

people's gardens. You are to stop this ridiculous bloody detective game right now. I am going to make you promise me Christopher. And you know what it means when I make you promise.

16. HOME

SIOBHAN. "I think I would make a very good astronaut."

ED. Yes mate. You probably would.

SIOBHAN. "To be a good astronaut you have to be intelligent and I'm intelligent. You also have to understand how machines work and I'm good at understanding how machines work."

CHRISTOPHER. You also have to be someone who would like being on their own in a tiny spacecraft thousands and thousands of miles away from the surface of the Earth and not panic or get claustrophobia or homesick or insane. And I really like little spaces so long as there is no one else in them with me.

ED. I noticed.

SIOBHAN. "Sometimes when I want to be on my own I get into the laundry room and slide in beside the boiler and pull the door closed behind me and sit there and think for hours and it makes me feel very calm."

CHRISTOPHER. So I would have to be an astronaut on my own or have my own part of the spacecraft that no one else could come into. And also there are no yellow things or brown things in a spacecraft so that would be OK, too.

And I would have to talk to other people from Mission Control, but we would do that through a radio link-up and a TV monitor so it wouldn't be like real people who are strangers but it would be like playing a computer game.

ED. Which you like.

CHRISTOPHER. Also I wouldn't be homesick at all because I'd be surrounded by lots of things I like, which are machines and computers and outer space. And I would be able to look out of a little window in the spacecraft and know that there was no one else near me for thousands and thousands —

ED. Christopher.

CHRISTOPHER. What?

ED. Could you please, just, give it a bit of a break, mate. Please.
SIOBHAN. "And know that there was no one else near me for thousands and thousands of miles which is what I sometimes pretend at night in the summer when I go and lie on the lawn and look up at the sky and I put my hands round the sides of my face so that I can't see the fence and the chimney and the clothes line and I can pretend I'm in space.

And all I could see would be stars. And stars are the places where the molecules that life is made of were constructed billions of years ago. For example, all the iron in your blood, which stops you being anaemic, was made in a star.

And I would like it if I could take Toby with me into space, and that might be allowed because they sometimes do take animals into space for experiments, so if I could think of a good experiment you could do with a rat that didn't hurt the rat, I could make them let me take Toby. But if they didn't let me I would still go because it would be a Dream Come True."

17. SCHOOL

CHRISTOPHER. Father said.

SIOBHAN. I see, that's a pity.

CHRISTOPHER. So the book is finished.

SIOBHAN. Well, Christopher, if your father said he wanted you to stop then I think he probably has a good reason and I think you should stop. But you can still be very proud because what you've written so far is just, well, it's great.

CHRISTOPHER. It's not a proper book.

SIOBHAN. Why not?

CHRISTOPHER. It doesn't have a proper ending. I never found out who killed Wellington. So the murderer is still At Large.

SIOBHAN. Not all murders are solved. Not all murderers are caught.

CHRISTOPHER. Father said I was never to mention Mr. Shears' name in our house again and that he was an evil man and maybe that meant he was the person who killed Wellington.

SIOBHAN. I think you should do what your father tells you to do.