

Oz 9 episode 62: I sent him a hippotigrus

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OZ 9 EPISODE 62

NARRATOR

1 I went parasailing this summer. Just
as I was being pulled up into the
azure sky, champagne flask in my
pocket, festive party hat perched
jauntily on my head, the lines broke,
sending me careening into the path of
an oncoming ferry. I had a choice:
drop my plate of finger sandwiches and
steer clear, or nibble my way to
oblivion. For one brief moment, I
nearly chose the sandwiches which
were, in all honesty, only OK. But at
the last second, I threw them to the
trailing seagulls and chose TO LIVE!
As I stand here now, watching these
absurd events unfold in the tunnels
deep below the Indiana town of French
Lick, I can still taste the cucumber
... mingled with regret.

JULIE

2 Did Tiberius just ... run away?

FELONIUS

3 Ehhhhh.... a man of his vast
importance has many things to do.

JULIE

4 He sprinted out of here. *Sprinted.*

FELONIUS

5 MANY things to do. Urgent things.

JULIE

6 That was the sprint of a junior high
girl who just split her pants doing
cartwheels during recess.

MRS SHEFFIELD

7 Shame he took all his guards. Jimmy
was definitely flirty.

BEN

8 He was holding you hostage.

MRS SHEFFIELD

9 In a very flirty way.

10 SOUTHERS
He took his little army with him;
nobody's holding us here. Let's go!

11 FELONIUS
Nobody? What do you call this? Because
I call it ... a gun! So stay where you
are.

12 SOUTHERS
You already told us you stole that
from what was it? Sharpshooter Barbie?
Come on, people!

13 JOE
So, if I could just get a word in
here...

14 MRS SHEFFIELD
You can drop the accent now,
Friederich, though I must say your
"bog-standard American" is coming
along nicely.

15 PLUTO
While I hate to be a ring kill...

16 BEN
A what?

17 PLUTO
A beep kill? It's some sort of sound...
Bong kill!

18 BEN
What are you talking about?

19 PLUTO
English is very idiomatic.

20 BEN
I thought you were going to stop
calling me that.

21 PLUTO
What?

22 JULIE
It's "buzz kill." What's on your mind?

PLUTO

23 We are still in the den of the plants.
I suspect it will not be long before
they hear us and come to investigate.
And feed.

MR SOUTHERS

24 For god's sake, let's get out of here!
You all might be OK getting attacked
by the plants, but I just bought an
800 dollar Stetson that won't be much
good if my head's over in the corner
with that fella's! Let's GO!

FELONIUS

25 I think you're forgetting who has the
gun.

[quick physical exchange with Mrs Sheffield]

MRS SHEFFIELD

26 You're right, my memory is terrible.
Who has it now?

PLUTO

27 What must I do with this?

MRS SHEFFIELD

28 If you insist on pointing it, point it
at that fellow, there's a good god.

JOE

29 Where are we exactly?

BEN

30 You gave the gun to *Pluto*.

JULIE

31 Did you want it?

BEN

32 Well, no, but he's a zillion years
old. He has no idea how to fire that
thing.

MRS SHEFFIELD

33 Exactly.

PLUTO

34 My bident is a much more elegant
weapon. This thing is clumsy. What's

this little lever?

35 BEN
[edge of panic] You don't know what a
trigger is?

36 PLUTO
Don't panic, human, I jest. I know
what a trigger is. I have watched many
hours of Gunsmoke and Full House.

37 BEN
Full House?

38 JOE
Beg pardon? Still a question
outstanding, here. Where am I?

39 JULIE
You're in the tunnels.

40 JOE
Yeah. Echo, dripping water,
stalactites: tunnels I got. But which
tunnel?

41 BEN
The one with the head in it; does it
matter "which one"?

42 JOE
Rockefeller? Kennedy? Please tell me
it's not Trum-

43 FELONIUS
Who are you? No one's used those names
for these tunnels for years! Wait a
minute - you called Tiberius
"brother"....

44 JOE
You must be new here. We're all
brothers under the skin, wouldn't you
agree?

45 FELONIUS
Not without a gun to my head.

46 PLUTO
Like this?

47 FELONIUS
Do you mind?

48 MRS SHEFFFIELD
Look, darling, disguises are sexy, but
there is such a thing as taking it too
far.

49 JOE
Mrs Sheffield?

50 MRS SHEFFFIELD
How formal! Yes, it's me, Clara. Why
are you behaving so strangely?

51 JOE
I'm not, actually. I think you're
thinking of Dr. von Haber Zetzer.

52 MRS SHEFFFIELD
I was, yes. Are you telling me you're
not Friederich von Haber Zetzer?

53 JOE
There has been some confusion about
that, mostly because we look a bit
alike.

54 MRS SHEFFFIELD
"A bit"?! Your own mother wouldn't
know the difference.

55 JOE
I suspect not, but then my mother was
generally more pickled than the Vlasic
twins on Mardi Gras.

56 PLUTO
And you claim to be Tiberius' brother.

57 JOE
Not "claim," Old Yeller. Am.

58 JULIE
Adopted brother?

59 JOE
Nope.

60 BEN
Half.

JOE
61 Unless I left some of me behind on the
Oz 9, no. You folks seem to be having
trouble grasping a fairly simple
concept here.

MRS SHEFFIELD
62 It's just that you and Tiberius... I
mean, you expect a little family
resemblance...

JULIE
63 You're... and he's You look
nothing alike.

JOE
64 [realization] Oh, heh heh... I get it.
You're talking about the-... Yeah,
that really confuses people.

[Sounds of relief, some laughter, awkwardness has passed]

BEN
65 I'm sure it does!

JOE
66 Yeah, Tiberius got our dad's nose. I
got mine from mom's side. You have no
idea how often that comes up.

MRS SHEFFIELD
67 Nose....? Was that what we were
confused about?

JOE
68 Looks like my younger sibling has been
causing some ruckus. Time for a
brotherly chat.

JULIE
69 Wait. Can you explain what's going on
here?

JOE
70 I can take a whack at it. Hey, is that
Southers over there whimpering in the
corner?

BEN
71 You know him?

72 JOE
Indeed I do. Might have a bone or two
to pick with him about some Oz 9
maintenance manuals.

73 PLUTO
Speaking of bones being picked....

74 SOUTHERS
Does anyone else smell chlorophyll?
Why are we still standing here?!

75 MRS SHEFFIELD
As much as it galls me, I second
Southers' question. Shall we?

76 JOE
One thing, before we mosey. I'm pretty
sure two critters passed me in
transit: nice-looking lady who smelled
like waffles...

77 JULIE/BEN/PLUTO/MRS S
Donna.

78 JOE
And some foliage.

79 JULIE
One of the plants?

80 FELONIUS
Yesssss!

81 BEN
"Yes"?

82 FELONIUS
Ehhhhhhh...

83 PLUTO
That's not possible. I sent only my
lady.

84 JOE
I reckon someone hitched a ride.
What's your name again, there, little
baddie?

85 FELONIUS
My name is Felonius.

86 JOE
Oh, lord, you fellas still giving
yourselves these bad faux-Roman
emperor names? I bet you still swear
in new members with a ritual sponge
bath.

87 BEN
Ew.

88 FELONIUS
There's nothing wrong with a little
manly hygiene. Perhaps you should try
it some time.

89 MRS SHEFFIELD
Does anyone else hear... rustling?

90 SOUTHERS
That's it, I am GONE!

[Southers runs]

91 MRS SHEFFIELD
Who was stopping him?

92 BEN
No idea. Who's stopping us?

93 MRS SHEFFIELD
Excellent question. Mr... ah....

94 JOE
Joe is fine.

95 MRS SHEFFIELD
Yes, all right, Joe. Was there a
reason we continue to stand here,
awaiting the arrival of the plants?
Lost an earring, did we? Or perhaps
you have an Uber coming?

96 JOE
This little Oz-Earth switcheroo is a
one-for-one. Two folks went up; so two
had to come down. I'm one — who and
where is the other? I don't plan to
leave one of my crew wandering around
in here.

97 MRS SHEFFIELD
Right. Well, we'll help you look.

98 BEN
We will? [pause, girding of loins]
Yes. We will. It'll be fine. This is fine.

99 PLUTO
Perhaps we should split up to cover the ground more quickly. Joe, you come with me.

100 JOE
Righty ho.

101 BEN
Uh.... I suppose I should go with Felonius.

102 FELONIUS
I'm not going anywhere.

103 MRS SHEFFIELD
Good. Our combined scent will make this the room they visit first, and you'll make a decent meal- Let go of my sleeve, Felonius.

104 JULIE
You're with me, honey.

105 BEN
Thank god.

106 PLUTO
You're welcome. Joseph?

[they walk in silence for a moment]

107 JOE
I reckon you wanted me alone for one of two reasons: you want to kill me, or you want answers.

108 PLUTO
These are not mutually exclusive, done in the correct order. [pause] I remember you.

109 JOE
Thought you might. You were a lot ...
quieter when I was here last.

110 FELONIUS
GAH! Where did you come from?

111 PLUTO
These tunnels are full of entrances
and exits; we may come upon each other
many times in our search. Try to shout
more quietly.

112 MRS SHEFFIELD
I told you it was them, you idiot.
Joe, have you been this way yet?

113 JOE
Uhhhhh... don't think so. We'll mosey
this way, if you two want to go on
that way.

[the teams separate again]

114 PLUTO
I do not understand what you're doing
here. Actually, I understand you being
here. What I don't understand is why
you came here from there.

115 JOE
Not entirely sure myself, though I
think Tiberius put me on the Oz 9. I
woke up in one of the pods. You know
von Haber Zetzer is up there.

116 PLUTO
I know. I sent him a hippotigrus.

117 JOE
YOU sent the zebra? Not G2? OK, well,
we'll get to that unexpected bit of
weirdness in a second. So you know
about the plan to provide the plants a
passageway between their planet and
earth?

118 PLUTO
I do.

JOE
119 And you know what'll happen to earth
if that happens?

PLUTO
120 I do. It's why I sent the ... what did
you call it? The zebra. It's why we
sent the zebra.

[footsteps]

BEN
121 Nothing in here either.

JULIE
122 Dammit. Someone could be wandering
around, no idea what's in here or how
they even got here.

BEN
123 We'll find them. Or it. Julie, do you
think Tiberius would go after Maggie?

JULIE
124 In a heartbeat, if he thought it would
help him. [sudden stop] Shhhh!

BEN
125 Ooof! [whispering] What? WHAT?

JULIE
126 I don't know. And do you know how to
whisper? Like, quietly? Also, do you
smell.... vinegar?

BEN
127 No. Do you?

JULIE
128 Would I ask if I didn't? Let's keep
moving. [resume walking] Yes, I think
Tiberius could very well go after
Maggie, which is why I moved her.

BEN
129 Moved her? Where?

JULIE
130 I don't know. I thought it might be
better if I didn't.

BEN
131 You actually managed to crowbar my mom
out of her house?

JULIE
132 Of course not. I sent Buck and Glenda
to get Maggie.

BEN
133 WHAT?

JULIE
134 It's OK. They have her, and they can
keep her safe.

BEN
135 Oh my god.

PLUTO
136 I belong to no man.

BEN
137 [whoops] Could you NOT. We're going
that way. You go THAT way.

[different room, footsteps]

FELONIUS
138 Might I suggest-

MRS SHEFFIELD
139 Nope.

[they walk a bit]

FELONIUS
140 Perhaps-

MRS SHEFFIELD
141 Uh uh.

[they walk a bit]

FELONIUS
142 If I may-

MRS SHEFFIELD
143 You mayn't.

[they walk a bit]

144 FELONIUS
I think I hear-

145 MRS SHEFFIELD
You don't.

146 FELONIUS
If I could just-

147 MRS SHEFFIELD
Shut up? Yes, that would be marvelous.
Please do.

148 PLUTO
Don't holler.

149 FELONIUS
[hollers] GAH!! Enough of this!

150 BEN
I agree. We're not finding anyone. Or
anything. And we're really pushing our
luck with the plants.

151 JULIE
Pluto sent Donna up from the golf
course. Maybe we should check there?

[growl, shuffling sounds]

152 BEN
That sounds like a great idea.

153 JOE
You all skedaddle. I've got an idea.

154 BEN
Whoa! Where did he go?

155 JOE
Still here.

156-157 Jesus!
BEN/MRS SHEFFIELD PLUTO
/JULIE/FELONIUS Me!

158 JOE
Guess this thing still works.

159 BEN
What thing?

JOE
160 A gift from some naughty scientists at
G2.

JULIE
161 Wow. It makes you ... not exactly
invisible, more ... uninteresting. So
you kind of disappear when you're not
talking. Clever. But you know the
plants operate by smell, not sight,
right?

JOE
162 This little cloaking device has some
nifty tricks, including, if memory
serves, a lemon-scented aromatherapy
defuser. Those noises are getting
closer. You folks should head out.
I'll meet you at golf course.

PLUTO
163 Hole number sixteen. It is engraven
deep upon my memory. Ne'er shall I
forget the moment when the wind
screamed and whirled, time folded
itself like a toga fresh from the
laundry, and my lady, radiant, though
caught like a moth in a beam of light-

BEN
164 Escape first, then bad poetry. RUN!

[very close bellow from the plants. they run. back up top....
Some hard breathing to put in behind the next few lines would
be good - please breathe hard during your lines but also give
me a minute or so of hard breathing that I can put behind
others. Except Pluto, who's a god, after all. :)]

JULIE
165 We just left a total stranger -
actually, not even "total" - we left
Tiberius' brother with the plants. Was
that a good idea?

FELONIUS
166 Well, this has been delightful, but I
have a resort to run.

PLUTO
167 One moment, Felonius. You were all
given names when you joined the

Showertorium, correct?

BEN

168 And did that happen before or after
the sponge bath?

JULIE

169 Ben! Please let that go. I'd like to
eat again someday.

FELONIUS

170 The gifting of a noble name is part of
the ritual, yes. Use of the names is
generally restricted to the
Showertorium and the grounds.

[end of heavy breathing in lines]

PLUTO

171 What was Joe's name?

FELONIUS

172 I have no idea.

MRS SHEFFIELD

173 Surely it's in the records somewhere?

FELONIUS

174 Of course. Showertorium is the best-
documented secret society ever!

MRS SHEFFIELD

175 What a very odd thing to boast about.

FELONIUS

176 The member names-

MRS SHEFFIELD

177 And you name your members?

FELONIUS

178 Yes. I just said so. Pay attention,
woman.

JULIE

179 WATCH IT.

MRS SHEFFIELD

180 What did you name yours, then?

FELONIUS
181 What are you talking about?

PLUTO
182 Joe's member name. What was it?
[bit of a giggle from Mrs Sheffield would be lovely]

FELONIUS
183 I've told you, I don't know.

JULIE
184 So... GO LOOK IT UP.

FELONIUS
185 Why do you want to know?
[no answer]tt

FELONIUS
186 The member roster is in Tiberius'
 office. Good luck getting it.

MRS SHEFFFIELD
187 You mean this roster?
[pulls out some paper]

FELONIUS
188 Give me that! How did you get ahold of
 this?

MRS SHEFFFIELD
189 Ah ah. Step back, little baddie. Hands
 off.

FELONIUS
190 No woman has ever touched that book!
 Give it to me instantly!

MRS SHEFFFIELD
191 Really? No woman's ever touched it?
 [licks it] Mmmmmmmmm.... misogyny
 tastes like butterscotch when it
 falls. [coughs, gags a bit] And dust.

JULIE
192 That thing's a phone book! How did you
 get it out of there?

193 MRS SHEFFFIELD
Professor Doris Yimithirr, remember
her? Taught Marsupiation 101: the art
of secreting ledgers about your
person.

194 JULIE
Ahhhhhhhhhh. You used The Ladies
Codpiece maneuver.

195 MRS SHEFFFIELD
Twice.

196 JULIE
You actually got him to throw a
stapler at you?

197 MRS SHEFFIELD
Professor Yimithirr couldn't have done
better herself, if I may say so.

198 PLUTO
Though there is little in this world I
fear, I am strangely afraid of
interrupting you. But I feel I must.
Joe's Showertorium name?

199 FELONIUS
No! No one is allowed to open that
book without the sacred recitation!

200 BEN
[dripping sarcasm] Sacred recitation.
You just get cooler and cooler.

201 MRS SHEFFIELD
Ah, yes. Hang on a tic.... [wrestles
with heavy, unwieldy book] Anyone know
his last name? No? Right.... Oh. Here
it is. He's listed as "Joe." No last
name. How odd.

202 PLUTO
His member name... is it Lares? [LAIR-
eez]

203 MRS SHEFFIELD
"Member name." That's never NOT going
to be funny. Ehhhhhh, yes! "Lares."
[LAIR eez] Rather less grand than
"Tiberius," isn't it?

BEN
204 How did you know it was Larry?

PLUTO
205 Not Larry. Lares.

BEN
206 So there's more than one Larry?

PLUTO
207 I am trying to credit you with more
intelligence than previously. Please
don't undo my good work. Little bad
man, do you choose your own names, or
are they given to you?

FELONIUS
208 I ... I don't actually remember.

MRS SHEFFIELD
209 Really? Perhaps a poke in the nose
would refresh your memory?

FELONIUS
210 There's a great deal of mead involved
in the ritual, all right?! I assume
the names are assigned, though where
they come from and who assigns
them.... No one knows that. Not even
Tiberius.

TIBERIUS' OFFICE

TIBERIUS
211 What exactly is a "sausage room"?

COLIN
212 The only room on this ship with a
private telephone.

TIBERIUS
213 I'm glad you understood my message.

COLIN
214 Hidden in a tiny container of juniper
berry lotion in my dead wife's pocket.
I'd ask how you could possibly know it
would make its way to me, but then you
might tell me. Honestly, Brad, all
this Showertorium nonsense was my
father's passion, not mine.

TIBERIUS

215 Oh, come along, Horace; remember when
you and I and Wiggy and Spotty Bosh
used to run around the grounds at
French Lick every summer?

COLIN

216 I remember you and Wiggy chasing me
and Boshie with sticks and us
screaming at you to leave us alone. I
haven't thought about French Lick in
ages. Wait — are you part of this
whole plant nightmare? I thought you'd
left all that secret society silliness
behind.

TIBERIUS

217 I did! I did! But then I discovered
there was a lot more going on here
than I'd realized. I'm trying to help
you. That's why I sent your wife back
to you.

COLIN

218 You did that? I thought she said that
was Pluto.

TIBERIUS

219 Yes, well, I couldn't very well reveal
myself. Let her assume it was
supernatural powers.

COLIN

220 I see. That makes sense, I suppose.

TIBERIUS

221 Did she come through... alone?

COLIN

222 Apparently not. It seems we gained
another plant. Look, how is any of
this actually helping us?

TIBERIUS

223 Horace... a little trust and patience.
We're old friends. Our fathers knew
each other.

COLIN

224 They hated each other.

225 TIBERIUS
Our grandfathers broke bread together!

226 COLIN
Your grandfather broke a chair over my
grandfather's head.

227 TIBERIUS
Yes, all right, all right. But we have
history. And that counts for
something.

228 COLIN
I suppose. So what happens next? What
do you want me to do?

229 TIBERIUS
Your wife came to me because she's
very very ill.

230 COLIN
What?

231 TIBERIUS
Oh yes. She didn't want to tell you.
She thought perhaps I could help her,
and you'd never need know how very
close you came to losing her.

232 COLIN
She faked her own death to spare me
the pain of her dying....

233 TIBERIUS
She did? Oh, eh... yes. If treatment
didn't work, she'd save you the agony
of watching her die slowly. If it did
work, she'd have the delight of
returning to you.

234 COLIN
And did it? Did it work?

235 TIBERIUS
It is working. But she needs time. She
needs to rest and heal. In fact, don't
put her in a standard pod. Put her in
a healer. Yes. That will give the
treatment time to work. Don't talk
with her, don't do anything to stress
her or tire her. Knock her out, if you

have to. I mean... I know how stubborn she can be. Just put her in the healer pod. I'll take it from there.

NARRATOR

236

Wait - Tiberius and Colin know each other? And PLUTO SENT THE ZEBRA???? And we're no closer than we were to knowing who Donna really is! [pause] Ahem. Well, it's a good thing I don't really care. Because I don't. But who else got sent to Earth? Everyone else is accounted for, right? Oh, who cares. Not me, that's for sure. You've been listening to:
 Iri Alexander as Julie
 Kevin Hall as Felonius
 Sarah Golding as Mrs Sheffield
 Aaron Clark as Ben
 Eric Perry as Mr Southers and Joe
 Lee Shackleford as Pluto
 David S Dear as Tiberius
 Tim Sherburn as Colin, and
 Me, Richard Nadolny, as your Narrator
 Our artwork is by Lucas Elliott; our music is composed and performed by John Faley. This episode was directed by June Clark Eubanks. Oz 9 is written and produced by Shannon Perry.
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