

Diary of an Oz9ivist — Crossover episode between Diary of a Space
Archivist and Oz 9

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BONUS EPISODE: CURLY WURLYS, PUCKMARENS, AND PI

It's the Oz 9 kitchen. Sound of the fridge door opening...closing. Opening...closing. Opening.... drawer pulled out... pushed in... closing.

OLIVIA

What exactly are you looking for?

LEET

Food.

OLIVIA

Then what the hell are you doing in the kitchen? We don't keep food in here.

LEET

I've already been to the green-sorry, grayhouses, and there's nothing in there that didn't try to bite back.

OLIVIA

Poor dearest. It does take a lot of calories to keep that chest from deflating, doesn't it.

LEET

Even Albert is starting to look good. And I'm a vegetarian!

OLIVIA

Albert's nearly stupid enough to qualify as a vegetable, but then so is most of the crew. You know, up on level 78, there's one of those machines with food in it that Joe hasn't located yet.

LEET

Really? Can you take me?

OLIVIA

All right, but it's quite a trek. You might want to take a couple of sedgewiches. What have you got left?

LEET

Uhhhhh.... dill pickerelweed and marsh mallow. Or toasted lotus with pureed azalea sauce.

OLIVIA

Which one gave you hives last time?

LEET

I don't remember. Guess I'll find out when I eat it again.

COLIN

What are you doing?

LEET

Wow! You are so invisible. Even your martini is invisible. What happened to the bits of you coming and going?

COLIN

No idea. The other day, I looked into the mirror and saw the inside of the back of my skull. I passed out, and when I came to, everything was gone again. So what are you up to?

LEET

Duh, we're in the kitchen. What do you think we're up to?

COLIN

Who knows? There's no actual food in here, so that can't be it.

LEET

I'm going exploring for snacks!

COLIN

Really? Why? So you can see more giant, mostly empty white rooms where food should be? Or so you can visit all the pod people, who are basically sleeping fertilizer? My god. That could have been ME.

OLIVIA

Are you just now realizing that? He's bored, Colin, just like you're bored, and me, now that I'm engaged in this conversation. Byeeeeee.

door

COLIN

FINE.

LEET

That was kind of rude, Olivia.

OLIVIA

I know! He's lucky I'm so forgiving.

LEET

What do you think is in the machine? Those salty, crunchy things you can put on the end of your fingers and pretend they're really long fingernails?

OLIVIA

Cockroaches? Maybe. I thought you were vegetarian?

NARRATOR

The food situation on the Oz 9 is becoming critical. Without the stores of food the ship was meant to have, the crew is rationing what little is left and scurrying to find alternative sources. There are small pockets of stores here and there: some bags of Intrigue Chocolate stashed in a vent in someone's bunk, the occasional packet of biscuits tucked in a quiet corner of an unused shelf, taffy stretched between the pages of a manual on how to fix the popcorn machine (tragically written in Farsi), and a whole box of Turkish Delight, which...didn't "delight," but they ate it anyway. The machine Leet and Olivia are currently making their way toward does have some food in it. It had a lot more, but it's already been discovered. Just not by the crew.

PUCKMAREN

[happy trill]

LEET

Are we almost there? I feel like we've been walking for a paragraph's worth of exposition at least!

OLIVIA

Nearly there. Finish your sedgewich.

SAM

Puck? Puck!? Oh for the... we go through... and you... Could you please just come here? I'm not sure where we are but I know we need to LEAVE.

OLIVIA

Hang on a minute.

LEET

What?

OLIVIA

I'm sensing another life form.

LEET

What? Where?

OLIVIA

Near.

LEET

I think I just stepped on a decipede.

OLIVIA

Decipede?

LEET

Yeah, I think he's been stepped on a few times before

OLIVIA

Ah. Well. Perhaps that was it, then. Last door!

SAM

Puck! Come on... this is some kind of vampire ship. Room after room of well dressed people in... coffin things. CAL, can you hear me?

CAL

Affirmative. Comms are working to regulation. No life forms detected in your immediate vicinity.

ALBATROS

Hello, there. You don't have a body tag.

SAM

Ah... right... no life forms CAL?!

ALBATROS

Oh it's not CAL's fault. I'm ...

CAL

Scottish?

ALBATROS

Exactly. And you have about 11 seconds to explain.

SAM

What? The Scots aren't undead... are they? Did you say eleven seconds?!

CAL

That would be the time required to cover the distance to the nearest airlock for a laden ship's assassin.

ALBATROS

Precisely.

SAM

Eleven seconds? The nearest airlock is at least four levels down! And pardon me, "laden"? And 'assassin?'

ALBATROS

It's six levels, actually. I'm very fast.

SAM

Because you're....

ALBATROS

Scottish. Yes.

SAM

Right. Look, I'm not here to cause trouble. I'm just looking for Puck.
(MORE)

SAM (CONT'D)

We didn't mean to end up on your ship...Well. I didn't, but Puck did.

ALBATROS

Puck? Small, flappy creature? Chirps and likes chocolate?

SAM

Yes - that's him!

ALBATROS

I suspect the chocolate is the reason our ships are currently in flagrante.

SAM

That's...colourful. Normally we just say "docked."

ALBATROS

Really? How dull. I'd ask why you allow a strange little alien creature to steer your space ship, but frankly, I have no room to criticize, being on the Oz 9.

SAM

I didn't exactly "allow" him- Wait. Did you say "the Oz 9"?

ALBATROS

Yes. Why? Oh dear. You've heard of us.

SAM

Errr? No! No, actually... you're not part of Corps are you? Look... If you could just take me to Puck quite quickly, I'll collect him and we'll be off. I have lots of people waiting for me on my ship, actually. Loads. Really good friends most of them. And they think I'm brilliant, so... they'll be quite cross if... you know... well... anything happened... you know...

CAL

Archivist Samantha Lyons, there are no other entities aboard our vessel.

SAM
They're probably already looking
for me. That seems likely. Ignore
CAL. They haven't had any upgrades
for a while.

CAL
Archivist Samantha Lyons?

SAM
Yes?!

CAL
Are you attempting... "deception"?

SAM
Oh for - CAL....

CAL
You lack believability.

SAM
(sigh) So I've been
told...

ALBATROS
I'd give it up entirely, as neither
of you is any good at it. Come
along.

SAM
Soooo, about that airlock-
excruciating-death-thing. I have
some things, which could be
exchanged... erm... for not dying.

ALBATROS
Very well. I'm practicing being
flexible. However, one wrong move,
and you're out like the first bite
of a jelly donut, get it?

SAM
OOOOKAAYYY... I'm gonna say yes I
definitely 'get it', and that is in
no way a mystery to me.

door

LEET
Hi, Albatros! Are you here to get
snacks?

ALBATROS

This is Leet. He's practicing being oblivious. He's clearly very good at it.

LEET

Thanks! [pause] What do you mean?

ALBATROS

I have with me a person you've never met before. On a spaceship.

LEET

Hi! I'm Leet!

SAM

Hello... goodness. Look at those arms. Oh, I'm really sorry... I didn't mean to objectify you. I just haven't seen other humans for a while.

ALBATROS

That's it, is it, Leet? No other questions leap to mind as I stand here with an absolute stranger? IN SPACE?

SAM

Getting back on track... Ummm, I don't want to be impolite, but I do have an appointment. Urgent in fact. Sooooo... Puck?

ALBATROS

Really? An appointment?

SAM

With my ship's doctor. One of my friends actually. Really good friend. I might have flu... and that... makes sense.

ALBATROS

I thought you haven't seen humans for a while...

SAM

Yes! That's right. Errr... never said my doctor was human. Hah.

CAL

Archivist Samantha Lyons, I am quite certain that another alien lifeform has not boarded our vessel.

SAM

Actually CAL, I think you'll find that you are mistaken. And we shouldn't talk about it anymore because... it's wasting valuable time and... I'm feeling

(cough)

so

(cough)

poorly.

CAL

Furthermore, you have not come into contact with other humans that may have...

SAM

Alien flu... CAL. It's alien flu.

CAL

I do not understand. The alien lifeform has not been ill.

SAM

YES, THANK YOU CAL. Effects humans differently or something...

(sigh)

I don't why I went down this rabbit hole.

GREG

Hey, all. Oh, hello, there. Might you be the owner of the vehicle that's currently perpendicularly parked with the Oz 9?

SAM

Oh my, this really is the Oz 9. That's....something. And yes, talking-zebra-robot...

GREG

Greg.

SAM

Greg. Hi, I'm Sam.

GREG

You've heard of the Oz 9?

[sneeze, trill]

SAM

Quiet!!! Oh. Sorry, I thought I heard something.

ALBATROS

What are you doing here, Greg?

GREG

No idea. Maybe one of the scientists brought me up here?

SAM

Does that happen often? You just find yourself somewhere, and you don't really know why? Almost as if you've fallen into a much bigger, sinister plot that you never knew was happening, and you're completely unprepared for. But you sort of just have to bumble your way through with entirely the wrong skill sets...

(ahem)

Sorry. Just... yeah...

GREG

Wanna know what I had for lunch yesterday? Doing things you'd really rather not is the story of our lives.

SAM

How many floors down did you say the nearest airlock is?

LEET

Want a snack? Dried fugu chips?

SAM

Fugu? Isn't that poisonous?

GREG

You develop a tolerance.

SAM

Do I have to?

LEET

Check it out! This machine also has toys! But they're way at the back, and it costs a lot to get to them. I already have to eat eight more packets of yogurt-dipped coffee beans.

ALBATROS

Please don't. The machine has toys?

OLIVIA

No. That's an alien. You didn't catch the "more" in that last sentence, did you? He's already had six at least.

ALBATROS

Alien? Where?

OLIVIA

Hanging upside down in the machine. L7, see? Eating a... what is that? A Curly Wurly, is it?

SAM

Puck!! That's the puckmaren I'm here for! Oh, thank goodness. Gosh. He's pretty far back. Does anyone have some spare change?

LEET

What's a puckmaren? Or a curly wurly?

SAM

Oh.. sort of battish, and alien, and... well like that. And a Curly Wurly is a splendid toffee lattice wrapped in chocolate that gets stuck between your teeth but not in bad way.

ALBATROS

Why didn't you tell us about the alien in the snack machine?

OLIVIA

Am I supposed to tell you EVERYTHING?

ALBATROS

JUST THE IMPORTANT STUFF LIKE ALIENS ABOARD THE SHIP.

LEET

Awwwwwwwww! It's cute!!

SAM

Puck? Come on out now. Wow, he's made quite a nest of wrappers in there. A really BIG nest. He's eaten a lot. Sorry about that.

Trill

CAL

There are still four Curly Wurlys in the machine. The alien lifeform will not come out until it is assured that it can have them all.

LEET

And the gummy bears. Wow, is this room going in circles?

ALBATROS

No, but you are.

OLIVIA

It's the coffee bean thingies. They've just kicked in.

SAM

What was that about the gummy bears?

LEET

Puck says he wants the gummy bears, too, but just one packet's enough. Albatros! Dance with me!

ALBATROS

Stomping like a rhinoceros whose foot fell asleep isn't dancing.

LEET

Let's race! My hand is doing weird things.

SAM

I'm really, really sorry about this. Wait - you understand him?

LEET

Sure. You don't?

SAM

Well, no. CAL does, a little. Why do you?

LEET

I can relax my brain. Which is weird 'cause the rest of me is really twitchy.

SAM

I'm sorry?

LEET

You have to relax your brain. I'm really good at it. Normally.

long pause

SAM

So, about the Curly Wurlys-

LEET

And the gummy bears! Wow, I see space!

SAM

You're in space. We'll take the gummy bears too, I can probably trade you some ration packs on my ship. Some of them are quite nice and none of them are poisonous... I think.

ALBATROS

I think that can be arranged.

CAL

Archivist Samantha Lyons, your food allocation is precise. Substitution is not recommended. Particularly from the Oz 9.

SAM

We need to get Puck back and get off- uh... get back to our ship, CAL. MAKE THE TRADE.

GREG

Uh oh. Stand back, everyone.

SAM

What's happening?

GREG

Ah chooooo!

sneezes a lot, trilling, out pops Puck2

LEET

Ooooo!!! I want one too! Help me sneeze! Help me sneeze!

SAM

Ahhhhhhhhh. That would explain the nest extensions.

GREG

That was in my nose?

SAM

Uhhhhh... it's possible there's a second nest in there. In ... you. They like... choices.

LEET

Maybe it just wanted to make a phone call?

ALBATROS

To whom, exactly?

LEET

Well, to that one? L7?

SAM

His name's Puck.

LEET

It's really not, but he says he's OK with it. He says if he told you his real name, you'd probably swallow your tongue. It happens.

SAM

Right... Is this a cheese-dream? I don't understand anything that's happening here.

GREG

Welcome to the Oz 9!

LEET

Cheese dreams sound delicious!

SAM

They're really not. So I guess Puck came for this puckmaren... and... we'll all get going?

LEET

I'm not sure - Neumonia says she likes it here.

ALBATROS

Neumonia?

LEET

Yeah, that's what she calls herself, since we'd all choke and die on her real name. Pretty, huh?

ALBATROS

Doesn't sound familiar? Neumonia?

SAM

Look, Neumonia is welcome to come with Puck and me, if she wants.

GREG

Well, that's mighty welcoming of you.

LEET

Yeah, that's not going to work.

SAM

It's not?

LEET

Neumonia says Puck's a jerk, and Puck says Neumonia is rude, but she should come home because that's what their matriarch told him.

SAM

Matriarch?

LEET

Yeah - I don't know what it means either. Awww. I'm running out of zippy.

ALBATROS

Well. That settles it. Matriarchs are always right. Although... it is a shame.

(trilling)

LEET

Neumonia says she's on a voyage of self-discovery and that Puck can't tell her what to do.

SAM

OK, this is starting to feel a bit like my relationship with my mother... look, Puck, does she really have to go back? I mean she seems happy here...

(trilling)

LEET

He says he doesn't want to get into trouble and that we should leave them alone to talk.

(trilling)

SAM

What did she say?

LEET

She called him a butt head.

SAM

Ok... well I guess erm... you could show me the ship?

NARRATOR

As the puckmarens are left in peace to call each other names, Leet decides to show Sam around the ship while the Albatross remains to 'keep an eye on the aliens' and Greg licks up the dead decipede for 'science'. It's not long until Sam and Leet are hopelessly lost, and Olivia has to lead them back.

SAM

Hey you two, have you made a decision, and oh no.

LEET

What's wrong?

SAM

Are those coffee granules?

ALBATROS

They seem to like it, whatever it is.

LEET

Is that why they're sort of hugging each other?

SAM

Coffee seems to make puckmarens... weird.

ALBATROS

Have they made a decision?

(trilling)

LEET

Puck says that Neumonia is going to stay here to 'find herself'... is she lost?

ALBATROS

Oh good.

GREG

What was that?

ALBATROS

Nothing.

SAM

Right. Ok. Well...

(trilling)

LEET

Neumonia says she has a nice big nest of egret feathers where Greg's heart would be. That's sweet.

GREG

Ah, dammit! How do you evict someone from your heart space?

SAM

Is that a country western song?

GREG

Will she promise to stay out of my nose?

CAL

The alien lifeform requests that a glass door be fitted to your chassis for ease of egress and 'a view'.

(trilling)

LEET

Yeah... that way she won't need to wait for you to fall asleep before she goes hunting.

GREG

How was- NOPE. NOPE NOPE NOPE NOPE.

SAM

Ok Puck... Right, well... Before I go, I should probably let you know a few things about puckmarAHHHHHens...

Long AAAAAAAHHHHHHHHHHH! As Albatros hustles Sam and Puck back to their ship.

NARRATOR

And so the Albatros swiftly removes Sam and Puck from the Oz9.

ALBATROS

This is your... ship.

SAM

Yeah...

ALBATROS

Lots of... friends?

SAM

Yeah... Well, I guess we'd better get going.

ALBATROS

Here are your curly wurlys.

(trill)

SAM

Right! And... erm... ah. Some rations.

ALBATROS

Goodbye.

SAM

Bye.

(BEAT)

SAM (CONT'D)

I guess we should get going then.

CAL

Archivist Samantha Lyons?

SAM

Yes CAL?

CAL

There are no alien doctors aboard
this vessel.

SAM

I know.

CAL

But there are friends.

(Trill)

SAM

Thanks. Hey Puck,

(trill)

do you think you could do that
weird... thing that you did to get
us here in the first place?

(trill)

SAM (CONT'D)

Ok... Let's see what happens next.