

Steven Appleby

# Captain Star

Steven Appleby's masterful cartoon chronicling the adventures of Captain Star, First Officer Scarlette, Atomic Engine Stoker 'Limbs' Jones, Navigator Black and the dastardly Captain Planet first appeared as a weekly strip in the *New Musical Express* and has since been published in publications including *The Observer* and Germany's *Die Zeit*. It was



published in book form in England and Germany and went on to become a cult animated TV series starring Richard E. Grant as Star and Adrian Edmondson as Jones.

Appleby's dysfunctional hero Star and the crew of his starship *The Boiling Hell* find themselves in unlikely situations in all corners of the Universe – dining on inedible delicacies at Black's *Atheist Fish Café*, promoting merchandise from the enterprising Jones or, simply, waiting for orders from Mission Control that never arrive.

*"Sheer poetry! Steven Appleby spins an epic saga of men whose touchiness shook the universe, and the women who were indifferent to them..."* - Alan Moore

*Captain Star* is available as a series of full-page spot colour or single colour cartoon episodes. A wealth of material has been developed over the years and can be made available in other forms to suit the needs of publications, such as strip cartoons and spot art. Steven Appleby is one of Britain's most prolific cartoonists. His weekly cartoons in *The Guardian*, his many books and his recent radio series all remind and reassure his audiences that it is the very normality of life that is inexplicably odd and funny.

His work has appeared in numerous newspapers and magazines, including *The Observer*, *Harpers & Queens*, *The Tatler*, *GO*, *Junior*, *Punch*, *The Oldie*, *Erotic Review*, *The New York Times*, *Atlas*, *Primeur*, *ZEITmagazin*, *BZ*, *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, *Eltern*, *The Times*, *Daily Telegraph*, *Sunday Telegraph* and many others.



Appleby has produced thousands of cartoons, more than eighteen books, a radio comedy series and an animated television series.

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Well, crew, that's another planet naming ceremony over.

Planet J. Star 1498... HURRAH!

Congratulations, Captain!

Now, if each planet naming ceremony lasts 27 minutes... or... times 1498... makes 28 days of your life, Captain!

Fascinating, Jones. (YAWN...)

Navigator! Set a course slightly to the right of...

...J. Star 42. Just above J. Star 137 and straight AT J. Star 233 - The Dodging Planet!

Aye aye, Sir!!

BUT... Oh, er, Captain, I seem to have lost those planets!

LOST?! You always were a hopeless Navigator, Black, but this takes the biscuit!

Captain, I've run a check on the missing planets and it seems they haven't disappeared - they've been RE-NAMED!

WHAT?!

They're now called planet M. Clapper 1, M. Clapper 2 and M. Clapper 3.

Hmm... CLAPPER. That name rings a bell.

I've also found six more planet Clappers, Captain. Clapper 4 to 9!?

Precisely. And all nine USED to be named after you!

What can we do, Captain? Do? We'll follow the numerical order, Black, and catch him red-handed!

SOON... Here's M. Clapper 9, Captain, and...

Look! The computer is updating!

M. Clapper 10 Just replaced J. Star 373!

Set a course for M. Clapper 10! The naming ceremony takes 27 minutes and the updating starts at 13...

... giving us Just 14 minutes to catch him, her or it before the ceremony ends!!

THE MINUTES TICK BY... 12... 13... 14... We won't make it in time!

BUT! I don't believe it! The devil's still here!!

MOMENTS LATER: You! Dr Martimo Clapper!! My old tutor at Captain's College!

CAPTAIN STAR!

I ALWAYS hated you Star! Even as a pupil you were better than me! And the college car park was named after you!

Here's your chance, Clapper, to beat me! I suggest we have a competition and the first one of us to find a hitherto undiscovered new planet can name all the others after himself!

AGREED, Star! There's a new one up there. GASP!! INCREDIBLE!

How did you do it, Captain? You weren't even LOOKING that way!!

SIMPLE, Black. We got here AFTER the naming SHOULD have been over, but it wasn't. Therefore, the ceremony clock was running slow.

It was slow because its PENDULUM, swinging west to east, was affected by the gravitational force of a LARGE BODY close by...

Namely, a planet. The degree of east-west swinging distortion gave away its position.

So, it's off to the Coin-Carving Colonies for you, Clapper. Curses, Star!

BACK INSIDE THE BOILING HELL: Now, let's try our original course again, eh, Black! AYE AYE, SIR!