

OZ 9 EPISODE 49

NARRATOR

1 My mother says her *Salgarense* is still
in the greenhouse where she left it,
but she also said it gave her a funny
look and now one of her trowels is
missing. I think she was joking, but I
didn't get much sleep last night, so
let's just get on with it, shall we?
On board the Oz 9, le Bichon Frise
liberated someone from their pod in
the VIP wing of pod bay 3. And on
earth, the chucklehead division is
heading back to the resort at French
Lick because HEAVEN FORBID ANYONE JUST
DO THE SENSIBLE THING AND RUN AWAY
FROM DANGER RATHER THAN HEADLONG INTO
IT, BLEATING "HERE I AM, SOFT,
SQUISHY, AND COVERED IN HOLLANDAISE
SAUCE." Seriously, what a bunch of
suicidal sheep....

DONNA

2 All righty, then! Who's for the
tunnels, and who's for the resort?

SOUTHERS

3 If I may-

DONNA

4 And who's for the trunk? Just you,
that's right.

SOUTHERS

5 Soon as Gertie's back to full
strength, I swear, I'm covering you in
Hollandaise sauce and handing you
over.

MRS SHEFFIELD

speaking with a French accent

6 Ah, bon jour et good day, mes amis!
Did I hear "hollandaise"? Peut etre I
can be of assistance?

BEN

7 Oh, uh, hi there. We're fine, thank
you. No need of help. You can ... go.

8 MRS SHEFFIELD
Benjamin, untwist your panties. It is
I, Mrs. Sheffield!

9 BEN
Wow! How the hell do you do that?

10 MRS SHEFFIELD
The advantage of many years of
training in accents, dialects,
idiomatic expression, facial
contortion, culturally determined
proprioception, non-specific clothing,
and the art and science of subterfuge.
Also, you're spectacularly gullible,
dear, but don't let that get you down.

11 JULIE
How many languages do you speak?

12 MRS SHEFFIELD
Ah... well... just the one, actually.
But I did take an extended online
course in "Plausible Fluency," which
focused mainly on peppering one's
speech with occasional words and
phrases in the target language. I find
that that, combined with excessive
confidence, usually gets me where I'm
going.

13 DONNA
Oooo, did you ever read Ferdinand de
Saussure's *Mémoire sur le système
primitif des voyelles dans les langues
indo-européennes?*

14 MRS SHEFFIELD
Did I read what?

15 DONNA
Ferdinand de Saussure's *Mémoire sur le
système primitif des voyelles dans les
langues indo-européennes?*

16 MRS SHEFFIELD
I'm sorry, once more. Your accent is a
bit mangly.

17 DONNA
Ferdinand de Saussure's *Mémoire sur le*

*système primitif des voyelles dans les
langues indo-européennes?*

18 MRS SHEFFIELD
Never heard of it. Julie, a word?

they step aside. As they're talking, some sounds of struggle with Ben, Donna, Glenda, and Southers would be good. They're wrapping him up and stuffing him in the trunk.

19 JULIE
What was that all about?

20 MRS SHEFFIELD
No idea. Question for you: what do you know about Donna?

21 JULIE
Less than you do, since you drove all the way here with her. Why?

22 MRS SHEFFIELD
I'm just... concerned. Does she seem rather, shall we say, *resourceful* for a receptionist? I mean, not to say temporary workers can't be adept at many things, but do most of them know how to handle a gaggle of automatic weapons, specialize in hand-to-hand combat, and know how to hypnotize a bear? I realize she's from Minnesota, but it still seems an odd assortment of talents.

23 JULIE
I don't know anything about her. From what Ben's told me, she basically showed up at G2 HQ saying she'd been assigned from some temp agency, and she's been there ever since. I don't think anyone ever thought to question it.

24 MRS SHEFFIELD
I'm just musing out loud here, but follow along with me a mo, will you? Your mime was popped out of his pod without following the MRDR protocols. Who set him free...to die?

JULIE
25 You don't think it was a malfunction.

MRS SHEFFIELD
26 Well, it is an Oz ship, with a particularly hopeless crew, so it could be, but my team also had a fellow meant to be an engineer on the crew. Not only did he not make it on board, but rumor has it he died at HQ shortly after meeting up with....

JULIE
27 Donna.

MRS SHEFFIELD
28 And Glenda, true, but she's so obviously evil, she's somehow above suspicion.

JULIE
29 Damn. I don't want Donna alone with Ben. Not until we know who she really is. Do you think Southers knows?

MRS SHEFFIELD
30 If he does, he's doing a fine job of pretending otherwise. With Southers, Buck, Glenda, AND Donna all being cause for alarm...

JULIE
31 We've only got each other. And Ben. You're who you say you are, right? One of the good ones?

MRS SHEFFIELD
32 Well, yes, but sadly, I'm afraid you'll have to take my word on that.

JULIE
33 Until we know more, let's keep Donna and Glenda apart. If they joined forces ... no. I don't even want to think about it. You're obviously amazing with disguises, so how about you and Glenda take the resort, posing as guests? I'll head into the tunnels with Ben and Donna.

34 MRS SHEFFIELD
Good. Good. Donna is unarmed, but if
the bear is any indication...

35 JULIE
Yeah. Meet back at the car in two
hours?

36 MRS SHEFFIELD
Two hours. Be careful. Stay alert.

37 JULIE
You too.

38 BEN
It's gonna be dark soon, so I packed
flashlights and headlamps for the
tunnels. Also, Donna says she has a
couple of tuxedos, which is weird, but
so's Donna. Might be a good disguise,
though.

39 MRS SHEFFIELD
Excellent!

40 JULIE
And Southers is...?

41 DONNA
In the trunk, trussed up like a
Thanksgiving caribou. Ben went a
little overboard with the bungees, but
it's understandable.

42 BEN
I'm not taking any chances.

43 GLENDA
You're heading into a tunnel full of
man-eating plants cared for by crazy
billionaires and their goons. You sure
about that "not taking chances"
malarkey?

44 BEN
Fine. I'm not taking any *voluntary*
chances. Can we get this over with?

45 JULIE
Here's the plan: Mrs Sheffield and
Glenda take the resort, and Ben,

Donna, and I will hit the tunnels. Has anyone seen Buck?

MRS SHEFFIELD

46 I'm starting to suspect either the bear got him, or the lake. Lakes in the midwest are notoriously full of mass murderers, apparently.

one big groan or moan from **Mrs S, Ben, Glenda, Julie** as Donna starts yet another Minnesotan story

DONNA

47 Have I ever told you about Thomas Simpson? He wasn't a Minnesotan, per se, since Minnesota didn't actually exist then, but the story has it he shot two traveling companions in a fit of paranoia about his papers....

They drive away, her story trailing behind them....

NARRATOR

48 So as the ground crew rush towards the edge of a cliff overlooking a lake of hot lava, full of hangry velociraptors and poisoned spikes, they're not exactly setting a high bar for intelligent decision making, and yet, the crew on board the Oz 9 manage to make even worse decisions. Go figure.

Dr. Theo and the Albatros are standing outside LBF's bunk, knocking on his door.

DR THEO

49 Frise? Could you open your door, please?

LBF

50 I am afraid I cannot do that.

ALBATROS

51 Come on, we don't care if you're wearing sweat pants or whatever, open the door.

OLIVIA

52 You're not just a buttock, are you?

53 LBF
I am not! However, opening the door is not possible just now. I have... a pimple.

54 DR THEO
But I have a rather special invitation for you.

55 ALBATROS
Do you? Just for him? How very disappointing.

56 DR THEO
I have a rather special invitation JUST FOR YOU.

57 LBF
You may slip it under the door, then.

58 DR THEO
It's not that kind of invitation. Can you open the door just a crack? We promise to ignore the *acne vulgaris*.

59 OLIVIA
It's an electronic door, Dr. Theo. It's either open or shut. And do you really think calling it "acne vulgaris" is helpful?

60 DR THEO
It's the scientific name.

61 ALBATROS
So was the word "idiot" once upon a time, but I suspect you'd prefer I not call you that.

62 DR THEO
Point made, thank you. Frise, I'm here to offer you a position that will give you legal standing aboard the ship.

63 LBF
You want to give me a job?

64 DR THEO
I do. I want you to be my research assistant.

65 LBF
What is the pay?

66 DR THEO
The... pay?

67 LBF
Oui! Also, benefits. Does this come
with dental and a 401M?

68 DR THEO
K

69 LBF
Ah, that is good, then!

70 DR THEO
What? No, I wasn't agreeing with you.
This is hopeless.

71 ALBATROS
Frise, the pay is I won't fwip you the
next opportunity I get.

72 LBF
And what about the opportunity after
that?

73 ALBATROS
Yes. That one too.

74 LBF
And the next?

75 ALBATROS
Seriously?

76 LBF
I am, as you say, reading the "fine
print."

77 ALBATROS
You'll be safe from me until I say
otherwise. And then I'll give you a
head start. That's the best I can do.

78 LBF
Very well.

79 DR THEO
So you accept?

80 LBF
Oui. I can start a week from Thursday.

81 DR THEO
What?

82 LBF
I must give notice! It is polite.

83 DR THEO
Do you have any idea how many graduate students I had bringing me coffee, baking me brownies, badgering me day and night just to be considered for this position?

84 ALBATROS
Are you sure that was the position they were aiming for? Not, say, horizontal?

85 DR THEO
What are you talking about?

86 ALBATROS
Never mind.

87 OLIVIA
There's nothing you can do until he opens that door, so just agree to everything. Once he comes out, we've got him.

88 DR THEO
Fine. Frise! I agree to your terms.

door opens nearby

89 JESSIE
What's all the hollering? I'm trying to nap.

90 ALBATROS
It's 10 AM.

91 JESSIE
Yeah, well, when you have a bad blowfish for breakfast, we'll see how well YOU do.

92 LBF
Is that Captain Jessie?

93 JESSIE
Why are you hollering at each other?
Just come out, Freeze.

94 LBF
I prefer not to. I have the eye pink.

95 DR THEO
I thought it was a pimple?

96 LBF
Ehhhh, yes. This too. It has been a
very bad day.

97 JESSIE
Freeze! Come out now. I'm your Captain
and that's an order!

98 LBF
Oh. Yes. Actually, I quit. Dr. Theo
has offered me a job. Now all of you,
go away. I wish to be alone with my
... rash.

99 ALBATROS
Now it's a rash, is it?

silence

100 ALBATROS
Frise?

101 JESSIE
Isn't that "Freeze"?

sound of something sliding on the floor

102 DR THEO
Hang on, he's written us a note. "I
have laryngitis." His spelling is
atrocious. Laryngitis doesn't have an
"f" in it!

103 LBF
Yes it does! It is silent!

104 JESSIE
Yeah, well, if you have it, why aren't

you?

105 DR THEO
Hang on, there's more. "PS, It's Free-
zay." Are you all right, Albatros?

106 ALBATROS
Of course. Why?

107 DR THEO
You're leaning against the door.

108 ALBATROS
I'm listening. Has he got ... a woman
in there?

109 JESSIE
Well, I'm out here, Olivia's here, and
you're...

110 ALBATROS
I'm?

111 JESSIE
Also... here. Maybe you're hearing
Madeline?

112 OLIVIA
Nope. She's trying to clean up the
crew room. Or at least stop it
smoldering.

113 ALBATROS
What about the comms? Can't you take a
peek and tell us if there's someone
else in there, computer?

114 JESSIE
Yeah, you're in and out of my bunk all
the time, shouting, "look out behind
you," and running fake fire drills.

115 OLIVIA
Taught you to wear pajamas, didn't I?
There's no comms in there. Until Colin
burned down the crew room with his
laser face, that was a storage closet.

116 LBF
It still is.

117 DR THEO
Larynfitis, remember?

118 LBF
[fake sneezes]

119 DR THEO
Does not make you sneeze.

120 LBF
I am very very sick with ... many
things. Perhaps you could just go away
and let me rest?

121 OLIVIA
Any chance you might die, and I could
have that storage closet back?

122 ALBATROS
There are hundreds, maybe thousands,
of empty rooms aboard this ship, where
food and pods should be. Why do you
need this closet?

123 OLIVIA
I don't. I just thought it was a
polite way of finding out if he was
dying or not.

124 DR THEO
"Polite"?

125 OLIVIA
Ok, "amusing." Whatever. Why are you
all so keen to get in there? Normally,
you can't get away from him fast
enough.

126 ALBATROS
The computer has a point. I have
brownies baking.

127 JESSIE
You found chocolate?

128 ALBATROS
Yes, all right. Let's call it
"chocolate."

129 DR THEO
I suppose there are other things I

could be doing.

JESSIE

130 Wake me when we land or I'm dead. Or
when the brownies are done.

OLIVIA

131 Oooo, might be time for a fire alarm!

NARRATOR

132 Well, that was a bit of an anti
climax, but it's refreshing to see the
crew walking away rather than
sprinting and screaming. At the
entrance to pod bay 3.... Well, at the
entrance to the entrance to pod bay
3....

VON HABER ZETZER

133 Oof! Good heavens, you startled me.
What are you doing here?

COLIN

134 Dammit! I was counting. Now I have to
start over.

VON HABER ZETZER

135 Unt it iz necessary to lie on ze floor
for ze counting?

COLIN

136 I'm trying to figure out the blades
and the bolts. Where are those damn
super powers when I'm trying to do
maths? Once I figure out the pattern,
I can wiggle into the smuggling hold
and then into pod bay 3.

VON HABER ZETZER

137 Unt vy not get help from Olifia?

COLIN

138 I just want to visit my dead, sleeping
wife in her stasis pod without having
to get help from a computer, like any
normal man!

VON HABER ZETZER

139 I can leave you alone vis zat sentence
until you hear ze problems vis it, if
you like.

COLIN
140 I know it's ridiculous. I thought she was gone, doctor. Gone and buried. Now she's three inches of glass away from me. How is that possible?

VON HABER ZETZER
141 She is in fact three inches of glass, many razor-sharp whirling blades, unt a handful of giant bolts to make you into mashed potatoes away from you, no?

COLIN
142 True. But the question remains: Was she so desperate to leave me that she faked her own death?

VON HABER ZETZER
143 Have you considered zat perhaps it vas not you she vas escapink? Zat perhaps she is now hier, zo close unt still alive, because she vas protecting you?

COLIN
144 From what?

VON HABER ZETZER
145 How would I know zis? It is only a guessink. Vat I am saying is zat the answer to zo many questions is three inches of glass away. Unt zum sharp blades and the mashed potatoing things.

COLIN
146 What if the answer is simply, "I don't love you, Colin"?

VON HABER ZETZER
147 Zen I think I would be asking her, vy you vere not getting a divorce instead of all this crazy hurling yourself out of aeroplanes vis ze backpack of ze sandwiches? Faking one's death is rather dramatic, no? She is in zere for a reason, Colin. Unt no doubt there is a reason you don't know her reason. For being in there. Now I am tangled.

148 COLIN
What?

149 VON HABER ZETZER
Allow me to untangle, yes? She did not tell you. She hid where you would not find her. What does zis add up to, hmmm? Your maths are good enough for zis, I am thinkink.

150 COLIN
I should leave her be.

151 VON HABER ZETZER
I believe you should trust her. Do you not think that waking her up would be a very great complication? Alzo, for now, she is safe from ze plants, which is more zen I can zay for any of us.

152 COLIN
True. There are easier ways to get away from me than pretending to die in a parachuting accident.

153 VON HABER ZETZER
Running, for example. Or even a brisk walk, perhaps.

154 COLIN
Yes, I get the point.

155 VON HABER ZETZER
I would say let's just have ze one criziz at a time, but on zis ship, only one criziz would be a holiday, no? Like Christmas!

156 COLIN
Or April Fools.

157 NARRATOR
With a vigorous pat on the back from Dr. Von Haber Zetzer — that unfortunately activates Colin's eye lasers which burns up a stockpile of English-language how-to manuals for nearly all the ship's systems, which had been stashed in the smuggling hold and which are now ashes, but never mind, it's not like this crew could

follow instructions anyway – Colin turns away from pod bay 3 to go stare forlornly at the Albatros some more. And in the swamp...

158 LEET
Greg! Greg?

159 GREG
Here, Leet.[sneeze]

160 LEET
Bless you. Did it work?

161 GREG
Like a charm. He had no idea.

162 LEET
So, who did he call?

163 GREG
Southers, of course. [sneeze] Just like we predicted. Well, just like I predicted. You owe me 20 credits.

164 LEET
Bless you. Dang. I was SURE he'd call out for Thai food.

165 GREG
Never make a bet when you're hungry.

166 LEET
So what did they talk about?

167 GREG
He was asking how to get Southers' dog out of the pod. Southers hung up before he could tell Frise how to get back to earth.

168 LEET
Shoot! That's the part I needed!

169 GREG
You gonna tell me why you're all fired up to get back there? And what you changed my password to? [sneeze]

170 LEET
Bless you. Nope.

171 GREG
Oh. OK. You're, uh.. You're kinda
playing with fire here. Don't you want
to talk with the captain or somebody?

172 LEET
I can't. If you haven't noticed,
they're not very bright.

173 GREG
That's...true....

174 LEET
If he uses your kidneys again-

175 GREG
Phone. Let's call it a phone. This is
getting mighty personal.

176 LEET
OK. If he uses your phone again, let
me know, OK?

177 GREG
Course. [sneezes several times,
violently]

178 LEET
[says "bless you" after each sneeze,
so give me several, and start to get
bored with it]

179 GREG
Man, I must be allergic to something
in the swamp.

180 LEET
Really? How do you know? Do you have a
rash or something?

181 GREG
I just... I keep... Never mind.
Definitely something got up my nose.

182 LEET
Speaking of noses, if you actually put
the call through, what does that
button up your nose do?

183 GREG
No idea. [sneeze] What the hell is up
my nose?

184 NARRATOR
I'm going to hate myself for saying
this, but *meanwhile*....

185 JULIE
Did you hear that?

186 BEN
Hear what?

187 JULIE
I don't know. Sounded like something
heavy being moved.

188 DONNA
I heard it too, but I don't hear it
now.

189 BEN
Did it sound like big, leafy
footsteps?

190 DONNA
Wouldn't say so, uh uh.

191 BEN
Then I don't care. Let's keep going.

192 JULIE
Did you notice there's no *panellus*
stipticus in this tunnel?

193 DONNA
Oh yea, the mold! Why do you reckon
it's in the other tunnel but not this
one?

194 JULIE
HmMMM. It looks like there was some,
but it's been removed. Maybe...eaten?
That's weird though; only slugs and
deer eat this stuff, and you won't
find either of those in here.

BEN
195 Would the plants eat it?

JULIE
196 Maybe? It looks like they were torn
off though, not bitten off. Weird. And
whatever did it was big. It's been
torn off all the way to the ceiling.

BEN
197 Giraffe?

JULIE
198 Yes, of course! The wild, tunneling
giraffes of Indiana. Why didn't I
think of that?

BEN
199 Very funny. It's gotta be the plants,
right? What else is that big?

outside the resort, evening

GLEENDA
200 What're you staring at over there?
It's freezing out here. Next time I'm
wearing the tuxedo!

MRS SHEFFIELD
201 You're the one who chose strapless to
have easier access to your weapons.
Though I must say, you don't seem the
type of assassin to call *those*
"weapons."

GLEENDA
202 I was referring to the ones in me
booby traps. [pause] You can lose the
face, missy; I keep a wee revolver in
there.

MRS SHEFFIELD
203 I see. Tell me - Pluto Springs, just
up the hill there. Is there something
different about it?

GLEENDA
204 Yeah. It's dark. Let's go. Where did
you get the suitcases from, by the
way?

MRS SHEFFIELD
205 Oh, some gentleman over there berating
the parking valet very nicely passed
out on the pavement just as I was
asking to borrow them. He is beginning
to stir, though, so perhaps we should
step lively, mmm?

GLEENDA
206 Is it me, or does Pluto there look a
bit ... disappointed?

MRS SHEFFIELD
207 They really shouldn't light him from
below, should they? It makes him look
right devilish and a bit peeved.

GLEENDA
208 If by peeved, you mean constipated,
you're not wrong. Come on, shift it!

ARGUS
209 Good evening, welcome to the French
Lick Springs resort, is your clothing
bespoke, made to measure, or [pause to
throw up in your mouth a bit] *pret a
porter?*

MRS SHEFFIELD
210 Bespoke, naturally.

ARGUS
211 Excellent.

MRS SHEFFIELD
212 Absolutely! It bespoke to me in the
charity shop, saying, "buy me, Mr.
Faust, buy meeeeeee."

ARGUS
213 Did you say "charity shop"?

MRS SHEFFIELD
214 Yes, in, where were we, dear?
Nashville? Pittsburgh? Ah, yes. New
Jersey.

ARGUS
215 And has it been fumigated, Sir?

216 MRS SHEFFIELD
Of course! Do you think I'd share my
best suit with all those little
critters?

217 ARGUS
"Critters"?

218 MRS SHEFFIELD
Well, it had been wrapped around a
dead fellow for a stretch, so you have
to expect a few visitors, don't you?
Now, do you have our reservations?

219 ARGUS
I have a great many reservations,
actually.

220 MRS SHEFFIELD
Yes, that's an entirely new joke, well
done! Faust. F-A-U-S-T. I like your
statue out there, by the by; I think
we've met once, at a crossroads
somewhere.

221 ARGUS
I don't see a "Mr. Faust" on my list,
Sir, and I'm afraid we're completely
full up.

222 GLENDA
That's because my husband is a bit of
an idio- joker. Do you by chance have
a Mr. and Mrs. Birtwistle-Humphries on
your list?

223 MRS SHEFFIELD
That seems rather specific...dear.

224 ARGUS
Mr. and Mrs. Birtwistle-Humphries!
Welcome, Sir, Madam! I understand this
is your first visit with us? Ah, yes,
you're in the Burberry suite. Very
tweedy.

225 MRS SHEFFIELD
I must say, thank goodness you
recognized us!

226 ARGUS
Recognized you?

227 MRS SHEFFIELD
That is stellar service, don't you think, my dear? Worth reporting to management, I'd say. There's another couple swanning about, pretending to be us, if you can imagine. If they end up here, I'd suggest calling the coppers, post haste. They're heavily armed, we hear.

228 ARGUS
I shall keep a close eye, Sir! Here are your key cards.

229 GLENDA
Did you have the Cristal sent up?

230 ARGUS
I did, and we have also sent a complimentary bottle of *Krug Private Cuvee*.

231 GLENDA
1975, I hope?

232 ARGUS
But of course! [aside] Simone, check the Krug in the Burberry.

233 MRS SHEFFIELD
Do escort our luggage up to the suite, won't you, eh... Argus? We're going to have a bit of a sniff round.

234 ARGUS
Very well. We do recommend our guests stay close to the resort after dark. We've been hearing some odd sounds at night, and yesterday a very confused bear wandered in and tried to get in one of the sheds. He's been taken back home, but you never know.

235 MRS SHEFFIELD
I'm quite interested in the history of this place. Do you have any materials I can take a peek at?

ARGUS

236 We have a small museum and shop right here in the resort, Sir. [rings bell] Lenka, take the Birtwistle-Humphries to the museum, please. Have a lovely stay. Next. Hello, Madam, is your gown Gucci, Balenciaga, Valentino, or Versace?

NARRATOR

237 Do you get the feeling things are being set in place for some big event to happen? I'd say it's a bit like a chess set being put in starting positions, only the pawns keep running all over the board and falling off the edges. Meanwhile, all my attempts at communication have failed. Flare guns, signal fires, I even did some disco dancing because because someone ALWAYS sees me when I'm just trying to dance it out. But no luck. If you have thoughts on this, hit me up on Twitter, will you? At Oz9Narrator. And if you're in French Lick and can take the erstwhile Birtwistle-Humphries aside and just ask them to stay at the Holiday Inn, that'd be great. You've been listening to:

238 Bonnie Brantley as Donna and Jessie
Eric Perry as Mr Southers and Dr. Von Haber Zetzer
Sarah Golding as Mrs Sheffield
Aaron Clark as Ben and le Bichon Frise
Iri Alexander as Julie
June Clark Eubanks as Glenda and the Albatros
David S Dear as Dr Theo and Argus
Shannon Perry as Olivia
Tim Sherburn as Colin
Richard Cowen as Leet
Kevin Hall as Greg
and me, Richard Nadolny, as your Narrator

Until next time, Space Monkeys,
Narrator out!