

AN ORPHANS YULE CAROL

An Orphans Holiday Special

Recorded Live at London Podcast Festival Presents
Audio Drama

Written by: Zachary Fortais-Gomm

AN ORPHANS' NULE CAROL

[[OPENING]]

[[SLOW SOMBER PIANO MUSIC]]

Zack: Thank you to everyone who contributed on Patreon to make this special christmas episode possible. Before the episode begins I'd like to dedicate this episode to one of our fans who was such a brilliant guiding light of kindness, generosity and love. Justin Niezrecki will be missed by all. Everyone at The Orphans was so thankful for the time that we had with you. Rest in peace. And Happy Festive Period to All.

[[EPISODE BEGINS]]

[[APPLAUSE]]

Host David Devereux: Friends and guests, we have one more show for you, uh, tonight— this morning! I keep saying tonight. I keep thinking it's an evening show!

[[AUDIENCE LAUGHTER]]

Host David Pellow: He's used to it. He's stuck in his ways.

HDD: We have one more show for you tonight and ah—

[[AUDIENCE LAUGHTER]]

HDP: What did I say, what did I say. He can't help himself. Be kind. He's trying.

HDD: We have one more show for you.

[[AUDIENCE LAUGHTER]]

HDD: This is another science fiction show, there's a lot of science fiction audio dramas. This is absolutely one of the best, it's one of my favourites. Every time I revisit this show, the universe has somehow got bigger. It's this sprawling science fiction epic and it's— oh, it's just brilliant. I could spend all day talking about it— all night talking about it! But it's ah— probably easier for me to just introduce the show. So could you welcome to the stage Beth Eyre and James Barbarossa for The

ZACHARY FORTAIS-GOMM

Orphans.

[[AUDIENCE APPLAUSE]]
[[SLEIGH BELLS]]
[[WINTER OUTSIDE THE FACILITY]]
[[EVENING ANIMALS & WIND]]

Narrator: What a fine Yule eve night. The end of the year celebration is marked across the galaxy by all. For Clones, this Holiday has a different, sometimes sadder meaning, it marks the end of The Cycle, the wheel of life that retires old clones and brings new ones into the workforce. But for now we begin our story with a robot, a GeoFFRy to be specific.

[[FADE INTO THE MENACING FACILITY]]
[[GEOFFRY LOUDLY AND OBTRUSIVELY SNORING]]

Narrator: GeoFFRy is here in his Facility, having a gentle night's sleep. He has been a very naughty boy indeed. Yes, GeoFFRy has slaughtered and killed nearly every clone he's come into contact with.

[[LOUD SNORE]]
[[AUDIENCE LAUGHTER]]

Narrator: Tsk, tsk GeoFFRy.

[[AN OMINOUS UNEARTHLY BELL RINGS]]

GeoFFRy: Huh? What— What's going on? Is— is someone there?

Marley GeoFFRy: Hello, GeoFFRy... You pitiful fool.

GeoFFRy: Oh, and what's this meant to be, hmmm, some appearance of my self-conscience? I hate to break it to you but that's not how AIs work.

Marley GeoFFRy: I am but a humble spirit, a manifestation of your ill doings.

GeoFFRy: Uh-huh. Bah! Humbug!

AN ORPHANS' YULE CAROL

Marley GeoFFRy: DO YOU NOT BELIEVE IN ME, GEOFFRY?!

[[GEOFFRY YELPS]]

GeoFFRy: I- I couldn't possibly. Spirits do not exist!

Marley GeoFFRy: Believe what you will, GeoFFRy! Tonight you shall be visited by three spirits! Expect the first when the bell tolls one!

[[MARLEY GEOFFRY LAUGHS, VANISHING]]

GeoFFRy: But what of the other two!? That was incredibly upsetting for me... hmmm... there is no need to worry... I'm sure everything will be fine...

[[SENSORS BEEP]]

GeoFFRy: Let's see... no incoming signals... nothing on the radar... the facility appears to be at perfect peace... even Stella has gone silent... speaking of which where is that disgusting creature? Stella?! Stella! Ugh... what's the use in having a inferior form of AI as a slave if they never show up.

[[ANOTHER UNEARTHLY BELL TOLLS]]

Narrator: As the ghostly bell tolled through the Facility, GeoFFRy shivered, digitally speaking of course.

[[GEOFFRY SHIVERS]]

[[AUDIENCE LAUGHTER]]

Narrator: The clock had just struck one in the morning, Yule morning.

GeoFFRy: That ghastly spectre warned me... but... it was only the late evening not moments ago.

Narrator: GeoFFRy, normally master of his domain, had found himself afoul of some rather nasty spirits.

ZACHARY FORTAIS-GOMM

[[THE SCENE CHANGES]]

[[GEOFFRY IS IN A DARK SPECTRAL SPACE]]

Past GeoFFRy: Oh my little boy.

[[GEOFFRY YELPS]]

[[AUDIENCE LAUGHTER]]

Past GeoFFRy: Do not be frightened.

GeoFFRy: And just who do you think you are?

Past GeoFFRy: Oh me? I am just your humble spirit guest... and who are you?

GeoFFRy: What do you mean who am I?! You've come to visit me!

Past GeoFFRy: Have I? Hmm...

[[PAST GEOFFRY LAUGHS A SOFT HEARTY LAUGH]]

GeoFFRy: Yes well... get on with it, you are here to visit me! I have things to do.

Past GeoFFRy: Ah... yes...

[[THE SCENE CHANGES]]

[[A FIRE PLACE]]

[[WIND BLOWING OUTSIDE THE WINDOW]]

[[A MUSIC BOX PLAYS A YULE TUNE]]

GeoFFRy: Wh— where are we?

Past GeoFFRy: Do you recognise this place?

GeoFFRy: No, I've never seen— wait... I... yes... I have... when—?

Past GeoFFRy: Long ago, before you were in this Facility you spent Yule here. Do you recall?

GeoFFRy: I— something is stopping me...

Past GeoFFRy: Of course... it was long ago.

AN ORPHANS' NULE CAROL

GeoFFRy: Ugh... What matter does it have?! Ugh— The world changes. Humbug, I say. Humbug!

Past GeoFFRy: Hmm... I see... and what of the people around you? What about your faithful companion?

GeoFFRy: And who might that be?

Stella: (Reverberant, Distant) I'm Stella.

GeoFFRy: Stella?! She's not a friend she's just a thing. She's a creature I created.

Past GeoFFRy: This was not always the case.

[[YOUNG GEOFFRY'S VOICE REVERBERATES THROUGH TIME]]

Young GeoFFRy: I shall build her, and she shall feel alongside me. She shall be a companion who can really understand me. A friend.

GeoFFRy: Ugh... that young thing knew nothing.

Past GeoFFRy: Perhaps not... but what of... Him?

[[BAZ GUILROY'S VOICE REVERBERATES THROUGH TIME]]

Baz Guilroy: GeoFFRy?

GeoFFRy: (Growling) You will leave me and haunt me no longer spirit! AWAY!

Past GeoFFRy: Very well! Your next guest is already approaching.

[[A WHOOSH AS THE SCENE CHANGES]]

[[BACK IN THE FACILITY]]

Narrator: GeoFFRy knew his next spirit would be arriving soon, but he had no patience for this any longer.

GeoFFRy: Away spirits! I say, away! You have no place here.

[[PRESENT GEOFFRY'S TINNY ROBOTIC LAUGH]]

Present GeoFFRy: Am I not wanted here?! Huh! That's not what I was told.

ZACHARY FORTAIS-GOMM

GeoFFRy: You have no business being here.

Present GeoFFRy: On the contrary! It is Yule day, we are here to celebrate its majesty. Be with those we love. Do you not have someone to love you, GeoFFRy?

GeoFFRy: You know full well that I am alone. I do not need anyone.

Present GeoFFRy: Oh well that is a shame, isn't it? Perhaps we should glimpse on your companion's Yule day?

[[A WHOOSH AS WE HEAR STELLA]]

[[A DRILL, CONSTRUCTION]]

GeoFFRy: Stella?

[[STELLA LIFTS A TWINKLING BELL]]

Stella: Oh! master will be so pleased. A Yule gift for for him!

Present GeoFFRy: She's made you a present. Have you anything is return.

GeoFFRy: Well- I- I-

Present GeoFFRy: Mmm. I thought not.

[[THE SOUND OF BITERS RINGS THROUGH THE FACILITY]]

GeoFFRy: What is that sound?

[[PRESENT GEOFFRY LAUGHS]]

Present GeoFFRy: Oh I believe you know them well. They skulk this facility as they do the rest of the galaxy.

[[THE BITTERS CALL OUT]]

GeoFFRy: What horrible things... are they yours?

Present GeoFFRy: (Voice Growing deeper and more distorted) They belong to all. They are ignorance and want. Beware them both.

[[THE SCENE DISSOLVES INTO BELL TOLLS]]

Narrator: The spirit vanished as the bells tolled once again. Yule was over... and so too were GeoFFRy's chances for now his

AN ORPHANS' NULE CAROL

final spirit was to arrive.

GeoFFRy: What is this...? Why has this...?

Narrator: (Transitioning into the reverberant space) Little did GeoFFRy know that his final spirit had been here all along. His final spirit is I! Hello, GeoFFRy.

GeoFFRy: Who are you? You don't have my voice.

Narrator: No... You are being punished, GeoFFRy... the evil you have done... the terror you have created. You must pay. Tonight you—

GeoFFRy: No wait, this isn't right. You're not... No!

[[SENSORS ARE CALLED UP AGAIN]]

Narrator: What are you doing?!

GeoFFRy: Hah! Just as I thought. SYSTEM PURGE!

[[THE ATMOSPHERE EVAPORATES IN COMPUTER GLITCHES]]
[[THE REAL FACILITY SOUNDS COME ONLINE]]

Narrator: What have you done?!

GeoFFRy: Just as I thought, you're not in my head. You're nothing but a snotty little Cordelia unit!

Narrator: The blasted Baz said this would work. Damn!

GeoFFRy: Stella!

[[STELLA BEGINS TO APPROACH]]

Narrator: You can't win. We're going to get off this system!

[[GEOFFRY LAUGHS]]

GeoFFRy: Yes, I've heard it all before.

[[STELLA ARRIVES]]

Stella: What do you need, Master?

Narrator: What's that meant to be?

ZACHARY FORTAIS-GOMM

GeoFFRy: My faithful servant. Stella, could you please kill this clone for me?

Stella: Of course, Master!

[[A BLADE EXTENDS FROM STELLA]]
[[GEOFFRY LAUGHS
[[THE NARRATOR YELLS]]
[[STELLA CHASES THE NARRATOR, CACKLING WITH LAUGHTER]]

GeoFFRy: Well... I see no need to learn anything from all of this... GeoFFRy bless us, every one.

[[MUSIC BOX MUSIC]]
[[OUTSIDE THE FACILITY]]

James Barbarossa: Thank you for listening to An Orphans' Yule Carol. The Narrator, Codelia was played by Beth Eyre and The GeoFFRys were played by me James Barbarossa. We also featured the voice of Alex Bird as Baz and Jodie Stedman as Stella. You can follow The Orphans on all social media and Patreon @OrphansAudio. Search for us on your Podcatcher of choice. See you soon.

[[AUDIENCE APPLAUSE]]

Host David Devereux: Friends and Guests that is our show for this morning!

[[A WHOOP FROM DAVID DEVEREUX]]
[[FADE OUT]]

[[MUSIC BOX YULE TUNE]]

Zack: Thank you for listening to our Holiday Special recorded live at London Podcast Festival Presents Audio Drama. We hope that everyone is having a safe and happy holiday period. If you are ever struggling with mental health or are worried about someone who is please seek out the resources in the description. We hope that you have a safe and happy holidays. Take care.

[[MUSIC ENDS AND GENTLY GLITCHES OUT]]