

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, mmmmmm? Perhaps you are dreaming of a little.... kiss....?

loud sounds of sloppy kissing

LBF

Mmmm....

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

MADLINE

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

MADLINE

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, ehhhh... 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 *extremment* important  
peoples, eh? 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?

MADLINE

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

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

LEET

Awwwwwww, I think it likes me!  
Whooooooooaaaaa!

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 cliché 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

Nooooooooooooooooo!!!!!!

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? Ahhhhhhhhhhhh, 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/](https://patreon.com/Oz9podcast/). Even one dollar a month earns you some cool swag and our everlasting gratitude. Until next time, Space Monkeys, Narrator out.

