

RELATIVE CONFUSION

by
David Goodall

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©David Goodall
93 New Trows Road
Lesmahagow ML11 0ER
01555 894 678
dg@soundsmove.com

MAUREEN walks from the kettle to the dining table with a cup of tea and a newspaper. She meticulously places her accoutrements on the table.

MAUREEN

(to herself) Got my tea, got my crossie. Pen... pen... ah! (She locates the pen under the paper).

She sits, sips her tea and turns her attention to the crossword.

MAUREEN (CONT'D)

"This Soup Queen is a friendly friar who vies for mum's attention" - seven letters. Soup Queen. Soup... Broth. Potage. Chowder. Queen - R? H.R.H. - E.R.? Friar... Ah - 'broth' - E.R. - 'brother'! Very good Maureen - we're on the ball today.

She fills in the answer.

MAUREEN (CONT'D)

Brother! I'd better phone Tommy.

She gets up and collects the phone. It is cordless. She punches in the number and puts the phone to her ear.

MAUREEN (CONT'D)

Eh? Come on. Ring!

She alternately listens and stares at the phone intently; willing it to function.

MAUREEN (CONT'D)

Oh of course!

She presses the 'call' button.

MAUREEN (CONT'D)

For goodness' sake Maureen - you've a degree in Maths - you SHOULD be able to make a telephone call.

TOMMY (O.C.)

I agree.

MAUREEN

What?

TOMMY (O.C.)

But it's polite to wait till the other person answers before you start the conversation.

MAUREEN

Oh Tommy, I didn't hear you answer.

TOMMY

You having problems with that phone again?

MAUREEN

I just keep forgetting to press the button before it'll dial.

TOMMY

So did you call me to tell me you were having problems calling me? Or was there something else?

MAUREEN

Have you heard from our Francis?

TOMMY

(shifty) No. How?

MAUREEN

Nothing. I just thought he might have called - or got the kids to call. You know - today.

TOMMY

How? What's today? - Oh aye! Happy Birthday.

MAUREEN

(dry) Thanks. So have you heard from Francis, or Maria?

TOMMY

Eh... No - they haven't called me. Here - maybe they'll call you later. You know - with the time difference.

MAUREEN

Time difference? It's half-past eight at night over there. Wee Molly is in bed by nine.

TOMMY

Aye well, I don't know. Maybe they're planning to give you a birthday surprise or something.

MAUREEN

A surprise? Like not phoning me?

TOMMY

I'm just saying - maybe they're going to pretend they've forgotten your birthday, but really they're maybe coming over.

MAUREEN

What?!

TOMMY

Or something. Maybe. I don't know.

MAUREEN

They HAVE phoned you!

TOMMY

You didn't hear it from me. Look I'll be round later. I've got to go. Stick a bit paper on the phone that says 'press button'. Bye. (He hangs up)

MAUREEN

Press button?

She looks at the phone as she replaces it in the cradle.

CUT TO:

2

INT. TOMMY'S LIVING ROOM - MORNING

2

The phone goes into its cradle.

TOMMY

Sisters. You can pick your friends; you can pick your nose; but you can't pick your family.

ENGINEER

(Popping up from behind the TV)
Sorry mate - I didn't hear you.

TOMMY

I was talking about picking your nose. I -

ENGINEER

Go ahead mate. Doesn't bother me.

TOMMY

Eh? No - I meant -

ENGINEER

That's me done.

TOMMY

You're done?

ENGINEER

I'm done.

TOMMY

Already?

ENGINEER

Already. It's a piece of cake.

TOMMY

Oh here, that's great. So I'm digital?

ENGINEER

Welcome to the world of pixels.

TOMMY

Pixies?

ENGINEER

You're digital. Right - here's your remote. You want the guide - press 'Guide'. Then your scroll buttons will take you up or down the guide. See what it is you're after - 'Select' and there you are. Piece of cake.

TOMMY

Right - so the TV guide, the scrollers, and I select what I want.

ENGINEER

You want me to go through it again? Just if you didn't follow it.

TOMMY

Forty years as a Marine Engineer, pal. I think I can follow how to use a remote control.

ENGINEER

OK mate - just saying if you want, I can run through it again. But it is really straightforward. Piece of cake.

TOMMY

No it's fine. What's it on the now?

ENGINEER

Eh, that's BBC 1.

TOMMY

Digital BBC, eh?

ENGINEER

Eh, no - just BBC 1, mate. (He switches off the TV with the remote and hands it over) Right - that's me off. I'll see myself out.

TOMMY

Right you are. (Looks at the remote) Cup of tea, a wee biscuit and I'm ready for my digital world.

CUT TO:

3

EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE - MORNING

3

JACK exits the store. He is holding a plastic bag. He walks up the street and into the park, stops at a bench and puts down the bag. He goes through a ritual of taking out his mobile phone, setting it on the bench, his glasses case he opens. Takes out his glasses and puts the case on the bench. He puts on his glasses and picks up the phone. Coughs in preparation, examines the keypad and slowly, deliberately, he dials. He uses a pencil to press the buttons, and when he makes a mistake, he starts again. He listens to the ringing, then the phone is picked up.

JACK

Maureen?

MAUREEN (O.C.)

'Press Button'

The phone goes dead.

JACK

(Looking accusingly at the phone)
Eh?

CUT TO:

4

INT. TOMMY'S LIVING ROOM - MORNING

4

TOMMY comes into the room, armed with teacup and a plate of biscuits. During his song, he sets everything out in anticipation of his morning's entertainment.

TOMMY

(singing to the tune of 'can you hear the Rangers sing?') Hey there pal, are you digital? I am, I am. What, you're not? What a silly sod! Cos I am. I am! (He settles down, aims the remote) Digital here we come. (As he presses the button, he says) Blast off. (The TV comes to life) What's this? Some car boot sale rubbish. Right - over we go. Let's try BBC 2. Now, let's see...(he gets his reading glasses, presses '2', then checks the TV. He can't make out the writing, and so swaps glasses for a long-range pair)

POV OF REMOTE/TV PULLING FOCUS ON EACH

TOMMY (CONT'D)

Hee haw. Think Tommy: it's digital telly - so... So what? Right - logic! I'm one BBC ONE, so two is higher, so I press this button (he presses the 'up' scroll arrow) and go UP. UP! (As he speaks - he presses buttons) Oh come on. (he returns to the numeric pad) And...two! Two! TWO! (He peers at the screen) 'Channel unavailable' You'd think they'd get all that ready before they start selling the stuff. (He has both pairs of glasses on his forehead) Aye well, Car Boot Arseholes it is.

CUT TO:

5 INT. MAUREEN'S HALLWAY - MORNING

5

The doorbell is ringing.

MAUREEN

All right, all right. I'm coming. (As she opens the door) Keep your hair on. (JACK is at the door)

JACK

Nice to see you too. (Handing over the bag) Happy Birthday.

MAUREEN

Oh Jack, thank you. What's this?
Ooh - cakes. I'll get the kettle
on.

JACK closes the door and follows her through.

CUT TO:

6

INT. MAUREEN'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

6

Maureen gets out plates and cups.

JACK

Are you trying to scare double-
glazing salesmen on the phone?

MAUREEN

What are you on about?

JACK

Four times I've called you, and
four times you've answered and
then hung up as soon as I speak.

MAUREEN

Was that you?

JACK

You kept telling me to press my
button.

MAUREEN

I thought it was a prank caller.
It's that phone - I don't see why
they can't make it the same for
making a call and getting a call:
you press the button when YOU
call someone, but if THEY call
YOU; you DON'T press the button,
or you cut them off.

JACK

So I noticed.

MAUREEN

Oh I know. Sorry Jack. Sometimes
I get it right, but if I'm in a
hurry, or distracted; I ALWAYS
seem to do the wrong thing.

I was phoning to tell you not to
eat too much because I had cake.
And not to make plans today
because of your birthday
surprise.

MAUREEN (CONT'D)

My surprise? TODAY?!! Oh my God - I've nothing ready. The spare rooms aren't made up. I mean really - all the way from Australia, a wee bit notice would have been nice.

JACK

Calm down. I take it you've been speaking to our Tommy?

MAUREEN

Yes - he told me about Francis coming over.

JACK

I don't see why they bother with the news. Just tell Tommy what's going on and you can guarantee everyone will find out in no time. Get the kettle on (checks his watch) - the town crier should be here in about half an hour.

DISSOLVE TO:

7 INT. MAUREEN'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

7

JACK, MAUREEN and TOMMY are coming in.

TOMMY

All I'm saying is: it's not my fault - she got it out of me.

JACK

Got it out of you? She's your sister - no the CIA. Right - Maureen - sit down. Tommy?

TOMMY

Eh? Oh, aye. (He produces a package). Happy Birthday.

MAUREEN

What's this? (Opening it) A CD?

TOMMY

No it's no. It's a DVD. I made it on my computer.

JACK

We took the film of Tommy's birthday, mind?

TOMMY

You were desperate for the kids to see what the three of us were up to?

JACK

So we took the film down to the photo place, and they put it onto a disk

TOMMY

A CD-ROM we call it.

JACK

Aye, but Tommy said that wouldn't play on anything you've got, so -

TOMMY

So I took the CD-ROM, put it into my computer, what you do is -

JACK

He made you a DVD of the photos.

TOMMY

'Burned' a DVD. We call it 'burning'.

JACK

Oh 'we' call it? Next time your having tea with Bill Gates, tell him I said hello.

MAUREEN

What's all this about?

JACK

Get your coat.

CUT TO:

8

EXT. MAUREEN'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

8

The car pulls out. JACK, and TOMMY sit in front, MAUREEN is in the back.

TOMMY (V.O.)

With the photos on a DVD, you can show them on your telly.

MAUREEN

My TV doesn't play DVDs. It's video tapes I've got.

TOMMY

THAT's the surprise.

SAT NAV

In three hundred yards: turn left.

JACK

Shut up.

DISSOLVE TO:

9 EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

9

The car travels.

JACK

The idea was - before Tommy's World Service decided to broadcast to the nation - that we'd get you today's surprise, and then when the BIG surprise happened, and the kids came over, you'd be all set up to play them the photos as well.

SAT NAV

You have missed the junction. In half a mile: take the second exit...

DISSOLVE TO:

10 EXT. ROAD - CONTINUOUS

10

SAT NAV

You have missed the junction...

MAUREEN

(over the SAT NAV) What on earth is that?

JACK

It's Satellite Navigation. Our Laura put it in for me.

MAUREEN

That's great. Are you not meant to go where it tells you?

JACK

Aye, except she set it for me for a trip to the Lake District, and I've never managed to get it to change. Or to shut up.

TOMMY

Aye well - it's someone to talk to, eh? And next time you go to the Lakes - you're sorted!

JACK

It's as confusing as that bloody digital TV.

TOMMY

Och, that's not confusing. You'll see when we put Maureen's in.

MAUREEN

I'm getting a digital TV?

JACK

And there goes surprise number two.

CUT TO:

11 EXT. CAR PARK - LATER

11

The car pulls up to park.

TOMMY

Sorry Jack, I couldn't help it.

JACK

Yes, I could see Maureen use her powers of interrogation there, right enough.

SAT NAV

At junction signposted
'Edinburgh'...

ALL

Shut up!

The engine is switched off.

CUT TO:

12 INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

12

JACK is in the driving seat.

JACK

Aye - we're going to get you a digital TV.

MAUREEN

But boys - that's... Oh I don't know what to say.

(MORE)

MAUREEN (CONT'D)

I've been awfully worried about this digital changeover they keep talking about, and I've been meaning to get some advice.

TOMMY

Advice? It's simple. I had it done this morning. Piece of cake.

MAUREEN

Well for you maybe. I hunted high and low and eventually found some numbers to contact.

CUT TO:

13 EXT. CAR PARK - CONTINUOUS

13

They are getting out of the car and moving off.

MAUREEN

I spoke to someone to see if I could get help. Do you know what they said?

JACK

"Why do you keep saying 'press button' then hanging up?"

MAUREEN

They said I wasn't old enough to get the help!

TOMMY

Eh? How old do you have to be?

MAUREEN

Seventy-five.

JACK

That's ridiculous.

TOMMY

I could have had that - but I didn't need it.

MAUREEN

You never did it all yourself?

JACK

No he got a boy in from the shop.

TOMMY

Aye, but I watched him, and right enough - like he said: piece of cake.

CUT TO:

14 INT. ELECTRICAL STORE - MOMENTS LATER

14

The door opens and they come into the shop.

MAUREEN

Oh boys - this is fantastic. I'm really grateful to the pair of you. My goodness - there's a lot to choose from.

A SALESMAN intervenes.

SALESMAN

OK folks. Are you interested in something in particular?

TOMMY

Digital TV.

SALESMAN

A digital TV, eh? How much were you thinking of spending?

MAUREEN

I don't know - the boys here would -

SALESMAN

Ah - leave it to the men eh? So what are we looking at gents? Our LCD screens go up to 42 inches - you might no need that, but you'll want something around the 37 mark. HD ready I assume. We've got a good, budget model at 499 - but if you're looking for quality - plasma is the thing for you.

JACK

We don't want a TV, and we don't want to spend five hundred pounds.

SALESMAN

But you said -

TOMMY

Digital TV - no A digital TV. Here look at that - forty quid!

SALESMAN

Ah.

CUT TO:

15 INT. ELECTRICAL STORE - LATER

15

The SALESMAN is running through options. When we switch to MAUREEN'S, JACK'S and TOMMY'S POV, all we hear is gibberish with the occasional, recognisable word like 'TV' thrown in. At the end we clearly hear 'nineteen ninety-nine'.

SALESMAN

This STB is your basic version, there's no PVR, but with what's available on digital TV, that shouldn't present too much of a problem - it comes with the basic Freeview set of channels and also has facilities for top-up TV. It comes with a seven day EPG, RF input and scart socket to go to your TV. It also has digital coax as well as straight A/V connections. All that and it's on sale for nineteen ninety-nine.

JACK

We'll take it.

CUT TO:

16 INT. ELECTRICAL STORE - LATER

16

They are at the till.

TOMMY

Here son, is there a scratch lead in the box?

CUT TO:

17 INT. MAUREEN'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

17

The floor is littered with bits of paper, cellophane and cables. The television is out from the wall. TOMMY is behind the TV, JACK is sitting in an armchair. MAUREEN has the manual.

JACK

Very good Tommy. Is this scratch lead good if you've got an itchy backside?

TOMMY
Well, scratch, scrap - it's the
same thing.

JACK
Scart!

MAUREEN
Scart!

TOMMY (CONT'D)
Here - there's no socket for the
scart lead on your telly.

CUT TO:

18 INT. ELECTRICAL STORE - AFTERNOON 18
The SALESMAN is behind the counter.

JACK
The TV doesn't have the scart,
son. We'll need a normal cable.

TOMMY
Can we swap?

CUT TO:

19 INT. MAUREEN'S LIVING ROOM - LATER 19
As before.

MAUREEN
There's nothing in the manual
about recording programmes or
playing DVDs.

TOMMY
Mine records programmes AND plays
DVDs.

JACK
Is it the same machine?

TOMMY
I don't know - are there
different ones?

JACK
How much was yours?

TOMMY
A hundred and twenty quid.

CUT TO:

20 INT. ELECTRICAL STORE - LATER 20

SALESMAN
That'll be one hundred and
seventy-five pounds please.

CUT TO:

21 INT. MAUREEN'S LIVING ROOM - LATER 21

TOMMY
Here, you're not going to believe
this - you know that scratch lead
we took back?

CUT TO:

22 INT. ELECTRICAL STORE - LATER 22

JACK
(getting the scart) I feel really
stupid.

SALESMAN
I wouldn't worry about it - it
happens to a lot of folk. One
person took a taxi, cos she
thought the gear was broken, and
she'd have to return everything.

JACK
Aye well - it's confusing right
enough.

SALESMAN
You'll get it in no time. Piece
of cake!

CUT TO:

23 INT. MAUREEN'S LIVING ROOM - LATER 23

Maureen comes in with tea. There are more boxes, more
wrappers and more bits of paper.

MAUREEN
Tea's up.

JACK
(Getting up) Jeez - my knees!
You'd think there was an easier
way of doing this.

TOMMY

This is a nightmare. I don't have a clue what goes where. The manual's no use - it's like it was translated from Japanese to English by someone who doesn't speak Japanese OR English.

JACK

I thought your wee engineer had it all figured out? Did he move in with you to set it up?

TOMMY

No - he made it all seem dead easy.

MAUREEN

(Offering) Piece of cake?

FADE TO:

24 INT. MAUREEN'S LIVING ROOM - LATER 24

We follow the debris trail to the sight of the three, standing, remote at the ready.

TOMMY

Three, two, one - GO!! (Pause)

MAUREEN

I'll get the manual.

FADE TO:

25 INT. MAUREEN'S LIVING ROOM - LATER 25

TOMMY

Three, two, one - GO!!

CUT TO:

26 INT. MAUREEN'S LIVING ROOM - LATER 26

TOMMY

Go!

We go through several of these in gradually degenerating stages from enthusiasm to resignation.

CUT TO:

27 INT. MAUREEN'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

27

MAUREEN

Och, we can look at it tomorrow.

They turn away and the TV springs into life.

JACK

What did you press?

TOMMY

Eh? Me? I didn't touch it.

JACK

You've got the remote. What did you press?

TOMMY

This wee red button.

JACK

Aye - the 'on' button. But you've been pressing that all along.

Silence

JACK (CONT'D)

Tommy?

TOMMY

Well, they're always on about the red button - you know? For your whatever they call it - international or something.

MAUREEN

Interactive

TOMMY

Aye - that. Well that's the red button. We wanted to select a programme - so I was pressing select.

JACK

Instead of the 'on' button.

TOMMY

Well why would they have a button that does two - oh - here's another red button.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

28 INT. MAUREEN'S KITCHEN - MORNING

28

Maureen is on the phone.

MAUREEN

....And It's been fine. Oh thanks again, Tommy. I love it. I've had the photos on it and it's great -

TOMMY (O.C.)

You've used the DVD?

MAUREEN

Yes, the wee lad across the road comes in to help. Och he knows all about it.

TOMMY

Aye well - I was phoning to tell you - there's a programme about Forgan Denny tonight.

MAUREEN

Really? Oh Francis would love to see that - he'd be able to show Maria and the kids where he was brought up.

TOMMY

That's what I thought, and I was phoning to tell you to record it. I was going to help you, but you've got your wee laddie. Nice to have the staff.

MAUREEN

But he's away this week! Och I'll put it on a video tape. Where did you put my recorder when we got the digital boxes?

TOMMY

Aye, well...

CUT TO:

29 EXT. PARK - LATER

29

TOMMY and JACK are hurrying along.

JACK

You threw it out?

TOMMY

Aye well, I thought she'd no need it. With the new gear and all.

JACK

But what about her videos? She's got stacks of them.

TOMMY

I thought they might fit in the new recorder.

JACK

Where?

TOMMY

Aye well, that was the problem. I burst the end off one of her tapes trying to fit it in.

JACK

In where?

TOMMY

In the new digibox. There was a wee gap - you know? Like a...never mind - it wasn't for tapes. What do you think she'll say?

CUT TO:

30 INT. MAUREEN'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

30

TOMMY gets the wrath of MAUREEN.

MAUREEN

Are you mad? You threw it out? What do I do now? I want to tape that programme tonight.

JACK

They'll probably -

MAUREEN

And don't say it'll be repeated. Francis gets in tomorrow and I want to have everything ready.

JACK

Just use your new recorder. We can think of what to do with all your old tapes another day.

MAUREEN

I don't know HOW to record.

JACK

But you've had it for ages now.

MAUREEN

I know - I can do some of the telly stuff fine: use my programme guide; change channels. But I've not had time to sit down and learn how to do EVERYTHING. There's a lot of new things to cope with.

JACK

I suppose we could see if -

TOMMY

I'll show you.

JACK

Eh?

Eh?

MAUREEN

TOMMY (CONT'D)

I've done recordings with mine. I'll show you.

JACK

How could you do recordings? You thought you only got BBC 1 with digital.

TOMMY

Aye well - my old telly, you just pressed 2 for BBC 2, 4 for Channel 4, you know.

MAUREEN

Tommy's right. Pressing a hundred and three for STV - that's daft. There's no even a hundred channels there.

JACK

Never mind - show us what to do, Einstein.

TOMMY

I'll get the telly on - you get the kettle on.

DISSOLVE TO:

31 INT. MAUREEN'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

31

TOMMY is staring blankly at the screen.

TOMMY

I don't understand - this is totally different from mine.

JACK

Well, it's a different box, isn't it?

TOMMY

No it isn't! They're both digital boxes: I don't see why they don't work the same way, when they're doing the same thing.

MAUREEN

We're no beaten - I'll get the manual.

TOMMY

Hold on - I've been through this before. Maureen - get the manual. Jack - get your reading glasses. This is a team effort.

DISSOLVE TO:

32 INT. MAUREEN'S LIVING ROOM - LATER 32
MONTAGE of short scenes.

TOMMY

(reading manual) press 'start'

MAUREEN

There's nothing here says 'start'

CUT TO:

33 INT. MAUREEN'S LIVING ROOM - LATER 33

JACK

(reading manual) That's what it says.

TOMMY

What's a 'PDC'?

CUT TO:

34 INT. MAUREEN'S LIVING ROOM - LATER 34

MAUREEN

Well press it then!

JACK

I'm pressing it!

CUT TO:

35 INT. MAUREEN'S LIVING ROOM - LATER 35

JACK has the manual, TOMMY has the remote and MAUREEN is watching the screen. We dumb show success and setback.

JUMP CUT TO:

36 INT. MAUREEN'S LIVING ROOM - LATER 36

TOMMY has the manual, MAUREEN has the remote and is pointing furiously, JACK is gesturing hopelessly at the screen.

JUMP CUT TO:

37 INT. MAUREEN'S LIVING ROOM - LATER 37

All three are gathered round the manual, pointing variously at the screen and the manual.

DISSOLVE TO:

38 INT. MAUREEN'S LIVING ROOM - LATER 38

TOMMY is at the TV, JACK is sitting with the remote and MAUREEN has the manual. They proceed like a military unit.

MAUREEN

Go left.

JACK

Going left.

TOMMY

Got it.

MAUREEN

Press 'select'.

JACK

Pressing 'select'.

TOMMY

That's you.

MAUREEN

Go down.

JACK

Going down.

TOMMY

You're down.

MAUREEN
Press 'select'

JACK
Pressing 'select'.

TOMMY
Ya dancer! Like the 'A' Team.

JACK
Aye, 'A' for Ars -

MAUREEN
Piece of cake?

FADE TO:

39 INT. MAUREEN'S HALLWAY - EVENING 39

The doorbell rings and MAUREEN crosses through shot.

CUT TO:

40 INT. MAUREEN'S HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS 40

MAUREEN'S POV as the door opens and her family and grandchildren are at the door.

MAUREEN
Oh my! Francis, MOLLY!
Hugs all round.

FADE TO BLACK.

41 INT. MAUREEN'S LIVING ROOM - LATER 41

After the credits. MAUREEN has the remote.

MAUREEN
Wait till you see what your
uncles and I have done.

She presses the remote. Waits. Looks at the remote, then the TV.

BLACKOUT.

MAUREEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Oh balls!