

OZ 9 EPISODE 45

NARRATOR

1 Dr. Theo Bromae, accomplished
astromycologist and author of
Adventures with Your Penicillium
Digitatum, *The Mild Kingdom: Fun with*
Mesophiles, and *Keeping Your*
Temperate, has been creating a sort of
inventory of the bioswamp. From new
species of bacteria to apex predators
like Albert, to apex-predator bacteria
that doesn't even bear thinking about,
it's all being recorded in his little
blue notebook. Why am I telling you
this? Because if by some random chance
this ship crash lands back on earth,
LOOK FOR THE LITTLE BLUE NOTEBOOK.

sounds of the bioswamp in daytime

THEO

mumbling while scribbling in notebook

2 Eight legs, photosynthetic, appears to
have the choice between pollinatory
reproduction and mammalian
fertilization.

COLIN

3 Hello.

THEO

4 Good morning, Colin.

COLIN

5 No yelp? Am I visible?

THEO

6 No. See that flower there?

COLIN

7 The water lily?

THEO

8 Well, something like a water lily,
yes. It knows you're coming.

COLIN

9 What?

THEO
10 Yes. I've discovered that it leans
toward you and quivers when you
approach.

COLIN
11 It's attracted to humans?

THEO
12 No. Just you.

COLIN
13 Just me? Why? Should I be alarmed?
Or... flattered?

THEO
14 I have no idea. I'd think twice before
going in swimming, however.

COLIN
15 In that disgusting bog? It's safe from
me, I assure you. What are you doing?

THEO
16 I keep a log of all the species I find
in the bioswamp. As far as I can tell,
it's an utterly unique ecosystem.

COLIN
17 Well, that should make you rich and
famous when you bring it back to
earth.

THEO
18 Oh, we can't go back to earth now.

COLIN
19 What? Why not?

THEO
20 With no predators to keep them in
check, any number of these species
could destroy earth's ecosystems. And
the safety system that allows the
bioswamp to be ejected-

COLIN
21 Let me guess. It's broken.

THEO
22 No.

23 COLIN
Oh, well, that's good.

24 THEO
It was never installed. Did you want something, Colin? Also, judging by the fact I can feel the puffs of your breath, you're standing awfully close.

25 COLIN
Oh, sorry.

26 THEO
That's generally understood as an invitation to back up.

27 COLIN
Is it?

28 THEO
[sigh] What can I do for you, Colin?

29 COLIN
What would you do if you suspected a deadly and terrifying assassin was...interested in you?

30 THEO
Why? What have you heard? Dammit, not again!

31 COLIN
Not you, *me*.

32 THEO
Oh. Really? Sorry. Which one?

33 COLIN
The Albatros. She started to confess something to me, but we were interrupted.

34 THEO
No offense, but is this really important right now?

35 COLIN
Yes, well, I realize counting the legs on a mutant may fly is the most critical thing on our to-do list, so don't let me keep you from it.

THEO

36 Hold on. In my experience – and yes, I have experience in this – it's best not to leap to conclusions about what she was going to say to you. It's fortunate you don't have feelings for her, as that could really complicate things. Ooo! A *colopogon pulchellus!* With feet!

splashes off for closer look

COLIN

37 You could just say "orchid," you know! Prat. "It's fortunate you don't have feelings for her." [pause] Damn.

NARRATOR

38 In other parts of the swamp, the search for Greg continues, though Jessie and the Bichon Frise keep trying to pull attention away from the cave.

VON HABER ZETZER

39 My boy, zis is the eleventeenth time you have gotten in my vay. I am ztarting to zuzpect you do not want me to look over zere.

LE BICHON FRISE

40 Not at all, doctor. It is simply that I have searched that area most thoroughly and there are no zebras to be found. I do not wish you to waste your valuable time.

VON HABER ZETZER

41 I haf to zay, hearing you speak sense is most odd.

LE BICHON FRISE

42 Surely I was not so great an idiot!

VON HABER ZETZER

43 I have stepped on half a dozen zpecies in here zat I suspect were more intelligent, if less mobile.

LE BICHON FRISE

44 I must warn you, Doctor, I do not

45 enjoy being insulted.

 VON HABER ZETZER
46 Well, then avoid ze freezerz at all
 costs, my boy. When you are stupid,
 you are incredibly stupid. I believe
 zere are zum caves over zere. Perhaps
 our friend the zebra has wandered into
 one and gotten lost?

 LE BICHON FRISE
47 Oh, I do not imagine so. Surely he
 would call out?

 VON HABER ZETZER
48 Mmmmmmm. You haf ze point. Ach,
 ztumbling around in ze brush avoidink
 ze alligatorz iz a job for younger
 peoples.

 LE BICHON FRISE
49 Here. Sit.

 VON HABER ZETZER
50 Ah, yes, zis is good. Join me? Gut
 gut. Zo, you vill forgive me for
 intruding, but as your original
 target, I would like to know your
 planz aboard the Oz 9?

 LE BICHON FRISE
51 Ah, that is not information I am
 willing to share just now. I shall say
 only that I have reason to allow the
 status quo to continue for the moment.

 VON HABER ZETZER
52 Unt zis ztatus quo includes me
 breathing unt having my internal
 organs in the usual places, yes?

 LE BICHON FRISE
53 It does. It is beginning to look as if
 I shall never collect another fee, nor
 have a place to spend it if I do. Do
 not imagine you are all safe from me,
 however. I have only once failed to
 fulfill a contract, because I was busy
 being frozen at the time.

54 VON HABER ZETZER
How does one enter into your zo
unusual profession, mmmmm? I know
nothing of your history. Only your
formidable reputation.

55 LE BICHON FRISE
Why do you want to know?

56 VON HABER ZETZER
I only wish to haf a zecnd to catch
my breath, young fellow. Nothing more
diabolical than that. An old man's
pride, you zee? Unt I am naturally a
curious fellow.

57 LE BICHON FRISE
Mmmmmmm.....My mother was also an
assassin. The Greyhound. She was the
greatest assassin of her generation!

58 VON HABER ZETZER
Unt your fazer?

59 LE BICHON FRISE
He taught primary school. Until his
death, he never knew of my mother's
work, only that he was the only
teacher at his school that parents did
not complain about.

60 VON HABER ZETZER
Really?

61 LE BICHON FRISE
Well, not twice.

62 VON HABER ZETZER
Zis must have been a strange
childhood.

63 LE BICHON FRISE
Perhaps. But I am extremely good at
getting blood out of carpeting, grout,
and car trunks.

64 GREG
A skill set every child needs.

65 LE BICHON FRISE
Mon dieu! You are awa- here!

VON HABER ZETZER
66 Ach, Greg, good boy. You are found!
Where haf you been?

GREG
67 Apparently I was mushroom hunting.
Found a whole cave of good ones. Must
have dozed off.

VON HABER ZETZER
68 You sleep? How very strange!

GREG
69 Seems this body has an automatic
restart mechanism. Woke me right up.

LE BICHON FRISE
70 How...unexpected. And useful, of
course!

GREG
71 I thought so too. Doctor? Can I give
you a lift back to the bridge? You're
sitting on Albert, and he's a light
sleeper.

VON HABER ZETZER
72 [panicky noise, whisper] Ahhhhh, zis
would be most velcome. Monsieur
Freeze, I would like to hear more of
your most unusual history sometime.

LE BICHON FRISE
73 Of course! However, you know, you
cannot trust everything you hear, mmm?

some ooofs and ad libs from Eric as they move away

NARRATOR
74 As Greg trots off toward the bridge
with Dr. von Haber Zetzer bouncing
awkwardly on his back, the Bichon
Frise does not follow, setting off
deeper into the bioswamp instead.

OLIVIA

on intercom

75 Oy, rubber duckies, the zebra is back
and all's well. You may abandon the

76 search. Please don't stay too long in the swamp, as one search party a month is all we're contractually obligated to do, and you'll be on your bloody own. Oh, hang on. One more thing: Bygone Captain Jessie, report to the bridge, please.

NARRATOR

77 As Jessie makes her way to the bridge, down in the engine room, a pair of familiar heads have finally finished repairing the damage done by Leet waaaaay back at the beginning of the voyage. Having one arm and, for quite a while, the chore of sprinting up to reset the bomb every 30 minutes, made progress pretty slow. Plus, every time they made it back from Cal's room, things weren't quite the same as they left them.

HOWARD

78 Hey, eeeehhhhhh, what's this here?

EMILY

79 You've got to be kidding me. I'm not taking this thing apart egret.

HOWARD

80 Again. What if it's important?

EMILY

81 It's a tiny, tiny screw. How important could it possibly be?

HOWARD

82 Did you follow the manual?

EMILY

83 I tried, but having to move from Kashubian to Aeolic Greek through Dardani to Pomeranian means a few things get lost in translation.

HOWARD

84 Pomeranian? You mean Polish.

EMILY

85 No, Pomeranian. It's an extinct West Slavic language. Also, a small dog.

98 same thing. And if you want a shower
 where YOU control the water
 temperature, you might just hang about
 for a minute.

 JESSIE
99 Of all the bloody ships to be next to
 mine, it had to be-

 OLIVIA
100 The only one that survived its
 apocalypse device, far as I can tell.
 The skies are full of debris...and
 silence.

 JESSIE
101 Seriously? 399 ships? All gone?

 OLIVIA
102 I suppose it's possible some are
 merely out of range or have even
 crappier comms than we do, but my
 guess is we're alone up here. And
 you're the luckiest bugger in the
 universe. Madeline saved your life. So
 did Leet and Joe.

 JESSIE
103 Is there a point to this?

 OLIVIA
104 Just that, as you did on the day we
 rescued your tartan ass, maybe you
 still have your helmet on backwards.
 Metaphorically speaking. And by that I
 mean you're looking behind you and
 blind to what's right in front of you.

 JESSIE
105 Yeah, all right, I got it.

 OLIVIA
106 That was a bloody brilliant metaphor,
 by the way. Works on so many levels.

 JESSIE
107 I didn't realize a hologram could pat
 itself on the back.

 OLIVIA
108 Oh, there's lots and lots of things I

109 can do, including altering Greg's
memory ever so slightly to keep the
peace. Among less benign-benevolent
things. Do we understand one another?

JESSIE
110 We do. I wasn't going to join him, you
know. It was just nice to be wanted.

OLIVIA
111 I know. That's why you're still on
board. Do it again, and I'll shoot you
out an airlock so hard, you'll
literally have your head stuck up
Uranus, all right?

door opens

LEET
112 Greg's back!

OLIVIA
113 That's lovely, dearest. Maybe we
should pop open some swampagne and
celebrate.

JESSIE
114 Since when is synchronized barfing
"celebrating"?

LEET
115 Hey! I added Pepto Bismol to the last
batch.

JESSIE
116 Where the hell did you find Pepto
Bismol?

LEET
117 I didn't. I made it.

JESSIE
118 What did you make it from?

OLIVIA
119 Don't ask. Ironically, just hearing
the ingredients is enough to make you
want to vomit.

LEET
120 That's just rude.

ALBATROS
121 Now that Greg's been located, can we possibly bring everyone to the bridge, please.

OLIVIA
on intercom

122 Last one to the bridge has to retrieve Albert's stool sample!

ALBATROS
123 Whatever do we need that for?

OLIVIA
124 Oh, I don't suppose we do, but it'll get them here at the trot, won't it?

LEET
125 Can I collect it?

ALBATROS
126 Do you want to?

LEET
127 Sure! What's a stool sample?

door - **sounds of struggle and grunting** as they all try to get in first, or at least not last

THEO
128 What information are we hoping to gain from Albert's feces? STOP. Someone's hands are inappropriately placed!

MADELINE/JOE/LEET/JESSIE/ALBATROS/LBF
129 Sorry.

EMILY
130 With me! With me!

HOWARD
131 What's the rush? We've done worse chores.

MADELINE
132 Wow. Emily and, uh-

HOWARD
133 HOWARD.

134 MADELINE
Howard, right. I almost forgot you
existed!

135 EMILY
How delightful. I almost forgot how
terrible of a captain

136 MADELINE
Hey!

137 HOWARD
... 's chair you have. The popcorn
maker is clearly jammed. [aside to
Emily] You trying to get us fwipped?

138 MADELINE
Oh yeah, Leet tried to use frosting
instead of butter, and it really
gummed up the works. Can you fix it?

139 LEET
Everyone's here! Group hug!

 THEO
muffled

140 LEET
Leet, "group hugs" usually involve
more than two people.

141 LEET
I was warming up.

142 MADELINE
OK, I think we're all here. Why are we
all here?

143 ALBATROS
I asked the computer to call you.

144 THEO
I was in the middle of a rather
important experiment.

145 ALBATROS
I'm sure. And you can return to it
after we've had a very important
conversation.

146 HOWARD
Did we miss anything?

147 COLIN
Miss anything when? The meeting hasn't
started yet.

148 EMILY
We've been gone for ages. Honestly,
did none of you even notice?

149 COLIN
I know I didn't.

150 ALBATROS
So. Colin, Dr. von Haber Zetzer, and I
have made a discovery that might
explain a lot of what's going on on
this ship.

151 HOWARD
I'm not saying you need to throw us a
welcome back party, you understand,
though who doesn't like a decorative
bunting?

152 ALBATROS
For example, computer, are you
steering this ship?

153 OLIVIA
Mmmmmmm.... about 30 percent of the
time, I'd say.

154 VON HABER ZETZER
Ahhhhh... so this is why all the
zigging unt zagging!

155 LEET
So who's in control the other half?

156 OLIVIA
Half? Never mind. I don't know. I've
been trying to trace back the signal,
but they've made it look like a manual
override in the engine room.

157 THEO
So it looks like someone's physically
steering the ship?

158 OLIVIA
Looks like, yeah. But I have a constant scan running down there, and there's no sign of anything intelligent, human or robot.

159 HOWARD
We've been down there for ages, fixing the engines.

160 OLIVIA
Did you notice any intelligent life forms down there with you?

161 EMILY
WE were down there.

162 OLIVIA
Yes, that news has landed on my front porch already, thanks. [slowly] Did you notice any intelligent life down there?

163 THEO
Besides you, she means.

164 HOWARD
Whoa! And who might you be, you handsome fellow, you?

165 THEO
I'm Dr. Theo Bromae. I gave you your name, remember? Apparently you've forgotten us too.

166 EMILY
Yes, it's Dr. Theo, the astromycologist. While we were gone, I read your book *Weaponizing Mold: Can Chronic Sinus Infections Save the World from Nuclear Disaster?*

167 THEO
Oh? What did you think?

168 LE BICHON FRISE
Wait. Sinus infections? We must talk!

169 ALBATROS
STOP. Two hundred and eighty-seven words ago, I said we had made a

170 discovery. Is anyone interested, or
shall I just-

GREG
171 My kidneys are ringing.

ALBATROS
172 Oh, for heaven's sake!

OLIVIA
173 Can you patch them through to the
speakers?

GREG
174 I believe so. Hello?

JULIE
175 Oz 9?

MRS SHEFFIELD
176 Are you through? Did you get them?

JULIE
177 I'm through.

MRS SHEFFIELD
178 Is Friederich handy?

VON HABER ZETZER
179 Here, my dar- darkroom.

EMILY
180 Computer got you too, did she?

JULIE
181 Are you familiar with The Others?

THEO
182 The original travelers? Yes-

BEN

a little unhinged

183 We just met them. They ate a guard. I
need a shower. I got hit by a leg!

DONNA
184 It wasn't a leg. Just the foot. Julie
has a theory.

ALBATROS
185 That they're using us to get home
again?

JULIE
186 Yes! OK, kind of stole my thunder
there, but whatever.

VON HABER ZETZER
187 Zey took you into ze tunnels? Diese
Hurensöhne! (**dee**-zeh **Hur** en zoh nah)

MRS SHEFFIELD
188 Yes, thank you for leaving the
firecrackers.

VON HABER ZETZER
189 Zat actually worked? I vasn't sure it
would.

BEN
190 You weren't sure it would work? Guinea
pig. I'm everyone's guinea pig! I
should just learn to drink from a
metal tube and shred newspaper with my
teeth.

MRS SHEFFIELD
191 Hush, Ben, you're decompensating. How
did you escape from them?

VON HABER ZETZER
192 Coolers full of chicken parts. At
least they told me they were chicken
parts, though there was often a lot of
giggling and once I thought I saw a
pair of glasses....

JULIE/ALBATROS
193 Could we get back to it?

GREG
194 So what do we do? Do we take them
home?

OLIVIA
195 Hang on, you're too far away for
anyone down there to be controlling
this ship.

196 MRS SHEFFIELD
Well, precisely. We are trying to figure that bit out.

197 ALBATROS
And why was there a live apocalypse device on board this ship, if this is the one that's supposed to survive?

198 GREG
Doctor?

199 THEO/VHZ
Yes?

200 GREG
von Haber Zetzer. Time to fess up, I reckon. Dad.

201 LEET
Dad? Wait-

202 COLIN
Don't even try. You'll hurt yourself.

203 VON HABER ZETZER
Yes, yes, you are right. Originally, zis ship had no Greg... er, Cal. I put Cal on board. I zuzpected something fishy vas planned for ze 9. I just didn't know vat exactly.

204 COLIN
So blowing us up was intended as a prophylactic measure.

205 LEET
Colin! There are ladies present! And the Albatros!

206 ALBATROS
What? Never mind. We can talk about that one later.

207 VON HABER ZETZER
One of The Others is aboard zis ship. Ve simply cannot land and subject zum innozent planet to zuch zavagery.

208 LEET
But it wants to go home.

MRS SHEFFIELD
209 Yes, but why? That appears to be the
question before us. Is it simply going
home?

VON HABER ZETZER
210 Perhaps. Perhaps not.

COLIN
211 Can't we just fwip the one we have?
Surely we can destroy it somehow?

JULIE
212 I don't think you can.

DONNA
213 I found some notes in the greenhouse.
Apparently back in the day, the owners
of the resort here tried just about
everything - bullets, explosives,
starving them of water and sunlight,
poison, they even tried chopping at
the roots. Turned out to be a great
way to get rid of gardeners, but the
plants survived just fine.

VON HABER ZETZER
214 Exactly. Ve even took a clipping of
one of ze Others and threw it into a
machine that simulates deep zpace.

JULIE
215 What happened?

VON HABER ZETZER
216 It got very big very fast, broke out
of the simulator, unt ate a gardener.

COLIN
217 Why was a gardener there?

VON HABER ZETZER
218 She wasn't. She was planting roses
outside the lab. Zo sad. Tiberius had
bought a very rare Juliet Rose bush,
and ze Other ate zat too.

LEET
219 So can't we just take it home?

220 MRS SHEFFIELD
Well, that explains why you have such
a big chest – to fit that giant heart
of yours, Leet.

221 LEET
Awwwww, thank you!

222 MRS SHEFFIELD
And such a tiny head. The concern is,
why didn't ALL the Others go? Why only
one?

223 JULIE
The ones in the greenhouse show they
can adapt to fit conditions on Earth,
not just in the tunnels.

224 COLIN
What are you saying?

225 BEN
Yeah, what ARE you saying?

226 JULIE
I'm not sure. This is all just
supposition, but-

Theo and Mrs S say the first part together, Theo continues.

227 MRS SHEFFIELD
You think this is the advance scout!

228 THEO
You think this is the advance scout,
It's coming home to bring any
survivors still on *their* planet to
Earth?

229 JULIE
Wow, I've really gotta say my earth-
shattering news fast to get it in
first, huh.

230 VON HABER ZETZER
How much irony is here, eh? All zese
sleeping peoples thought zey vere
going to space to find a planet to
terraform.

231 MADELINE
But they want to terraform.... us?

232 JESSIE
No. You're joking!

233 MRS SHEFFIELD
I'm afraid it rather looks that way.

234 VON HABER ZETZER
Zo. You see vy I wanted to destroy ze
9 before it could land.

235 COLIN
But you said they could survive in
deep space. What's the point of
blowing up the ship?

236 VON HABER ZETZER
Zey can, but, we believe, not for very
long. Zey can zurvive zix months,
perhaps even a year. Find an empty
enough bit of zspace – which isn't zo
hard, no? – and zey vill eventually
perish. It vas the best I could do.

237 ALBATROS
[laughing]

238 COLIN
Are you... yes, you are. You're
laughing.

239 ALBATROS
Still putting pieces together. We
thought there was hardly any food on
board!

240 JESSIE
There isn't. The food storage areas
are nearly empty.

241 THEO
That's because we were going to bring
the ship back to Earth.

242 ALBATROS
[laughing harder] No, it isn't. This
ship is full of food. Brimming with
it.

243 JESSIE
Where? Where?

244 LEET
Oh, man. She means the pods.

245 COLIN
What?

246 MRS SHEFFIELD
Your fellow is quite correct. The-

247 JULIE
The rich people are food for the
plants! HA! Wow. Sorry. That was super
inappropriate.

248 GREG
So what was their plan? We take this
fella back to their home planet, it
gathers up more of their kind...

249 MRS SHEFFIELD
And they take the Oz 9 back to their
new home. Full of plenty of food to
get them there, since the stasis pods
won't work for them.

250 OLIVIA
One thing I still can't figure. Who
the hell is steering my ship?

251 EMILY
We might be able to help on that one.

252 HOWARD
Oh, might we? I got nothing.

253 EMILY
When we were cleaning up after our
repair job, what was the majority of
the debutante?

254 HOWARD
Debris. Ehhhhhh.... leaves.

255 EMILY
Leaves.

256 JOE
It's steering the ship. The plant is

257 steering the ship.

NARRATOR

258 Huh. So... giant plants are coming to
earth to terraform it, and they eat
people. This is fine. I mean, I've
seen what those things can do to a
human body, and it's totally not gross
or horrifying or in any way KEEPING ME
FROM SLEEPING AT NIGHT. This is fine.
I'm good. I think I need to sit down.
Narrator two, would you mind taking on
the end credits?

KYLE

259 You betcha. You've been listening to:
260 David S Dear as Dr. Theo Bromae
261 Tim Sherburn as Colin and Emily
262 Eric Perry as Dr. von Haber Zetzer,
Joe, and Howard
263 Aaron Clark as le Bichon Frise and Ben
264 Kevin Hall as Greg
265 Shannon Perry as Madeline and Olivia
266 Bonnie Brantley as Jessie and Donna
267 Richard Cowen as Leet
268 June Clark Eubanks as the Albatros
269 Iri Alexander as Julie
270 Sarah Golding as Mrs Sheffield
271 Richard Nadolny as your Narrator,
272 and me, Kyle Jones, as Narrator 2.
273 Our music is composed and performed by
John Faley. Our artwork is by Lucas
Elliott. This episode was directed by
June Clark Eubanks. Oz 9 is written
and produced by Shannon Perry. On
behalf of the Narrator and myself,
we'll see you next time, Space

274

Monkeys. Narrator 2, out!