

Steven Appleby

Small Birds Singing

Topiary, conservation and the search for meaning are among the everyday preoccupations of Spandisman Unbelievable and his sisters, Consommé and Delphinium, as they live the life of the landed gentry on their grand country estate. So absurd and yet so very true, Steven Appleby captures the reality of English eccentrics in this classic tale.

Small Birds Singing ran in *The Times* for eight years. Four hundred strips are available for syndication.



Steven Appleby is one of Britain's most prolific cartoonists. From the days when his first cartoon about the dysfunctional sci-fi cult hero *Captain Star* appeared in the *New Musical Express*, through to his weekly cartoons in *The Guardian* today, he has reminded and reassured his readers that it is the very normality of life that is inexplicably odd and funny.

His work has appeared in numerous other newspapers and magazines, including *The Observer*, *Harpers & Queens*, *The Tatler*, *GQ*, *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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Steven Appleby's
**SMALL BIRDS
SINGING**

Life is a puzzle, isn't it, Consommé...

It is indeed, sister.

It's mysteries are beyond my human understanding.

What's bothering you, Delphinium?

Why is my 'bottom' called my bottom?

It's NOT at the bottom of me — it's in the MIDDLE!

Steven Appleby's
**SMALL BIRDS
SINGING**

THE GRAND EASTER EGG HUNT

FELONS FROM THE PENAL HOME AT MUTTERINGTON SPAWNFLAKE ARE DRESSED IN EASTER EGG SUITS AND RELEASED INTO THE GROUNDS FOR THE SPORT OF SPANDISMAN AND HIS GUESTS.

THIS YEAR, AS SO OFTEN IN THE PAST, IT ALL ENDS IN TRAGEDY.

It's tragic that I haven't even bagged ONE easter egg!!

Me neither.

Nor me

Steven Appleby's
**SMALL BIRDS
SINGING**

The architect from the Heritage Fund is here, sir.

Yes indeed, it's a wonderful opportunity. Mr Unbelievable!

It's rare that one gets the chance to peel back the layers of time and restore a house to its original state!

Here's a model of our proposal. As you can see, Small Birds Singing was originally a cluster of wattle and daub huts surrounded by some standing stones.

With running water?

Central heating!

Marvelous! We should be able to get some serious cash from him to do up the old place!

I'm very excited myself.

No point in only going half way.

Quite!

Steven Appleby's
**SMALL BIRDS
SINGING**

What do you think about, Spaceman, up on that wall?

I meditate.

I study the little, infinitesimal details.

I watch the clouds move past outside the window. The days come and go. The seasons change.

I think about my family, who I never see.

And I listen to cricket on this small radio.

RUNS IN PAINT.

HAIR FROM PAINT BRUSH.

SNORT

SPACEMAN THONG, THE LIVING ARTWORK, HAS BEEN PART OF THE SMALL BIRDS SINGING ART COLLECTION FOR OVER TWO YEARS NOW...