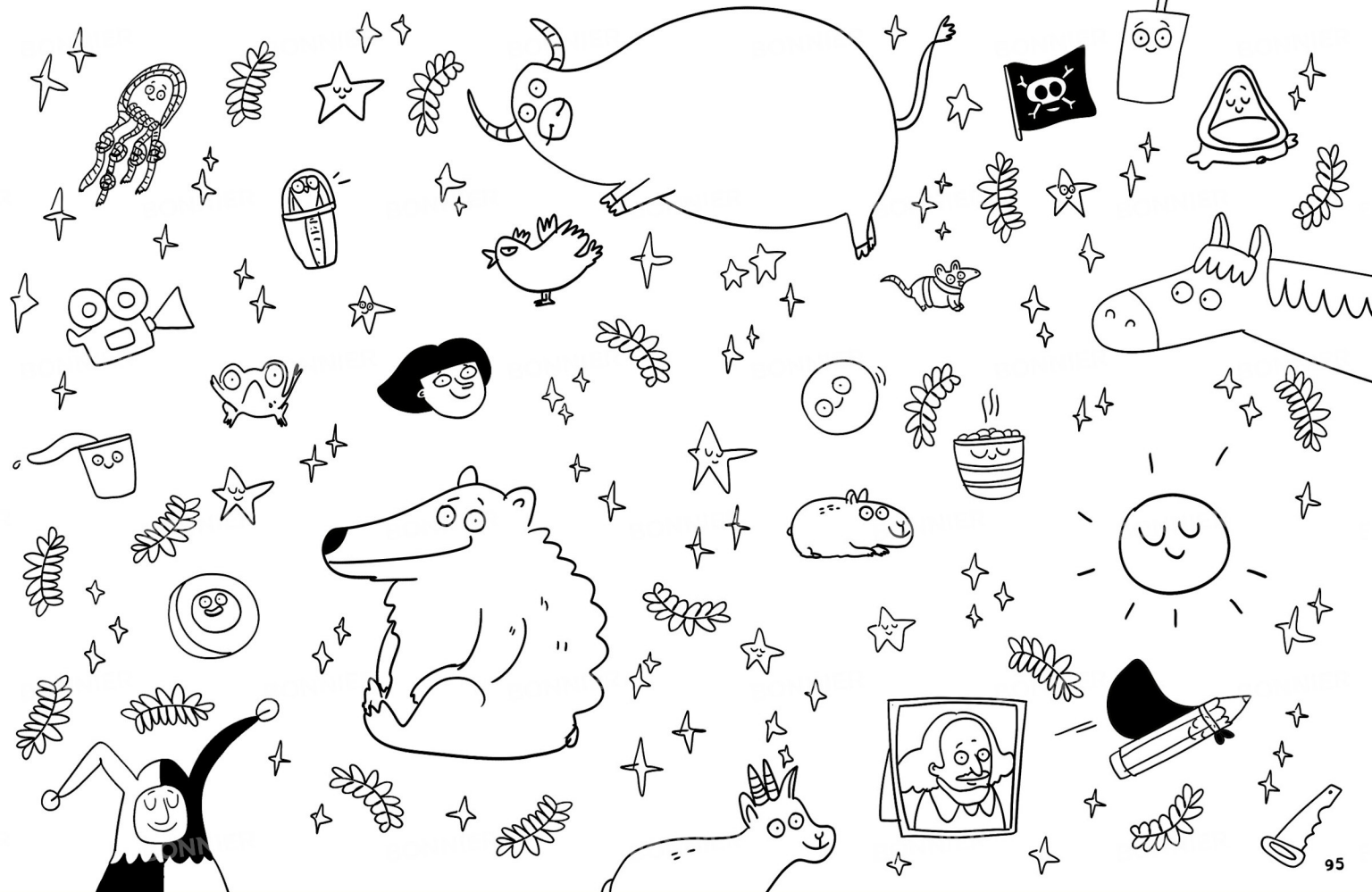
## SOCIAL MEDIA STAR

Teenage vloggers ('video-bloggers') on video-sharing platforms such as Instagram and YouTube can have a huge influence on their audiences. In 2016, 13 year old American JoJo Siwa had girls around the world copying her hair-bows!

To return to the opening question, school is a great start in life. Sadly, many children around the world are still denied the chance, and have to work to help their families, some doing jobs as horrid as the worst ones shown here. Try and remember that next time your teacher sets you homework!









# WORK'S LIKE A DREAM!

Is there a dream job that you'd love to have?  
(Copy this page and fill in the spaces, ready to apply  
the moment it becomes available!)



NAME AND AGE:  
.....



DREAM JOB TITLE:  
.....

WHY DO YOU WANT THIS JOB?:  
.....  
.....  
.....

WHAT SKILLS CAN YOU BRING?:  
\* .....  
\* .....  
\* .....  
\* .....  
\* .....  
\* .....

HOW MUCH WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE PAID?:  
.....

