

## Back in Baghdad

by Robert Fisk, 12 August 2005

<i>lunatic</i>	crazy, mad (from Latin <i>lunaticus</i> , <i>luna</i> moon)
<i>corkscrew</i>	<i>n.</i> a tool for pulling corks from bottles
<i>to corkscrew</i>	<i>v.</i> to make a series of circular movements in a particular direction
<i>barrel</i>	<i>n.</i> a large, round container
<i>to barrel</i>	<i>v.</i> to move very fast in a particular direction, especially in a way that you cannot control
<i>twin-prop</i>	having two propellers
<i>reconnaissance drones</i>	an aircraft without a pilot controlled from the ground, used to get information about an area for military purposes (a 'drone' also is a male bee)
<i>dun</i>	greyish-brown in colour
<i>grotty</i>	unpleasant or of poor quality, shabby
<i>telltale, tell-tale</i>	showing that something exists or has happened, treacherous, traitorous ( <i>v.</i> to betray)
<i>to thunder down</i>	to make something move very fast downwards
<i>scruffy</i>	dirty, untidy
<i>fixer</i>	a person who arranges things for other people, sometimes dishonestly
<i>to put sth</i>	here: to express or state sth in a particular way
<i>to glide</i>	to move smoothly and quietly
<i>to be/get caught up in sth</i>	to become involved in sth, especially when you do not want to be
<i>squadron</i>	a section of a military force
<i>Bradley Fighting Vehicles</i>	a tank, an armoured fighting vehicle
<i>insurgents</i>	rebels, people fighting against the government or armed forces of their own country
<i>to be keen on doing sth</i>	wanting to do sth, to be eager to do sth
<i>grim</i>	unpleasant and depressing, not attractive
<i>comforting</i>	making you feel calmer and less worried
<i>groceries</i>	food and other goods sold by a grocer or at a supermarket
<i>pointless</i>	having no purpose, not worth doing
<i>hothouse</i>	(greenhouse) a place or situation that encourages the rapid development of sth
<i>to be trapped</i>	to be kept or caught in a place unable to escape
<i>to slink off</i>	to move away from somewhere very quietly and slowly, especially because you do not want to be seen
<i>to languish</i>	to be forced to stay somewhere; to become weaker
<i>to squeeze</i>	to press firmly, especially with your fingers
<i>to roar</i>	to make loud continuous noise (the sound of the lion)
<i>tinned</i>	preserved in a can
<i>to make it</i>	to succeed (in reaching a place in time, especially when this is difficult)

### Assignment

1. Read the text
2. Mark all verbs describing movement
3. Mark all words describing poor qualities
4. Fisk does not overtly state his opinion about the current situation in Iraq and the war itself. Still the description of his arrival in Baghdad reveals a certain attitude. Describe this attitude in your own words.