

OBLIVITY

By Rob Stringer

A scripted comedy series for radio

MISSIVES TO MARS

A MINI-SERIES TO SUPPORT OUR
SEASON 2 [CROWDFUNDING CAMPAIGN](#)

Week 2: CHRISTY

CHRISTY: (YAWNS)

Orpheus, please can you transcribe this?

ORPHEUS: Ready to transcribe.

CHRISTY: Thanks. The Commander wants us to do this exercise which means pretending to write to someone we trust - even though I'm not very good at pretending - because it will help us to 'move on'.

Except I haven't noticed anything being different from normal. I mean, I know some scary stuff has happened recently, but that's all over and now it's all ok again.

Anyway, I said I'd do it, because - as first officer - it's important to be a role model, and follow orders.

..Even if I think they're silly. Which I know I shouldn't say, but I think this one is just a little bit.

I wasn't sure who to address this to. Part of me thought I should talk to Auntie Xi Win, cos I know her quite well and I know where she is on Mars. But then if I was doing this properly I'd talk to Amelia because I had this odd thing about talking to her where I felt like I could say more important things to her than I usually would to people.

But then I thought Auntie Xi Win might get annoyed if I addressed it to Amelia - not that Auntie Xi Win would ever know - or Amelia in fact cos I won't actually be sending it -

But then I remembered, that what it comes down to is that it needs to feel right in your heart. You should always do what feels right in your heart. So here goes:

(CONFIDENTLY) Dear Ameli- (QUICKLY CHANGING MIND) no, Auntie Xi Win. Dear Auntie Xi Win.

MUSIC: **SHORT INTRO MUSIC**

ROB: Missives to Mars: An Oblivity minisode.

CHRISTY: OK, so for a start I'm not going to mention the whole - thing. The digital telegram, and your call and stuff. I'm not going to mention them at all.

[BEAT]

Because I don't need to, OK?

Instead, I'm going to talk about work. It's going really well actually. I've ordered a load of new stuff from the horticultural resource facility, which should be delivered here soon - like some ace new plants, and some goldfish! Just to brighten things up.

I've been thinking about what to call the goldfish when they arrive. I know that's silly, because I don't even see what they look like yet, let alone become familiar with their individual behavioural characteristics.

Even so, I'm very much looking forward to meeting Flippy, Lippy and Dippy.

I've started digging out a pond for them too.

Actually I've been doing it for a while now. It started off quite small, but then I was worried that they wouldn't have enough space and they might feel a bit trapped, so I made it a bit bigger, and a bit bigger... and now it's *about* the size of a tennis court. And now I'm worried they'll get lost.

Maybe I'll put some signposts down there so they can learn their way around. Although I'll need to remember that Dippy isn't very good at reading, so I'll do pictures too.

(YAWNS) *Excuse me.*

Oh, nice torch!

FX: **CLICK, CLICK, CLICK**

Odd. Doesn't switch off.

Oh. And now it's got mud on it. Was that me? I thought I had showered? Or was that yesterday? I can't really remember. The days are blurring a bit.

I feel like I'm forgetting things a lot. Like recently, with the pond, it's quite tiring, and I need to drink a lot so I don't dehydrate. And yesterday, I went to get some bottles of water from the kitchen, and I must've accidentally picked up the Commander's crème de menthe. I left it by the organismsphere door, so that I'd remember to take it back, but then later it wasn't there, so I must have taken it back already but I really can't remember doing that.

Maybe I'm going a bit funny like the Commander.

Oh, by the way, it turned out she *wasn't* trying to murder us after all. Lowell admitted that it was Cybergerbil who had sabotaged the cables. She was relieved I think. Probably. She hasn't really said, and I suppose I haven't seen very much of her - what with the pond and waiting for the goldfish and important things like that.

I hope Lippy doesn't miss the horticultural resource facility too much. I know how sentimental she gets.

PAUSE

FX:

CLICK

I'm sorry about turning the temporary junior administrative coordination assistant officer intern job down. I think it was the right choice. I know it would have meant that I'd have been back with you, and it's not that I don't appreciate everything you've done for me, it's just -

Look, I said I wasn't going to talk about it, OK? So I'm not.

PAUSE

I'm still waiting for the academy to get in touch about training. You'll tell me when they write, won't you?

Oh speaking of which, I got to do some actual practice! When Amelia visited, she -

I haven't actually told you about her yet have I.

Well, she was nice. Really nice.

She was actually really - different to how I imagined her, but in a good way. I think I felt

different after she left. I mean I missed her, there was that, but I felt a bit better in myself. Do you ever get that after meeting someone?

She was just really brave, and independent, and determined, and...

...and I don't think you would have approved.

(YAWNS)

FX: TORCH CLICK CLICK

The others are being their usual annoying selves.

Like, the other day, I'd just been doing a session of some serious digging, and I was planning to carry on a bit into the night because I didn't really feel like sleeping yet, and I needed more bottles of water, so I was walking down the corridor when I saw Burney carrying Cybergerbil's cage away from the boys' quarters.

Lowell was behind him, asking for it back, but Burney wasn't listening. Then the Commander came round the corner, and I was expecting her to say something to fix the situation, but... she didn't say anything, which was a bit odd - and I felt like someone needed to do something, so I took the cage from Burney, and gave it back to Lowell.

But then Lowell said he was only joking, and he did this really stupid big grin.

It just made me so angry. It was like they were all playing some stupid joke on me, so I - I put the cage down on the floor, said I wasn't going to engage with their childish games, and then went back to my pond.

I'm not going to let them get to me. I'm not.

FX: CLICK

Oh! I forgot to ask how you were. How's municipal community block number 736? Oh and how is Pietro next door? Is he still having fun in his shed with that radio he plays with? I mean - I know it's not just playing. I actually think it's really nice that he's got some friends to talk to - especially as he hasn't actually met them in real life.

I remember him showing me it once. It was the first day of the scheduled summer period, and the ambience had been infused with increased warmth and light. I had woken up to the sound of an ice cream drone

buzzing past my bedroom window, chiming out some Nik and the Sputs song.

I jumped out of bed and looked out. The sky was really pink, and really brought out the green of the artificial turf around our block, where loads of the other kids were playing games.

I went to join in, but they explained that they were games that needed even numbers, and they said I couldn't play because I was an odd number.

I asked you to play with me, but you couldn't because you had to catch up with the neighbours to find out 'what that huffy tart Matilda at number 106 had been up to now'.

So I bounced the ball off the side of a crumbly wall instead - the one that the drunk man from number 298 used to pee against - and pretended I was competing against a tennis champ. It was match-point - and I was on the verge of losing - when the ball bounced over a fence, and rolled into Pietro's shed.

I found him talking to the radio. There were voices that seemed to be talking back - but I didn't understand the language. Pietro looked a bit surprised for a moment, but then he lifted me up onto a chair next to him and - I wasn't sure, but I think he was introducing me to the voices.

It was *amazing*.

He showed me the transceiver and antennae, and then he said some words that I *did* understand, but sort of also *didn't* understand at the time - but for different reasons - like 'modulation' and 'phase-shift keying'.

And then I began to imagine all the people out there who you could talk to without them having to meet you first.

And then I realised that if you knew the right frequencies, you could talk to anyone in the world! And if they knew yours, they could talk to you too!

But then I thought about how if you didn't have the right frequency, you would never know if they were trying to reach you.

And then I remember feeling a bit sad.

I didn't go back to the shed. I'm sorry about that. Please tell Pietro that I'm sorry I didn't go back.

Although you won't hear this, so you *can't* tell him.
I keep forgetting that. I keep forgetting
everything.

And I'm worried that if I keep forgetting things I
might start to forget things like - what people look
like, and how they sounded, and the way they used to
sing to me when I was sleepy and -

You say that you've found them, and I want to
believe it. And I know you want me to come back home
to find out if it really is them - I really do..

But I've got some things I still need to do here you
see. I've got a pond to dig. Maybe when I've
finished that, and the goldfish are settled in
properly. Maybe then I'll come back.

It's important to stay busy.

You have to stay busy.

That's what Flippy always says.

I'd better go.

From Joy.

(YAWNS)

Orpheus, delete message.

ORPHEUS: Message deleted.

FX: **CLICK**

CHRISTY: Oh! The torch turned off!

FX: **CLICK CLICK CLICK**

CHRISTY: But now it won't turn on. And now it's dark in here.

(YAWN) Maybe I'll take a shower. And then maybe just
a little nap.

END