

OZ 9 EPISODE 56

NARRATOR

1 For once, I don't even know where to start. In French Lick, it sounds like Tiberius has been messily devoured by the alien plants, and Julie, Ben, and Donna were headed into the greenhouses where, hopefully, they won't meet the same fate. On the Oz 9, the ship is floating through a debris field that also contains a live, potentially even eager, apocalypse device. And then-

[door opens, there will be mumbled conversation through this bit, rustle of paper, futzing with headphones, etc.]

2 Hang on, Space Monkeys, I'm being handed a slip of paper. Wait, hold it, I can't read this word... is that "cosmic"? "Comic." What is this? An ad? You want me to do an ad. In the middle of the re-cap? [listens] Huh? You know, given how many things are apparently "in my contract" according to you, well, let's just say I don't remember signing a phone book. *Phone book*. [pause] I don't have time to explain, but it's very thick. Like you. OUT.

[angry mumbling, door closes]

3 Ron Howard never had to put up with this nonsense. In brief, please give money to the Kickstarter so Oz 9 can be a comic book. Oh, good lord, really? Go to B-I-T dot L-Y slash Oz9Comic. Or just go to Kickstarter and search for Oz 9. Because Ron knows, there's not nearly enough Oz 9 in the world. I need a drink.

[removes headphones, sound of a door]

MADELINE

4 What is that?

LEET

5 What is what?

6 MADELINE
That.

7 DR. THEO
I think she means the frond sticking
out of your pocket. Is this really the
most pressing concern right now,
Captain?

8 MADELINE
It is if that's what I think that is.

9 ALBATROS
Leet? Either it's well past time for
you to throw out the sandwich you're
storing in there, or you have an alien
in your pocket.

10 LEET
OK, I have an alien in my pocket. But
so does Greg!

11 GREG
Hang on there, far as we know, none of
Neumonia's kind has ever tried to kill
us.

[trill]

12 LEET
I know, I know. Sorry, Neumonia. It
was just an example.

[trill]

13 LEET
I said I was sorry, sheesh. No need to
compare me to a [weird trilling
noise].

14 DR VON HABER ZETZER
Vat vas zis you haf just zaid?

15 LEET
[same noise]

16 DR VON HABER ZETZER
Yes, very helpful. Now perhaps in
English?

LEET
17 Not sure how to translate it. It's
sort of like the gunk that collects on
the ceiling of a zero-G hut after the
annual celebration of Pfaff, the
festival of bathwater-flavored
beverages. [pause] It's not nice.

DR VON HABER ZETZER
18 Each time I belief I could not be
zorrier to have asked a qvestion, Leet
reminds me zat I have barely zcratched
ze zurface of regret.

DR THEO
19 Are we by chance going to discuss what
just happened? The spies? The travel
back in time to Earth?

JESSIE
20 Oh, I was pretty sure that was a fever
dream.

ALBATROS
21 Then how do you explain the crippling
hangover you have today?

JESSIE
22 I woke up on the Oz 9.

MADELINE
23 The popcorn machine is still broken,
so in my mind, there's nothing to talk
about. So. What plant is it from,
Leet? The mold? One of the aliens? The
big baddie? Tell me it's not a cutting
from the big baddie.

LEET
24 Of course not! Do you think I'm
stupid?

[silence]

DR VON HABER ZETZER
25 Who would like to field zis toasty
potato?

COLIN
26 LOOK. Are we done discussing Leet's
pocket garden? There's an apocalypse
device out there, and any minute now,
we're going to bang into it.

DR THEO
27 Could you not say "bang"?

COLIN
28 Ohhhhhh, of course. Any minute now,
we're going to politely tap it on the
shoulder with our ship, murmur an
apology, request permission to slip
past and continue on our way, and then
die horribly and noisily, 50,000 light
years from home, spraying our insides
like soggy pink fireworks across the
night sky!

ALBATROS
29 You're in rare form.

COLIN
30 Am I? Well, when I awoke this morning,
I think I was about an inch taller
than usual, which threw off absolutely
everything-

LEET
31 Everything?

COLIN
32 Shut up. However, I'm not entirely
sure I'm an inch taller. I could be an
inch shorter or extended sideways or
on the diagonal because *I can't see
myself*.

OLIVIA
33 Uhhh....

COLIN
34 So yes, I suppose I could be in rare
form, but I have no idea what that new
and rare form might be, only that I'm
currently unable to eat without
stabbing myself in the chin with my
fork.

LEET
35 You could use a spoon.

COLIN
36 Yes. Thank you.

OLIVIA
37 If you could just-

COLIN
38 Oh, and my ship is about to explode,
but other than that, I thought the
production of *Our American Cousin* was
really quite delightful, THANK YOU FOR
ASKING.

ALBATROS
39 Are we through? Would you like a
lozenge?

COLIN
40 No, thank you.

ALBATROS
41 And by "lozenge" I mean "quick death
by being fed to Albert"? And by
"quick" I mean "really quite slow."

COLIN
42 I'm through.

OLIVIA
43 There's a bomb out there somewhere,
hidden amongst the debris, so perhaps
we might turn our attention to that
for just a moment.

JOE
44 And the Showertorium. Don't forget
about that.

COLIN
45 I don't know what that is.

GREG
46 I'd also like to know more, but having
once been an apocalypse device myself,
I think that's our more urgent
conversation.

DR. THEO
47 I agree, though realistically, what
are our chances of encountering it?

[distant clang]

DR THEO
48 Naturally.

OLIVIA
49 It's all right. That wasn't a PACO,
just a random helmet hitting us. With
a head inside. Should be floating past
the window in a minute.

GREG
50 The chances are nearly 100 percent,
Doc. The bombs have heavy magnets in
them. That's why it was so hard to
wrassle my old shell to the airlock.
The only reason we got it there at all
was thanks to the thin layer of
linoleum on all the floors.

DR. VON HABER ZETZER
51 Zis also explains why zo many of my
ants went out the airlock with it.

MADELINE
52 If it's been out there with all the Oz
Asterisk debris, it's gotta be covered
in metal by now, right? So can't we
just steer clear of the big wad of
metal if we see it?

[pause]

MADELINE
53 What? [pause] Why are you all staring
at me? Oh, come on, I've had ideas
before.

JESSIE
54 When?

MADELINE
55 Shut up.

ALBATROS
56 And you pronounced it "DEB riss."

57 MADELINE
Shut up. Greg?

58 GREG
No good, I'm afraid. They're set to be
attracted to Oz ships that have active
lifeforms aboard. I don't reckon that
describes the Oz Asterisk anymore.

59 JOE
You didn't tell us that when we dumped
your old shell overboard. Couldn't it
have turned around and come back at
us?

60 GREG
It did. But Colin was able to fly us
to safety.

61 COLIN
That's right, I did! Hoorah for me!

62 GREG
By flying us past the Oz 72, which
picked it up and blew up 48 minutes
later.

63 COLIN
Ah. Condolences.

64 JESSIE
So, you're sayin' it'll find us, no
matter what.

65 GREG
Unless it found another Oz still alive
to attach to, and I don't reckon there
are many left.

66 DR THEO
Perhaps Colin should take over the
helm?

67 GREG
Here's the thing about that, though.
Once it's latched on to us, we'll be
trying to shake it forever after.
Literally the only thing we could do
is get another live Oz ship to fly
between us and it.

68 JESSIE
If only. [pause] What? Oh, I'm a bad
person for wishing death on
hypothetical people in order to save
our very real lives, is that it?

[thump on the window]

69 OLIVIA
Head!

70 DR VON HABER ZETZER
In any case, zis iz not a likely
scenario. Ze next step is to dismantle
it.

71 GREG
Not possible.

72 DR VON HABER ZETZER
One moment please, my stripey and
cynical friend. Once zey attach, is
zere not an hour countdown before zey
explode?

73 GREG
48 minutes, yes.

74 MADELINE
What was that for? That's nowhere near
enough time to abandon ship or call
for help.

75 DR VON HABER ZETZER
It vasn't supposed to be. I belief the
dezigners thought it was amuzink.

76 OLIVIA
Apocalypse devices are hard to detect,
so the crew would spend the 48 minutes
just trying to figure out where it was
barnacled on to their ship.

77 COLIN
Hilarious.

78 DR THEO
If we ever do get back to earth,
Olivia, would you mind providing me
with a spreadsheet of all the ship
engineers' addresses and phone
numbers? I have some stachybotrys
spores I'd like to send them.

79 JOE
Stachywhatsis?

80 ALBATROS
Stachybotrys. A highly toxic mold that
causes flu-like symptoms, diarrhea,
headaches, memory loss and severe
respiratory damage. Why, Dr. Theo....
Just when I think you can't get more
attractive. Swoon.

81 OLIVIA
I was offered a position on a research
project aimed at discovering the ideal
petri dish shape for growing cultures
harvested from under the ear flaps of
sub-Saharan weasels. I have officially
crossed the threshold of wishing I'd
taken it instead of this.

82 DR THEO
I heard about that study! It was
really quite interesting. Turns out,
bacteria prefer round petri dishes
after all, so in the end, they didn't
accomplish much.

83 ALBATROS
And you qualify that as "interesting."
Our future together is suddenly in
doubt.

84 MADELINE
Magnet bomb.

85 DR VON HABER ZETZER
Indeed. Vat I vas saying is ve vill
haf 48 minutes to locate unt disable
ze bomb once it attaches.

86 GREG
Impossible.

DR VON HABER ZETZER

87 Clearly you haf been raised on a very dark unt stormy savannah. You must remember zat I haf done very many things on ze Oz ships for Gated Galaxies. For example, in our 778, I haf placed the instructions for dismantling an apocalypse device.

MADELINE

88 Oh, thank gourd! OK, we've got a fighting chance. It could attach any moment and start the clock, so we need to get moving. Olivia, call up Emily and whatshisname and hang on a minute, why didn't you tell us this when we had our own device to worry about?

DR VON HABER ZETZER

89 I forgot until just zis moment. My dear captain, I have been breathing hallucinogenic, toxic zubstances for science (unt for entertainment, it must be zaid) zince before your parents were ehhehh...dancing the Schuhplattler, if you underztand me.

MADELINE

90 Even less than usual.

GREG

91 DOC!

ALBATROS

92 Doctor von Haber-Zetzer, if we could? While I will likely survive the encounter with the bomb, I'll spend the rest of my existence floating in space, alone, with only my own thoughts for company and none of you.... hang on.

JESSIE

93 Computer, call the 778 quick before she finishes that thought.

NARRATOR

[a little tipsy, rattle of ice in cocktail, sips]

94 As if the writer meant for the Oz
Asterisk's Apocalypse device to be the
season's cliffhanger but inadvertently
wrote it into the story too soon, we
leave the crew scrambling yet again to
save their skins. Back in French Lick,
our merry gang of extra-thick
terrestrials is, wait for it....in
danger.

BEN

95 There's no one here. That's weird.

DONNA

96 It is awfully quiet for the middle of
the day.

BEN

97 Honey, when we get home, I'm paving
over your vegetable garden. Sorry, but
it's happening.

JULIE

98 It's really not. Hey, Donna, wasn't
your mom the goddess of agriculture?
Maybe you should talk to them.

DONNA

99 Ha ha. And no offense, everyone, but
these guys don't seem real cultured to
me. Oh, no. Is that Gertie? Is she ...
dead?

JULIE

100 I can't exactly take her pulse, Donna.
But they ripped her out of her pot and
left her on the compost pile, so I'm
guessing she's not in great shape.
[pause] What are you doing?

DONNA

101 It's my fault she's suffering.

BEN

102 She was EATING us.

103 DONNA
Oh, I know, but that's no excuse for
being rude.

104 BEN
Yes! It is!

105 DONNA
You and Julie go count the plants and
whatnot. You don't need me to help
with that. Just shout if you get into
trouble.

BEN

[aside to Julie]

106 Can we leave her alone with these
things? What if she's in cahoots with
them?

107 JULIE
What about blasting that one to pieces
says "cahoots" to you? Also,
"cahoots"?

108 BEN
I dunno....

109 JULIE
Go do the count. Stay well out of
range.

110 BEN
Alone?! Are you crazy?

111 JULIE
Look. See that?

112 BEN
What are you pointing at?

113 JULIE
Right there. That rut. See it? There's
a track down the middle of the rows.
It's a safety zone for the people who
take care of the plants. Stay on the
path and you'll be fine. Go.

114 BEN
You're sure?

115 JULIE
Ish, yes. Besides, we don't want to
make Maggie an orphan.

116 BEN
Oh, THAT'S comforting.

117 DONNA
I could use a little help with Gertie,
and frankly you two whisper about as
quietly as the last, loneliest
Minnesotan gray catbird on prom night.
You two about done over there?

118 JULIE
Nearly! [to Ben] Go on. I'll see if I
can get more information from her.
Just stay on the path.

119 BEN
Fine. Wait. Take a picture of me.

120 JULIE
Why?

121 BEN
So Maggie will know what I looked
like.

122 JULIE
Oh, good grief. Hold still. [camera
noise] There. OK?

123 BEN
Great. Maggie will think her father
was blurry and the top of his head was
missing.

124 JULIE
GO.

125 BEN
[moving away] 1...2...3...4...

126 JULIE
Hang on. That dirt isn't the right pH
balance. They like sulfur, remember?
We're going to need some thick gloves.
Ah. Here. Put these on.

127 DONNA
You don't have to help me.

128 JULIE
I'm a botanist, remember? I don't like
to see plants suffer, even when they
tried to eat me first.

129 DONNA
Oooo, that's pretty! What is that?

130 JULIE
Elemental sulfur crystals. Mix some in
with the soil. Try and get them evenly
distributed. Yep, just like that.
Good.

131 DONNA
I do like digging.

BEN
[calling from a distance]

132 Julie?

133 JULIE
Yes, dear.

134 BEN
I found a baseball cap in the safe
zone.

135 JULIE
Ok.....

136 BEN
There's a head in it.

137 JULIE
I...am not sure what to say about
that.

138 BEN
OK. Just ... letting you know. I love
you.

139 JULIE
Love you too, honey. Keep counting.

140 DONNA
Poor fella. He really didn't sign up
for this.

141 JULIE
He married me.

142 DONNA
You musta had some interesting vows,
then.

143 JULIE
What are you going to do about Pluto?
He seems pretty determined about you.

144 DONNA
I'm not sure. I'm half tempted to take
him to Minnesota with me when this is
all over. That'd get Lars Olson off my
back in a hurry. Besides, he's a
sweetie, and that freeze thing could
come in handy.

145 JULIE
I like your optimism that this will
all be over someday. What is that good
attitude based on?

146 DONNA
Partly my upbeat Minnesota heritage,
partly confidence in my abilities --
and yours -- partly the fact that an
ancient god has a crush on me. This
main stalk is pretty bent. Is she
gonna make it?

147 JULIE
Bent, but not broken. We can kind of
splint her up to stabilize her.

148 DONNA
What about the shattered pods?

149 JULIE
Normally I'd advise cutting them off,
but I don't really want to try that
with her.

[vaguely threatening grumble rattle]

BEN

[farther away]

150 What was that? Should I come back?

JULIE

[shouting back]

151 We're all right. Keep counting. What
 are you up to?

BEN

152 Ninety-seven. Wait. Eighty-seven?
 DAMMIT! One... two.... three...

DONNA

153 She's awfully weak, poor thing.

JULIE

154 True, but smell that?

DONNA

155 What am I sniffin'?

JULIE

156 Not sure, but her scent has changed,
 right? It was a sort of oily, wet,
 burning tires smell, and now it's a
 little lemony and ... I dunno...
 warmer?

DONNA

157 I don't smell a thing, but I'll take
 your word for it. You reckon that's a
 good sign?

JULIE

158 No clue. But I feel ... lighter.
 Easier. Don't you?

DONNA

159 Nope. You know, if you're trying to
 get information outta me, you're not
 doing too well.

JULIE

160 If you know that's what I'm doing, you
 could just offer.

DONNA
161 Oh, now where's the fun in that?

JULIE
162 Actually, I'm doing OK. I know you're left-handed, good with these plants despite pretending you're not, short-sighted but you don't wear corrective lenses... vain? Oh, and you play the violin. Who's taking care of your cat? No, cats?

DONNA
163 Well, would you listen to that. All right, Sherlock, first, Mrs. Peterson down the hall, which means they'll be lazy and spoiled by the time I get home. Second, I'm not vain, I just don't need the lenses. How did you know about the violin?

JULIE
164 You are vain and you do need corrective lenses. I'm surprised you're still such a good shot. And callouses. Violin callouses, not guitar.

DONNA
[singing the MCCACEC fight song to the tune of XXX]

JULIE
[joins in]

DONNA
165 Ahhhhhh, I thought I recognized some of those diversionary tactics when we were running from the plants. Does Ben know? Or Mrs Sheffield?

JULIE
166 Nope. Just you, for now. And let's keep it that way, shall we?

DONNA
167 Why show your hand now?

JULIE
168 That's my business. Help me get her on
 her ... roots.

[some grunting and struggle from JULIE and DONNA as they get
Gertie upright]

JULIE
[hollering at Ben]

169 Hey! Can you come give us a hand?

BEN
[very great distance]

170 Sorry, no! I can give you a foot-
[plant strike]

BEN (CONT)
171 GAH!! Never mind. Hang on. Found
 another head! Wait. Is this the same
 one? Are these rows straight?

[door opens]

MRS SHEFFFIELD
172 Ah. Good. Two of you left, I see, and
 they took the thick one.

JULIE
173 Excuse me?

BEN
174 I'm back here! Sixty- wait. Fifty-
 DAMMIT!

MRS SHEFFFIELD
175 Indispensable as always, it seems,
 hey, Benjamin?

JULIE
176 Now, hang on-

MRS SHEFFFIELD
177 Have Pluto or Southers made it back
 here yet?

178 DONNA
Southers?

179 MRS SHEFFFIELD
He was waiting for us at the tunnels.
It appears Tiberius went in to the
tunnels to offer his brother in
tribute to The Others.

180 DONNA
Tiberius has a brother?

181 MRS SHEFFFIELD
Had.

182 DONNA
Oh, they killed his brother already?

183 MRS SHEFFFIELD
No, of course not. He's not even here
yet. Probably. Do keep up. Ah, there
you are, Ben. Good god, what is that
awful thing you're holding?

184 BEN
I'm sorry. I'm really really sorry.

185 JULIE
Ben? What happened? Are you OK?

186 BEN
I'm fine. Donna...

187 DONNA
Whatcha got there? Is that a ... oh
no.

188 BEN
It was sticking out of a pod. I pulled
on it, I thought I could save him. But
it came off in my hand.

189 JULIE
Is that-

190 BEN
It's a hoof. A golden hoof.

191 DONNA
Well. I did not expect that. If you
all will excuse me, I think I'll just
step out into the sunshine for a
moment.

192 BEN
Is she OK?

193 MRS SHEFFFIELD
I'm sure she will be. On the other
hand, I'm not sure if we just gained
an advantage -- or lost one.

194 JULIE
So Tiberius is gone?

195 MRS SHEFFFIELD
We believe so. He did a lot of
shouting and then suddenly none at
all, which is generally not a good
sign. Tiberius and Pluto, eh? Two
knights? rooks? kings? removed from
the game. The chess board has been
rearranged, my friends.

196 JULIE
But in whose favor?

197 NARRATOR
What are you looking at me for? I
don't know! I've found a way to make
my job better, though - every time
someone does something breathtakingly
stupid, I take a drink. It's possible
I passed out briefly around the bit
where Ben went off on his own to count
the plants. And by the way, that
"path" down the middle was actually
caused by several of the gardeners
being dragged away by the really nasty
bugger of a plant right at the back.
Oh, and I forgot about Julie and Donna
helping Gertie. Drink!

[takes gulp, passes out]

198

NARRATOR TWO

It's a good thing I leave my text
messages on.
You've been listening to:
Shannon Perry as Madeline and Olivia
Richard Cowen as Leet
David S. Dear as Dr. Theo Bromaeeee...
June Clark Eubanks as the Albatros
Kevin Hall as Greg
Eric Perry as Dr von Haber-Zetzer and
Joe
Bonnie Brantley as Jessie and Donna
Tim Sherburn as Colin
Aaron Clark as Ben
Iri Alexander as Julie
Sarah Golding as Mrs Sheffield
Richard Nadolny as your Narrator,
and me, Kyle Jones, as Narrator 2
Don't forget to check out the
Kickstarter for the Oz 9 comic book at
"B-I-T-dot-L-Y slash Oz9 comic"