

NARRATOR

1 Do you know why I wanted to be a narrator? *Anthurium Salgarensense*. A rare, aroid plant that grows huge, glossy leaves up to five feet long. My great grandfather brought one back from his travels to South America. I was fascinated by that plant as a child and learned everything there was to know about it. I won first prize for my presentation on the *Salgarensense* at the 9th grade education fair. The original plant is still alive and thriving in my mother's greenhouse. I'm scared to death of it now.

COLIN

starting far off, running past, then going quite a long way the other direction

2 AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAHHHHHHHHHH
HHH!!!

LEET

3 Was that Colin?

JESSIE

4 Seriously?

LEET

5 Well, I couldn't see anything. Which I guess means it was Colin.

MADELINE

6 Yes, it was Colin. And the Other should be right behind him, along with the good plants. Albatros, as soon as the Other passes, you take Jessie and hightail it to the D&G wing to get Linnie. Leet, you intercept the good guys and lead them back to 1344.

LEET

7 B! Sorry. Still not sure how I'm supposed to do this bit.

THEO

8 You feed and take care of them-

9 ALBATROS
God knows why.

10 THEO
They'll follow you.

11 OLIVIA
Do NOT let them give you another
shirt.

12 LEET
I liked the first one! It was warm and
soft, like a hug. Or Dr. Theo's voice.

13 THEO
Standing right here...

14 LEET
And then the washing machine went
berserk and shredded it.

15 OLIVIA
I bet it was saving your life.
Probably figured out it was an alien
life form set on ruining your
symmetry.

16 LEET
My symmetry?!

17 JESSIE
I thought the Others were fast.
They're taking their sweet time
chasing Lord Lurchable.

18 THEO
I don't even hear them.

19 ALBATROS
Perhaps Colin was sending the wrong
signal? Leet, what was he saying as he
ran past?

20 LEET
Mostly, "I'm tasty and weak."

21 JESSIE
Maybe they gave up since they can't
see him?

LEET
22 Oh, they can see him.

JESSIE
23 What're you talking about? He's
invisible!

LEET
24 To things with eyes, yeah. But that's
not how they see. They follow his
scent. I thought for a while they
followed heat-

JESSIE
25 Ohhhh, that's how they lost him then.
He's English.

LEET
26 But I don't think they do. Follow
heat, I mean.

THEO
27 That makes sense. They don't care if
their food is alive or dead, so heat
doesn't matter.

MADELINE
28 I like these things less and less
every time you open your mouth, Dr.
Theo. But your voice.... I'm
conflicted.

THEO
29 I'm not.

JOE

[on radio]

30 Captain Madeline?

MADELINE
31 Here, Joe. What's up?

JOE
32 Have they all passed you yet?

MADELINE
33 Colin did, but the plants weren't
following him. Isn't Colin with you?

34 JOE
No, ma'am.

35 ALBATROS
He should've been there by now, even
at his speed.

36 OLIVIA
Oh dear.

37 LEET
What is it, Olivia?

38 OLIVIA
Colin's body tag just disappeared off
my tracker.

39 ALBATROS
Where did you last see him?

40 OLIVIA
Level 70. I opened the stairwell door
for him, but I don't know if he ever
went through it.

41 ALBATROS
On it.

sounds of Albatros running away

42 JESSIE
Did you ever notice the stairs here
don't have railings? What are we
supposed to do if the gravity shuts
off?

43 MADELINE
Now? Really? Colin's in mortal danger!

44 JESSIE
Oh, sorry. You forget: I don't like
Colin.

45 NARRATOR
The poet Robert Burns said it best:
"The best laid schemes o' mice an' men
/ Gang aft a-gley." And this is about
as "a-gley" as a scheme gets. Colin
did make it out of the stairwell, but
the Other, having taken another route,
intercepted him. In desperation, Colin

46 ducked into pod storage bay 779, and
 from there, into a random pod.

 COLIN

 panting -- he's just been running for his life

47 Oh god, it stinks in here. I guess I
 should be grateful it's dark. This pod
 is enormous! I barely fit in mine, and
 this one has... shag carpet and a bar?
 Whatever for? Hang on. Why the hell do
 I hear voices?

 quiet, almost whispering

 BEN

48 This is the stupidest thing we've ever
 done.

 JULIE

49 There are no Others in this tunnel.
 And it's the middle of the night - no
 one's going to find us. Besides, we
 can't go back to the hotel.

 MRS SHEFFIELD

50 Good thing we paid cash. I'd hate to
 have two mattresses and all those
 towels show up on my credit card.
 Those bloody plants are like goats.

 BEN

51 How long do you think that hotel room
 can contain them?

 MRS SHEFFIELD

52 Contain them? Oh, that's sweet. I just
 want to pet you like a puppy.

 DONNA

53 What exactly are we looking for?

 JULIE

54 I don't know. I just heard them
 talking about this tunnel a LOT. At
 least I *think* it's this one; Felonius
 and company love their cryptic code
 words. I guess we'll know when we find
 it.

55 MRS SHEFFIELD
Good lord. What is that smell? Is
there a dead body nearby?

COLIN
shouting in surprise as he's yanked back

56 GAHHHH!!! It's got me!!

throughout this conversation we hear random sniffing and
shuffling as the plant searches the pod bay for Colin

57 ALBATROS
Be quiet, you idiot, I'VE got you.
What happened to the plan?

58 COLIN
How did you find me? I mean, I'm
invisible.

59 ALBATROS
Apparently being able to track heat
traces is part of being ... Scottish.

60 COLIN
Where's the Other? It was right behind
me!

61 ALBATROS
I'm pretty sure it's still in here,
looking.

62 COLIN
Where was I? Just now?

63 ALBATROS
In a pod. Formerly occupied by... Lord
Clydesdale Richler-Randolf. Who names
their child "Clydesdale"?

64 COLIN
Horse people. And that pod is
enormous. I swear I heard voices. Can
we go?

65 ALBATROS
No, not until it picks up your scent
again.

66 COLIN
WHAT?!

67 ALBATROS
We have to get back on plan, Colin.
I'll stay close behind in case you get
into trouble, all right?

68 COLIN
You will? That's very kind. Thank you.

69 ALBATROS
Anything to get that overgrown mother-
of-the-groom corsage contained.

70 COLIN
How oddly specific. Albatros, you
recently said you had something to say
to me, do you remember?

71 ALBATROS
You mean besides "you're an idiot,
now's not the time"?

72 COLIN
Fine. Why don't we just shut it in
here? It's contained, right?

73 ALBATROS
Because this room is full of food. Do
you want it to get bigger and
stronger?

74 COLIN
Right. Where is it?

75 ALBATROS
I think it's over there. For something
so huge, it moves so quietly. Wait. By
my feet. Is that... a frond? It's
here. Go go go!!

76 COLIN
You'll follow? You promised!

77 ALBATROS
I'm right behind you. Go go go!

78 COLIN
GAAAAAHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!!!!

Sound of Colin running, followed by foliage

79 ALBATROS
Computer! Door!!

80 OLIVIA
Got it!

door opens, Colin exits, still hollering, pursued by a plant,
sound of Albatros following

81 DONNA
Seriously? You didn't hear anything?
No upper-class English shouting?

82 MRS SHEFFIELD
How oddly specific. I didn't hear
anything. Ben?

83 BEN
Over the pounding of my heart? No.

84 JULIE
I was sure there was something here.
Dammit. Let's go. Glenda and Buck are
probably getting antsy at the
entrance.

85 DONNA
What sorts of things did they say
about this place?

86 JULIE
Well, mostly to steer clear of it "for
now." I got the idea that when their
big plan goes down, this tunnel is
where it'll happen.

87 MRS SHEFFIELD
Strange that no one's guarding it,
then.

88 JULIE
That's just it - no one ever is. I
thought about setting up camp here,
but one night of weird noises and no
sleep drove me back to the rough.

89 BEN
You spent a night in here? Alone?

90 JULIE
I'm not sure I was alone the whole
night. I was probably dreaming, but I
thought I woke up and there was a
bucket sitting on the ground. But when
I woke up again a little later, it was
gone, so I figured it was never really
there.

91 BEN
A bucket.

92 JULIE
Yeah.

93 DONNA
Was there anything in it?

94 JULIE
I don't know. I don't think I checked.
But honestly, I don't remember.

95 BEN
Have you always been this brave, and I
just didn't notice?

96 JULIE
I met your mother before the wedding
and married you anyway.

97 BEN
True.

98 MRS SHEFFIELD
Well, we'd best find somewhere to lay
low for the day. Any good skulking
spots nearby?

99 DONNA
I picked up some brochures in the
hotel lobby. Sleeping Bear campground
is just a few minutes away.

100 BUCK
There youse are! We gotta move.
Southers is making a lot noise for a
guy gagged and locked up in his own
trunk. Someone's gonna hear him soon.

101 BEN
I vote campground. Anywhere but here.

102 GLEENDA
Campground. You want me to mix with
the sort of people who ... camp?

103 MRS SHEFFIELD
Sleeping Bear, hmmm? Let's see if we
can't wake him up!

104 DONNA
Can we stop and get fixin's for
s'mores? I heard this great recipe on
Elaine's Cooking for the Soul....

sound of car doors, muffled thumps and mmmmmrrrrmpph from
Southers (Eric, please do those for me), they drive away

105 NARRATOR
Do you know what "bullate" means? I
do. It means the surface has puckers
or ups and downs that make it look
blistered. The *Anthurium Salgarensense*
has those. I know things like
"bullate" and "phytology" and
"etiolation," which, by the way, may
be relevant to this story. Don't tell
ME narrators are just "exposition for
radio." [beat] Holy crap. I just
figured out how to kill them.

106 DR VON HABER ZETZER
I see zem! Zey are comink! Ooooof, zis
is so excitink!

107 JESSIE
Olivia! Open the door to the D & G
wing!

108 OLIVIA
On it. You in place?

109 JESSIE
Yep! Got a bucket of mold clippings
for Lynn timer to land in.

110 DR VON HABER ZETZER
Zo, did we ever figure out how to get
Colin out of zere?

111 JESSIE
Crap.

112 JOE
He's gonna have to do a quick kick
turn and get out before it grabs him.

113 OLIVIA
That's not exactly a plan, is it?

114 JOE
Here they come, get ready!

115 COLIN
AAAAAAAAAHHhhHHHHHH!!!!!!!

116 JESSIE
Lynnie!

 sound of frog

117 Got her!

from inside the D&G wing, we hear the sound of running
footsteps, the plant snapping and trying to grab Colin. Colin
and Albatros's voices should come from different parts of the
room. Hopefully.

118 COLIN
What do I do?

119 ALBATROS
I'll get you! Where are you?

120 COLIN
Look out! I'm over here!

121 ALBATROS
Here?

122 COLIN
Here!! Right here!

123 ALBATROS
I can't believe I'm saying this, but
keep talking! You have to keep
shouting so I can find you!

124 COLIN
I'm over here now! Watch out for that
pod!

125 ALBATROS
THOSE I CAN SEE. If you're going to

126 keep moving, you're going to have to
 grab something and wave it, so I can
 find you.

 COLIN

127 But then they'll see me!

 ALBATROS

128 They don't need to see you, you idiot,
 they can smell you!

 COLIN

129 I thought you could see my heat
 signature!

 ALBATROS

130 IS THIS REALLY THE TIME FOR A PHYSICS
 LESSON? I can see your heat trace, but
 you keep moving. I need one good,
 stationary pulse of heat so I can find
 you! [beat. she has an idea] Colin! I
 have something to tell you!

 OLIVIA

131 Be careful! If you trigger a big
 emotional response, the plant will be
 able to detect him too.

 COLIN

132 It already can!

 OLIVIA

133 I'm imitating your body tag and
 throwing it around the room. It's not
 as good as your scent would be, but
 it's keeping this one guessing.

 ALBATROS

134 I'm going to tell you something, and
 then you're going to freeze, just for
 a split second, got it?

 COLIN

135 No. It'll get me!

 ALBATROS

136 I'll get you first!

 COLIN

137 It's fast!

138 ALBATROS
 I'm faster!

139 COLIN
 Are you sure?

140 ALBATROS
 YES! Well, 83 percent.

141 MADELINE
 That's still thirty-

142 ALBATROS
 NO IT ISN'T. COLIN!! YOUR WIFE ISN'T
 DEAD.

143 COLIN
 WHAT???.

144 ALBATROS
 SHE'S ALIVE. AND ABOARD THE SHIP!!

 COLIN
 quietly, shocked

145 My god.

146 ALBATROS
 GOTCHA! DOOR!

 one last snap from the plant, door, heavy breathing in the
 hallway

147 THEO
 My god, she's fast.

148 COLIN/LEET/MADELINE/JESSIE/JOE
 She's... Scottish.

149 NARRATOR
 The crew on Earth were very lucky to
 have departed when they did, because
 just as their taillights disappeared
 around the bend, Felonius arrived.
 Armed with a flashlight and a flask
 much smaller than the one Southers
 hauls around, Felonius heads up the
 hill to Pluto Springs. And no, I
 haven't forgotten what I just told
 you. I just ... don't know what to do

150 about it. Yet.

FELONIUS

151 [mumbling] It'll be easy, he said.
Just take a tiny sacrifice once every
six months or so to keep him happy, he
said. Every six months, my overdressed
ass, this is the third time this week.
I'm going to go broke keeping this
damn thing in sacrifices. [prayerish,
but bored with the repetition] Oh,
holy god of the underground, giver of
wealth, please accept this sacrifice-

PLUTO

152 Didst thou bring a sacrifice worthy to
lay at the feet of a god?

FELONIUS

153 I tried, but do you have any idea how
hard it is to get ambrosia here? I
mean the real stuff. These idiots
think it's fruit salad drowning in
sour cream.

PLUTO

154 That sounds OK, actually. Bring me
some of each next time. Real mandarin
oranges, not the canned stuff.

FELONIUS

155 Fine. Shall I pour this on the ground
at your feet?

PLUTO

156 I have stood in this spot for over 200
years, guarding the sacred spring and
the gateway. From this vantage, I see
all.

pause

FELONIUS

157 Does that answer my question somehow?

PLUTO

158 Thou sucketh at cryptic, puny human.

FELONIUS

159 Look, take the ambrosia and tell me
what you have to tell me, will you?

160 And you owe me another window.
sounds of Pluto drinking from the flask

 PLUTO
161 Ahhhhhh. How else would you have me
 summon you? Step down from my plinth
 and fetch you like Bernard, sainted by
 mine enemy?

 FELONIUS
162 A Saint Bernard is a dog, not the
 actual saint.

 PLUTO
163 Pffft. It has but one head. Call that
 a dog? I shall continue to hurl stones
 at your window until you see fit to
 equip me with the technology of this
 modern age.

 FELONIUS
164 I am NOT giving you a radio.

 PLUTO
165 I talkie, you walkie. Or the stones it
 e'er shall be.

 FELONIUS
166 It's the middle of the night, Pluto.
 Why am I here?

 PLUTO
167 Others have found the tunnel of the
 gateway.

 FELONIUS
168 What?! Who?

 PLUTO
169 I find I am fond of maraschino
 cherries.

 FELONIUS
170 I'll bring you a jar tomorrow. Who
 found the tunnel?

 PLUTO
171 Also circus peanuts.

172 FELONIUS
Are you sure you grew up in Hades and
not a 7-Eleven?

173 PLUTO
I wish to taste all the wonders of the
world, now that I am awake again.

174 FELONIUS
Maraschino cherries and circus peanuts
are not "wonders" unless you mean "I
wonder why anyone eats this crap." Who
entered my tunnel?

175 PLUTO
That's what she-

176 FELONIUS
You're joking.

177 PLUTO
I have stood here and listened to
human banter for two solid centuries.
I'm allowed to give some of it back.

178 FELONIUS
My god.

179 PLUTO
Not even remotely. It was The Four.
The one with the cane, the one who
smells of plants along with her
monkey, and the one who I am convinced
is the reincarnation of my Persephone.

180 FELONIUS
Persephone? Are you talking about the
idiot from Minnesota?

PLUTO
seriously menacing -- we see the 'god' at last

181 FELONIUS
Called thou my wife an "idiot,"
Felonius?

FELONIUS
backs down in a hurry

182 FELONIUS
No. No, my lord, I did not. [beat] You

183 really think that's your wife?

 PLUTO

184 She might as well leave a trail of
 pomegranate seeds. Instead of
 starlight and jasmine and the faintest
 trace of maple syrup.

 FELONIUS

185 My lord, they can't be allowed in that
 tunnel.

 PLUTO

186 You would set limits on my wife,
 human? She is a goddess!

 FELONIUS

187 She's from Minnesota! I mean...in this
 reincarnation, she's in the body of a
 human, my lord. It could be -
 dangerous for her!

 PLUTO

188 HMMMMMM.

 FELONIUS

189 You should keep her and her little
 band clear of the tunnels. If the
 Others get ahold of them, you'll have
 to destroy them.

 PLUTO

190 Destroy the plants I am sworn to
 protect? Never! Do you have any idea
 what my mother-in-law would do to me
 if I killed a bunch of plants? If the
 Four return, I will steer them away.

 FELONIUS

191 You won't let them see you, will you?
 I mean, moving?

 PLUTO

192 No, shrill little bug in a human suit,
 I shall not let them know I am awake.
 Go find me some mead. Also some
 frankincense. I want to know what all
 the shouting is about.

 NARRATOR

193 Don't look at me, I got nothing. Just,

194 you know, *the answer* and no way to
tell anyone. Damn fourth wall.

 COLIN
195 You ... you saved me.

 ALBATROS
196 You're a passenger aboard the Oz 9.
I'm the Oz 9's protector assassin. It
wasn't exactly a huge moral dilemma.
Is anything broken, burnt, bitten or
otherwise compromised?

 COLIN
197 Not at all. I'm fine. I'm completely
unharmmed.

 ALBATROS
198 Then perhaps you'll get off me so I
can stand up?

 COLIN
199 Oh. Of course. [they stand] I think I
might just go lie down. Greg? Could I
trouble you for a lift to my bunk?

 GREG
200 You betcha.

 LEET
201 Here, little fella. Let me help you.

 COLIN
202 Thank you, Leet. I'm a bit unsteady at
the moment.

 MADELINE
203 You're a hero, Colin.

 JESSIE
204 Much as I hate to agree, that thing's
locked up tight, thanks to you.

 THEO
205 That was one of the most amazing
displays of bravery I've ever seen.

 DR VON HABER ZETZER
206 You haf done well, my boy. I belief
you may haf saved us all.

207 COLIN
Really?

208 DR VON HABER ZETZER
Vell, for now, anyway.

209 COLIN
You couldn't let me have just one
minute, could you. [laughs] Life
aboard the Oz 9, I guess.

210 GREG
You got a good hold, Colin?

211 COLIN
I do. Thank you.

they clop away

212 MADELINE
That was some quick thinking,
Albatros. Telling him his wife was
alive and onboard. What made you think
of that?

213 ALBATROS
Finding her in pod bay 3 when I
thought I was looking for Colin. She's
here. Alive. Or was a day or two ago
when I last checked on her.

214 OLIVIA
Pod bay 3, did you say? How did you
find that?

215 JESSIE
Between pod bays 2 and 4, I reckon.

216 OLIVIA
It's not between 2 and 4. You have to
wiggle through one of the smuggling
holds to find 3. And get past the
whirling blades and the big bolts that
shoot out from the walls. You were
committed.

217 ALBATROS
The whirling blades are at a constant
rate -- that's easy enough to bypass.
And each of the bolts follows its own
Fibonacci Sequence starting with the

218 numbers 1,2, and 3 respectively. It's
just a lot of counting.

MADELINE
219 Are we talking about lunch or
something?

ALBATROS
220 Explain it to her later?

OLIVIA
221 Bollocks to that. I may be eternal,
but even I won't live long enough for
that.

DR VON HABER ZETZER
222 But it is true, she is alive?

ALBATROS
223 Yes.

DR VON HABER ZETZER
224 Vy would she be on zis ship? Unt Colin
doesn't know about it.

THEO
225 Wait, didn't Jessie tell me she fell
10,000 feet with a backpack full of
sandwiches? How could she possibly
have survived?

LEET
226 Even more to the point, does she still
have the sandwiches?

THEO
227 Really?

LEET
228 I'm hungry.

JESSIE
229 I could eat.

ALBATROS
230 I made some fresh bread this morning.

THEO
231 What? When? When did you have time?

232 ALBATROS
It's been through three full risings,
so this batch might actually be soft
enough to chew without the meat
tenderizer.

233 THEO
Three? When did you have a chance to
punch it down between rises?

234 MADELINE
It might be time to tell Dr. Theo
about being ... Scottish.

235 THEO
I do not understand you people.

236 DR VON HABER ZETZER
Unt zis is zem on a good day. I'm just
sayink.

237 ALBATROS
One of the wild boar keeled over this
morning. What do you think - shall we
risk it?

238 JESSIE
I'm game.

239 ALBATROS
So is the boar.

240 JESSIE
Did you just make a joke?

241 ALBATROS
I did. Shall I explain to you how it's
done?

242 JESSIE
Oh, now she's a comedian.

243 NARRATOR
In pod bay 3...

244 COLIN
Thank you, comp- Olivia.

245 OLIVIA
You're welcome.

COLIN
246 She's beautiful, isn't she?

OLIVIA
247 She is. Do you want me to wake her up?

COLIN
248 I ... don't know. Can I just sit here
a while?

OLIVIA
249 Of course. See that switch over there
on the wall?

COLIN
250 I do.

OLIVIA
251 Push it, and you've got three minutes
to get back to the smuggling hold. Be
quick, because the blades and bolts
start again in 180 seconds, all right?

COLIN
252 Three minutes.

OLIVIA
253 I'll just lock your bunk in case
anyone goes looking.

COLIN
254 Thank you. [pause] My god. Glenda. I
never thought I'd see you again. I was
finally able to let you go, a little,
at last, and now, here you are. What
are you doing here? What are you doing
alive? I can't wrap my head around
seeing you, just there. I could touch
you; all I have to do is ask the comp-
Olivia to wake you, and we could be
together, happy. Remember when we were
happy? Well, I was, anyway. But you
wanted a new life without me, I guess.
And perhaps I should... let you have
it. Should I? What is this room, who
are these people? [pause - then
laughter] Oh, my. Mrs. Southers and
her bichon freeze. Wait. Wiggy?! What
the hell are you doing in here? [sound
of pod door opening] And where the
hell are you?

NARRATOR

256 Mom? It's me. Could you do me a favor? Could you just check and make sure the *Anthurium Salgarensense* is still in the greenhouse? Oh, uh... call me back, OK? Mom? Take a knife or an axe out there with you, OK? Just in case? I know it's the middle of the afternoon, just- I gotta go. Call me back. Well, I guess that wraps it up for this episode. So now statues turn into gods, dead women turn up alive and in space, and I have a solution that will work, but no way to communicate it. Do you suppose Sir David Attenborough ever saw a cheetah about to take down an antelope and handed the antelope a shotgun?

257 You've been listening to:
 June Clark Eubanks as the Albatros and Glenda
 Sarah Golding as Mrs Sheffield
 David S Dear as Dr Theo Bromae
 Bonnie Brantley as Jessie and Donna
 Eric Perry as Joe and Dr. von Haber Zetzer
 Richard Cowen as Leet
 Kevin Hall as Greg and Felonius
 Tim Sherburn as Colin and Buck
 Aaron Clark as Ben
 Iri Alexander as Julie
 Shannon Perry as Olivia and Madeline introducing Lee Shackelford as Pluto, and I'm Richard Nadolny, your Narrator.

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. Remember, if you enjoy the show, you can support us on Patreon! Until next time, space monkeys, narrator out!