

## A BARN-STORMING PERFORMANCE

Gordon had been sacked. That was the news that greeted him as he opened the letter that arrived that morning. What a way to tell him, showing absolutely no respect, despite his years of service as a pet food taster. This came just days after the love of his life, Rosanne, had confronted him, before walking out of their flat for the last time.

'I have made a decision,' she had said. 'It's over! I just can't carry on with this relationship anymore.'

What was he to do? Gordon could not understand why he had been rejected twice in the same week. So he resolved to drive to Stonehenge to have some 'me' time and find his spiritual self. He put 'Stonehenge' into his satnav, and proceeded to follow her instructions.

But as drove, listening to satnav's mellifluous tones, Gordon found himself becoming entranced by her voice. To that point in his life, Gordon had always sought to be the controlling figure in his relationships but, for the first time, he was enjoying being controlled. Was it an emotional reaction, brought about because of the devastating news of the past few days?

'Take a right at the roundabout,' came the instruction, 'then go first left.'

'She is the one,' he said to himself. 'I must follow her. She is my spiritual guide.' It was at that moment that Gordon gave satnav the name Deidre, *his* Deidre. Gordon safely negotiated the roundabout as Deidre issued her next command. 'Turn right.' Wanting to show his obedience, Gordon, without looking, immediately turned the steering wheel to the right, crashing through the metal gate of a farmyard before driving through the side of a barn and halting in a pile of freshly-deposited cow dung. Gordon immediately exited his car, narrowly avoiding the dung, before stepping outside the barn, to be greeted by an angry group of farm-workers, shaking their pitch-forks in the air.

'I was only following instructions,' yelled Gordon. 'It's not my fault!' But his protestations fell on deaf ears. At that moment, thunder rumbled and the rains began to pour, moving Gordon's tie-on bun from the top of his head to his left ear, so that it appeared to be a giant ear-plug. Gordon's purchase of the bun was one of the reasons that Rosanne had left him, but she had never told him, leaving him to wallow in the misapprehension that he somehow 'rocked it'.

As the farmers approached him, Gordon decided that the best way of assuaging their anger was to use humour. Looking towards the heavens, he exclaimed, 'Well, that was a barn-storming end to my journey!'

'Very funny, you fool,' came the retort. 'So you think you're a comedian do you?'

No one who had ever met Gordon, would have said that about him. But Gordon took the man's words literally, resolving to launch his new career as a stand-up comic. You won't be surprised to hear that he was sacked from that position as well.

Poor Gordon!