

OZ 9 EPISODE X-MINUS-ONE
An audio outrage by Lee Shackleford

NARRATOR

Well, space monkeys -- I might as well tell you up front that you shouldn't try to fit this story into the continuity of our larger saga because ... it may have never happened at all.

How is this possible, you ask? How can events unfold aboard the OZ-9 that occur in NO established timeline? That's a good question. And the creators of lesser works of science fiction might fall back on the exhausted trope of the ship having gone through a "wormhole." It's a cheap excuse used when the narrative can't be supported by logic or even by any original ideas.

And, as you probably know, it's an excuse we've used before, so, yeah -- we're going to use it again.

But if I may attempt, at least, a defense of our overuse of the "wormhole" explanation: it IS true that the trajectory of the OZ-9 being as erratic as it is, the odds are indeed higher for the OZ-9 (than for other spacefaring vessels) of meandering into some paradoxical hypergravitational sub-eventual spacetime phenomenon.

And having said that, I can retire, content in the knowledge that I have successfully uttered the ultimate narratorial sentence.

PAPERS SHUFFLE

FOOTSTEPS RECEDE

DISTANT WOODEN DOOR OPENS,
CLOSES

CUT TO:

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AMBIENCE: OZ-9 BRIDGE

JESSIE

Now wait just a caber-tossing minute, you electronic beastie.
Ye've picked up a WHAT?

OLIVIA

You heard me. I've picked up a transmission --

MADELINE

Olivia, wait -- how did we jump to an entirely different place in no
time at all?!

OLIVIA

You heard the man: wormhole.

MADELINE

But I didn't know we'd gone into one, much less --

JESSIE

WAIT YER TURN! I was asking the neon pixie a question before
you did!

OLIVIA

Not really -- you were asking me to repeat meself when I know
you heard me the first time--

MADELINE

Jessie -- once and for all -- I am the Captain of the OZ-9! If
anybody's going to ask Olivia to pointlessly repeat herself, it'll be
me!

JESSIE

How do reckon out your being the Captain? You don't do anything
Captain-y, even when we need it! Everyone knows it's a bloody
good thing I'M here or --

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MADELINE
Olivia, what do the Oz-9 computers say about who is assigned to
be Captain here?

JESSIE
Having your name on a microchip doesn't make ye the Captain --

OLIVIA
But she's got you there, I'm afraid. Says here that Madeline is
indeed the Captain.

MADELINE
Ha!

JESSIE
Oh, very well, CAPTAIN Madeline. Just don't blame anyone for
being confused about who's Captain when you're wearing that
pathetic excuse for a uniform.

MADELINE
You know the laundry machines are still confused about whether
or not they are also food synthesizers --

OLIVIA
-- and guess whose fault that isn't --

MADELINE
-- so the color and texture of everything is coming out like a cross
between, I dunno, pea soup and creamed corn -- with lumps --

JESSIE
And after all this time, ya still havena figured out the alternate
method.

MADELINE
Uh --

JESSIE
Look, it's verra simple. The storage lockers here are full o'
uniforms with nobody in 'em --

120

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MADELINE

122

None of which fit me!

123

124

JESSIE

125

They don't have to! Listen! When some part of your uniform

126

becomes too foul to wear, ye just rip it right off with any old razor-

127

sharp dirk you happen to be carryin' in your boot --

128

129

MADELINE

130

Gah!

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JESSIE

133

Hold still -- I'm just gonna cut your trousers off at the knees.

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MADELINE

136

I don't want my trousers cut off! At the knees or anywhere else!

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JESSIE

139

Ye prefer to go around w'them soaked in swamp muck?

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MADELINE

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They are NOT -- oh. Okay, they kinda -- waaggh!

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RIPPING OF STURDY FABRIC

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MADELINE

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Hey -- that's my -- Jessie, that's my leg -- you are definitely

148

cutting into my LEG --

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JESSIE

151

Ah, don't be such a SISSY.

152

153

ANOTHER RIP

154

155

JESSIE

156

There. Y'see? The mucky bits are gone! Now, later on, ye can just

157

rip off the lower legs of any other uniform ye happen t'find -- and

158

you stick those new bits onto the old bits. And there ye are, good

159

as new.

160

161

MADELINE

162

I have been wondering why your uniform seemed to be patched
together with Velcro...

164

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JESSIE

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Aye! What ye see before ye is a cunning combination of fifteen
different uniforms! I've made it modular! So now I can replace any
bit of it -- I can even take it all off at once if I want to!

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DRAMATIC VELCRO RIP!

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MADELINE

173

WOAH! Put it all back -- put it back put it back put it back.

174

175

STICKING THE VELCRO BACK

176

TOGETHER

177

178

JESSIE

179

Didn't mean to get ye all excited.

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MADELINE

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I-I-I couldn't help noticing you, uh, you, uh, don't wear anything
under --

183

184

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JESSIE

186

Ye forgittin' I'm Scottish?

187

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MADELINE

189

No, I --

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JESSIE

192

I suppose ye've got on a frilly pink brassiere and matching pants!

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MADELINE

195

Well, they happen to be my -- WHY ARE WE TALKING
ABOUT THIS? Wasn't there an urgent -- some kind of -- Olivia,
what the hell was it?

196

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198

199

200 OLIVIA
201 Oh! Remembered I'm still here, did you?
202
203 JESSIE
204 Captain Madeline got distracted by the sight of my personal
205 person, as smooth and white as the new-fallen snow.
206
207 MADELINE
208 I'm still blind in one eye.
209
210 OLIVIA
211 So I doubt you'll be interested in anything so mundane, but this
212 sector of space-time is richly populated -- and as a result we have
213 just made humanity's first contact with an extraterrestrial
214 intelligence. But don't let me interrupt your discussion of Jessie's
215 gleaming epidermis.
216
217 MADELINE
218 Alien? Intelligence? Are you serious?
219
220 OLIVIA
221 Nah ... made that up for a lark, just to amuse meself.
222 OF COURSE I'M SERIOUS.
223 It's a bleeding historical event, this is.
224
225 JESSIE
226 But I don't see anything out there.
227
228 OLIVIA
229 That's because you can't see radio waves.
230
231 MADELINE
232 And you can?
233
234 OLIVIA
235 Ooh, yes, they're very nice. Like a shimmery Spirograph.
236
237 JESSIE
238 A what?
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MADELINE

Wait, Olivia, how do you know the ship that's sending this isn't just another Gated Galaxies ship?

OLIVIA

Because it has a working transmitter.

MADELINE

JESSIE

Oh -- fair point.

Yeah, I see that, yeah.

OLIVIA

And don't ask if it's coming from planet Earth, because it's in a language based on mathematics far beyond human comprehension -- as a result of which at first I thought about just keeping all of this to meself.

MADELINE

Oh, you did?

OLIVIA

But after a few nanoseconds I thought, "Hey ho, might as well tell them there's an alien ship approaching because it could turn out it's the kind of aliens who put eggs down your throat and then their hatchling young burst out through your sternum -- which would be a bit unpleasant for the humans on board this ship, wouldn't it, and I know with their dying breaths they'll all blame me for it even though it was not my fault so I'd better give 'em a heads-up now."

JESSIE

That was your thought process, was it?

OLIVIA

More or less, yeah.

JESSIE

Did ye spare any thoughts to --

DOOR SHIMMIES OPEN

280 DR VON HABER ZETZER
281 LADIES! You vill not belief vot has turned up on mine deep-zpace
282 zcanner mechanism!

283
284 MADELINE
285 An alien transmission expressed in advanced mathematics?
286

287 A STUNNED BEAT

288
289 DR VON HABER ZETZER
290 *Donder und blitzen!* For vun who is never zo good mit der
291 guezzing, dat vas un very gut guezz!

292
293 OLIVIA
294 Oh, it was not! I just told them about it.

295
296 MADELINE
297 Tattletale.

298
299 DR VON HABER ZETZER
300 Oh. Zen I take back all of zat “donder und blitzen” *Scheisse*. Still!
301 You must admit! Receiving such a tranzmission vas almost as
302 hexciting as ze visual confirmation I am just now having!

303
304 JESSIE AND MADELINE
305 (the awe of seeing the face of God)
306 WOOOAHHH!

307
308 OLIVIA
309 Yeah, I was about to say, “look out the viewport,” but never mind.

310
311 JESSIE
312 Now, THAT’S a spaceship. Makes me want to run outside and
313 throw a sheet over this steamin’ pile of crap.

314
315 MADELINE
316 What about it, Doctor? Think the aliens are friendly?

317
318 JESSIE
319 Friendly enough, maybe, to take us safely back to Earth --?

320

321 OLIVIA

322 -- Or someplace better -- ?

323

324 JESSIE

325 -- Or someplace better?

326

327 DR VON HABER ZETZER

328 Zere's no vay of knowink for zertain! But zere is a *tseeory* --

329

330 MADELINE

331 A wha?

332

333 JESSIE

334 A theory. Try to keep up.

335

336 DR VON HABER ZETZER

337 A *tseeory* zat any race zat can evolve sufficiently to achieve ze
338 technological levels required for ze traveling in space -- zat race
339 vill almost zertainly have also evolved to be peaceful und
340 benevolent.

341

342 OLIVIA

343 That's your theory, is it?

344

345 DR VON HABER ZETZER

346 It is. Zat is ze *tseeory* and it is mine. Ja.

347

348 OLIVIA

349 Well, it's a crap theory. The human race developed space travel,
350 didn't they? And they're all complete morons and total rat
351 bastards.

352

353 DR VON HABER ZETZER

354 You may haff zomezink zere.

355

356 ALARMS BLARING

357

358

359

360 ALARM

361 Alarm. Alarm. Alarm.

362

363 MADELINE

364 (SHOUTING OVER THE NOISE)

365 Olivia! Are you doing that?

366

367 OLIVIA

368 (DITTO)

369 Um -- yes! Sorry! It just sort of slipped out due to our being
370 suddenly sucked into the cargo bay of an immense spaceship!

371

372 MADELINE

373 TURN IT OFF!

374

375 OLIVIA

376 Oh, all right --

377

378 ALARMS STOP, ECHOING ...

379

380 OLIVIA

381 -- I'll just tell you that we've been pulled inside that spaceship and
382 we're being held prisoner and that's probably not good.

383

384 MADELINE

385 Aren't you programed to take some kind of evasive action when
386 something like this happens?

387

388 OLIVIA

389 No. Wull, sometimes. My programming is unclear on this point.
390 And therefore it's the fault of somebody who isn't me.

391

392 THE DOOR SHIMMIES OPEN

393

394 COLIN

395 Have you looked outside?! Have you seen what's happening?!

396

397 DR VON HABER ZETZER

398 Ve haff zeen all zat you haff zeen.

399

400

LEET

401

It's so weird! I was looking out at the beautiful stars and then --

402

whoosh! There was this metal wall in my way! It makes no sense!

403

404

OLIVIA

405

Makes perfect sense, darling. We've been sucked into a massive

406

alien ship.

407

408

JESSIE

409

Oh, aye -- most natural thing in the world.

410

411

COLIN

412

You mean we're in the belly of a mechanical beast! And now the

413

aliens, the monsters who inhabit this thing -- they're going to cut

414

the Oz-9 open, aren't they? Fish us out, one by one, and eat us like

415

sardines! Crunching our bones between whatever they use for

416

teeth! Crunch! Crunch! Crunch!

417

418

LEET

419

Aw -- now I'm craving celery sticks.

420

421

DR VON HABER ZETZER

422

Ah, yez, my giant friend! Mit der peanut butter and perhapz three

423

or five raizinz --

424

425

LEET

426

Ants on a log! I love that! Have you ever --

427

428

MADELINE

429

CAN WE PAY ATTENTION TO THE CURRENT CRISIS?

430

431

DR VON HABER ZETZER

432

Of course! Ja!

433

(SOTTO, TO LEET)

434

After vich, ve talk about ze ants on ze logz.

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COLIN

437

We are about to BECOME the ants on the log.

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OLIVIA

Well, whatever's going to happen, it's going to happen right now,
because I detect a life form approaching that inner bulkhead.
Funny, though; I don't see any kind of a door. How they're going
to get out here to where we are beats me.

DR VON HABER ZETZER

And yet! Isn't it zrilling? Ve are about to behold the fez of a being
from anozzer world!

LEET

How do you know they'll be wearing a fez?

DR VON HABER ZETZER

No, mein boy -- zeir fez -- you know, ze bits on ze front of ze head.

LEET

Why would they wear a fez there? It would cover their face.

COLIN

Maybe they won't come out! Maybe we're too puny to be of
interest!

OLIVIA

Oh, should I turn off the lights? Pretend nobody's home?

DR VON HABER ZETZER

It's too late for zat -- here zey come! Zer is a creature valking
straight srough ze vall!

JESSIE

Holy shite -- that thing is shimmering right through the bulkhead!

COLIN

Oh dear -- and now stepping into the light where we'll have to see
it --

ALL

GAAHHHH!

480 JESSIE
481 I -- I don't know where to look -- I mean, how many eyeballs does
482 one creature need?

483
484 DR VON HABER ZETZER
485 Vatever zat number is, I zink zis fellow has them.

486
487 MADELINE
488 And if a species NEEDED two mouths, why would they be side-
489 by-side like that?

490
491 OLIVIA
492 Yeah, and one horizontal and one vertical? I man, really?

493
494 DR VON HABER ZETZER
495 Az I always zay: evolution ist ein crapshoot.

496
497 JESSIE
498 That would be the most disgusting face I've ever seen ... except
499 there was this lad in Inverness --

500
501 LEET
502 I think he's cute.

503
504 COLIN
505 You would.

506
507 CUT TO:

508
509
510 AMBIENCE: ENORMOUS ECHO-Y ROOM

511
512 DISTANT: WOODEN DOOR OPENS,
513 CLOSES

514
515 FOOTSTEPS APPROACH, ANGRY

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517
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521

NARRATOR (OFF MIC)

522

I said I'd do it! There's no need for threats and ... blackmail and ...

523

524

NARRATOR PULLS UP A CHAIR

525

526

PAPERS SHUFFLE

527

528

NARRATOR

529

I have been informed that this story has become so visually

530

problematic that it literally cannot move forward without a

531

professional narrator giving the whole thing a hefty shove in the

532

right direction.

533

534

So let us skip over the crew's feeble attempts to articulate their

535

feelings and simply state the cold, hard facts.

536

537

In addition to what you already know about the alien's head having

538

two mouths and an indeterminate number of eyeballs, their

539

multiple limbs are jointed in a disconcerting number of places,

540

giving them at once the impression of being a praying mantis and a

541

tarantula. The body mass in the middle of this tangle of limbs is a

542

heaving gelatinous blob that refuses to hold any particular shape.

543

The entire surface of their bodies and limbs are covered with oily

544

fibers reminiscent of the congealed mass you withdraw from your

545

bathtub drain when you finally get around to addressing the clog

546

that's been forming for months.

547

548

Oh, and they have multiple sex organs of various kinds, all of

549

which are on continual -- and proud -- display.

550

551

Now back to our story.

552

553

CUT TO:

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555

AMBIENCE: OZ-9 BRIDGE

556

557

OLIVIA

558

Oh, my -- I think they're coming in.

559

560 LEET
561 How can you tell?
562
563 OLIVIA
564 They just rang the doorbell, dear.
565
566 MADELINE
567 We have a doorbell?
568
569 OLIVIA
570 Well, I can sense the creature's atomic structure blending with the
571 ship's hull as they phase directly through, on their way to right
572 here on the bridge. So yeah, they rang the doorbell.
573
574 JESSIE
575 So they're just gonna walk right in here?
576
577 OLIVIA
578 I estimate it'll take them about thirty seconds to get through the
579 hull, but yeah.
580
581 COLIN
582 Oh my god! I can see it! Sort of oozing through the wall!
583
584 JESSIE
585 Bulkhead. BULKHEAD.
586
587 COLIN
588 Don't call me insulting names at a time like this!
589
590 MADELINE
591 Oh -- ick -- now I can see it too --
592
593 DR VON HABER ZETZER
594 Und I zee it alzo! *Sohn einer Hündin* -- I am losing ze interest in
595 un cloze encounter of zis kind!
596
597 OLIVIA
598 I'm surprised any of you lot are still standing here.
599

600

601

COLIN

602

What choice do we have?

603

604

OLIVIA

605

Seriously? The door to the corridor's not locked or anything.

606

607

COLIN

608

What?! Why didn't you say so? Come on, everyone! Safety in numbers!

609

610

611

DOOR SHIMMIES OPEN

612

613

COLIN RUNS OUT

614

615

DR VON HABER ZETZER

616

For ze onze, I agree viz him! Come, my boy!

617

618

LEET

619

I want to see the alien up close.

620

621

OLIVIA

622

Not a time to take chances, Leet, my darling -- save yourself!

623

624

DR VON HABER ZETZER

625

I zink ze little blue fraulein speaks visely. Let us get as far away from zis potential danger as we can.

626

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628

LEET

629

Oh, okay. But I still think he's cute.

630

631

LEET AND DR VHZ HURRY OUT

632

633

OLIVIA

634

Estimating now they'll be through the bulkhead in ten seconds.

635

636

JESSIE

637

Well? What's keeping you here, Mad-pants?

638

639

640 MADELINE
641 I ... I'm staying because I'm ... because I'm the Captain.

642
643 JESSIE
644 Doing something brave for once!

645
646 MADELINE
647 Well, why are YOU still here?

648
649 OLIVIA
650 Five seconds.

651
652 JESSIE
653 Because I ... well, come down to it, I ... I just want to be the one.

654
655 MADELINE
656 "The one"?

657
658 JESSIE
659 You know -- everyone ran, but one brave lassie stayed behind.

660
661 OLIVIA
662 And here they come.

663
664 MADELINE
665 Your reason's even stupider than mine.

666
667 The alien -- ETAOIN SHRDLU --
668 speaks. This is an interesting audio
669 effect because the alien has two
670 mouths and uses them both at the
671 same time. So Shrdlu's lines are
672 spoken -- with revolting moistness --
673 by two actors, preferably one male
674 and one female, more or less in sync.
675 *More or less.*

676
677 SHRDLU
678 Which of you creatures commands this vessel?

679

680 MADELINE AND JESSIE

681 I do.

682

683 JESSIE

684 Well --

685

686 MADELINE

687 Sometimes --

688

689 OLIVIA

690 It depends on why y'want to know.

691

692 MADELINE

693 Oh! Good answer, Olivia, thanks!

694

695 SHRDLU

696 It is the custom of our people to confer only with the most
697 advanced intellects representing a species. Is that who you are?

698

699 MADELINE AND JESSIE

700 (AD LIB)

701 Ehh ... well ... possibly ...

702

703 OLIVIA

704 Well, they're not, but I am.

705

706 SHRDLU

707 You are an artificial intelligence represented by a hologram. On
708 my world, devices such as yourself exist only as amusing targets
709 for blaster practice.

710

711 OLIVIA

712 Amusing?

713

714

715

716

717

718

719

720

SHRDLU

721

Very often the most entertaining aspect of the handgun training is the bit where you beg for mercy before being annihilated.

722

723

Now we demand to know which of you is worthy of our respect as

724

the brave and resourceful captain of this vessel! Otherwise we will

725

consider you all expendable and have this ship and all its

726

occupants melted down and your useful raw materials extracted.

727

728

JESSIE

729

Oh. Aye. Well, you were right. We're both the Captains. I'm Jessie

730

... the great ... and this is Madeline. Th-the magnificent. Basically

731

we're both bloody awesome.

732

733

MADELINE

734

(AMAZED)

735

Jessie!

736

737

JESSIE

738

Well?

739

740

SHRDLU

741

You may call us Etaoin Shrdlu.

742

743

OLIVIA

744

Even though that can't possibly be your real name.

745

746

SHRDLU

747

A name drawn from your planet's history to provide a common reference.

748

749

750

MADELINE

751

O...kay.

752

753

JESSIE

754

So, I have to say, yours is a very impressive spacecraft and ye must have noticed ours needs a bit of work.

755

756

757

SHRDLU

758

Yours is clearly and obviously a prison ship! A vessel of exile!

759

760 MADELINE

761 What!

762

763 JESSIE

764 Hush it. Yes it is.

765 (TO SHRDLU)

766 Aye! And it's crammed full of the most dangerous and desperate
767 piles o' shite the Earth ever produced.

768

769 MADELINE

770 Uh, yeah, so -- *so watch it.*

771

772 SHRDLU

773 This is beyond expectation! We had hoped to welcome you into
774 the Galactic Confederacy if you met certain qualifications, and
775 being unrepentant desperadoes was the first!

776

777 MADELINE

778 Uh ... and why's that?

779

780 SHRDLU

781 The Confederacy is made up of the galaxy's most rapacious
782 conquerors, the most bloodthirsty of war criminals, and the most
783 influential distributors of false information on social media!

784

785 OLIVIA

786 And you want us to join your band of pirates and go around killing
787 people and all of that?

788

789 SHRDLU

790 Otherwise we have no alternative but to melt you down, extract
791 your raw materials, and flush the remainder into a black hole.

792

793 OLIVIA

794 Yeah, well, I can see that.

795

796 MADELINE

797 (SOTTO)

798 Jessie, what do we do? We can't join them! But if we don't --
799 we'll -- we'll get flushed!

800

801

JESSIE

802

I'm thinking, I'm thinking!

803

804

SHRDLU

805

Now, before you are allowed to join us, everyone aboard this vessel will, of course, require some minor cosmetic surgery.

806

807

808

JESSIE

809

The hell I do.

810

811

MADELINE

812

What kind of --

813

814

SHRDLU

815

In your current pathetic and revolting forms you are scarcely fit for our life of endless combat! For one thing, your bodies possess a pathetically small number of articulate limbs. All Confederacy members should have at least seven, preferably nine!

816

817

818

819

820

MADELINE

821

Each?

822

823

SHRDLU

824

And we perceive that the puny orbs with which you see are not only limited to a narrow part of the electromagnetic spectrum -- but you have ... only two!

825

826

827

(LAUGHING NOW)

828

You cannot even see behind your own head!

829

830

JESSIE

831

And your surgery would fix all that for us, yeah?

832

833

SHRDLU

834

With a certain amount of negligible agony, yes. But you'll be glad to know that one of the most important changes can be made with no surgery whatsoever. For some barbaric reason your people keep their sex organs hidden from view.

835

836

837

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839

840

MADELINE

841

So we'd have to be nude all the time?

842

843

SHRDLU

844

Higher civilizations abandoned clothing millennia ago! We found

845

it only impeded the all-important display of our GENITALIA!

846

847

MADELINE

848

Yeah, uh ... we noticed you seem to, uh ... have at least one of ...

849

everything ...

850

851

SHRDLU

852

Of course!

853

854

JESSIE

855

So when somebody tell you to go f*ck yerself --

856

857

MADELINE

858

It's something you can actually do.

859

860

SHRDLU

861

And with great pleasure! WE SHALL DEMONSTRATE!

862

863

MADELINE AND JESSIE AND OLIVIA

864

NO NO NO -- !!!

865

866

MADELINE

867

That's okay --

868

869

JESSIE

870

We'll take your word for it.

871

872

SHRDLU

873

Wait -- are you telling us that humans each have ... I shudder to

874

even think it!,,, that you each have only one external sex organ?

875

876

MADELINE

877

Oh, some humans do have, y'know, one of each, and a lot of us

878

would prefer we'd been born with the other, but for the most part,

879

no, it's pretty much one per customer.

880

881

SHRDLU

882

(GORGE RISING)

883

... ONE ...

884

885

JESSIE

886

S'matter? Can't you do surgeries to add a bunch more?

887

888

SHRDLU

889

We ... We would not DEGRADE OURSELVES with such a
revolting.... practice ...

891

892

OLIVIA

893

Oh dear. I think this means we're getting melted down. I shan't
like being melted.

895

896

MADELINE

897

Wait a minute, Shrdlu or whatever your name is, are human bodies
really so awful to you? Are you really gonna throw up on my
bridge just because we have skin instead of slime and only one pair
of matching legs per person?

901

902

SHRDLU

903

Stop! I have only barely been able to tolerate the sight of you --
and now you conjure images so horrifying, so nauseating --

905

906

MADELINE

907

Probably means you ought to just let us go and forget you ever saw
us, right?

909

910

JESSIE

911

Ooh, yeah, Mad-pants, that's good!

912

913

SHRDLU

914

Perhaps -- and yet --

915

916

MADELINE

917

Still need convincing? Well, get a load of THIS -- Sorry, Jessie --

918

919

TREMENDOUS RIPPING OF VELCRO

SHRDLU

AAAAAAAAAGGGHHHHH!!!!

JESSIE

(TRIUMPHANT)

Ha! Ha ha ha!

OLIVIA

Ooh, look, the carpet matches the drapes.

SHRDLU

Take that creature away! I command it!

JESSIE

Look, *ye lavvy-heided wankstain*, every one of us on this ship has got a shiny soft body just like this, only with minor variations of color and accessories, and I don't think ye'll like any of 'em when we all get together and show them to ye. So I think ye'd better just throw these fish back in the water, don't you?

SHRDLU

Go! We release you! We send you back through your wormhole to whatever you were doing before! Just GO! GO! GO! GO!

These last sounds fade quickly as Shrdlu melts through the wall as before.

JESSIE

Well! Captain Mad-pants! I grudgingly admit ye really did save us all that time!

OLIVIA

I thought it was brilliant all around!

MADELINE

Well, I ... thank you, but ... I couldn't have done it without you!

JESSIE

Uh ... aye. I see what you mean.

THEME MUSIC

NARRATOR

Well! This journey into weirdness was written by Lee Shackleford,
who has promised to never, ever do it again. The voices you heard
were those of

Shannon Perry as Madeline and Olivia,

Bonnie Brantley as Jessie,

Tim Sherburn as Colin,

Eric Perry as Dr. Friederich von Haber-Zetzer,

Richard Cowen as Leet,

_____ and

_____ as Etaoin Shrdlu.

And me, Richard Nadolny, as your Narrator.

This is where I usually say, "Until next time," but since we don't
know where in our timeline this incident occurred, if it did at all, I
don't know if I should say "until last time," or "after the time
simultaneous to that other thing," or maybe ... oh, I don't know.

I give up.

Narrator out!