

The Neon Bins

by Archie Worthington

Bobby was sitting in his depressing flat drinking some beer and flicking through the channels on his broken T.V. He had a dirty flat on the rough side of town. Bob was still flicking when he found a music festival on T.V. He stopped and staed. It took him back to his rock days.

Bobby turned off the TV and was about to go out of the door when he heard a flapping sound. He looked behind him to find he was surrounded by pigeons that had come in through the broken window. "Shoo, shoo" he said, before walking outside. Little did he know, the Landlady was waiting.

As Bobby stepped outside he heard a shouting getting louder and louder. Suddenly a small figure came out of the building in front of him, it was the Landlady. She marched over to him and shouted "MONEY!" Although she was half his size (and dressed in black) she was very menacing.

"What do you mean, money?" Bobby replied

Il need your money," she shouted.

"Why?" Bobby was now very confused.

"For the flat!" There was silence. "Well?" she groaned.

"Er, umm, well, umm ..." Bob muttered

"Out" she shouted, "out!" Then she marched away.

Rob felt a little dizzy. "Whoa" he said, before sitting on a rubbish bin placed outside his - or what was his - flat. Slowly Bob reached for the stolen pod in his pocket. He turned it on. It was late so he slumped down next to the bin and fell asleep.

When he woke a few hours later that familiar feeling of being homeless with no hope washed over him. Bobby began to wander aimlessly through the dirty streets, his ipod reminded him of when life was much better for him. His own music rang in his ears and he wondered where it had all gone wrong. As he turned another corner he saw a familiar face staring at him.

"Hey Bobby, how you doing in life?", asked the familiar voice. Bobby vaguely recognised the tall, long-haired man wearing expensive hippy clothing.

"Is that you Sid?" Bob said, surprised.

"What happened to you? Ten years of fame and this is what you did with it?" said Sid.

"The fame was too much, it drove me crazy," he said, anxious to know what Sid had been up to. Just then he heard a couple across the street. They recognised Sid. Bobby heard one of them say 'Isn't that Sid from the band 'The Neon Bins', talking to that tramp?

Bobby couldn't stop himself 'Hey, I used to be in the Neon Bins too and I'm not a tramp!"

The reply from over the road, started something that would change Bobby's life forever. They replied, shouting ... "When are you gonna put the band back together then?" Sid looked at Bobby who stared back at Sid. It was as though all the great times they had come flooding back into their memories.

"It's been on my mind Bobby, what do you think?" said Sid "What about the rest of them? Where are they?" replied Bobby feeling excited for the first time in a long time.

"The last time I saw them was about 5 years ago presenting awards at the Birmingham Rockathon. They said to me at the time, if ever we find Bobby, we should put the band back together ... and so I think we should" Sid said with a smile.

Several weeks later after finding the other two band members, Zaggy and Gavin, at the music shop in Brighton, the rehearsals were going well.

During a beer break, down at Ye Olde Deer Head Pub, Sid received a text from his old friend Eric the Goth saying that the headline band for tonight at the Reading Festival had just cancelled and would they like to play instead. Before Sid said anything to the other band members he yanked them from their seats and took them outside and shouted in their faces "Who wants to play at Reading festival because I just got a text saying we can and we're on tonight"

By five o'clock they had arrived at the festival and went backstage where a woman leapt out of a caravan and commanded them to come inside and get ready for their performance. Five minutes later, the four of them came out wearing psychedelic hippy clothes. "Yeah we look groovy" said Zaggy and they rushed on stage with Bobby on guitar, Sid singing, Zaggy on drums and Gavin on bass. The crowd went crazy as they started to play. Before they knew it, it was over and it was the best they had ever played. They left the stage with the crowd screaming for more.

It wasn't long before Bobby had forgotten the days when he had to live on the streets but his landlady had not forgotten him! She saw him on the TV, found his new address and appeared on his doorstep!

Well, he was wealthy now! He couldn't refuse could he?!
