

[In the dark] l. x re. stand. (in <sup>narrow</sup> container)

Nothing But Mages  
by Greg Bletcher

x container. yell. (y were cryoid, lizard folk alien has woken you;  
y recuperate; escorted to craft, taken to alien habitat; testing machine)

[Conference Room] (sitting in first chair) table, 3 chairs, green door N, old gen + young gen.  
x guards (uniforms + hand comms). x chairs. x table (green jacket alien + yellow jacket alien)  
green alien says hello; yellow wants to check PDA re Cave Maze III.

z. (1) Yes. / Are y Greg Randall, b. July 23, 1966, St. Cloud, Mn, USA? (1) Yes.  
green jacket = Nelson, dir of Ind of Humanities (etc), Australia;

yellow jacket = Ovan, asst prof of IF, also at ESAC Humanities.

y had heart attack in 2026; it is now 2189. talk to Nelson (what happened?)

(nuclear war in 2068; 95% of humanity died) z. (Ovan says they're a race called the Oo;  
a spaceship dropped them off a 100 yrs ago + went for another shipbook)

z. (IF is highest form of art to them; y are the 1st human we've found who knew abt IF)  
talk to Ovan (turn up int, lit, music? - they laugh)

Is the true y played IF? I yes  $\Rightarrow$  we write a game + need someone to test it!

Epizles rule over story, plot, character, etc; Ovan loves mages; without mages, why write a game?

Their game is called "Totona Eeret" (The Mages of Earth) aka Only Mages  
aka Nothing But Mages. (4) (People are lying + y'd rather talk abt mages?)

- escorted to cell + told to get plenty of sleep. [Cell] bed, food dispenser, toilet, door N,  
Asian woman (Vicki), blonde (Diane)  $\Rightarrow$  people to heart time

(1) - ~~test~~ text, it's Kona teesofal (VR), there is a goal.

(2) If y get killed in the game, do y die in RL? (yes; they pull the plug on you)

(2) uh-oh  $\Rightarrow$  water-death rooms. {but we love an alien}

(1) then  $\Rightarrow$  y'd use the food processor to hack into sys; y need password.

(Ovan set his password to the name of an Oo computer game) ("Cave maze III" y remember)

- they claimed to be fertile, but that disease is only good for the women.
- Diane has never played IF; Vicki once played Wobbiner + a couple others.
- who's played? Stephen from Vancouver + Doug from Virginia (dead)
- on Neton (nice, but doesn't consider humans as people) (got the toilet fixed)
- on asset (something more under the surface)
- x dispenser (Food Dispenser 53A, monetary keyboard, bin; USE DISPENSER)  
(Only 24 keys on keyboard in 0o alphabet)

- [1] Play Cave Maze III
- [2] Get status report of staff and crew
- [3] Get status report of persons
- [4] Release deadly methane gas at Queensland Settlement
- [5] Program Neton, Bot Mages
- [6] Get session

2 → Director / Office / Reading a paper on theoretical physics  
 Post pub / Office / Fiddling in PDA  
 Post / Conf room / "Deep space" meditation  
 Se guard / Beachcomf / Eating sandwich  
 Je guard / " / Talking abt Oo War II.

3 → Vicki Murakami / Cell / Resting  
 Diane Godke / Cell / Resting  
 Gary Randall / Cell / Using food dispenser

1 → denied by Neton

S → [Place] box 'mazes.m?' contains mazes.m. (exit)  
 See beschheim.m, butterflydenkstr.m, mazes.exe,  
 robotnavigator.m, m9computer.exe, vr2text.m,  
 of warrability.exe.

.m (long metal piece)  
 .exe (cube, muddle)

run warrability (Testing mazes.exe → viable, odds of win: 0.01% - 0.03%)

core + butterfly + vr + robot → odds of win 30% - 50%

- ally beachcom (still 30-50%) (core + vr + robot → 30-50)  
 (core + beachcom + butterfly - 0.01 - 0.03)

mazes.m - core, required  
 vr2text - needs robotnavigator  
 robotnav - needs vr2text.