

OZ 9 EPISODE 55

NARRATOR

1 I don't know about you, but I could  
use a break from space stress. Instead  
of hanging out on the Oz 9, waiting  
for the ship to bump into the free-  
floating, undetonated apocalypse  
device from the shattered Oz Asterisk,  
let's see what the group on Earth is  
up to. Last we heard, they were calmly  
sniffing soaps and stroking towels and  
helping Pluto get his hand out of a  
Mike and Ike's dispenser from the 7-  
Eleven. Though in the Showertorium,  
for once they're not captives or  
indeed in any immediate danger.

[clap of thunder, loud growl]

NARRATOR

2 Really. Really?!

MRS SHEFFIELD

3 Look, if you just let go of the  
sweeties, you can pull your hand out!

PLUTO

4 Then I will have squandered my last  
quarter!

JULIE

5 Why is your hand inside the machine?  
The sweets come to YOU, you don't have  
to go get them.

PLUTO

6 Four or five measly candies for twenty-  
five cents?! Absurd! Such an exchange  
is not a sale, it is extortion!

BEN

7 It's a quarter. A QUARTER.

PLUTO

8 They say humans evolved from apes. I  
would call it more of a back slide.

BEN

9 This from the guy with his hand stuck

in a candy machine.

DONNA

10 Oh, for crying out loud. Hold still.

[with a resounding pop, Pluto's hand comes free. some candies spill on the floor]

PLUTO

11 Sweet release! My lady has saved me.  
Monkey man, gather the sweets.

BEN

12 What? No!

PLUTO

13 I see one thither. And another yon.  
Also hence. No, your *other* hence.

BEN

14 I am not picking up candy from the  
floor of a giant bathroom.

DONNA

15 It's just not sanitary, hon.

PLUTO

16 Very well. There are enough here to  
sustain me a while. Did you just refer  
to me by a term of sweet endearment?

DONNA

17 Oh, uhhhhh...

JULIE

18 Are you really going to bring that  
ridiculous thing with you?

PLUTO

19 Ditto.

BEN

20 WATCH IT.

MRS SHEFFIELD

21 As much as I'm enjoying all this  
playful bickering, I'm actually not,  
so could we possibly get on? Thank  
you.

JULIE  
22 Get on with what? I'm out of ideas.  
There's nothing here.

BEN  
23 What about that sweatshirt?

MRS SHEFFIELD  
24 Yes, I've been thinking on that, and  
its unfortunate occupant.

DONNA  
25 Sshhhh!

MRS SHEFFIELD  
26 Now, come along, Donna, this is  
exactly what I'm talking about. Every  
time I try to circle back 'round to  
that crispy garment, you distract me!  
What is it this time, Poseidon trapped  
by an air filter in a suburban  
swimming pool? Or perhaps Aphrodite  
got folded up in one of those  
vibrating hotel beds?

JULIE  
27 No, she's right. I hear it too.  
Voices. Angry voices.

BEN  
28 Let's get out of here.

DONNA  
29 Oooooorrrrrr....

BEN  
[furious whisper]

30 Where are you going? Get back here!

PLUTO  
31 Wait for me, else how may I protect  
you?

[Pluto and Donna "tiptoe" closer to Tiberius and Felonius]

JULIE  
32 Do you trust her?

MRS SHEFFIELD

33 I'd say, "not as far as I can throw her," but I've been doing some javelin training lately, and I've been working on cross-over and delivery. So I suspect I could get some real loft and distance.

JULIE

34 I'm going to take that as a very British "no."

BEN

35 We're going after her, aren't we.

JULIE

36 We have to. We keep her in sight until we know exactly who she is. And whose side she's on. Come on!

[distant voices become clearer and louder]

TIBERIUS

37 They're not happy, Felonius. We're too close to fail now; why are those fools still alive?

FELONIUS

38 Those "fools" are more resourceful than we thought, Sir. Certainly a hell of a lot luckier. And our mightiest weapon is convinced one of them is the reincarnation of his wife. That's going to make killing her a great deal more difficult.

[low rumble of thunder]

JULIE

39 Sssh! Pluto! They'll hear you!

[rumbling subsides]

TIBERIUS

40 Where are they now?

FELONIUS

41 Southers says he saw them heading back to the tunnels. They know that's where it's all going down or at least where they're under Pluto's protection.

42                   TIBERIUS  
Don't say "going down," Felonius,  
you're entirely the wrong sort of  
villain. You're certain Pluto is  
unable to leave the tunnels?

43                   BEN  
Huh? Pretty sure he's right here. *Too*  
close. Your breath smells like black  
licorice.

44                   PLUTO  
The Licorice Allsorts machine was less  
sturdy than the Mike and Ike's. Sweet?

45                   BEN  
Oh, sure. Thanks. [chewing] Wait.  
Where did you have these?

46                   JULIE  
Will you two shut up?

47                   TIBERIUS  
For heaven's sake, Felonius, get to  
the point. One would think you're  
simply filling in space between key  
plot points. Is Pluto stuck in the  
tunnels?

48                   FELONIUS  
I buried his key to the Gate of Hades  
at the entrance to the tunnel. Without  
it, he is unable to leave the tunnels  
and unable to return home.

49                   PLUTO  
Am I?

50                   DONNA  
Oh, do ya suppose they mean this key?

51                   MRS SHEFFIELD  
You are a never-ending fountain of  
surprises, aren't you? And a bit of a  
mole, for that matter.

52                   DONNA  
I like digging.

53                   PLUTO  
You are trying to come back to me, my

love.

DONNA

54 I do miss my backhoe.

JULIE

55 Did Felonius say Southers told him we  
were heading back to the tunnels? Why  
would he do that? Is he protecting us?

MRS SHEFFIELD

56 That man has the loyalty of a starving  
vampire at 5 minutes to sunrise.

JULIE

57 Meaning?

MRS SHEFFIELD

58 Meaning he didn't just pop by for  
pancakes. If he's directing them away  
from us, it's for some purpose of his  
own.

DONNA

59 She's right. We've got a lot of ground  
to cover. Maybe we should split up.

BEN

60 No. No splitting up.

MRS SHEFFIELD

61 I want to check out the tunnels.

BEN

62 Let's split up. I'll go with Julie.

JULIE

63 Actually, that's not a bad idea. I'd  
like to check out the greenhouse. We  
need to see what they've got growing  
in there and get an idea of how many  
we're up against.

BEN

64 So we're walking into a roomful of  
giant, carnivorous plants. Is there a  
third option? Like maybe I should  
check out the hotel restaurant, or one  
of the guest rooms?

MRS SHEFFIELD

65           How about this: Ben, Julie, and Donna,  
          you canvass the greenhouses, maybe get  
          a rough count of their numbers. Pluto  
          and I will head to the tunnels. I  
          really rather do need to locate my  
          cane.

PLUTO

66           I wish to accompany my lady. She and  
          the humans will need my protection.

BEN

67           We're good, thanks.

JULIE

68           Ease up on the testosterone, honey;  
          you might need it later.

MRS SHEFFIELD

69           I think we'd best keep you and that  
          key separated until we have a better  
          notion of its powers, eh?

DONNA

70           If you're all done divvying yourselves  
          up, those two are still talking. Might  
          want to hear some of this, just  
          saying.

TIBERIUS

71           Are you sure? That's a dangerous plan.

FELONIUS

72           I can think of no other options. And  
          if it works, it will pay off.  
          Enormously.

TIBERIUS

73           Very well. I shall see what's left of  
          you at dinner. Black tie tonight. I'm  
          off to hire *another* housekeeper.

FELONIUS

74           Another, Sir? That makes four this  
          month!

TIBERIUS

75           Yes, well, apparently the plants are  
          attracted to the smell of the  
          disinfectant we use.

76 FELONIUS  
Could you not just switch brands?

77 TIBERIUS  
HMMMMMMMM....No, let's not. We do get a  
sizable discount on the one we're  
using. More than enough to pay off the  
occasional next-of-kin.

78 FELONIUS  
If I could just ask one more question  
about our secret plan-

79 TIBERIUS  
No! Not now.

80 FELONIUS  
Do you think someone can overhear?

81 TIBERIUS  
No, I'm just bored with it.

82 DONNA  
Dammit!

83 JULIE  
Did you get any of that?

84 DONNA  
Nope, you folks yakked right through  
it. I might have to enroll all of you  
in *Clandestiny 101: Knowing when to  
shut up to ensure you have a future.*

85 MRS SHEFFIELD  
And where might one attend such a  
course, hMMMMMM?

86 DONNA  
All right, the boys are gone. So it's  
me, Ben, and Julie to the green  
houses, and you two to the tunnels?

87 PLUTO  
My lady, perhaps we might have a  
moment in the sunshine?

88 DONNA  
You hate sunshine.



PLUTO

89           You know this of me! You see? You  
          truly are my wife, come back to me.

DONNA

90           You're the god of the underworld. It  
          wasn't a big stretch.

PLUTO

91           You're right, I am no fan of Sol, but  
          I've been told my golden hue glows  
          most alluringly in full sunlight.

DONNA

92           Oh, sure, why not.

[their voices fade as they walk away. Pluto, noises of  
agreement and attentiveness here would be grand]

DONNA

93           In Minnesota, we rarely get our full  
          share of vitamin D, especially in the  
          fall and winter. In fact, anyone north  
          of 37 degrees latitude is probably at  
          higher risk of a deficiency, and we're  
          at 41 to 47. Considering vitamin D  
          controls moods, well, I'm pretty sure  
          that's why the polka is so popular --  
          it's peppy!

MRS SHEFFIELD

94           Well, that was convenient. I wanted a  
          moment to tell you-

JULIE

95           That burned sweater. The crest is  
          MCCACEC. Donna's alma mater.

MRS SHEFFIELD

96           Yes. Rather stole my thunder, there,  
          didn't you. Look, could we have this  
          conversation outside? The smell of  
          gold-dusted talcum powder is starting  
          to clog my sinuses. And possibly my  
          sense of morality.

NARRATOR

97           Following the path taken by Pluto and  
          Donna, Julie, Ben, and Mrs Sheffield  
          discover the lift that has allowed  
          generations of powerful men to come

and go from the Showertorium discreetly. The lift exits directly outside the resort, via a door hidden beneath an ancient growth of vines. The door has never been discovered by non-members, though the persistent scent of lavender, crested peacock, honey, rose, and frankincense has led to stories that the ghost of famous French perfumer Henri Alméras lingers here.

BEN

98 OK, explain. Why would they murder some random community college student?

MRS SHEFFFIELD

99 Is he typically this slow, or did he give up half his IQ points for Lent?

BEN

100 LOOK. I'm getting pretty tired of being called "stupid."

MRS SHEFFFIELD

101 Really?

JULIE

102 STOP. Ben, we're thinking there's more to MCCACEC than just weird classes.

BEN

103 All the spy stuff?

JULIE

104 Exactly. I checked out their course catalog on my phone -- Listen to some of these: "Tales from the Cryptology," "Night of the Living Dead Drop," "Ghoul Morning, Vietnam"? They're not exactly being discreet.

BEN

105 What's the "ghoul" thing?

MRS SHEFFFIELD

106 Let's just say this: the real Clara Sheffield died in 1840 and is buried at St. Travis's in Painswibble, Gloucestershire. Sporotrichosis, apparently.

107                   BEN  
[pause] Nope. I heard "died" and  
"wibble."

108                   JULIE  
A "ghoul" is an agent who scouts for  
identities of real people who are  
dead. They're good cover for living  
agents.

109                   BEN  
Ah. Why do you know that?

110                   MRS SHEFFIELD  
The point, Benjamin, is that Donna's  
school appears to be something of a  
training ground for agents.

111                   BEN  
That's good, right? That means she  
knows things and probably has a secret  
weapon in her ... I don't know, hatpin  
or something.

112                   MRS SHEFFIELD  
Hatpin?

113                   BEN  
Or something.

114                   MRS SHEFFIELD  
I mean, she's not even wearing a hat.  
Bit suspicious, wouldn't you say?  
Giant pin sticking out of your head.  
Not to mention painful.

115                   BEN  
It was just an example.

116                   MRS SHEFFIELD  
Is Lent nearly over? We do waste a lot  
of time explaining.

117                   JULIE  
The problem is, we don't really know  
which side she's on. And she's got  
Pluto, who could be a real danger if  
she's not on ours.

118                   BEN  
So what do we do?

JULIE

119 I think for now, we do what we said we  
would: split up and do some  
investigating. We can at least keep  
Donna and Pluto apart to make them  
less of a threat.

MRS SHEFFIELD

120 Thunder aside, I do think Donna's the  
bigger concern. Crack shot, well-  
trained in the sneakier arts. You sure  
you can keep her in hand?

BEN

121 At least there's two of us.

MRS SHEFFIELD

122 You are sweet.

[Ben - some noise of knowing you've been insulted here, plz]

JULIE

123 Shhh. They're coming. [louder, so they  
can hear] OK. Ben, let's get moving to  
the green houses. Mrs S, let's meet  
back at Pluto's Spring at 7 PM.

NARRATOR

124 As Julie, Ben, and Mrs Sheffield were  
discussing their concerns over Donna,  
Donna and Pluto were discussing  
concerns of their own...

DONNA

125 In Minnesota, we rarely get our full  
share of vitamin D, especially in the  
fall and winter. In fact, anyone north  
of 37 degrees latitude is probably at  
higher risk of a deficiency, and we're  
at 41 to 47. Considering vitamin D  
controls moods, well, I'm pretty sure  
that's why the polka is so popular --  
it's peppy!

[sound of lift rising, doors opening, rustle of vines, then  
birdsong]

PLUTO

126 It is rather pleasant to hear the  
sounds of birds other than vultures,  
buzzards, and condors.

DONNA  
127 You've been up here for a long time  
now. I'da thought you'd be used to it.

PLUTO  
128 Over the long course of my existence,  
a couple hundred years is merely a  
blink.

DONNA  
129 Oh, right. Infinite and all that. So,  
what did you want to tell me? Also,  
could we maybe find some shade? I feel  
a little exposed, and you're sorta  
blinding me, there, goldilegs.

PLUTO  
130 Stroll with me to yon grove of willow  
trees. There are none here to espy us.

DONNA  
131 All righty. How far is "yon"?

PLUTO  
132 Oh, about three stades, give or take a  
couple hundred pes.

DONNA  
133 Oh sure.

PLUTO  
134 My love, I fear you do not enjoy the  
trust of your companions.

DONNA  
135 I know. Hazard of the job, really. I  
don't take it personal.

PLUTO  
136 Do you think you could be in danger  
from them?

DONNA  
137 I'm not worried. Ben's a sweetie, but  
he couldn't defend himself against an  
allergy attack. If I have to, I can  
take him hostage to make sure the  
other two behave.

PLUTO  
138 Very well. But I do have an escape

hatch, should you need it. It can take  
you very VERY far away.

DONNA

139 You're not talking about Hades, are  
you.

PLUTO

140 Not in the ... traditional sense.  
Though if it's true that hell is other  
people, it's closer to hell than one  
might think at an idle glance.

DONNA

141 Is that what you're guarding?

PLUTO

142 My loyalty is as ragged and full of  
holes as Julius's toga on the 16th of  
March, my love. I am not yet ready to  
betray my oath, not even for you. Do  
you hate me?

DONNA

143 Our neighbors over in Michigan have a  
saying: "Just cause it's Christmas in  
Bronners doesn't mean you can leave  
grandma in the car."

PLUTO

144 Does that answer my question somehow?

DONNA

145 Bronners Christmas Wonderland. It's a  
store over in Frankenmuth that's  
decorated for Christmas all year long.  
Even in the heat of summers.

PLUTO

146 O...K....

DONNA

147 You can't always trust what your  
senses tell you, that's all. Sometimes  
ya gotta step outside and verify.

PLUTO

148 Still not sure if we're good here.

DONNA

149 We're good. You gonna share those Mike

& Ikes?

150 PLUTO  
Only if you eat the green ones. I  
don't like the green ones.

151 DONNA  
Fine, but you can keep the Licorice  
Allsorts. Yuck.

152 PLUTO  
Perhaps we should head back so we  
don't further fuel their suspicions.

153 DONNA  
You haven't asked me if I'm a good guy  
or a bad guy.

154 PLUTO  
No, I haven't. I find such  
characterizations are rarely accurate  
or persistent.

155 DONNA  
Wow. Wisdom really does come with age.

156 PLUTO  
Which is why it's a tragedy humans  
last less than a century.

157 DONNA  
I'd stick my tongue out at you for  
that, but I don't think it'd help my  
argument.

158 PLUTO  
Probably not.

[they walk quietly for a moment. chewing-candy noises would  
be great, and an excuse to chew some candy]

159 DONNA  
Would you like your key back?

160 PLUTO  
Or you could just move in with me.

161 DONNA  
Move in-! We're talking about Hades,  
not an apartment in downtown St. Paul.

162 PLUTO  
I have been to St. Paul; Hades is not  
that different. Maybe not quite as  
much suffering....

163 DONNA  
It's a very nice gesture, but what if  
I'm not the reincarnation of your  
Persephone?

164 PLUTO  
[teasingly] Well, the tradition is if  
I give someone food and they accept,  
then they must live with me and be my  
bride.

165 DONNA  
Then I hope you and Ben will be very  
happy together.

166 PLUTO  
Wait, what? Nooo!

167 JULIE  
OK. Ben, let's get moving to the green  
houses. Mrs S, let's meet back at  
Pluto's Spring at 7 PM.

168 BEN  
What did you just say about "you and  
Ben"?

169 DONNA  
Nothing, don't worry. We best  
skedaddle if we want to keep from  
being seen.

170 MRS SHEFFIELD  
Do remember, we don't know where  
Felonius's plan is set to unfold, so  
keep eyes and ears open and watch each  
others' backs. [muttering] And fronts  
and particularly any pointy bits.

171 NARRATOR  
The group splits up. Ben, Donna, and  
Julie head to the green houses, with  
Ben ducking behind small buildings,  
shrubbery, and the occasional confused  
guest to avoid being seen, while Donna  
and Julie stroll along behind,



silently enjoying a rare moment of  
sunshine. For the moment, we'll leave  
them to their investigations to follow  
Mrs Sheffield and Pluto. I must warn  
you: death awaits someone in the  
tunnels tonight, so if you need to  
stop and take a few deep breaths  
before continuing, or get some  
popcorn, if you're that kind of  
person, now might be the time.

PLUTO

172 [makes a sound of a chill or shudder]

MRS SHEFFIELD

173 Did you just ... shudder?

PLUTO

174 Do you feel it as well?

MRS SHEFFIELD

175 "It"? You mean the waft of pheromones  
from you and Donna? Worth a shudder,  
I'll say, though not from you.

PLUTO

176 Death.

MRS SHEFFIELD

177 Ah. Not the "petite" kind, as the  
French say, mmmmm?

PLUTO

178 Your mind lives in the gutter, I  
think.

MRS SHEFFIELD

179 Well, no, but it does have a summer  
house there. What are you sensing,  
exactly? I mean, we know there are  
dangerous creatures in those tunnels.

PLUTO

180 Yes, and death is not an infrequent  
visitor here.

MRS SHEFFIELD

181 Yes... isn't that .... you?

PLUTO

182 I am the god of the dead.

183 MRS SHEFFIELD  
Riiiiight....

184 PLUTO  
Not the god of death.

185 MRS SHEFFIELD  
Noooooot really seeing the distinction?

186 PLUTO  
I do not *bring* death, I only control  
those whom death has already found.  
The bringer of death, Morta, roams  
these tunnels tonight.

187 MRS SHEFFIELD  
Ah. I see. But as you said, she's got  
a few holes punched in her kill-ten-  
get-one-free card, so why the shudder  
now?

188 PLUTO  
This death is different. It shifts the  
scales.

189 SOUTHERS  
What the everlastin gobstopper took  
you so damn long? I dropped that hint  
with Felonius ages ago!

190 MRS SHEFFIELD  
All right, all right, untwist your  
bolos.

191 SOUTHERS  
Where's the rest of your little clan?

192 MRS SHEFFIELD  
Watching from a distance through  
powerful scopes atop even more  
powerful rifles, so behave yourself.

193 SOUTHERS  
Mrs Sheffield, you are nearly as adept  
at hogwash as the second-to-last  
fellow a pig sees at the annual San  
Antonio Polish 'Em Off Barbecue and  
Two-Step festival, but I wouldn't  
trust you to slap a gnat and not call  
it an eagle.

194 MRS SHEFFIELD  
That has got to be the grand champion  
and best in class of mixed metaphors.  
I congratulate you. Why are we here?

195 SOUTHERS  
Because Tiberius is in there.

196 PLUTO  
Tiberius? He ventures into the tunnels  
only rarely.

197 SOUTHERS  
He's gone to tell the Others he would  
soon be bringing them ... a tribute.

198 MRS SHEFFIELD  
First of all, how the hell does he  
"tell" them anything?

199 SOUTHERS  
They finally figured out the plants  
aren't fond of pesto. They had one  
decent translator left, and they  
slather him up every time he has to  
communicate.

200 PLUTO  
Pesto?

201 MRS SHEFFIELD  
That seems oddly specific. Is it the  
pine nuts? The basil? Oooh, perhaps  
the garlic!

202 SOUTHERS  
Your capacity for going off-track  
would make the Donner party blush.

203 MRS SHEFFIELD  
I just prefer not having to break out  
the Magic Bullet every time I want to  
walk safely through the tunnels.

204 SOUTHERS  
Any interest in knowing what... or  
who... that tribute is?

205 PLUTO  
It better not be a ram. I haven't had  
a good ram in centuries.

206 MRS SHEFFIELD  
Me neither, but you don't hear me  
complaining about it at every turn.

207 SOUTHERS  
He's telling the Others that he's  
giving them... his brother.

208 PLUTO  
His own brother? That's unthinkable!

209 MRS SHEFFIELD  
And I suspect a "tribute" doesn't mean  
hazing? Wear a dress full of whipped  
cream and fire ants to the grocery  
store after drinking a bottle of  
vodka, that sort of thing?

210 SOUTHERS  
It ain't a fraternity. It's  
fratricide.

211 MRS SHEFFIELD  
Is that the sort of thing the Others  
want?

212 SOUTHERS  
Well, as long as it ain't covered in  
pesto, they're not too picky about  
what they eat.

213 MRS SHEFFIELD  
Yes, but clearly Tiberius believes the  
tribute of a brother is of high value.

[pause]

214 PLUTO  
Should we go in?

[pause]

215 SOUTHERS  
I reckon we better figure out what's  
going on in there.

[longer pause]

216 MRS SHEFFIELD  
Yes, I do ... have a cane to recover.

[still longer pause]

MRS SHEFFFIELD  
217 Right. Ladies first then, eh?

[loud, piercing scream from Tiberius]

MRS SHEFFFIELD  
218 You know, I would feel better going in  
in full strength, with all our team.

SOUTHERS  
219 Seems like the wisest course of action  
to me.

PLUTO  
220 I worry that my lady love is  
vulnerable without me.

NARRATOR  
221 And so, launching excuses like Oz 8000  
ships on that distant Tuesday, Mrs  
Sheffield, Pluto, and Mr Southers race  
for the green houses, and the fragile  
safety of numbers.  
You've been listening to...  
Sarah Golding as Mrs Sheffield  
Lee Shackelford as Pluto  
Iri Alexander as Julie  
Aaron Clark as Ben  
Bonnie Brantley as Donna  
Richard Cowen as Tiberius  
Kevin Hall as Felonius  
Eric Perry as Mr. Southers,  
and me, Richard Nadolny, as your  
Narrator.  
Things are brewing, and I don't mean  
the combination of Licorice Allsorts,  
Mike & Ike's (except the green ones),  
and mead in Pluto's belly.  
Until next time, Space Monkeys,  
Narrator out!