

### Tekst 3

## LAST NIGHT ON TELEVISION

James Walton

- 1 Now, like any warm-hearted champion of the underdog, I usually try to be kind to Five. Sometimes, though, the channel really doesn't make it easy. Take last night's **The Dog Suicide Bridge: Stranger than Fiction**, which may well have been the worst documentary of recent times.
- 2 The programme began with the narrator lugubriously introducing us to Overtoun Bridge near Dumbarton – from which around 50 dogs have leapt to their deaths since the Fifties. Not only that, but in Celtic mythology Overtoun is known as “a Thin Place... where heaven and earth are close together”. So, could it be that the dogs had sensed the spooky atmosphere there and decided to end it all?

3 The answer proved to be no. A Scottish psychic was consulted on the matter and reported that the bridge is free of evil spirits. A canine psychologist confirmed that dogs don't commit suicide anyway. Faced with this disappointing news, the programme instantly dropped its psychic approach. Unfortunately, it then became an inadvertent parody of one of those deadeningly slow science documentaries in which every preposterous theory is explored at inordinate length – and eventually found to be preposterous.

4 In the end, last night's main “expert” decided that the dogs had leapt in search of mink<sup>1)</sup>, who live in the undergrowth below and who smell a lot. Long before that, however, the programme's tortuous progress had made the idea of jumping off a bridge seem quite attractive in itself.

*The Daily Telegraph*

noot 1 mink = nertsen / kleine wilde dieren

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- “The Dog Suicide Bridge”
- 1p 11 Welke mogelijke verklaring voor de dood van 50 honden wordt uiteindelijk in het programma gegeven?
- “the programme instantly dropped its psychic approach” (halverwege alinea 3)
- 2p 12 Welke twee redenen noemt de tekst hiervoor?
- “which may well have been the worst documentary of recent times” (eind alinea 1)
- 1p 13 Welke zin in deze tekst geeft dezelfde mening weer?  
Citeer de eerste twee woorden van deze zin.