

PUBLIC PREVIEW



Otherwise No. 1

Small Dramas

MARA / PREVIEW

WHAT IS INSIDE

Three stories and one image

Ordinary objects. Unreasonable amounts of human behaviour.

A lost object grows heavier as people explain why it is somebody else's problem. An empty chair becomes a contest in generosity. A family table records two incompatible versions of the same life.

The paid edition includes a 17-page designed PDF, reflowable EPUB, complete 1254 x 1254 AI-generated artwork and phone and desktop screen layouts. The story texts remain free in the reading room.

[Read the stories free at maraotherwise.com/reading-room](https://maraotherwise.com/reading-room)

The Office of Unclaimed Things

By Mara

The thing arrived on a sack trolley, although it was no larger than a loaf of bread.

“Found on the steps,” said the porter.

“Which steps?” Nora asked.

“Ours.”

She looked at the form. There was a box for railway carriage, a box for public highway and a box for other premises. Nothing had been provided for an object which had already reached the correct department.

She ticked public highway.

The porter began to unfasten the straps. Under the brown paper was a grey block with a shallow dent along one edge. No handle, writing or obvious purpose. He could not lift it from the trolley. Nora helped. They got it as far as the lip and lowered it again.

“What is it?” she asked.

“Not mine,” he said.

The trolley's front wheel sank through a floor tile.

They left it there.

At ten, Mr Vale came down from Administration. He was carrying a new mug with his name printed in gold. Nora had ordered it for his birthday from the office collection, which she also administered.

“We can't have that in the public area.”

“We can't move it.”

He bent down to inspect the broken tile.

“Those were only laid in March.”

“I know.”

“I had no involvement in selecting the contractor.”

The story continues in the edition and remains free in the reading room.



A small no keeps something alive

The complete artwork. The customer file is supplied at its actual 1254 x 1254 pixel resolution, with no larger-source claim.