

Barrel Boys  
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FADE IN

1.INT. BANK MANAGER'S OFFICE, LIVESTOCKER BANK. NIGHT

Silence. The bank is small, the safe sitting in the bank manager's office. There's a desk with papers and a frame with a photo of the manager and his family.

Suddenly the photo frame starts to shake. It falls over. There's a crack and the sound of splitting carpet and wood.

The desk and chair begin to move slowly across the room. The safe sinks gracefully through the floorboards, pulling the carpet with it.

Then there's an almighty rip and the safe smashes into the cellar in a cloud of dust. Followed by silence.

2.EXT. FARMYARD. DAY

Two weeks earlier.

It is a beautiful summer's day. We hear a radio news report VO.

RADIO NEWS REPORTER VO

...and in a unusual twist the residents of Bambrooke have signed a village charter vowing not to sell land to supermarket giant Teesman's for a new superstore.

A wooden barrel is lit and flames leap. BARREL MAN hoists it onto his shoulders and starts running. He trips, falls and sends the barrel bouncing across the yard.

It sets some hay bales on fire.

3.EXT. SOMERSET LANES -- CONTINUOUS

GEORGE 'CURLY' KALE drives a very beaten up Landrover down the lanes, crunching the gears.

Curly is short, wiry, weathered, 55ish, hen pecked and shy. He's a sheep farmer; BESSIE, his pet sheep sits in the passenger seat.

They listen to the radio.

RADIO NEWS REPORTER CONT'D VO

In a move that has sent investor confidence plummeting, Philip Montacute, chairman of the National Farmers Union, who lives in the village, has supported the stand and signed the charter, urging other villages to do the same.

4.EXT. BAMBROOKE -- CONTINUOUS

Curly drives into Bambrooke, a large village, with busy shops and a café. He passes The Livestocker Bank. It's very small.

PHILIP MONTACUTE VO

Bambrooke has a thriving high street that supports independent shops selling local produce, Teesman's will be its death knell, tearing the heart from our community.

There are signs outside the Post Office saying 'Save our Post Office - say NO to Teesman's', and another outside the butchers saying 'Save our shops - say NO to Teesman's'.

RADIO NEWS REPORTER CONT'D VO

With a huge land bank of rural sites awaiting expansion, Teesman's is more exposed than most to such campaigns and has seen its share price slump by almost 20 per cent.

Curly passes BOSCOE, the bank manager, walking down the street importantly.

RADIO NEWS REPORTER CONT'D VO

And finally lamb is £2.23 per kilo or £1.01 per pound in old money, the lowest it's been, in real terms, since 1977, I'm sorry to say. That's our look at the markets, in association with Martlett Feeds. Health for your stock, wealth for you.

5.EXT. PETROL STATION -- CONTINUOUS

Curly pulls into an old-fashioned petrol station with a scruffy repair garage attached. The radio is cut to a murmur as he slams the door and helps himself to petrol.

## 6.INT. SPARKY'S GARAGE -- CONTINUOUS

The radio is on in the garage, playing a cheesy ad.

VOICE OVER MAN OS

So feed them Martletts and you could  
win the holiday of a lifetime to Papua  
New Guinea.

(jingle)

Health for your stock, wealth for you.

Legs protrude from beneath a car. Curly pulls on them and SPARKY DEAN slides out, asleep, covered in oil. Curly sniffs alcohol and pulls a face. He sticks £10 in his top pocket and slides him back under.

Sparky is the local chancer; 35ish, good looking and roguish.

## 7.EXT. BILLY'S FIELD -- CONTINUOUS

A tractor sits in a partly ploughed field.

RADIO DJ VO

Welcome back folks. This is Westerly  
Counties FM 103.9, the choice of the  
country and county.

## 8.INT. TRACTOR CAB -- CONTINUOUS

BILLY is on his mobile phone. He's 23, nice looking and reserved. He's very nervous and we hear most of his phone conversation through the radio.

RADIO DJ VO

So let's cheer ourselves up and get  
back to Songs for Lovers, where you  
get to choose you get to schmooze. On  
the line is a mystery caller hellooooo  
Mr Anonymous.

BILLY

Oh am I on? Hello?

RADIO DJ VO

Yes Mr Anony-mooooose, who's the lucky  
lady in your life?

BILLY  
Ummmm, I'd rather not say.

9.EXT. LANES -- CONTINUOUS

Curly's Landrover conks out. He tries the engine a few times but there's just screeching.

RADIO DJ VO  
Oh ho, she's Anony-moose, you're  
Anony-moose. What's your message?  
We'll need an anony-Mountie with all  
these anony-moosees around.

Curly hops out and opens Bessie's door.

CURLY  
C'mon Bess.

They walk off down the lane together.

10.EXT. JIM'S FARMHOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

It's deserted. There are no animals, no farming activity at all.

BILLY VO  
Errrr.

RADIO DJ VO  
Let's have that communiqué for your  
bébé.

11.INT. TRACTOR CAB -- CONTINUOUS

Billy stares out of the cab nervously.

BILLY  
I'd like to tell her that, ummm,  
though she hasn't a clue that I...

Suddenly someone knocks on the window. Billy drops his mobile in shock.

12.INT. SPARKY'S GARAGE -- CONTINUOUS

OS Billy scrabbles for the phone. We hear this on the radio.

JULIE VO  
 Billy Stone, what are you up to?

BILLY VO  
 Oh shit. Oh sorry, bugger, sorry.

RADIO DJ VO  
 Woah Billy Stone! That's not at all  
 what we like to hear on Westerly FM.

Sparky slides out from under the car in hysterics.

13.INT. JIM'S FARMHOUSE -- STUDY -- CONTINUOUS

JIM STEWER slowly packs up his farm. He's a red-faced farmer, 65, normally jolly, but currently depressed.

On his desk is a scary-looking insolvency order from The Livestocker Bank.

There's a photo of Jim and his wife, which is carefully picked up and placed in a box.

JULIE VO  
 What are you up to? Mooning over that  
 Nessie again?

BILLY VO  
 No ma.

On the wall are press cuttings which read "Bambrooke Fights Giant Superstore" and "No One Will Sell to Teesman's Announces Mayor".

RADIO DJ VO  
 Sorry good people, no one likes to  
 hear that sort of cussing on the  
 airwaves.

Jim stares at the cuttings and starts taking them down sadly. He stops, a decision made, and exits.

14.INT. TRACTOR -- CONTINUOUS

Billy switches off the radio. JULIE, his mum, 50ish, smiley and loving, stands on the side.

JULIE

You can't be sitting here on your  
behind calling your fancy women. This  
has got to be done by tonight. Look at  
you Billy Stone, radio on, feet up.

BILLY

Sorry Ma.

JULIE

Yes, well sorry's not going to get the  
field ploughed is it?

BILLY

No ma.

JULIE

And stop mooning so.

BILLY

Am not.

JULIE

Yes you are. Mooning and a mooching. I  
know you Billy Stone and you're  
mooching.

She musses his hair and steps down as Billy starts the tractor.

15.EXT. JIM'S FIELDS -- CONTINUOUS

Curly and Bessie join Jim, who stares out over a gate. Curly pats his friend's arm and they look at the view.

16.EXT. BAMBROOKE -- CONTINUOUS

Barrel Man tries again, runs through the village, crashes straight into a wall, falls over dazed and sets fire to a bench.

17.EXT. BAMBROOKE VILLAGE -- LATER

Jim passes The Burning Barrel pub, looking awkward in a tie and jacket. He steps over some burnt bits of barrel.

## 18.INT. THE LIVESTOCKER BANK -- CONTINUOUS

Jim enters the tiny bank. CHIP and CHIPPER, the village's father and son carpenters stand waiting as does MAGGIE, a very elderly lady.

CHIP  
Village is holding firm hey Jim?

MAGGIE  
Tighter than a boar's ass at fly time.

The three of them stare at her in surprise.

EVE is the cashier. She's quite glam, mid 30s, Anglo-Asian. She waves at Jim from behind the glass.

EVE  
All right Jim? I'll let Mr Boscoe know  
you're here.

(sotto voce)  
Good luck.

Jim's face falls a little. Chip and Chipper stare at him but say nothing.

## 19.EXT. SPARKY'S -- CONTINUOUS

Billy arrives in his old banger and Sparky appears to fill her up.

SPARKY  
Well if it isn't Cassa-bloody-nova.

Billy ignores him and looks in his wallet.

BILLY  
Eight quid Sparky.

Sparky pumps the petrol.

SPARKY  
So the village dark horse is a moose.  
Ohhh that was funny that was. Cracked  
me head on the big end I was laughing  
so much.

Billy pays him. Sparky searches for change.



SPARKY CONT'D

Nessie, Nessie. Can't think of many  
Nessies.

Curly arrives.

SPARKY CONT'D

Ah the human memory machine. All right  
Curly clever clogs. Know any Nessies?

BILLY

Shut up Sparky.

Curly nods at Billy.

BILLY CONT'D

All right?

CURLY

Sparky's working on the Landy.

BILLY

Pretty desperate then.

SPARKY

C'mon on, name me some Nessies.

Billy cleans the windscreen.

CURLY

Nessie Cummings at Old Barton.

SPARKY

Nah, too old.

CURLY

Nessie de la Tour.

SPARKY

Too young.

CURLY

Nessie Givens at The Wheatsheaf.

SPARKY

Too ugly. Even for Billy.

CURLY

Nessie Montacute...ummm...

Sparky grins wickedly.

SPARKY

Oh my saints, how the meek are risen.  
Miss Vanessa Montacute no less.

Billy gets into his car.

BILLY

Get stuffed.

SPARKY

Well his High & Mighty Chairman-ship  
will be pleased to have someone from  
the illustrious house of Stone come a  
wooing. My, my, my.

Billy guns the engine, gives him the brid and drives off.

SPARKY

(to Curly)  
Three thirty.

CURLY

You said one.

SPARKY

It's worse than I thought.

CURLY

What's wrong with it?

SPARKY

It's knackered. Buy a new one.

Curly looks at the ground, pushes a pebble around. He wanders off.

SPARKY CONT'D

Here, Curly, has Boscoe been round to  
see you?

Curly stops, shakes his head.

SPARKY CONT'D

Well keep your garlic and stake handy  
'cos it won't be long.

Sparky spits.

20.EXT. LANES -- LATER

Curly and Bessie walk slowly along the lane as Billy approaches in his car.

BILLY

Wanna lift?

21.INT. BILLY'S CAR -- CONTINUOUS

Bessie is on the back seat. Curly stares out of the window. He doesn't say much.

BILLY

Lovely day.

CURLY

(mild)

Landy's knackered. My best friend is bankrupt. Teesman's want to destroy the village and lamb's at the lowest price for 20 odd year...

Beat.

CURLY CONT'D

...So's I heard on the radio last night.

He gives just a ghost of a smile. Billy says nothing, keeping his eyes on the road.

CURLY CONT'D

Don't worry Billy, don't s'pose someone like her listens to Farmer's Fart FM, hey?

They enter Curly's drive.

ANNIE, Curly's wife, is waiting. There's beauty there somewhere, beneath the exhaustion. She watches sourly from the front door.

Curly's smile fades to regret. He gets out with Bessie.

22.INT. BANK ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

Jim sits, trying not to sound desperate, at a table with Boscoe, who looks disdainful.

BOSCOE

Like it or not Teesman's is the future. The company has given assurances it'll source locally, so suppliers are quite safe.