

## Hard Hearted Hannah: Classics from Nowhere



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### Hard Hearted Hannah: Classics from Nowhere

by Cartoon de Salvo

This year Cartoon de Salvo created Hard Hearted Hannah and Other Stories. Each night is a brand new, entirely improvised adventure. This series of Diffusion books is going to explore some of the patterns that came randomly out of the air. To begin we elicit a 'simple title of, for example, a movie that's never been made' from an audience member. Then they choose a few songs from a playlist of our band's repertoire. We think for a few seconds and then we start, working in those songs and the show lasts between 50 mins and up to 2 hours.

We place implicit trust in each other's narrative instinct. The idea is, having been exposed to stories all of our lives, we all have a very developed sense of what should happen next. We never limited ourselves to any place, genre or time. This book explores some of the stories that tapped into classical story structures, myths and fairy tales. The Camel's Hump an Indiana Jones style adventure, Mud a hero quest, Sons of Liberty (great title!) good versus evil, and finally my favourite Lesson no 12 which took on art, integrity and love against the odds.

Alex Murdoch, Artistic Director, Cartoon de Salvo

be complete and they will be able to marry. But her father shoo's him away. [Rain On My Parade]

Silvio Quintovecchio is drinking with Tintorenzo in a tavern. He taunts him about the small fee for his fresco, and about having only one apprentice. Quintovecchio is a hack, who's art is to order. Tintorenzo is a purist painter who believes passionately in Renaissance principles. Tintorenzo promises that his next commission will eclipse Quintovecchio, and secure him a massive 10,000 florins from the Pope. His rival laughs at this, and Tintorenzo ends up leaving in a rage. Lucio paints his knoll, lesson no. 7 - quick strong brushstrokes.

Bianca and her father clash over her love of Lucio. He just that he wants the best for her - marriage to a lawyer, or a nobleman. In fact, he has arranged a match with a papal envoy who is soon to visit. Bianca vehemently objects. Lucio seranades at Bianca's window. [You Sexy Thing] She tells him of the suitor, and that they must part. Father arrives and shoos Lucio away. Lucio works at his grassy knoll, bitterly upset at his lost love. Quintovecchio asks the Pope for money to paint a bigger fresco, and to employ a new apprentice. The papal envoy, Marco, kneels at Bianca's feet and makes his suit. Her nurse looks on. He is effeminate and lispng, and after her money. It will not, he says, be romantic. He is forbidden to kiss his bride by a stern nurse. Bianca is distraught.

Quintovecchio woos Lucio to be his new apprentice. Lesson no. 11, he tells the lad, is that art is all about money. Embittered by his slow progress under Tintorenzo, and the loss of Bianca, Lucio is tempted to accept.





## Hard Hearted Hannah: Classics from Nowhere (Part 1 of 6)

Cartoon de Salvo

2010-09-06 & © Cartoon de Salvo

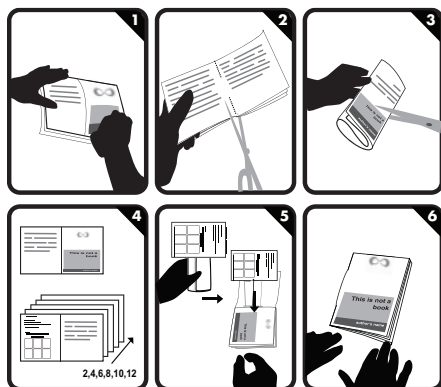
Published by Proboscis

Neil Haigh, Brian Logan & Alex Murdoch improvised over 100 of these stories in front of live audiences, over 2008-09. Brian retold the tales & Alex did the pictures [info@cartoondesalvo.com](mailto:info@cartoondesalvo.com)

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Two British explorers Graves and Dickson arrive in Damascus. They lodge with Ahmed a proprietor of a bird shop. When Ahmed presses they tell him that they are seeking a coveted ancient artefact - also known as 'the camel's hump'. Ahmed and his minah bird Bobby declare that all those who seek the chalice meet a grisly end.

In their bedroom, Graves tells Dickson that Ahmed himself is an ex-adventurer, who once collaborated with the famed English archaeologist Chesters who met his end seeking the chalice.

The Grand Vizier  
Mustafa, servant of the Grand Vizier  
Marks, her butler  
Amanda, Dickson's fiancée  
Bobby, a minah bird  
Ahmed, proprietor of a Damascus bird emporium  
Robert Dickson, his fellow adventurer  
Graves, an adventurer

### Characters

Brian starts with the sound of wind, Neil enters into a desert landscape

Song: *Weary Blues*

Ashcroft Arts Centre, Fareham, Fri 28 Feb, 2008

## The Camel's Hump

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

Co-commissioned by Farnham Maltings and the Lyric,  
Hammersmith

Performers - Neil Haigh, Brian Logan and Alex Murdoch

Design - Rebecca Hurst

Musical Direction - Paul Kissaun

Production Management - Naomi Pirie

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

The Salvo's are produced by Ed Collier, who can be contacted on [ed@cartoondesalvo.com](mailto:ed@cartoondesalvo.com)

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

The Daily Telegraph, Top Ten Comedy Shows 2008

*Like Tales of the Unexpected on Acid*

Audience member, Icklesham, Kent



Back in England Dickson's fiancée Amanda waits in vain for news. Marks, her butler, advises her that Dickson and Graves are married to their life of adventure.

Mustafa and the Grand Vizier determine to thwart Graves' mission.

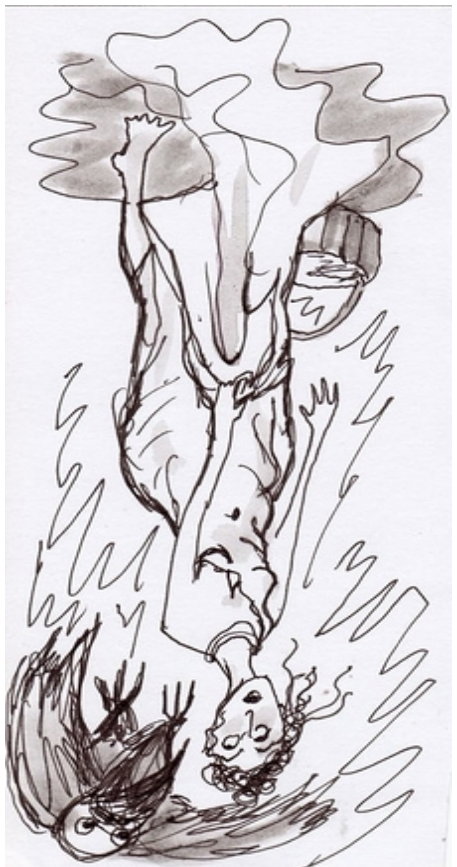
Reluctantly involved Ahmed tells the explorers that only Bobby the minah bird can lead them to the chalice. Graves announces that this is his last ever mission.

While Amanda sits lonely at home the adventurers follow Bobby out of Damascus - but the minah bird is in cahoots with the Sultan's men.

Dickson and Graves dislodge a rock a blocked cave, and the decaying skeleton of Chesters swings into their path. The route is booby-trapped, and Ahmed is killed horribly. Graves and Dickson press on, and enter a shimmering chamber where the chalice is concealed. The chalice is theirs.

The Grand Vizier appears. He demands that the Englishmen leave the chalice be. But Graves pulls a gun on the Vizier, forces him to drop his scimitar, and the chaps retrace the route out to the mouth of the cave. The Vizier continues to insist that, as the man who lifted the chalice from its resting place, Graves is already doomed by an ancient curse. Graves becomes delirious. He wanders off into the desert, as Bobby circles, singing 'gold will tempt you'. His eyes pop out, he dances, sings the Marseillaise, then dies.

The Vizier advises Dickson that the pursuit of treasure in an inadvisable course in life. Is there nothing he values more? He leaves Dickson to decide what to do. Graves' ghost returns to warn Dickson to abandon the chalice and return to his beloved Amanda. As Dickson decides, Bobby the minah bird declares himself finally free.



address isn't inspiring anyone. He is heckled by citizens who would prefer to capitulate to Rome. Bob tells Hannibal that he has penned a few words that may help. Bob reads his speech to Hannibal, which encourages Carthaginians to see themselves as 'sons of liberty' fighting for the rights of small nations and oppressed people against imperial armies across the globe and throughout history. When Hannibal delivers the speech, the public are profoundly inspired to take up arms and defend their homeland.

Somewhere on Mount Olympus, probably, Zeus speaks with his prisoner, Volumnia. A matress appears, and Volumnia is ravished by the lusty god. [You Sexy Thing] Then he instructs her that she is to be sent to Carthage, there to avert war with her message of love.

As war rages outside, Bob and Terry pray to their gods for salvation from the marauding imperial armies. Perhaps only divine intervention can save them now. The pair leave the chapel and return to the fray.

Hannibal has been seized by the invading Romans. Cassius has him by the throat, as the citizens of Carthage look on. Crassus plunges his sword into Hannibal's guts and the Carthaginian leader dies. Crassus turns to the natives and declares: 'mission accomplished.'

Bob and Terry look on in horror as their leader is slain. Is the defence of Carthage over so soon? Who can save them now? Suddenly, a woman descends from the heavens and falls at their feet. It is Volumnia, cast down by Zeus. She tells them she is the concubine of General Crassus. They can barely bear to hear the evildoer's name. Together, the trio plan that Volumnia should distract Crassus with her love long enough for Bob and Terry to rouse the Carthaginians for one final defence of their city.

entry - until he sees the fire of Zeus burning in her eyes, and is compelled to admit her. She finds Crassus lounging under canvas. She asks him to end the attack on Carthage. He tells her that the profits of this attack will improve both their lives. She tells Crassus she loves him. Crassus doesn't understand this: how could any woman love him, a man rejected by his own parents and raised by wolves? Crassus's career of evil has been founded on his own sense of rejection and inhumanity. Now Volumnia's love redeems him. He howls like a wolf. He falls onto all-fours. He can be with Volumnia, he says, love her even, and end the war - if only she will love him as a wolf. They kiss - as wolves.

The war rages outside, and Bob and Terry's troops begin to overwhelm the invader. Cassius appears with a new wave of centurions. Cassius lunges at the Carthaginian lieutenant, Bob - and Bob runs him through with a sword. Cassius dies. The Romans are vanquished. Beryl appears from hiding. She never left Carthage; she wanted to live or die in the city, near her brother and her lover. The three Carthaginians, with their arms around one another, proclaim a new dawn for the city. The sons - and daughters - of liberty are free.

Crassus and Volumnia have fled to Spain, and now scurry across a wood - as wolves - towards a thick copse. There they will hide, and forage for voles, and love, as wolves, for years to come.

Caesar receives a pigeon from Carthage, surely bringing news of victory. It addresses him, in Bob's voice, telling Caesar that his armies were defeated, that Carthage honours him and sues for peace, but that it will never submit to imperial aggression. Caesar, in a rage, bites the head of the pigeon, and vows awful revenge. [Smugglin' Man]

spears. His friend Gorson visits. Jack is depressed, and goes for a walk.

The Vikings have arrived on British shores. Olaf and Thor confirm to their chief that the men are ready for battle. Fantasising about British womenfolk and admiring one another's horns, the Vikings hide their row-boat on the beach. They discuss their notorious chief, and his violent conquest of the Finns.

A man sits nervously and alone, handling his spear. Jack wanders lonely through the country, fretful about his pointlessness life, afraid to return to his village. A spirit, Morag, appears and asks him to have faith: she will advise him where to go. He follows her.

Gorson and Ingrid discuss Jack's absence. Gorson suggests that Jack may not come back, and that Ingrid may therefore need a man's protection. He makes a pass at her and is rejected.

The same man as before sits alone, and springs to attention with his spear when he thinks he hears a noise outside.

The Vikings lay siege to an English hamlet, slaughtering everyone in sight with their mighty broadswords. Their chief appears. He reads a letter from King Harold which instructs them to take the nearby town and its castle - which may well be undefended, because the town has been peaceful for so long. The chief announces that he, Booboo, will conquer England.

Jack is alone under a tree, feeling useless and forgotten. [No One Knows I'm Gone]. Morag appears and says that the Vikings are almost upon his village. He wants to go back and help them, but Morag dissuades him. 'Every age needs a hero,' she says, cryptically. 'Follow me, ...'

## Mud

Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff, Sunday 6 April, 2008

*Songs: No One Knows I'm Gone & Diamond Ring*

Neil starts, as a Viking sailing towards England

### Characters

Booboo, Viking leader

Olaf, his underling

Gudmund and Thor and Thor's father, Vikings

Jack, an Iron Age spear-maker

Ingrid, his wife

Gorson, his friend

Morag, a spirit

Lord Castleton

Annabel, his wife

Percival and Quentin, his children

Samuel, his servant

Hector, former commander of Lord Castleton's army

The chief of the Vikings stands menacingly on-deck of a Viking longboat bound for Britain. He confers with his gruff underling Olaf about the imminent conquest.

Jack sits in his mud hut. His wife Ingrid makes him Iron Age tea. He is fed up spear-making; no one ever has any use for



Samuel kneels before Lord Castleton. He tells his feudal lord that the Vikings are near, and that the castle must be abandoned. It cannot be defended because His Lordship, who is a pacifist, dismissed the commander of the army some years previously. Lord Castleton is reluctant to abandon his ancestral home to the marauding Swedes. His wife Annabel and children arrive; and she is promptly killed by a spear through the castle window. His son Percival asks him for a pair of curly shoes.

The man is still alone, like a coiled spring sensing danger nearby. Morag points out to Jack a solitary house in a valley. There lives Hector, the former commander of Lord Castleton's army, and a zealot for war. Dismissed by His Lordship, he nurses his grievances alone. Jack must speak with him, and together they may save the village. Jack accepts the mission - but first asks Morag if she can know whether Ingrid is safe. Morag has a vision:

Gorson is still seeking to woo Ingrid. He promises her everything he can think of [Diamond Ring], and she is finally persuaded by his guarantee to keep her safe from harm in troubled times.

Morag reassures Jack that Ingrid is safe. Jack proceeds to Hector's house and tells the bloodthirsty soldier, for whom Jack's late father once made weapons, that the town needs his help. Together they set off for the town.

The Vikings have arrived in Jack's village and are pillaging like crazy.

Jack and Hector survey the scene. They sneak through the carnage and into Jack's mud hut and workshop - where Ingrid appears, and Gorson on her arm. Gorson is too scared to fight, and wants to flee. Ingrid agrees to stay and fight with

## Sons of Liberty

Lyric Hammersmith, Sat 31 May, 2008

*Songs: I'm Through With Love, You Sexy Thing & Smugglin' Man*

Brian starts, as one of three Romans in a Roman bath

### Characters

General Crassus, a Roman soldier

Cassius & Tinctus, his lieutenants

Hannibal, the leader of Carthage

Bob & Terry, his lieutenants

Beryl, Bob's sister

Volumnia, concubine to Crassus

Portia, a Roman woman

Another Roman washerwoman

The god Zeus, or Jupiter

The Emperor Caesar

Some galley slaves

only Caesar's word, then war will commence...

In Carthage, Hannibal calls his two lieutenants, Bob and Terry. They know the Romans intend to attack. Hannibal is struggling to raise the martial spirit among his countrymen, some of whom (Bob and Terry report) quite fancy the idea of regular baths and togas, a la Rome. Bob tells Hannibal that some kind of inspiring narrative is required to rally the populace. Bob and Terry are despatched to fortify the city against an attack.

General Crassus kneels at the feet of the terrifying Caesar, and receives his instructions to commence the assault on Carthage. Caesar wishes the place razed to the ground.

Three Roman washerwomen knead their clothes in the Tiber. One is Volumnia, doting concubine of Crassus. A remarkable bird descends from the sky and morphs into Zeus - otherwise known as Jupiter - the god. He stalks the awe-struck women, then seizes Volumnia and flies off with her into the clouds.

Bob sits with his sister Beryl. He warns her of the imminent Roman attack, and that she ought to pack her belongings and flee the city. She is loathe to, as she is in love with Bob's comrade Terry. Terry comes in and bids her a fond farewell. Who knows how long the war against Rome may last? He leaves, and Beryl wonders if she will ever see him again. [I'm Through With Love]

Crassus and Cassius command the galley slaves to row, ever faster, to Carthage. Crassus admires their rippling torsos. He asks Cassius if the latter knows anything about the mysterious disappearance from Rome of his concubine, Volumnia - which has bothered him. He also asks Cassius about the battle-plan in Carthage, which is ruthlessly simply. Kill, burn, loot.

17 Hannibal addresses the people of Carthage. But his public

General Crassus and two of his subordinates, Cassius and Tinctus, are in the Roman baths together. They discuss the impending attack on Carthage. Tinctus mentions the legend attached to Crassus, that he was raised by wolves - which Cassius laughs off as a useful myth. The men emerge from the bath - fine martial specimens all! - and leave. They await



ready to enjoy his rival's ignominy. Bianca's father arrives to, come to find her. Tintorezo pulls back the curtain, braced for the Pope's condemnation. But the painting revealed is sensational. They are all stunned. The Pope, confronted by true divinity for the first time in his life, has a heart attack and dies. Tintorezo offers Lucio a partnership - but Lucio is now ready to stand alone. Tintorezo embraces him. Quintovecchio sneers from the sidelines. Bianca's father blesses the young artist, apologises for doubting him - then condemns the rascal Quintovecchio for his gracelessness. The rivals Tintorezo and Quintovecchio are left to remove the Pope's body - and Tintorezo finds a purse containing 10,000 florins in his cloak. He takes the money, cursing his foe as he leaves. [You Rascal You]

Gloomy Tintorezo is alone in San Dominico. Suddenly he claps eyes on the grassy knoll as painted by Lucio. He trembles. He weeps. It is the most beautiful painting he has ever seen.

The Pope assembles various Florentine nobles and they drink freely at the opening of Tintorezo's fresco. But it is not ready. The Pope is angry and reluctantly gives him a few days. But if he fails, he will be cut off and his artist days over.

Bianca's marriage to Marco is due tomorrow. Father demands her cooperation. Bianca refuses to comply. Father orders her out of his house.

Bianca packs her bags. Her nurse sympathises, tells her she admires Bianca's stance. Bianca must fly.

Tintorezo approaches Lucio's house. He knocks on the door, which opens to reveal a smug, sneering Quintovecchio, about to depart. Lucio has been recruited by Quintovecchio, with whom he will earn much more money. The old master begs Lucio to reconsider, together - using Lucio's undreamt-of skills - they will repaint the fresco. But Lucio won't be persuaded. As Tintorezo leaves sorrowfully he reminds Lucio of how much care he had invested in his beautiful painting. Remember lesson no. 12, he tells his ex-pupil as a parting shot - it's not about money, it's about the love.

The runaway Bianca arrives at the church and witnesses the talent of her lover. She's surprised by Lucio and they embrace. Lucio is painting through the night - and swears that from now on he will be no one's apprentice, and will trade by his surname - Michelangelo.

The following morning, and a doomed Tintorezo admits the Pope to the church. Lucio and Bianca appear from the shadows, hastily dressing themselves. Quintovecchio enters,

Jack. They fetch 200 spears from Jack's workshop and distribute them to the locals.

Lord Castleton's servant Samuel is among the dying. Lord Castleton is left alone, with only his irritating children, still after the curly shoes. The Viking chief Booboo breaks into the throne room, and gloats from the window to his cheering warriors that the castle is conquered.

Jack and Hector and Ingrid and the 200 locals approach the throne room via a secret passage of which Hector has told them. Morag appears to encourage them. They break into the throne room, where Booboo laughs at these puny interlopers. He defies Jack to use his spear on him. And he guarantees that should Jack prevail, his warriors will return home. After all, what British weapon could pierce Viking chain-mail?! But this is Jack's finest spear, the best he ever forged - the one he made the day he left Ingrid, because it was so depressing to think he'd never get the chance to use it. Morag appears, and as a horrified Booboo recognises the spirit, Jack runs him through with the spear. Booboo dies in a Technicolor swirl of spirits and Furies. The town is saved.

The Vikings row back to Sweden, discussing as they row the story of Booboo's late wife, who he slaughtered in cold blood and who died with a curse against Booboo on her lips. What was her name? Martha? Moira? No. Morag.

## Lesson No. 12

Lyric Hammersmith, Thur 29 May, 2008

*Songs: Rain On My Parade, You Sexy Thing & You Rascal You*

Brian starts, painting a fresco in a church

Characters

Tintorezo, a master painter

Lucio, his apprentice

The Pope

Bianca, a well-bred woman

Her father

Her nurse

Silvio Quintovecchio, a master painter

Marco, a papal envoy

Various Florentine gentry

A painter is putting the finishing touches to a giant fresco inside the church of San Dominico in Florence. His apprentice Lucio today is allotted his first chance at painting a grassy knoll in the corner of the fresco. His lesson no. 3 is that grass is best painted with the wrong end of the brush. The Pope talks to Tintorezo about his commission, but his arch rival, Quintovecchio is financially favoured.

Lucio calls for Bianca, who appears at her balcony and tells her about his part in the fresco. Soon his apprenticeship will