

MR METS EPISODE 2: THE RESCUE OF PROF ILLINGWORTH

It was yet another beautiful day in Happy Met Land. In the coffee room, Mr Blanchonnet was having a celebratory cup of coffee with Mr Cunningham in honour of his 21 years of service to the Land.

Meanwhile, in his office, Prof Shine (FRS) was deep in contemplation. He was writing the fifth section of the IPCC's Fifth Assessment Report. The fifth section was called Section E, and he had to make sure he phrased it perfectly.

However, not everyone was quite so happy in Happy Met Land that day. In the Synoptic Lab, poor Mr Gill had once more been tasked with evicting yet more post-docs to the nearby Not-So-Happy Ag Land. Not one to shirk his duties as Happy Met Land's Health and Safety enforcer, he was giving them a full safety briefing on their journey. As long as they signed his form, he could be held accountable in any way for any injuries caused when he fired the post-docs out of the window by catapult.

Meanwhile, in the stairwell, Dr Woolnough was telling anyone who would listen all about his experiences representing Happy Met Land in the Croquet World Cup. "IT WAS THE LAST TURN," said Dr Woolnough, "AND I HAD ONE SHOT TO WIN THE MATCH. I LINED UP FOR THE LAST HOOP AND TOOK A SWING. GUESS WHAT HAPPENED?"

"No idea," said Dr Ambaum.

"Not a clue," said Mr Reynolds.

"I WON, OF COURSE," said Dr Woolnough. "BECAUSE I AM BRILLIANT."

"If you're so great at croquet," said Dr Ambaum, "why don't you write a book about it? I've written a book, you know."

Suddenly, Mr Gill came running up, looking flustered. "I need your help," he said. "I've just done something terrible."

"WHAT?" said Dr Woolnough.

"Well, I was catapulting post-docs out of the window again – but I didn't notice that Prof Illingworth was standing among them!"

In horror, Dr Ambaum dropped his book, Mr Reynolds dropped his mug of coffee and Dr Woolnough dropped his croquet mallet. In the moment, no one noticed the arrival of Mr Lean.

"What's going on here, then?" said Mr Lean, from Happy Met-Office-At-Reading Land.

"MR GILL HAS JUST CATAPULTED PROF ILLINGWORTH OUT OF THE SYNOPTIC LAB WINDOW," said Dr Woolnough.

"He's over in Not-So-Happy Ag Land now," said Mr Gill. "It could only take a superhero to rescue him."

Mr Lean grinned broadly. "Met-Office-At-Reading Land is full of superheroes. Allow me to go off and change into my superhero outfit."

"Met-Office-At-Reading Land at your service," said Mr Lean. "Here are my sidekicks: Mr Macallan, Dr Ballard, Mr Mahmood and Little Miss Carter. You may notice that Little Miss Carter is not properly branded. But she's a pink-belt at taekwondo, so we tend not to argue."

