
Copyright Channel X North/Lola Entertainment
Unit 10, 7 Wenlock Road
LONDON
N1 7SL

Telephone: +44 (0)20 3394 0394

Distant bird song: YELLOWHAMMER.
Andy and Lance are detecting a few metres apart.
Andy gets a signal and digs a plug of soil out of the ground.

LANCE
What you got?

Andy pulls something from the hole and scrapes off the dirt.

ANDY
Matchbox car... Chevrolet Corvette.

He considers this for a minute.

ANDY
How in god's name does that get out
into the middle of a field in Essex?

LANCE
Dunno.

ANDY
I mean, who's been playing with cars
out here?

LANCE
Dunno.

ANDY
You know? A Roman coin I can
understand, but a Chevy Corvette?
Doesn't make any sense.

A pause as they continue detecting.

LANCE
Did you hear about old Bob Cromer?

ANDY
What about him?

LANCE
Dead mate.

ANDY
Shut up!

LANCE
Struck by lightning.

ANDY
No!

LANCE
That's the third in the last year.
Greg Peters, Janet Horwell and now
Bob. You know why don't you?

ANDY
Why?

Lance gets an interesting signal and starts to dig.

LANCE
Because the best finds always show
up just before a thunderstorm.
Suddenly you've left it too late and
you're the highest point on the
landscape. All three were running
when they were struck.

ANDY
What a way to go.

Lance retrieves something from the hole and wipes the dirt
from it.

ANDY
What you got?

LANCE
Pontiac Firebird.

Titles:

DETECTORISTS

202 EXT. BISHOP'S FARM 'HOME FIELD' - DAY

202

Lance and Andy are eating their sandwiches sitting next to a
hedgerow.

Lance pours out black coffee from a flask and offers it to
Andy.

LANCE
Cup of 'Good Morning America'?

ANDY
No thanks.

Lance sips the coffee.

LANCE
"That is a *damn* fine cup of coffee!"
What's.....?

ANDY
(interrupting)
Twin Peaks.

Lance nods. Pause.

LANCE
So I was thinking of getting the
band back to together.

*

ANDY
What band?

LANCE
You and me.

ANDY
Were we in a band?

LANCE
Yes! We jammed a few times.

ANDY
I only remember once, round your
flat trying to do 'Wonderwall' and
you couldn't reach the high notes.

LANCE

LANCE
Ok, come round before we head over
to the club on Tuesday and I'll play
it to you.

V.O.
Hey there!

They look up as they hear a distant shout from across the field.

LANCE
Who's this?

They squint towards two figures coming across the field.

ANDY
Looks like Simon and Garfunkel.

The two approaching figures, one tall and blonde, the other small and dark, do indeed resemble the folk duo, except they are carrying metal detectors instead of guitars.

We may as well call them PAUL & ART.

Art is carrying a folder under his arm.
The pair storm up and stop in front of them, slightly out of breath.

ART
Hello there.

LANCE
Watcha.

ART
How are we?

Lance and Andy look at each other, unsure how to answer.

Eventually:

ANDY
Feeling groovy?

Andy and Lance touch fists.

ART
Good, good. . . .
Lovely day.

LANCE
Isn't it.

Short pause as they look at the lovely day.

Detectorists - Episode 2 - 4A.

LANCE

Haven't seen one of them for a few years.

ART

The Arado? Yes, very rare these days, but there's a few still out there if you know where to look.

LANCE

Antique shops?

ART

They're certainly classics. You've gone for the CTX I see. *

LANCE

It's a good machine.

ART

A bit flashy for me. *

LANCE

Yeah. Not really your style. *

ART

Do you have permission to detect on this land?

LANCE

Indeed we do. Do you?

PAUL

Who from?

LANCE

Not telling you.

Immature. ART

Are you? LANCE

No you are. ART

We got there first. ANDY

There's nothing to stop us getting permission from the landowner. PAUL

Farmer Bishop said we have exclusive rights. Fifty fifty. ANDY

Art indicates the file under his arm.

Well we shall have to see if we can make Farmer Bishop a more attractive proposition. ART

Who are you? A Bond Villain? ANDY

We have done extensive research. I assume you've done the same? ART

Of course. LANCE

Yep. ANDY

We shall see... ART

Mr Bond. ANDY

Art rubs a watery eye.

Oh god sorry. We didn't mean to make you cry. LANCE

It's hayfever. ART

Please don't cry mate. I feel awful. LANCE

Simon and Garfunkel start to leave the way they came.

ART
It's hayfever, I forgot to take an
antihistamine.

LANCE
Do you want to borrow my hanky?

ART
I'm not crying.

Andy and Lance watch them go for a long beat.

Eventually Lance shouts out:

LANCE
Please don't cry!

They don't respond.

LANCE
That doesn't bode at all well. What
was in the file? They know there's
something here.

ANDY
We need to see Bishop, tell him not
to grant anyone else permission.

Lance looks at his watch.

LANCE
Yeah. Can you pop in and see him on
the way back? I said I'd help Maggie
in the shop.

ANDY
What?! When will you learn to say
'no'?

LANCE
I don't want to say 'no', I like
helping her.

ANDY
Alright, I'll go and see him. But
remember I don't have any of your
charm and charisma.

LANCE
Do your best.

203 EXT. BISHOP'S FARM, FARMHOUSE - DAY

203

Andy approaches Bishop's run down farmhouse and knocks at
the door.

Immediately a commotion starts inside with shouting and furniture being toppled. As in episode one, we never see or hear the dogs he is apparently yelling at.

BI SHOP (V. O.)
QUIET! For god's sake! Idiot
animals! Get Down!

Eventually the door opens and Bishop steps out. *

BI SHOP
Yes?

ANDY
Hello Mr. Bishop it's me. I came with
my friend to ask about detecting on
your land.

BI SHOP
Ah yes! The metal detectors!

ANDY
Detectorist.

BI SHOP
Have you found something?

ANDY
Not yet Mr. Bishop...

BI SHOP
Larry. *

ANDY
Not yet Larry but we were wondering
whether you'd mind not giving
permission to anyone else to search
your land? *

BI SHOP
Right.

ANDY
It's just that there's a contingency
of *rogue* detectorists out there...

BI SHOP
Rogues?

ANDY
Yep, 'treasure hunters'.
(pause)
Nighthawks.

BI SHOP
Nigh ha k ?

ANDY

Detectorists who have quite literally turned to the dark side of the force. They come under the cover of night and rob important sites of their artefacts.

BISHOP

Good God!

ANDY

I know. Despicable.

BISHOP

Tell you what I remembered after you'd gone. There were some things ploughed up years ago that you might be interested in.

ANDY

What sort of things?

BISHOP

Well, I don't know, trinkets, looked like costume jewelry to me.

ANDY

What happened to them?

BISHOP

They'll be around somewhere. God knows where. I offered them to Justine but she thought they were ugly.

ANDY

Is that your wife?

Bishop spins around in panic.

BISHOP

Where?

ANDY

No! You just mentioned a Justine, I wondered whether Justine was your wife?

Bishop's eyes have glazed over. He is brooding, breathing heavily.

BISHOP

Justine isn't here.

He looks around again. He's in a different world. Andy watches uncomfortably. Bishop looks down and stares intensely at the ground. He eventually bends down to pick up a large stick. Calls out:

BI SHOP

Come on then! Where are you?
Stop chasing those rabbits, you'll
never catch them you great, fat,
unhealthy creatures.

He throws the stick which stays where it lands. He watches the stick, chuckling to himself. He is himself again. He turns back to Andy.

BI SHOP

Quite mad!

ANDY

Yep... insane.

BI SHOP

Well, cheerio then, I'll keep my
eyes peeled for those things.

Bi shop turns and walks off, swinging a dog leash. Andy watches him go.

204 I/E. NEW AGE SHOP - DAY

204

Lance is helping Maggie carry some large boxes from a van into the shop.

MAGGIE

Oh that's lovely Lance! How
exciting!

LANCE

Well, I thought, 'nothing to lose'.

MAGGIE

I always said you should do
something with your music didn't I?

LANCE

You did.

MAGGIE

I used to love it when you played
your mandolin. Reminded me of
Kermit.

LANCE

Kermit plays the banjo.

MAGGIE

How exciting though!

LANCE

You think you can come?

MAGGIE

Definitely.

They deposit the last of the boxes in the shop. Lance reads the label on one of them.

LANCE

What is all of this? It says on the box, 'Mixed Spiritual'.

MAGGIE

Yeah it's spiritual stuff. Mixed. Tarot cards, dream-catchers, resin dragons. There's this massive warehouse out by Stansted. You buy it by the weight. It's cheap but you don't know what you're going to get.

LANCE

A spiritual lucky dip.

MAGGIE

Kind of yeah.

Tony appears from the back room, hair messy and wearing a grubby dressing gown.

TONY

Oh hello Lance, nice to see you. She got you slaving?

LANCE

Tony. Didn't realise you were here. You not lending a hand?

TONY

I can't. With my herniated discs.

LANCE

Gutted.

MAGGIE

Lance has invited us to a folk night at The White Horse next week.

*

Damn.

TONY

Sounds good.

Damn it.

MAGGIE

Lance is doing a gig.

LANCE

It's not a gig. I might do a song, haven't decided yet. Probably won't.

TONY
Alright Lance! Rock and roll! What's
the song about?

LANCE
Nothing.

TONY
Nothing? What's it called?

LANCE
(ignoring him)
I better get going if that's
everything Mags.

MAGGIE
Alright love thanks. Oh, and are you
still ok to take my mum to bingo?

LANCE
Yeah ok.
(to Tony)
You not around?

TONY
No. Football.

LANCE
Oh right. You playing?

TONY
Watching.

LANCE
Right. Portman Road?

TONY
No, on TV.

LANCE
Right.

MAGGIE
Thanks love. You know how she loves
her bingo.

LANCE
Yeah. Ok. See ya.

Lance glances across at Tony who smiles.

TONY
(is that a hint of a smug
grin?)
Bye bye Lance!

205 EXT. OUTSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL - DAY

205

Andy is sitting on a low wall opposite the entrance to a primary school at home time. He is flicking through messages

He spots Becky coming out the gates, she waves.

ANDY

Here she is.

POLICEMAN

Rightyoh sir, it's just you were making a couple of the mums nervous.

Andy looks over to where a bunch of mums are talking about him. The policeman wanders back to reassure them. Becky approaches.

BECKY

Hullo. This is a nice surprise.

ANDY

Good day?

BECKY

Yeah, not bad.

ANDY

Do I look like a pedophile?

BECKY

What?

ANDY

I've just been questioned by a policeman because I was making the mums nervous.

Becky cracks up, she thinks this is hilarious.

BECKY

What were you doing?

ANDY

Nothing! What do you think I was doing? I was just sitting there, waiting for you.

BECKY

You have got a bit of a look about you.

ANDY

What sort of look?

BECKY

Well I'd have said it was more drug dealer than pedophile.

ANDY

Oh, that's probably what it was. I feel better now.

BECKY

Yeah, don't worry about it.

206 EXT. PARK - DAY

BECKY

Oh dear. He needs to move on.
What's the song like?

ANDY

Haven't heard it yet. Could be
excruciating. Could be really
embarrassing. Please come?

BECKY

You're really selling it. I'd truly
love to come but I'll have thirty
stories to read. Imagine their
little faces when I tell them I
couldn't be bothered and went to the
pub instead.

ANDY

Fuck 'em.

Becky laughs.

207 EXT. DUAL CARRIAGEWAY - DAY

207

Andy, wearing ear-protectors is swinging a strimmer like a
metal detector on the central reservation of a dual

210 INT. LANCE'S FLAT, LOUNGE - DAY

210

Close on details of Lance's exquisite aquarium.

A small plastic treasure chest ornament nestles in amongst the plants at the bottom. Every now and again the lid of the chest opens and an air bubble escapes.

Wider and we see that Andy, carrying a guitar case, is peering in the fish tank, his nose pressed up to the glass. Lance shouts through from the kitchen.

LANCE (V.O.)

And he reckons he still has these
'artefacts'?

ANDY

He reckons so.

Andy slowly lifts his hand and is about to tap on the glass with his knuckle when Lance enters with two plates of food and makes him jump.

LANCE

Don't knock on the glass, it stresses them out.

ANDY

I wasn't going to.

Andy puts his guitar down and goes to join Lance at the table.

ANDY

What are we eating?

LANCE

'Swede Surprise'

ANDY

What's the surprise?

LANCE

How bland it is.

Andy eats a forkful.

ANDY

Mmm! That *i* bland!

LANCE

Surprisingly bland.

ANDY

I wish you hadn't told me.
Speaking of which, how much are we
going to tell the rest of the club
about Bishop?

LANCE

I reckon we keep it to ourselves for the 'tambourine'. If they get wind of the previous excavation, or Bishop's 'finds', whatever they turn out to be, someone's going to phone the beards and it'll all be over.
We'll say we're still doing our research.

*

*

ANDY

Deal.
So, when am I going to hear this song of yours?

LANCE

I don't know if I even want to do it anymore.

ANDY

What? I've built myself up for it now. I've invited some A & R people down.

LANCE

I've run into a problem.

ANDY

With the song?

LANCE

With the performance. With the playing.

ANDY

Yeah?

LANCE

I can't stand up.

Andy looks blank.

ANDY

Yes you can, I've seen you.

LANCE

I can't stand up *and* play the mandolin.

ANDY

Why not?

LANCE

I just can't. I've always sat cross legged when I've been playing. Try to stand up and it all goes to shit.

ANDY

Show me.

Lance sits on the floor cross legged, takes his mandolin and plays a bit. It's alright.

ANDY

Ok.

Lance stands, tries again, it's awful.

ANDY

Right. I see what you mean.

LANCE

Might have to pull out.

ANDY

Rubbish. You've got time. Practise.

LANCE

I've tried, it's not happening. I've been playing too long sitting down.

ANDY

Well, let's hear the song.

Lance plays some of the song.

LANCE

Back when the sky was clear and blue
I met a girl that looked like you
But when she opened her arms
I fell clean through
And now I don't know what to do...
Well?

ANDY

It's quite good.

LANCE

You sound surprised.

ANDY

I am. I'm astounded.

LANCE

Really? You think it's astounding?

ANDY

No, I'm astounded that it's quite good.

LANCE
Fair enough.

ANDY
(getting out his guitar)
What are the chords?

211 INT. SCOUT HALL - NIGHT

211

At the scout hall it's the weekly meeting of the Danebury Metal Detecting Club.

Andy, Lance, Sophie, and Hugh are gathered, with cups of tea and coffee, around the 'finds table': a trestle table with three 'finds' on it. Lance is showing off, holding court:

LANCE
...course it's ninety percent
instinct. What you swinging these
days, young Hugh?

HUGH
Um, still got the VK30.

LANCE
Nothing wrong with the VK30, Hugh.
Good solid detector. Basic but it's
got its place. Many a good find has
been found with the '30'. In fact...
(calls across to Terry who
is chatting with Russell)
Tez, what was the Eynsford hoard
found with?

TERRY
XP DEUS.

LANCE
Oh. Thought it was the VK30.
(to Hugh)
No, good on you though.

Andy, Lance and Sophie step away from the group to peruse the finds table.

SOPHIE
Are you going to announce your new
permission?

Andy and Lance are taken aback.

ANDY

Did I?

LANCE

Well done mate. Who else have you told?

SOPHIE

Don't worry I won't mention it. Why is it a secret?

LANCE

It's not a secret, it's just... we're still researching it.

Terry and Russell wander over towards the table.

TERRY

...No, I wouldn't wish being struck by lightning on anyone Russell...

*

RUSSELL

You just said he deserved it.

*

TERRY

That's not what I said...

*

*

RUSSELL

You never liked Bob Cromer.

*

TERRY

That's not the point. It makes no difference that Bob and I didn't always see eye to eye. What I'm *a ing* is that Bob Cromer ignored some fundamental rules of health and safety. It's day one of metal detecting school.

Sophie leans over to Andy and whispers:

SOPHIE

Is there such a place?

ANDY

No.

TERRY

Bob wasn't a member of this club and I'm glad. We haven't had a fatality for three years in the D.M.D.C. and I'd like to keep it that way.

(to Lance and Andy)

Hello chaps. How did you get on with Bishop? Has he told you where he buried his wife?

*

LANCE

Still very much in the research
phase Terry.

TERRY

You can never do too much research boys.
What are the three 'R's I'm always talking about Hugh?

HUGH

Research, research, research.

TERRY

That's right, I made that up to emphasize just how important research is.
Now, what's going on with the finds table?
Two matchbox cars and a spoon on the finds table this week. We can do better than that.

Lance picks up the spoon and examines it through a loupe.

LANCE

Who's is the spoon?

HUGH

That's mine.

TERRY

Do we have an I.D. on the spoon?

LANCE

Little Chef.

TERRY

Come on people. I suggest you all go and change the batteries in your detectors.

212 EXT. STREET - NIGHT

212

Andy is walking Sophie home.

SOPHIE

So why are you being so secretive?
What do you think is on that farm?

ANDY

Well we know there's a big Saxon ship burial around here somewhere.
King Sexred of the East Saxons.

SOPHIE

Richest of the 7th century kings.

ANDY

Zactly.

SOPHIE

Why do you think he's around here?

ANDY

We *know* he's around here somewhere. Bede says so in *Historia ecclesiastica*.

SOPHIE

Wow. You know 'The Venerable Bede'?

ANDY

Wow. Do you know what 'patronize' means?

SOPHIE

Ha! Sorry. But I don't think half the professors at university have read Bede.

ANDY

You can learn a lot from the amateurs. We are the most passionate, the plebs...

SOPHIE

Can you say that these days?

ANDY

In a historical context, yes...

SOPHIE

I could do some reading at uni. See what I can find out.

ANDY

Yeah, cool.

SOPHIE

Lance won't mind will he?

ANDY

No, why should he?

SOPHIE

I think he thinks I'm muscling in.

ANDY

Nah. He's just very protective of his patch, and his hobby. He's got a problem with The Antiquarists.

SOPHIE

(innocently)
The 'Antiquarists'?

ANDY

I know right? What does that even mean? They've just taken the first half of 'antiquities' and stuck it on the front of 'searchers'. Why don't they just call themselves the 'Antiquity Searchers'. It's not like it's a pun or anything. It's not brilliant wordplay. Makes me mad.

SOPHIE

And you say it's Lance has the problem?

213 INT. LANCE'S FLAT, LOUNGE - NIGHT

213

Lance is sitting on the floor with his mandolin and a can of beer.

*
*

LANCE

This next track, This first track,
This track... This is a song I wrote
for a very special young lady...

He smacks himself round the face.

LANCE

I wrote this song for a very special
person who means an awful lot to me.
A person whose light I could only
really see when she was gone and I
was plunged into darkness.

He stops and thinks.

LANCE

This song is about how we sometimes
can't see what's right in front of
us until it's gone. About how we
really only appreciate the good
things in our lives... when they run
off with the manager of the local
Pizza Hut.

He takes a swig from the can and hangs his head.

214 INT. ANDY'S FLAT - NIGHT

214

Andy and Becky are on the sofa in front of the TV.

ANDY

No but it's actually alright. It's
surprisingly good.

Becky is amused.

BECKY

Tell me the lyrics.

ANDY

I can't remember them.

BECKY

Yes you can, some of them.

ANDY

You'll have to come.

BECKY

But it's about Maggie?

ANDY

I reckon so. Well, yeah, it is.

BECKY

Are you singing or just playing?

ANDY

I might lay down a harmony.

Becky cracks up.

BECKY

Oh god, I think I'm gonna have to come. I'll work through lunch and get my marking done. And Lance is going to be sitting on the floor?

ANDY

Cross legged.

BECKY

So who's the front man?

ANDY

He is I suppose.

*

BECKY

With you in the background staring at the floor.

ANDY

I won't be staring at the floor, what do you mean?

BECKY

You're always staring at the ground.

ANDY

No I'm not.

BECKY

You are! You're always scanning the ground looking for stuff. You can't help yourself. All those years of detecting. You never look up!

No wonder you've got a bad back! You spend your whole life stooped over looking at the ground.

ANDY

Oh come on!

BECKY

Honestly, I bet you'd be amazed at the things you've missed because you've been locked in your own little world staring at the floor.

ANDY

Rubbi sh.

ANDY

I don't remember telling her. What's she saying?

Sophie is still pointing skyward. They look up. Nothing.

Andy beckons her over. She climbs the gate and comes towards them. She is carrying a folder.

LANCE

Sophie.

SOPHIE

That was amazing! Did you organize that for me?

LANCE

What?

SOPHIE

The fly-past?

They don't know what she's talking about.

LANCE

Eh?

SOPHIE

Never mind. How's it going?

LANCE

Alright, yeah.

SOPHIE

Found anything?

LANCE

Not much.

ANDY

Three copper nails and a screwdriver.

*

LANCE

You got copper nails too? I've got five of them.

SOPHIE

Ship's nails?

LANCE

These are modern. Look brand new. They're a pain in the arse.

SOPHIE

Well, I tried to find out about your King Sexred.

LANCE

And?

SOPHIE

I don't know. I'm not convinced he's around here.

ANDY

Why not? Where is he?

SOPHIE

I'm not sure he's anywhere.

LANCE

He has to be somewhere.

SOPHIE

The Venerable Bede...

LANCE

ANDY

Charlie of off Casual ty.

*

LANCE

No, actually, it's not universally
accepted that they went West.
Some sources say that the Kings of
Wessex came here and fought the
battle here

LANCE
What's going on?

Art, petulant and defiant, cannot think of anything to say.

ART
We don't have to justify ourselves
to you.

LANCE
Just having a cuddle in a ditch
then?

ART
(to Paul)
Come on, let's go...

As they get to their feet a bag of copper nails falls out of
Simon's jacket and spill onto the ground.

LANCE
Hang on. Hold it right there.
(picking up a handful of
nails)
You sneaky bastards! I'm calling the
police.

He takes out his phone.

ART
For what reason? This is a public

That's right... 'Mrs. Robinson'
that's right

ART

I know you're not on the phone.
(to Simon)
Come on.

They turn and skulk off down the path.
Andy and Lance watch them go.
Sophie comes forward.

SOPHIE

Who were they?

LANCE

Antiqui searchers.

BI SHOP (V. O.)

Hey there!

They turn around to see Farmer Bishop striding across the

BISHOP
(handing Lance the box)
Well they're yours if you want them.

Lance steps back, doesn't even want to touch the box.

LANCE
No, no. You hang on to them, Larry.
Do you know where they were ploughed
up? *

BISHOP
Not exactly. But it wasn't in the
paddock. You don't want to go
digging around down there. Stay out
of the paddock. *
*
*

LANCE
Will do. *

Bishop takes the gold clasp from the box.

BISHOP (CONT'D)
What would you say that was made of?
Brass?

LANCE
Could be brass. Could be brass.

216 EXT. BISHOP'S FARM TRACK/ ALT FIELD - DAY

216

Lance is striding purposefully down a track with Andy and
Sophie trotting along behind him.

ANDY
We have to tell him.

LANCE
Tell him what?

ANDY
You know damn well what. That was
gold!

LANCE
So?

SOPHIE
We have a responsibility to report
it.

Lance is climbing over a stile, he stops to address them.

LANCE
Wrong. We don't have any
responsibility to do anything. It's
nothing to do with us.

