

**THE ARCHIVISTS by James Cary**

FX: DOOR CREAKS OPEN

JOURNO: Hello? Is this BBC Archives?

STEVE: [BORED] Yeah?

JOURNO: I called earlier about that news piece on Syria from last month?

STEVE: Oh yeah. That one with Jeremy Bowen in the kaftan.

JOURNO: That's it. And that Gavin Esler interview. Do you have them?

STEVE: Na.

JOURNO: [ANNOYED] Right. Okay. Er, why?

STEVE: Well, we tend not to tape the news anymore. No offence but it is pretty same-y.

JOURNO: The News? 'Same-y'?

STEVE: Middle East. Poverty. Health scares. The odd bit of freak weather.

JOURNO: But aren't you meant to record everything?

STEVE: In theory, obviously. But there's always that bit where you take one tape out and put another one in. Bill's got it down to nine seconds, haven't you, Bill?

BILL: [ENTERS] Yep. But that doesn't include taking off the cellophane. That can be tricky.

STEVE: And sometimes we wanna tape something on the other side.

BILL: We're suckers for those Top 50 programmes on Channel 4.

STEVE: Clashed with Strictly Come Dancing, so we 'aven't got that either.

BILL: No great loss.

JOURNO: So you don't have that award-winning interview with the head of Hizbullah by Gavin Esler?

STEVE: Lost.

JOURNO: You've lost it?

BILL: No, we were taping Lost.

JOURNO: I can't believe this. We're missing months of Huw Edwards, Jeremy Paxman, Fiona Bruce...

STEVE: Oh no...

BOTH: We always tape Fiona Bruce.

BILL: And I bet you Gavin Esler's got a copy of that interview.

STEVE: Gav tapes everything he does, 'cos, you know, he's not on that much.

JOURNO: R-right. I'm just amazed you don't have a special machine that tapes everything automatically.

BILL: We do. But we don't know how to use it. It's very fiddly.

STEVE: Only Andy can work it. He's my son. And he's just started primary school, so he can only do the holidays.

JOURNO: [SIGHS] Right.

BILL: We've got some Martin Bashir. But the quality's a bit dodgy. We do his stuff on Long Play, cos, you know...

JOURNO: No, it's fine thanks. I'll be back ... if I need a copy of Lost...

STEVE: Alright, then. Cheers.

BILL: Right, we need to set the video for the weekend.

STEVE: It's the Prince William's first Trooping of the Colour.

BILL: Or?

STEVE: The last ever OC?

BILL: No contest...