
THE MANAGER

by Robin Vaughan-Williams



ROBIN VAUGHAN-WILLIAMS ran *Spoken Words Antics* in Sheffield for five years, presented the Antics radio show on Sheffield Live, and organised a series of site-specific sound and poetry collage-performances. He has had many managers, and many jobs, from touting open-top tours on the streets of London to teaching and developing community health and well-being projects. After studying Russian in Edinburgh, he went on to write a PhD on the philosopher Mikhail Bakhtin and his milieu in the 1920s.

The Manager is its own mission statement. Centred on a personage most people will recognise, it moves from the familiar to the surreal. The sequence is grim, funny, wayward, moving and (in the end) hopeful. A must for those at the mercy of managers and, of course, for managers themselves.

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MANAGER #10
Fired!

The manager looks at me.
He says it's time I went.
They won't be needing me any more.

I don't understand.
I want to know why.
But he says some things are better left unsaid.

I tell him I don't want to go.
I've put so much into this job already.
I've been ill, my nose has been running constantly.
I never asked for any sympathy.
Didn't pull a sickie.

Doesn't he realise how vulnerable I am?
I'm a sensitive person.
'I'm a poet,' I say.
'You can't fire me,
I'll put you in a poem.'

'Not a very well known poet,' he says
and fires me anyway.
Some day I will have my revenge.

