



an extract from:
bob & barry's lunar adventures: **a right royal disaster**

by *Simon Bartram*

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from templar publishing

Wonderfully bonkers, and as British as a mini pork pie, Simon Bartram is a unique voice in children's publishing. His books have a refreshingly 'real' heart and natural character.

Bob and Barry started life in Simon's glorious picture books, and now, with this new series, he has successfully launched them into the young fiction arena. While the illustrations are in black and white, they are as mind-bogglingly detailed and amazing as any of his colour work.

To my mind, Simon is one of the best British illustrators in the universe!

Mike Jolley

(Can you tell I'm a fan?)

Art Director





**A
RIGHT
ROYAL
DISASTER**

*S I M O N
B A R T R A M*

Of the 90,000 fans, Bob, the Man on the Moon, and his unusual six-legged dog, Barry, were the only two to notice the small black aeroplane circling above the football stadium. They were the only two that needed to see it. Trailing behind it, written on a long, flowing banner, was a short message especially for their eyes.

REPORT TO INFINITY HOUSE
IMMEDIATELY! DO NOT DAWDLE!
P.S. BRING CAKE!
P.P.S. NOT FRUIT CAKE!

Bob and Barry's hearts sank. Infinity House was the lofty headquarters of the big, entire universe, and spacemen were rarely summoned there to hear good news.

With the Cup Final delicately poised at 3–3, and with the second half just beginning, Bob and Barry couldn't believe that they were going to have to miss the end. But miss it they did. Being Man on the Moon was a position of honour for Bob. It always had to come first.

And so, sadly, he cycled away from the magnificent match, stopping briefly at Vera

Crumble's bakery.

There he selected a medium-sized coconut cake before hurrying to the seventeenth floor of Infinity House and into the brown office of Tarantula Van Trumpet,

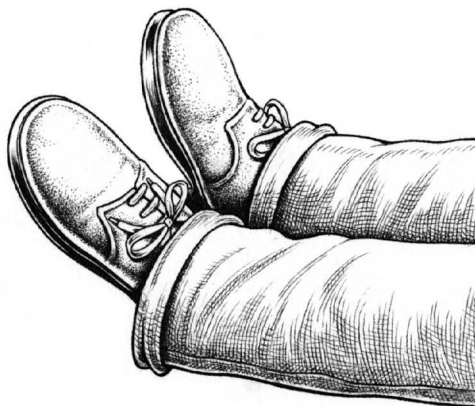


Head of the
Department for
Moon Affairs.

Van Trumpet was
busy doodling skulls
on his notepad and he didn't

look up as he spoke. "I'm sorry-ish to inform
you," he said, gravely, "that the Moon has been
especially selected to host the annual birthday
party for Queen Battleaxe III. You have one
month from today to organise it and may Her
Highness have mercy on your poor doomed
bones. Now please leave cake and close the door
behind you. Good day!"

But Bob had fainted
on the spot. Poor Barry
had a small accident on
the carpet. It was the
worst possible news for
a spaceman.



The next thing Bob was aware of was Barry's stinking bone-breath, as he urgently licked his master's nose. When Bob spied Van Trumpet he realised that this was not the nightmare he hoped it had been. It was really happening. It was all he could do to stop himself fainting a second time.

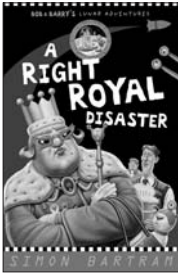
Van Trumpet was still doodling skulls. "PLEASE LEAVE CAKE AND CLOSE THE DOOR BEHIND YOU!" he repeated. "Good day."

This time Bob left the coconut cake and, with Barry, managed to wobble out of Infinity House forgetting his hat. Death black clouds had drifted in over the town and, with a flash of lightning, sheets of rain began to teem down, quickly flattening Bob's quiff.

By the time they



reached home, Bob and Barry were drenched. They sat quietly at the kitchen table dripping rain and tears into their tea. With his head in his hands, Bob thought about Tarantula Van Trumpet's news. Could things possibly get any worse?



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Simon Bartram is the author and illustrator of the galactically great *Bob, Man on the Moon*, winner of the Blue Peter Book of the Year Award. Hilariously oblivious to alien activity, Bob also offers his sage advice to budding astronauts in *The Alien-Spotter's Handbook* and has a second picture book adventure in *Bob's Best-Ever Friend*. In Simon's new fiction series, *Bob and Barry's Lunar Adventures*, Bob and his unusual dog encounter all kinds of extra-terrestrial mayhem, but constantly manage to stay on top (and in the dark). Simon is always a big hit in schools and libraries across the UK, enthraling kids (and adults) with his space-themed events.

Other titles: *Bob, the Man on the Moon; Dougal's Deep-Sea Diary; Watch Out for Sprouts; The Alien-Spotter's Handbook; Bob's Best-Ever Friend; Bob & Barry's Lunar Adventures: The Disappearing Moon.*