

Carles Sala i Vila



The Catalan Gianni Rodari and author of the successful **CORNELIUS AND THE STORE OF IMPOSSIBILITIES**

50 OFICIS ESBOJARRATS 50 LOONY JOBS

Described as a sort of dictionary of fantasy and humour, this is in many ways a book of short stories in the purest Pere Calders style: the mundane and the absurd get mixed up and the result is a magic realism which contains more than a grain of truth.

There is a good deal of parody in the way most of the jobs are depicted, but as the author points out, "the idea is also to bring a little bit of happiness to the weary lives we lead and well, why not, to lend a philosophical and personal touch too".

Do you know that "getoffers" are people who warn absent-minded passengers not to miss their stops?



And if putting your own finger up your nose disgusts you, have you thought about employing the services of a "hooter-picker"?

You enjoy storms but it doesn't rain much where you live? Then get in touch with a "down-pourer", he'll solve your problem!

Barcelona, 2014
Editorial Cruïlla
112 pages
Illustrator:

Josep Maria Brocal Llobregat
Childrens' book · Age: 9+

BICYCLEBOOSTER

A job for really strong, hardy people who give cyclists a push when they are going uphill.

There are two kinds of bicycleboosters:

Those who go wherever necessary, together with a particular cyclist

Those who wait at the bottom of a hill to push cyclists who come along

We're talking about a very useful class of professional for cyclists from coastal or mountain villages where the roads tend to be really steep.

And it goes without saying that in cycling races, bicycleboosters are strictly prohibited.

CLOTHESTRETCHER

A person who, for a few days, wears pieces of clothing which are too small with the idea of enlarging them by one, two or even three sizes.

This is someone very much in demand during the sales, as it is often difficult to find just the right sized clothes.

Contrary to what you might think, a clothestretcher doesn't have to be a really big person, but simply someone who is a little broader than their client. Clearly, those people who are extremely thin could never take up this profession since it would be difficult for them to find clients. Similarly, this kind of work is not at all suitable for people with circulation problems as wearing tight clothing is not a good idea for them.

Synonyms for clothestretcher: shortsexpander, upsizer, 'pork sausage' (used colloquially due to the clothestretchers' shape when they are working).

The question of hygiene

For obvious reasons, clothestretchers don't usually work with knickers, underpants or socks. However, if the client and the professional reach an agreement about the matter, there's no reason to reject this option.

SEATWARMER (TOILET VARIETY, THAT IS)

A person who, particularly during winter, spends time sitting on toilet seats to keep them at a pleasant temperature. They are highly recommended for mountain villages and above all for houses, refuges, inns.... which have outside loos and, as often happens, poorly insulated windows.

Synonyms for seatwarmer: flatbum, hotbottom, pooper (vulg.).

Books and videogames

Curiously, many seatwarmers are totally hooked on reading or playing videogames. And as we all know, readers and console addicts lose all sense of time even in the most uncomfortable positions.

