

OH LOOK, a FUNNY ZINE



Afraid Hitchcock presents

WEIRD & DUMB TALES



So weird
it's dumb!
So dumb
it's weird!



INSIDE – Introduction By Mr Afraid Hitchcock ... Bizarre Encounter Of The Fowl Kind ... A Movie Featuring Some Woman With 17 Cats ... Robin Hood, Outlaw + Inventor (Interactive Adventure) ... Bat Bro, Superhero ... About This Zine

DISCLAIMER This is a work of humour, created and presented for amusement purposes only. Any resemblance to actual weird and dumb persons, living or dead, or actual weird and dumb events is not to be taken seriously. No part of this publication constitutes professional or life advice.



INTRODUCTION BY MR AFRAID HITCHCOCK

Notice to the reader: you do not need to be weird or dumb to read this zine, but it helps.

Hello. I am Afraid Hitchcock.

I know exactly what you're wondering when you see my name. You want to know what is it that I'm afraid of. Well, I am most afraid of having to introduce this zine of weird and dumb stories to you, poor innocent reader. But it must be done, and so I will get on with it.

First, a little bit about me. I'm famous for creating a string of movies featuring my toes.

One of them is a horror movie called *The Weirds*. It's about some weird flying toes that attack a small town.

Another of my toe movies is called *Weirdo*. It's about a shy guy who lives with his mother and they run a motel. This guy, each of his 10 toes has a separate personality, and when guests arrive he points a toe at them and speaks in the personality of that toe.

As you can imagine he gets some pretty horrifying reviews.

And another toe movie of mine is called *Weird Window*, about a guy in a wheelchair who sits at his window and does a lot of mental arithmetic to calculate the number of toes that go in and out of the building across the street, and he publishes each day's results on social media, because toes everywhere care.

Heard of these cinematic masterpieces? No? Never mind. Now that you've read this far, you're not likely to forget them.

Anyway, back to the point. When I was in school I told my teacher about my toe movie ideas. She shook her head and all she said was that I had a natural talent for weird and dumb stuff.

I spent many weeks lying in bed at night thinking about her words. She said I had a natural talent! That was the kindest thing anyone ever said about me. From then on I've felt obliged to support anything that identifies itself as weird and dumb. Like this very zine.

I recommend that you hold these pages in your hands, and turn them now and then so that you can read the stories one at a time. I do stress that this is the best thing to do.

On my part, I did try to use this zine in various alternative ways, such as to season my chicken, and comb my hair, and replace one of my bicycle wheels, and in

many other practical ways as well, but the results proved quite disastrous.

So just read this zine, from the first page to the last, and you'll be alright.

If somehow you end up feeling weird and dumb at the end, may I recommend that you write your own weird and dumb tales, and compile these into a similar zine. Because we are now living in such unusual times. And as the saying goes, when the going gets weird, the weird must get dumb.

I have more toe movies to tell you about, but I'm running out of space here. The future belongs to the weird and dumb. Welcome to that future!

A.H.



BIZARRE ENCOUNTER OF THE FOWL KIND

There is this farmer. A pretty hard-working guy. He grows tomatoes. One morning he goes out to work in his field. He can't believe his eyes. He sees a big tomato right in the middle of the field, sticking out of the ground. It's not just bigger than the usual tomatoes, this one is twice as tall as he is.

He goes over quickly. But then he stops. Because the giant tomato starts to shake. In a crazy way. Also it makes a strange sound, like, "Kaka-cuckoo-kakakaka-cuckoo-cuckoo!"

And then this giant tomato, it explodes. The farmer gets juicy bits of tomato all over him. He wipes them out of his eyes and takes another look.

He sees a giant green chicken in front of him. He figures that this chicken was living inside that giant tomato, and it was getting too big so the tomato had to explode.

The giant green chicken looks around happily, it says, "Greetings to you. I

am an alien chicken, I was sent from my planet to explore the universe. I started out as a tiny baby worm and after I landed in your field I made my home in this tomato. Like a caterpillar turning into a butterfly I grew and grew and transformed into my adult form, which is this giant chicken. I am so pleased to meet you, how do you do."

This farmer, of course he's delighted. He has never met a giant green alien chicken that spoke in such a pleasant manner.

He tells the chicken, "Wait here, I need to go get something." And he runs back to his house, chuckling to himself.

His family, at first they are happy that they get something else to eat for a change, instead of tomatoes. But as you know it is a giant chicken and the meat lasts them a long time and they get tired of it.

The story could end here or I could add that maybe the farmer's kids start to have silly dreams about being a giant alien chicken and bursting out of a tomato in some farmer's field, something like that.



**A MOVIE FEATURING
SOME WOMAN WITH 17 CATS**

I think movies work best when you start with a small problem, so the audience thinks they know what the story is about, but then as the events unfold you find yourself going down a crazy rabbit hole, and you realise that everything you thought you knew was wrong, and you really want to find out how it ends.

At the beginning of this movie, the small problem is that there's a woman, she goes to her kitchen one morning and her tap is stuck. It just won't turn. Which means she can't get any water.

The other taps in her house are okay. She checks them all, over and over. The tap in her kitchen is the only one that's somehow stuck.

She takes out her phone and tries to search for someone who can help her. But it's hard to do this, because she has 17 cats living with her, that's why her neighbours call her the crazy cat mama, and as she's trying to find someone to help with her kitchen tap her cats all keep getting in her way.

Just so you know the cats are real and you can really feel their presence in this movie, their names are: Rover, Rambutan, Mangosteen, Durian, Susan, Susie, Sue, Super, Superdooper, Supertrooper, Soup, Churchill, Pharaoh, Moley, Limo, Magnesium, Calcium.

They are all pretty normal cats, except for one, Pharaoh, he's a dirty shade of green, and semi-luminous, and some might say he has a bad attitude, he's that kind of a cat.

So anyway the cats are getting in the woman's way but as she scrolls she manages to spot an ad on her phone, it's for a business named Tap Hero – Professional Services and the guy in the photo looks pretty friendly and confident, like he knows what he's doing, and so she messages him about the problem and he agrees to come over that morning and help fix her tap.

This Tap Hero guy comes over, he chats with the woman for a bit, tells her his charges, she says okay, and then he gets busy fixing the tap, but Pharaoh the green cat keeps interrupting and getting in his way.

The guy eventually stops and stares at Pharaoh, for a long time, and then he pulls out his phone and taps on it urgently.

The woman says to him, what are you doing, are you looking for YouTube

videos on how to fix my tap, I could've done that myself, I thought you were a professional.

The man says, relax lady, I'm saving your life.

After tapping on his phone for a while more he shows her the screen. She looks at it and frowns.

The screen says that this Tap Hero guy is actually a top tap rescue agent, registration number #02469B, and a senior member of the Extraordinary League of Tap Defenders.

And then below this information there is the search results from the International Database of Tap Criminals, and top of the list is a picture of Pharaoh, it says that this green cat is a terrible tap criminal and the leader of a ruthless tap crime ring.

The Tap Hero guy tells the woman in a low voice, that green cat of yours is up to no good, he's responsible for your tap being stuck, he's probably working on a plan to kick you out of this house and take over all the other cats.

Of course the woman doesn't believe the Tap Hero guy, it sounds crazy. But the man taps on this phone again and finds some recent news about the Underground Society of Chaos and Problems, and the article says that there is a green cat, named Pharaoh, who

is one of the top leaders of this terrible Society.

Now the woman realises that she has been living with this dangerous cat in her house all this while. She shakes her head and tells the Tap Hero guy, do what you need to, please just save us.

And so, very sneakily, the man manages to get Pharaoh in a cage and takes him away.

Then the woman and the Tap Hero guy go for coffee, this is the first time in a long while that she's left all her cats behind and made a nice connection with another human being.

The Tap Hero guy invites her to join the League of Extraordinary Tap Defenders as an affiliate member, she just needs to pay the annual fee, she doesn't have to put herself in any danger or anything like that, and she blushes and says yes.

The audience thinks this is the end of the story, but it's not, because while the woman is out having coffee, the Underground Society of Chaos and Problems recruits her other cats Magnesium and Moley as replacement agents, to continue the work that Pharaoh started.

So we have a kind of cliffhanger that gets us waiting for the sequel, and then the end credits roll, wow, what do you think.



ROBIN HOOD, OUTLAW + INVENTOR

A short interactive adventure: how will you stop the Sheriff?

START – You are Robin Hood, leader of some merry outlaws in the forest. You're actually awful at sword fighting and shooting arrows. Instead, you like to design and build stuff. People think you're weird. Never mind, it's time to make your move! Go to 4.

1 – You tell your men, "Relax, the Sheriff will go around in circles and get lost in the forest. When night falls we will have an easy time tracking him down and taking back everything. For we know this forest so well, we can move through it blindfolded." Your men nod. But shortly after Friar Tuck reports that the Sheriff and his men are already out of the forest. Marian sighs. She says, "No wedding party for us then." END. Bad decision. Try again. Go to 4.

2 – You rush to your mechanical men-on-horses. Your hands are shaking as you

get one of them back up again. Then you climb on top. You ride this and go after the Sheriff and his men. You roll downhill. You're going so fast you can't stop. The Sheriff and his men move aside to make way for you. You should have installed brakes. You hit a rock and fly off. Splash! You end up in the river. The Sheriff laughs. He gets away with your bread, meat and cushions. Marian sulks. END. Have another try. Go to 4.

3 – You've been working on some mechanical men-on-horses, made with bits of wood and metal. You line up 10 of these on top of the hill. Then you push them down the path, in the direction of the Sheriff and his men. The mechanical men-on-horses charge noisily. They pick up speed. But oh no, they crash into one another. And fall over. What a mess. The Sheriff looks over his shoulder. He sees the heap of mechanical men-on-horses. He laughs.

* Quick, get them all back up again. Go to 7.

* Better if you hopped on one of them and chased after the Sheriff. Go to 2.

* Use your other invention, the mega-catapult. Go to 5.

4 – Nice day in the forest. You're waiting for Marian and her ladies. The two of you are supposed to get married

soon. Finally she arrives, yelling angrily. The Sheriff and his men intercepted her carriage. He took all the fancy bread, spiced meat and comfy cushions that she was bringing in for the wedding party. Little John, Will Scarlet and Friar Tuck are furious. Will Scarlet strums and sings a rude song about the Sheriff. Marian says, "Robin, hurry, get our party stuff back!"

* Use your flying contraption. Go to 6.

* Get your mechanical men-on-horses. Go to 3.

* Trust the Sheriff to get lost in the forest. Go to 1.

5 – You go behind some bushes and drag out a mega-catapult that you've been working on. You say, "We can shoot bags of stinky water at the Sheriff and his men!" Little John assists you. You try to shoot your first bag. But it bursts. Everyone is soaked with stinky water. Marian wails. The Sheriff gets away with your bread, meat and cushions. Will Scarlett writes a song about this. END. Ops. Try again. Go to 4.

6 – You've been building a flying contraption. You go get it. There are still some parts that need assembling. You work furiously. You're halfway done when Little John comes over to say that

sorry, the Sheriff is gone. You've lost the bread, meat and cushions. Marian is furious. At you. END. Try again! Go to 4.

7 – You run over to your mechanical men-on-horses. You line them up and push them down the hill again. This time they work okay. They catch up with the Sheriff. Then they crash into him and his men. The Sheriff and his men are now trapped under the mess. The Sheriff moans, "Robin Hood, curse you and your dark magic!" He believes you used sorcery to stop him. You get your bread, meat and cushions back. Later, Marian makes grand costumes for your mechanical men-on-horses. She explains, "We can have an awesome wedding race!" You win. Clever outlaw! END. Explore other choices? Go to 4.



BAT BRO, SUPERHERO

Featuring his friend Commissioner
Gonedumb

Late night. Top of the police HQ
building. Bat Bro and Commissioner
Gonedumb are meeting.

BAT BRO

I saw your signal. What's up?

COMMISSIONER GONEDUMB

Bat Bro, people are reading *Afraid
Hitchcock's* weird and dumb zine,
it's affecting their brains.

BAT BRO

Relax, Commissioner. That's great
news!

COMMISSIONER GONEDUMB

Huh? How so?

BAT BRO

If people are busy laughing,
they're unlikely to commit crimes.

Bat Bro gives Commissioner Gonedumb the thumbs up.

BAT BRO (cont'd)
Less work for us!

COMMISSIONER GONEDUMB
Wow, the zine is that good? I'll
make the whole police force read
it.

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ABOUT THIS ZINE

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Tools and process — TextEdit for writing, Pixelmator for photo editing, Pages for layout, MagCloud for print-on-demand services around the world. Also, pen and paper for managing production, with a slightly-rusted bulldog clip to hold it all together. Weird and dumb guy photo by Tandem X Visuals, via Unsplash, the internet's source of freely-usable images. Handwriting is DB Hand, basically my scribbles turned into a custom computer font. Laugh, it helps.

For more fun, contact info, and stuff —
WeirdDumbZine.blogspot.com.

#WeirdDumbZine

A handwritten signature in red ink, consisting of the letters 'DB' followed by a simple smiley face ':D'.