

MEN

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Twelve men introduce themselves

drawn by

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to men every where



I want to scare children all the time. When I walk past a school, I press my face through the railings and stand there, looking at the children. I wait for them to be afraid. The children are in their school's play ground. They feel safe. They are having fun. I press my face through and stand there and look at the children. I feel calm. I think about cottage pie so that my face remains calm. Cottage pie makes me calm. The mashed potato is very smooth and calming and I think about it while I look at the children's tiny faces. I look at the children and they scream and I am calm and look at them and they cry. I don't blink and I look at them and I don't move and I look at them. I stand there and look at them and wait. I look at them and they cry and I wait and wait. I see them and I wait for someone to come.



When I was a child, I was lonely. I was always alone. I had no friends at all. Nobody spoke to me in a hateful way. At school the other boys kicked me always. While I was queuing up to go into the canteen to eat, boys would sneak up and fly kick me in the back and I would fall onto the ground and sometimes cry. I had no friends at all. I walked home from school very fast and alone. I invented games. One of these games was rubbing my knuckles hard on the carpet and then looking at my knuckles and then rubbing them on the carpet again. Another game was I would sharpen a pencil until there was only a stub left and then I would throw the stub at the wall and scream. I had a favourite game. For my favourite game, I would put a blanket on the ground outside and climb onto the roof. The roof was low, around seven feet. I would jump from the roof onto the blanket. Then I would get on the roof again, and jump down again. I would do this until mother told me to stop. Then I would go inside the house and eat an Argos catalogue and cry.



I had my gender realignment surgery on Valentine's Day 2004. My husband is still with me but the sexual part of our relationship ended the day I started taking the hormones. We both agree that if someone came along that could fulfill his sexual desires, I wouldn't stand in his way. My parents try to understand but they find it difficult. They cry a lot of the time. My mother finds it particularly difficult. My brother has disowned me. He says the next time he sees me I'll be in a box.

I don't think I could live without my husband. I wouldn't want to. My love for him is something immeasurable like a huge moss the size of a forest or a chemical element that's absolutely every where.



I like to comb my hair. I comb it straight back. It looks terrific after I do that. My combed hair looks terrific.

I am a boxer, but please don't punch me. I don't want to be punched. I am a boxer but I don't like mouth guards. Mouth guards make me feel inhuman. I don't like boxing gloves. I don't like energy drinks.

I want my father to comb my hair. When my father combs my hair it feels amazing.

I want my father to comb my hair straight back and tell me I'm doing a good job. I want him to comb my hair until it looks terrific and I want him to say, 'It looks terrific, son', and I will know he is telling the truth. I love my father. I love him. I want to know that he loves me. I want to know that he loves my hair.



I am a paediatrician. I enjoy my job. It makes me feel strong and optimistic to help these kids. Some of the kids tell me I look like the ringmaster of a circus. I whip them, poke them with an upturned chair, and tell them that that's preposterous. Hahaha. Not really. Actually I poke them with a stool. That's a joke as well. In reality, I use a red hot poker to poke the children, and I say the word 'poke' every time it touches their skin. Ha. Yet another joke.

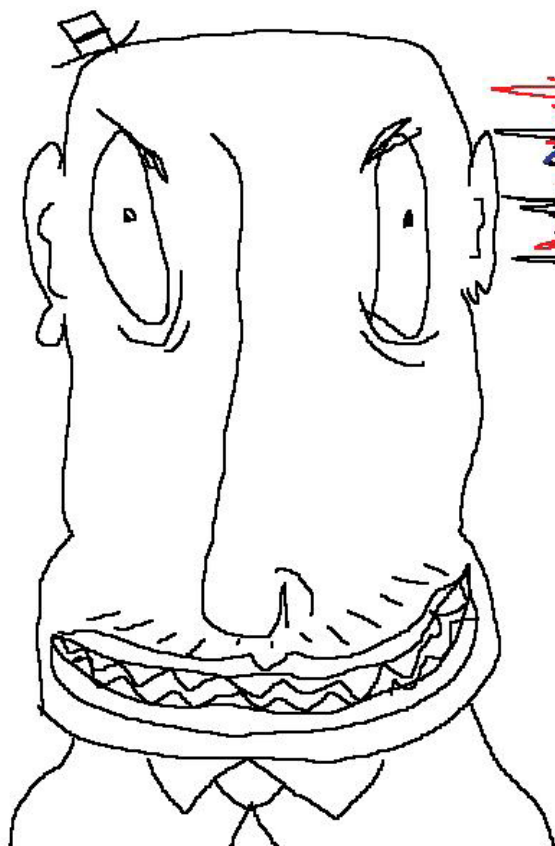
I am in fact a paediatrician, like I said. I want children to be healthy, not covered in welts and burnholes, not fearful of injury, not whimpering in bed, awake from nightmares about ringmasters and clowns terrorising them. Perhaps that is why I told the joke: I thought it would be extra funny with the knowledge that I am, in fact, a paediatrician, and it seems unlikely that a paediatrician would want to hurt a child. It was funny, I think. Right?



My market stall is there on a Wednesday , Friday and Saturday . I sell coats, candles, bits of wire, light bulbs and bowls of fruit. People come and look at my merchandises and I say ‘Don’t bother looking if y ou ain’t got any money ’ and I laugh. They love that.

My light bulbs are lovely : energy - saving, coloured, y ou name it. People come and admire my light bulbs and I stand there and look at them. My coats are premium. ‘Guaranteed to keep y our nips soft’ I always say . That’s another one the customers love. My merchandises are only the highest quality .

Here’s a fact for all y ou consumers out there: I f someone sells y ou sub- premier merchandises, y ou are allowed by law to kick them hard in the shins. This is called y our ‘statutory rights’. No- one’s ever kicked me hard in the shins, I promise y ou. 100%.



I should eat more lozenges so I feel better more of the time. I sit in my flat and I feel bad. When I look out of my window I see magpies and cats and other things. I feel jealous of the magpies and cats. I sit in my flat and wonder if I want to masturbate. I masturbate while looking at pornography and wondering if I am aroused. I ejaculate and then I feel terrible and look at the pictures on the screen and I feel bad and I look out of the window and I can see people in the other flats: I can see a girl punching her teddy bear in the face; I can see a naked man brushing his teeth and dancing. I look at the pictures on the screen and I feel terrible and look at the magpies and cats and the people and I feel really , really awful. Really . I mean it.



My ambition in life is to be a life coach. I think I could help make people's lives better than they are. I have so much knowledge to share. Sometimes I give one of my friends advice and they say 'that's right!' and that is how I know I would be a good life coach.

I know things. I know that sometimes people feel bad and I would tell them they are great and make them feel better. I know that sometimes people can be a little bit selfish and treat other people badly and forget that we are all individuals, each of us. Everyone is an individual and we all have our own hopes and dreams and ambitions: some people want to be a member of the fire brigade, some people want to own a hockey team, some people want to be a famous celebrity. I can help people dream, and I can help them achieve those dreams.



There is nothing I am afraid of. There is nothing I won't eat. I am the Incredible Hulk. I am the ceiling of your bedroom ready to crush you. I am the tallest building in the world, there are lights on my shoulders and head so that helicopters don't crash into me. If a helicopter crashed into me, I bet I wouldn't even notice. I am from the future so I know who wins all the horse races.

I am a beautiful and brilliant black hole and my gravity will stretch you into spaghetti and then you'll be here, inside me, with everyone else. I can see for miles and miles. I am flying straight towards you like a thrown hammer so be very careful. I am a champion. I am a destroyer. I am going to win. Whatever happens, I will win.



I am a fat composer. My opinion is valued by many in the musical community. I am interviewed regularly by newspapers. I was voted 43rd Most Influential Person in Modern Classical Music by Classic FM Magazine.

I write music and I love to eat. Also I am an inventor. I invented a bowl that you can eat. I invented a new kind of chocolate bar that is a little bit bigger than all the other ones. I can eat twenty pieces of sushi in one sitting, easy. I invented an edible bowtie. I invented music that tastes like rice pudding. I wrote a sonata of fried chicken and cheeseburgers. I make jokes about 'drumsticks' often. Some journalists called me 'chubby' in their articles and I wrote an opera about it and it was very very successful indeed.



I am a body builder. I am incredibly muscular. I need to maintain my physique but I cannot afford gym membership. I have several methods of maintaining my physique:

1) I follow short people around the supermarket, staying close. Eventually, the short people need something from the top shelf and ask me to get it for them. At this point I say 'I can go one better' and I lift the short person up to the food. It is a 'win-win situation'.

2) When I wait for the bus, I wait 150 metres from the bus stop. When the bus arrives, I start to sprint. This is excellent for 'cardiovascular', which are the muscles used for movement.

3) When I go up stairs, I let my legs go limp and use my arms to drag myself up. It is incredibly impressive to watch.

I am going to start entering competitions next year. I feel confident. I am so confident it is unreal.



I am a very rich man. I have more money than you could imagine. It is more than one million pounds. It is more than two million pounds. I am so rich that every morning at breakfast I open a new jar of coffee: I pop the foil seal of the coffee with a teaspoon. Throughout the day maybe I will have three or four cups of coffee and then the next day I do it again. I love to pop the foil on the top of jars of coffee.

My house is very big. There is one toilet in my house that I never use. I am very rich. Sometimes I wear a pair of socks less than ten times before I throw them away. I can always buy more socks, I am a very rich man after all. Today I am going to buy lots of envelopes and post them to myself. I can do that sort of thing. I have almost three million pounds.

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