

OZ 9 EPISODE 41

NARRATOR

It turns out, the Oz 9 is short on terraforming equipment but long on pod seeds. Whether they're the good pod seeds that are polite and don't eat people or the bad ones that are rude and do, is unclear. Captain Madeline has sent le Bichon Frise and the Albatros to pod bay 1344 to figure out what's going on and whether their lives are in danger. Again. Still. Whatever.

sounds of the bridge

THEO

I have to say, I think it would've been smarter to send the actual plant expert down to check on the plants...

MADELINE

Yeah, well, why didn't you say that when they were headed out the door?

THEO

I did. Repeatedly. At great volume.

JOE

Did anyone ever tell you, you hit a range where only dogs can hear you?

THEO

It's been mentioned.

MADELINE

Look, I wanted the two assassins because if those things are hostile, they're the best equipped to fight them off. Or to be food, in the Bichon Freeze's case, which is also OK.

THEO

The problem is, those two think everything's hostile. The other day, the Bichon Frise stabbed my sandwich with a meat thermometer.

JOE

In his defense, it was moving.

THEO
It was sliding because the ship
tilted.

OLIVIA
We were going around a corner.

THEO
We're in space!

OLIVIA
Doesn't mean there aren't corners.

THEO
Yes! It does!

COLIN
I thought space curved?

THEO
Jesus!

JOE
Good to know that's still around.

COLIN
That's it. I'm doing something about
this invisibility TODAY.

door

THEO
My point is, those could very well be
benign, even magnanimous.

MADELINE
See? Even more reason to send the
assassins to kill them.

JOE
Actually, Captain Madeline, benign and
magnanimous are good things.

MADELINE
Olivia! Can you patch us through to
the Albatros and the Bichon Frise?

OLIVIA
Of course.

long pause

MADELINE

Well?

OLIVIA

Are you asking me to, or just establishing my competence? Oh, all right. Come in, Big Bird.

ALBATROS

Hello? Can anyone hear me? Captain Madeline, are you there?

MADELINE

We're here, Albatros. Are you at the pod bay yet?

ALBATROS

Not quite. The lights are off down here. I can see fine, being Scottish, but the puppy keeps bumping into walls.

LBF

Merde!

ALBATROS

Are you sure it was a good idea to send him off so soon after he was hit by lightning?

JOE

Does he seem OK? Would he be bumping into walls if the lights were working?

ALBATROS

I'm not entirely sure. Part of me thinks he's enjoying it.

LBF

I am FINE. My mustaches are not so curly now. And my head has stopped smoking.

ALBATROS

You still smell like toasted cheese. And not in a good way. And what do you mean your mustaches are not so curly? It looks like you're balancing a pair of corkscrews on your upper lip.

LBF

Ho ho ho! So you have been staring at
my upper lip, mmmmmmm? Perhaps you are
dreaming of a little.... kiss....?

loud sounds of sloppy kissing

LBF

Mmmmm....

MADELINE

Whoa! Albatros?

ALBATROS

Don't worry, Captain. He appears to be
kissing Leet.

JOE

I have so many questions.

OLIVIA

I'm sorry, kissing whom?

ALBATROS

Save the voltage, computer, he has no
idea.

JOE

Isn't Leet basically nine of you
arranged like the Brady Bunch?

ALBATROS

I have no idea what a Brady Bunch is,
but it is a bit concerning that he
could confuse me with Leet.

LEET

Your mustache tickles.

LBF

Gah! Who am I kissing?

LEET

Whom, I think. It's me, Leet.

LBF

What are you doing down here?!

LEET

Besides getting smooches? I came down
to water my plants.

MADELINE

Water your plants? Joe....what the hell is that?

JOE

Plants? Or water?

MADELINE

Not that, *that*. Behind Theo.

THEO

Behind *who* now?

LEET

Whom! It's whom, right?

JOE

Wow! Uhhhhh.... that appears to be a green ghost.

MADELINE

That's what I thought.

whispers

Olivia! Is there an alien aboard our ship?

COLIN

sneezes

It's me.

JOE

OK, Colin, don't panic, but you seem to be covered in some sort of alien spoor.

THEO

Or pollen. That looks like pollen.

COLIN

It's flour.

JOE

You're green.

COLIN

Kudzu flour. But you can see me, right?

sneezes

MADELINE

Well, yeah, but I kind of don't want
to.

COLIN

What's that supposed to mean?

OLIVIA

It means you're seriously creepy. And
also covered in green dust.

COLIN

Very funny.

THEO

It's really not a good look. And some
plant components are known to burrow
under skin.

COLIN

"Burrow" ? !

running feet, door

MADELINE

Kudzu burrows?

THEO

No, I just wanted him to shower that
off. He was creeping me out. Did Leet
say he was watering his plants?

LEET

And getting smooches.

LBF

That was an accident! You have
surprisingly soft little lips,
however.

LEET

Thanks! I made some moisturizer from
swamp aloe.

THEO

There's no aloe vera in the swamp.

LEET

Well, from something, anyway.

LBF

You must show me later. My hands, they
are so dry, see the little cracks?

LEET

Well, no, it's pitch black down here.

MADELINE

THE PLANTS.

ALBATROS

Yes, if you two are quite finished
sharing beauty tips, perhaps Leet
could lead us to this garden of his?
Is it, by chance, in pod bay 1344?

LEET

Of course not. I would've said
something when Joe brought it up. My
garden is in pod bay 1344B.

MADELINE

Joe, were you in 1344A?

JOE

There is no 1344A. Only B.

THEO

This ship is ridiculous.

ALBATROS

If you're only figuring that out now,
Dr. Theo, you're not nearly as
brilliant as I thought.

LEET

You're not going to kill my plants,
are you?

LBF

Are they the good kind? Or the bad
kind?

JOE

You're an assassin, Freeze. What
qualifies as "good" and "bad" for you?

LBF

The good kind does not eat me. But it
does eat people I do not like...

MADELINE

Please stop talking. Leet, where did you find the seeds? Are these seeds you brought with you?

LEET

Nope. Captain Jessie gave them to me. I think she brought them over from the 6748.

JOE

Julie said her group didn't get to all the ships to replace the seeds.

MADELINE

Did they get to the 6748?

THEO

I think we need to find Julie. And Jessie. Now.

NARRATOR

Are the seeds good? Bad? Is Leet the pod whisperer? And why would Jessie smuggle seeds aboard the Oz 9? It's Season 3 on the Oz 9, and once again, we have more questions than answers. The biggest one being: WHY THE HELL AM I STILL HERE. Anyway, former Captain Jessie is currently to be found enjoying some rare peace on a sun-drenched hill in the bioswamp.

swamp meadow sounds

JESSIE

He loves me... he loves me not....

NARRATOR

The daisies, however, are having a really bad day.

JESSIE

He loves me... he loves me not... dammit! I'm running out of daisies here!

GREG

Well, hey there, Captain Jessie.

JESSIE

Hello, Greg. How much of your internal entourage did you bring with you?

GREG

It's just me, for the moment. Sounds like there's quite a kerfuffle down on Earth, so they're otherwise occupied. What happened to the daisies?

JESSIE

Oh, ehhhhh... they attacked. This ship, I tell you. Have a seat.

GREG

Oh, I'll stand, thanks.

JESSIE

Still haven't figured out how to sit, eh?

GREG

Apparently, zebras don't sit. It's all up or all down. And YouTube is remarkably short on videos of how zebras get from one to the other.

JESSIE

I found a grove. Sort of a grove. Half a dozen scraggly citrus trees. Orange?

GREG

Trying to cut down on my gray fruit, thanks.

JESSIE

Suit yourself. What are you doing in the bioswamp?

GREG

Taking some samples.

JESSIE

How do you do that?

GREG

Well, apparently, that's why I get hungry for weird things. It's actually the scientists. When they hear about something they want to study, they trigger a hunger response. I eat it,

and they analyze it in my insides.
Pretty clever, actually; if annoying.
Found myself licking Leet the other
day.

JESSIE
Someone wanted to know why he's so
shiny?

GREG
I got the idea it was more of a joke.
What are you doing out here? Aren't
you worried about Albert the
alligator?

JESSIE
A little, but he mostly sticks to the
soggy bottoms.

GREG
Hang on, someone's apparently curious
about the attack daisies.

munching sounds

Mmmmm. Pretty tasty, actually.

burps

JESSIE
Rude.

GREG
Sorry, that's the results coming back.
Apparently they're just normal
daisies.

JESSIE
Yeah, well, maybe they're not very
good scientists.

GREG
Mmmm, that starlight feels good,
doesn't it?

JESSIE
How would you know?

GREG
Sensory inputs that create serotonin
and dopamine. Same as you, basically.

JESSIE

I hate this ship. Apparently even starlight can't fix that.

GREG

It's not that bad, is it?

JESSIE

All my life, all I ever wanted was to captain my own ship. I built models of ships as a kid, collected discarded body tags until I had enough to trade in for a captain's hat.

GREG

"Discarded" body tags? How do you discard something that's implanted?

JESSIE

My sister got them for me. She said some people's bodies rejected them. Along with their arms, occasionally. I didn't question it. Just wiped them off and added them to the baggie.

GREG

Wow. OK... Well, at least your dream came true.

JESSIE

Sort of. And for about, what, 10 days? Before I had to jump ship and come here to play second fiddle to Madpants Madeline.

GREG

I'm sure you were an excellent captain.

JESSIE

I was. I really was. [pause] I deserve my own ship.

GREG

Surely.

JESSIE

I think I might have this one, actually.

GREG
Oh? What does that mean...exactly?

JESSIE
Let me pitch you a hypothetical: Do you feel safe with Madeline in charge?

GREG
"Safe" is a...mighty complicated word on a ship run by Gated Galaxies.

JESSIE
True. But I do think some of us are better equipped to deal with the uncertainties than others. Don't you reckon?

GREG
Ms Jessie, I have to ask...

JESSIE
Captain.

GREG
Well, sure. *Captain Jessie*, you're not planning... oh, I dunno... a mutiny of sorts, are you?

JESSIE
Oh, no, nothing so sloppy as that. I'm just....daydreaming in the starlight, that's all. Bit of a dwam, we say at home.

COLIN
shouting from afar

Captain Jessie!

JESSIE
"Captain Jessie".... It has such a nice ring to it though, doesn't it? God, what the hell happened to you?

COLIN
It's just kudzu flour. Which, I'm learning, doesn't wash off very well. You're needed on the bridge.

GREG
What's happening?

COLIN
Just some questions about the plants
in pod bay 1344.

JESSIE
Shouldn't you be asking Theo? I'm no
paleontologist.

GREG
Botanist.

JESSIE
What?

COLIN
Botanists study plants, not
paleontologists.

JESSIE
You sure? It's got the word "plant"
right in it.

COLIN
No, it doesn't.

JESSIE
What do you know?

COLIN
How to spell.

GREG
Should we go?

COLIN
Yes. Right. I think I might fly back,
actually; see if I can lose some of
this flour. Greg, would you mind
giving Jessie a lift?

JESSIE
Captain Jessie.

COLIN
Yes, all right, whatever.

JESSIE
Not "whatever." *Captain Jessie* from

now on.

GREG

aside, to Colin

Just go with it for now.

COLIN

Yes, fine, Captain Jessie. Good lord,
what happened to the daisies?

GREG

They... uh... they attacked.

COLIN

For God's sake, is nothing on this
ship sane?

GREG

aside, to Colin

At the moment, I think we're down to
you and me.

aside, to himself

And I ain't real sure about you.

to Jessie

Y'all set, Captain Jessie? Heeyah!

sounds of galloping hooves, flying, alligator snaps, Colin
shrieks

NARRATOR

As they head back to the bridge, it
becomes apparent that Colin's plan of
knocking off some of the kudzu flour
means flying into walls...

Ka-WHANG!!

COLIN

Ouch! Dammit! Gah! Look out! Why are
there so many WALLS?

NARRATOR

But eventually, they make it to the

bridge. Joe, however, will be spending some time wiping green, Colin-shaped, kudzu-flour outlines off several corridors.

door, galloping, bridge sounds

MADELINE
Jessie, good.

JESSIE
Captain Jessie. I *earned* my credentials.

MADELINE
Did you.

GREG

aside, to Madeline

Just... humor her for now, please.

MADELINE
Fine. Captain Jessie. And Colin, OK.
That's.... unpleasant.

COLIN
So you can still see me?

MADELINE
Yeah, you look like a... green chalk outline of yourself. Like you died standing up.

COLIN
Really. [pause] My head is killing me. Everything else on this ship is so flimsy, a half-hearted sneeze will knock it over, but the corridor walls are sturdy as bricks. Bastards!

THEO
Could we get on with the question-asking bit? Don't forget, you still have two crew members going in to face whatever's there.

MADELINE
I'm gonna pull you back on that one. I don't think anyone who's probably

plotting to kill us qualifies as
"crew."

GREG
Might be time for a re-count then.

MADELINE
Sorry?

GREG
Nothing.

JOE
The Doc's right. Albatros and the
Freeze at least deserve to know what
they're going up against.

ALBATROS
Thank you, Joseph. If interrogation is
required, I can assure you I have
impressive credentials and a solid
success record.

LBF
Me too!

ALBATROS
I've seen your CV, Freeze. The only
impressive thing about it is your
courage to share it publicly.

LBF
Oooooo, you are so mouthsome!

ALBATROS
Mouthy, you idiot. Try and kiss me
again, and I'll smack your mustache
straight, got it?

LBF
I will have you know, I have
interrogated some extrement important
peoples, ehhh? Presidents, Ministers,
even a princess.....

ALBATROS
That was Halloween.

LBF
And your point is?

ALBATROS

Really?

LBF

Can I help it if many presidents are
quite small and have high-pitched
voices? They TALKED!

JESSIE

You had me rush here to listen to
assassin mating calls?

ALBATROS

That is NOT what this is.

LBF

Oh, isn't it?

sound of a hard smack

ALBATROS

There, see? I told you it'd go
straight.

LBF

dazed

Oh... thank... you....

ALBATROS

Jessie-

JESSIE

CAPTAIN JESSIE.

ALBATROS

I used to deliver newspapers, but you
don't see me hanging on to that title.
Now, what kind of pods are in there?

JESSIE

What are you asking me for?

THEO

Leet said you gave him the seeds he
planted in there. So we need to know -
are they hostile? Or benign?

MADELINE

Doc, that makes no sense. CAPTAIN

Jessie, are they good? Or are
they...benign?

THEO
What do you think benign means?

GREG
Now I'm not sure anymore.

THEO
Wait! Greg's here; can't we ask Julie
and Mrs. Sheffield?

GREG
Sorry. Team Earth are offline today.
I've been trying, but my kidneys go
straight to voice mail.

THEO
Kidneys.

GREG
Turns out that's where the phones are.

JESSIE
Are you saying Leet planted the seeds?
What an idiot!

LEET
Hey!

OLIVIA
It's all right, my darling. I'll take
over from here. HEY!

JESSIE
I told you to put them in storage!

LEET
How was I supposed to know that? That
was before you spoke English,
remember?

JESSIE
Before I- Is the room pulsating, or is
that just my brain?

MADELINE
Why the hell did you bring them with
you?

JESSIE

Because ... I was afraid we'd run out
of food.

MADELINE/COLIN/JOE/THEO/GREG/LEET
WHAT? !

JESSIE

Look, unlike the so-called captain of
the Oz 9-

MADELINE

OY.

JESSIE

I inspected my ship. As much of it as
I could get to before I had to escape,
anyway. I discovered most of our food
storage rooms were empty. And I
stumbled onto our Cal.

JOE

You knew these ships had bombs aboard?

JESSIE

I knew MY ship had a bomb aboard.
Fortunately, no one had gotten to it
yet to stupidly set it ticking.

LBF

Who would do such a foolish thing!?
Wait....

JESSIE

At any rate, it was pretty clear no
one expected us to need enough food to
get far. I found the seeds tucked away
in one of the smuggling holds-

MADELINE

"Smuggling" holds?

JESSIE

You really know nothing about the Oz
ships, do you?

JOE

The Oz 8000-model ships were built for
smuggling. The whole "short-range
luxury cruise" idea was just a front.
That's why G2 bought them in the first

place.

MADELINE

So, there are secret holds all over
the ship?

JESSIE

There's a whole secret ship all over
the ship.

ALBATROS

Any chance we could get back to the
point at hand? The idiot puppy just
bumped into the wall with the door
switch on it.

LEET

Wow, they've really grown since the
last time I was down here!

ALBATROS

When was that?

LEET

What time is it?

ALBATROS

Dear god.

OLIVIA

Right. Let's speed this up, shall
we? Pods: good or bad, Captained Jessie
-- and yes, that's the past tense of
Captain.

JESSIE

Do you know, you're my least favorite
thing in the whole universe?

pause, silence

OLIVIA

Really? I'm... I'm... I'm so sorry...

COLIN

Really?

OLIVIA

Don't be daft, like I give a sainted
crap. Good or bad, you tartan cow,
before I turn you to minced mutton.

THEO
Just FYI, mutton comes from sheep, not cows.

OLIVIA
Are you serious?

THEO
Just a ... mixed metaphor. Thought you'd like to know.

LBF

hollering

No no no no!! I am not tasty! Noooo!!!

ALBATROS
Aaaaaaaaaand the Freeze has been pulled in. In case you're curious, one of the pods appears to be eyeing Leet rather closely.

LEET
Awwwww, I think it likes me!
Whooooooooaaaa!

ALBATROS
Yep. Thought that might happen.

COLIN
Can you not close the door???

ALBATROS
Gosh, Colin, that hadn't occurred to me! Thank goodness you're aboard to come to our rescue with perfectly obvious solutions!

COLIN
Sarcasm in the face of death.
Impressive.

OLIVIA
Jessie, I suspect you'll be wanting to answer my question now.

JESSIE
I don't know the answer. I didn't know there were bad seeds. I just knew I was leaving the ship, and chances were

the 9 was no better stocked than the 6748, so I grabbed them. I figured we could test out one or two, see what we got, and plant the rest if we needed them.

COLIN

You have to admit, it makes sense, computer.

MADELINE

OK, so no answers here. Look, we need to get down there and rescue Leet. And we probably ought to grab the Freeze while we're at it.

COLIN

Why? He's likely planning to kill us all!

MADELINE

Well, we don't know that, do we? We should at least give him the benefit of the doubt. He might not be benign.

COLIN

Yes, that's precisely my point!

MADELINE

Well, then, why do you want to kill him?

COLIN

What?

THEO

I really don't think she knows what that word means.

COLIN

It does mean what I think it means, doesn't it?

THEO

I ... think so? I've rather lost track. Benign. Benign. Am I even saying it right anymore?

JOE

Could we maybe do the crossword later? We have at least one and possibly two

people to save.

OLIVIA
LET'S MOVE, PEOPLE.

NARRATOR
I'll save you the running-around-in-corridors bit, though I have to admit, even I laughed when they kept zig-zagging through the halls, that is such a classic gag. But in the end, they did make it to pod bay 1344B. The lights were on for a change, though when the crew saw the sheer size of the creatures they were dealing with, they might have preferred to remain in the dark. Literally and figuratively.

COLIN
My god.

MADELINE
Wow, all the flour is off. You're invisible again!

THEO
How did you manage it?

COLIN
Fear.

JOE
Doc, you wanna give us your initial thoughts here?

THEO
They're big.

JOE
Is "tell me something I don't know" too much of a cliche at this point?

ALBATROS
Doctor Theo, perhaps you ought to stand back a bit? The one on the far right seems quite keen on you.

THEO
Yes, yes, thank you. Why aren't they interested in you?

ALBATROS
I think they've realized I'm ...
Scottish.

COLIN
She's doing it again.

MADELINE
I know. She can't seem to let that go.

COLIN
She heard the "robot" part, didn't
she?

MADELINE
I could've sworn she did. I thought
she'd go all....benign.

COLIN
You really have no idea what that word
means, do you?

OLIVIA
Colin! You've got to fly up there and
open those pods!

COLIN
Why me?

OLIVIA
Who else bloody flies?!

COLIN
Oh. Yes, that. Perhaps I could carry
the Albatros up with me?

ALBATROS
And risk you dropping me from that
height? I think not.

GREG
Wait! Something's happening! The pod
is opening!

MADELINE
Oh, god. Tell me when it's OK to look!

JESSIE
But you're the captain. Unbelievable.

OLIVIA
It's Leet! He's OK!!

COLIN
Why does he look strange?

JESSIE
Something's wrong....

MADELINE
What... what IS that?

OLIVIA
Nooooooooooooo!!!!!!

JOE
It is! He's got a shirt!

JESSIE
The other pod is opening now!

ALBATROS
If he comes out with a monocle or a beret, I'm chopping this plant down.

LBF
Bonjour, mes amis! It is a most spectacular day, is it not? Dear friend plant, would you mind depositing me gently on the floor? Ahhhhhhhhhh, that is *magnifique*, *merci*! Do you know, I believe I have made a most critical discovery.

JOE
What's that.

LBF
These plants are where the healer pods come from. Now, if you will excuse-moi, I believe I will go read Thomas Mann's *Death in Venice* in the original German, first stopping briefly -- to learn German. Then, I understand, I have a great deal of work to do. Au revoir!

ALBATROS
Son of a bitch....

JOE
Bitchen Freeze.

LEET
Hey! What do you think of my new shirt?

NARRATOR

As you can see, Season Three offers no more hope for a sensible story than seasons one and two did. But I suppose you know by now not to count on it. Welcome back, Space Monkeys. Not much has changed. You've been listening to: Bonnie Brantley as Jessie; Kevin Hall as Greg; Tim Sherburn as Colin; Eric Perry as Joe; Richard Cowen as Leet; June Clark Eubanks as the Albatros; Aaron Clark as le Bichon Frise; David S. Dear as Dr. Theo Bromae; Shannon Perry as Madeline and Olivia; and me, Richard Nadolny as your Narrator. Our music was composed and performed by John Faley, and our artwork is by Lucas Elliott. This episode was directed by June Clark Eubanks. Oz 9 is written and produced by Shannon Perry. If you want to support the show, we'd love to see pics of you on Twitter, showing off your Oz 9 merch from Tee Public, or have you join our Patreon at patreon.com/Oz9podcast/. Even one dollar a month earns you some cool swag and our everlasting gratitude. Until next time, Space Monkeys, Narrator out.

