Sherlock Holmes and the Extinction Event.

What proved to be the single most strange case of all I have thusfar witnessed Holmes undertake was triggered by a distress call picked up on a universal multi-dimensional radio frequency scanner Holmes put together using old mobile phone parts and a Larry David DVD.

"Mrs Hudson!" yelled Holmes. "Bring me my spacetime travelling equipment!"

"You don't need to yell so much," said Mrs Hudson, arriving almost instantly, with a tray and tasty items on it. "I was just bringing you some tea. I'll go and get your spacetime things, keep your hair on Shirley."

"Don't call me Shirley!" snapped Holmes.

Having had our tea we positioned ourselves in Holmes' two spacetime travelling armchairs and he lit the tea lights which trigger the spacetime travelling mechanism. Before he could argue, Mrs Hudson had joined us using a deck chair she had stolen from the set of Quincy in 1978.

Holmes navigated us to the source of the distress signal. It was a teepee, for children to play in. Holmes cautiously approached it whilst Mrs Hudson and I guarded the rear. Within a moment Holmes beckoned us over.

"It's alright Watson, Mrs Hudson, it's quite safe. Come, come."

"Will we all fit in?" I asked Holmes as he ushered us into the teepee.

"It's okay, it's a Tardis. It belongs to my old friend The Cartoonifier, a timelord descended from Chief Standing Bear. There are thousands of advanced cities inside this teepee."

We all entered the teepee shaped Tardis and meandered through mazes, first, and then entire transport systems and followed the distress signal on Holmes' portable tracking device. It led us, eventually, to another teepee, a replica of the one in which this entire universe of places existed.

Inside we were greeted by a robot designed to look exactly like Keanu Reeves.

"Greetings Mr Holmes," said the Reeves facsimile. "I'm glad to see you. It's a matter of some urgency. The extinction of the entire human race is imminent, only you can save them."

"Only too glad," said Holmes. "What do you need us to do."

"I have the last humans. They have been in my care for safekeeping, but the environment they are in is unstable. They may all die. I need you to take them into your care."

"This is a most bizarre request, timelord," Holmes explained to the robot, who was in

fact The Cartoonifier. "But since it's you, I will ask no further questions. Just show me what the hell you're talking about."

We went on a further journey, for what seemed like days, to yet another teepee, within all the teepees, and there inside it was a filing cabinet. The Cartoonifier pulled out a box containing thousands of little rectangular plastic cards like the ones we use to draw cash or make payments or get our reward points and so on.

"Each card contains a million humans, there's about ten billion here. The last population before their world was wiped out. We managed to preserve the last vestiges of their minds and souls here in these cards."

"What sort of event would wipe out all but vestiges of minds and souls?"

"It's all you need - from there these beings can find homes and life again. Just take them to a universe where they can function. Any number of them exist."

"And do what? Stick em in a card reader?"

"What else do you imagine? When you get to a suitable universe a card reader will make itself available."

To our surprise, when Holmes found a suitable universe a card reader did indeed allow us to regenerate the human race and save them from extinction.

"By my calculation, Watson, the event which caused the humans to die out occurred ninety seven trillion years into our future, so this human race is far far far beyond our own future. It's the human race after they're all wiped out and then survive thanks to The Cartoonifier."

"He's a jolly decent chap, Holmes."

"That he is, Watson. That's why the BBC never mentions him."

When we returned Mrs Hudson had some food delivered to us from Fortnum and Mason's since she was too knackered to go and cook and clean and stuff.

Matt Berry, as Sherlock Holmes

Richard Ayoade, as Doctor Watson

Marisa Tomei, as Mrs Hudson

Patrick Stewart, as The Cartoonifier