

Extract from **Gargantua**
by Carl Grose

Gargantua
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Characters

Mini
Marcus
Nurse 1
Nurse 2
Dr Lucky
Singer
Midwives

MINI spins in on a gurney puffing and panting, her enormous belly bulging and rippling. MARCUS holds her hand.

NURSE 1
How are the contractions?

NURSE 2
Like earthquakes!

MINI
Oooooooooooooooooohhhhh, here comes another!
Everything shakes and rattles.

NURSE 1 & 2
Dr Lucky?

DR LUCKY bursts through a pair of swing doors. He hands his glass of scotch to NURSE 1 and his bag of golf clubs to NURSE 2.

DR LUCKY
What's the situation?
(sees MINI)
Woah, mamma!

NURSE 1
Patient's name is Mini Mungus.

NURSE 2
Patient is veryveryveryvery pregnant.

DR LUCKY
How overdue is she?

NURSE 1 & 2
Two years?

DR LUCKY
Leaping lizards! That's a world record for longest pregnancy of all time! Is the husband / partner / lover / donor here?

NURSE 1
Right there.

DR LUCKY
Where?

NURSE 2
He's the one holding her hand.

DR LUCKY
That's the father? He looks like a kitchen utensil. What's your name, son?

MARCUS
Marcus. Marcus Mungus.

The two NURSES dress him in green surgeon gown, mask and cap, rubber gloves.

DR LUCKY
Well, Marcus Marcus Mungus, today you and your wife are in luck. Because I'm Dr Lucky.

MARCUS
That puts my mind at ease.

DR LUCKY
Ultimately, it's just a name. It doesn't give me superpowers, son. But it does give me edge, and sometimes that edge is all the difference you need.

MARCUS
Will she be alright, doctor?

DR LUCKY
Do you love her, boy?

MARCUS
More than anything!

DR LUCKY
Then why the hell didn't you bring her in after nine months? How could you let it get so big?

MARCUS
She just... held it in.

DR LUCKY
She doesn't want the child?

MARCUS
Oh, she does! She's just not keen on giving birth is all.

DR LUCKY
She's going to want her pelvic floor back at some point. Stay here Marcus. And don't touch my golf clubs.
(returns to MINI)
Nurse. Close the door. Let's give this woman some dignity. She's about to give birth for god's sakes!

NURSE 1 closes a (mimed) door.

DR LUCKY
Now then Mini, let's get this baby out, shall we?
He roughly hikes her legs up in the air.

MINI
I don't want to give birth, doctor.

DR LUCKY
Why ever not? It's the most natural thing on earth! Nurse, give her lots drugs!
NURSE 2 jabs her with a large syringe.

MINI
No, I... Oooooooooooooo...

DR LUCKY
Better, eh? What you're feeling is drugs. Delicious, painkilling drugs. Forceps!

NURSE 1 hands him forceps.

MINI
Mmmmmmmmmmmmmmm...
(starts singing a song)

DR LUCKY
Now let's have a looky see. My, he is a big one. (to NURSES) Hit her again. This is going to hurt.

NURSE 2 jabs her again.

MINI
Ooooo, yes! That's lovely! More... more...

DR LUCKY
Plunger!

MARCUS
Plunger?

NURSE 1 hands him a plunger.

NURSE 1
Oh my god! Is that its head? That's its head!

MARK stares at her in horror. She smiles reassuringly, and slips back to work.

DR LUCKY
Damn. Too bloody big! Can't squeeze the skull through the pelvis. I didn't want to do this but... I'm going in!

NURSES
You're going in?!

MARCUS
He's going "in"?

DR LUCKY
It's what's commonly known as the Heineken Manoeuvre or the Cronenberg Technique. One of the two. I forget which. I'll see if I can't push the thing out from the back. Wish me luck, ladies. I might be some time.

DR LUCKY climbs headfirst up into MINI.

MINI
What's going on...?

NURSE 1
Relax, Mrs Mungus. Doctor's just performing an impossibly dangerous birthing technique on you. Nothing to worry about.

MINI
(stoned)
Okay...

NURSE 1
Look! It's coming!

NURSE
He's doing it! He's doing it!

An arm suddenly bursts out from MINI's groin.

NURSE 1
Shit a brick!

NURSE 2
(to MARK)
We're gonna need a hand here, dude.

NURSE 1
Push Mrs Mungus! Push!

NURSE 2
Pull Mr Mungus! Pull!

MINI wails.

NURSE 1
What a day to be understaffed!

NURSE 2
(at the top of their lungs)
Auxiliaries!

A squadron of MIDWIVES run circles around the birth then charge in to help.

MIDWIVES
Push... (pull)
Push... (pull)
Push... (pull)

SINGER
Now comes the seminal moment in our story
When he is born unto us in all his glory
The prodigal son turns to greet the dawn
Gargantua, the monstrous one -

MINI screams. So does MARCUS. Suddenly, POP!

SINGER
Is born!

Revealed in MINI's arms is a HUGE MAN-SIZED BABY.

MIDWIVES
Sweet merciful God!