

EPISODE 66 - FEELS SUPER BOWEL-Y IN HERE

NARRATOR

1 [whispering, slightly rushed] History
is littered with objects rumored to
hold enormous power: Pandora's Box,
the Holy Grail, the sword Excalibur,
the hand grenade of Antioch, the
sacred sweatband of Billie Jean King.
Whether the power they hold is truly
supernatural or results from some kind
of placebo effect has never been
proven, but perhaps that matters
little to the holder. What is known is
that wars have been fought and empires
have fallen over sacred objects, and
humanity has again and again failed to
learn the lesson that some things are
better left ... alone.

LE BICHON FRISE

2 Why are we here? I do not like it.

DONNA

3 You can kinda see why this bit is
always referred to as the "bowels" of
the ship, huh? Feels super bowely in
here.

LE BICHON FRISE

4 That is disgusting. This place is ...
unpleasant.

DONNA

5 Not arguing. But it should be worse.

LE BICHON FRISE

6 Worse than this... emptiness? And the
smell of the oeufs.

DONNA

7 Are you gonna be sick?

LE BICHON FRISE

8 No, why?

DONNA

9 You said "oof." My sister used to say
that right before she whoopsied.

LE BICHON FRISE
10 I once assassinated an emperor. With a rope the empress crafted from the strands of his lover's hair after she had the woman scalped. I do NOT 'whoopsie.' Oeuf is the proper word for ... ehhehh....geggs?

DONNA
11 It's French for "egg" - I know. I was just making conversation.

LE BICHON FRISE
12 Strange waffle-smelling person, why are we here?

DONNA
13 Two reasons: by now, even this crew has figured out Dr. von Haber Zetzer snorted some pretty aggressive decongestant, so they're probably looking for you, and not to give you a mani/pedi. And number two, I needed to check the first eleven levels. They're supposed to be full of dirt, but at least floors 4 through 11 look freshly mopped.

LE BICHON FRISE
14 Mmmmmmm....Joe... So this is what he was doing all those nights, ehhehh? But I thought we were to be taking the little green person back to earth!

DONNA
15 We?

LE BICHON FRISE
16 Oui!

DONNA
17 Poor Alphonse, your syntax is just all kerfuffled from that brain freeze, huh. We're here because I had a hunch. Tell me about this Joe.

LE BICHON FRISE
18 There is nothing to tell! He is very very tidy, and a little sneaky, and says he owns a douche.

19 DONNA
Beg your pardon? Oh, wait: that's
French for shower, isn't it? He owns a
shower? Weird thing to brag about....

20 LE BICHON FRISE
And what do you mean they're looking
for me?

21 DONNA
Hang on, where's the Albatros? It's
the Albatros on this ship, isn't it?

22 LE BICHON FRISE
You know of her?

23 DONNA
I know G2 put an assassin on each ship
to make sure no humans made it off
alive.

24 LE BICHON FRISE
No humans.....? Feh! I am tired of so
many questions! I am asking and asking
and asking and no one is answering! It
is like being in the booble wrap and
there is not so much air left for the
breathing, but instead of tearing the
plastic to free me, you are only pop
pop popping the little boobbles!

25 DONNA
Look, Alphy, I know you have
questions...

Pause

26 LE BICHON FRISE
AND?

27 DONNA
Oh, I was just commiserating; I wasn't
going to tell you anything.

28 LE BICHON FRISE
GAH! I am so very tired.

29 DONNA
Look, we've got three more levels to
check, and then we'll figure out how
to get Olivia back to earth.

LE BICHON FRISE

30 Why me?

DONNA

31 Hmmmmmmmm?

LE BICHON FRISE

32 Why are you choosing *me* to help you?

DONNA

33 Because everyone on this ship wants to save somebody, and that makes them vulnerable. You just want to save the Bichon Frise. OOOoooo! Whose arms are these?

NARRATOR

34 The truth is, if you have something sacred and powerful, would you shout about it? Would you tell the world, take out an ad in the newspaper, post it on social media? Or would you keep it quiet, either to keep the power for yourself, or to prevent the world from erupting in a power struggle over it? It is theorized that many of the most potent relics are hidden in plain sight - ordinary objects we barely even register, much less investigate.

OUTSIDE AT FRENCH LICK, NIGHT ON THE GOLF COURSE

BEN

35 Nothing. No one here either.

JULIE

36 You're sure this is the same hole?

PLUTO

37 There are scorch marks in the sand pit, and the sweet smell of maple syrup still lingers. The moon shines brighter here than 'ere else, as if it too, searches for her.

BEN

38 Is this going to be a thing?

MRS SHEFFIELD

39 Yes, do plug up the poetry hole for the moment, will you, Pluto dear?

40 FELONIUS
May I go now?

41 MRS SHEFFFIELD
Let's say.... no. Pluto, you've been
around a bit - do you know where their
names come from?

42 PLUTO
I do not. I have never been to an
induction ceremony, though I have felt
the ground tremble. I suspect they
form deep below the earth, below even
my realm, fomenting before bubbling up
to the surface-

43 MRS SHEFFFIELD
What, like a burp?

44 PLUTO
I might have said "magma," but I
suppose any gaseous eruption would do.

45 FELONIUS
How dare you disrespect a tradition of
centuries!

46 JULIE
Shut up, please. Behave like you would
want *your* captive to behave. [to
Pluto] Joe was named Lares - Lares are
guardians, aren't they?

47 BEN
"They"?

48 TPLUTO
You are wise, for a human. Lares, if
one is to believe the Romans, are
guardian deities - protectors of the
hearth and home, or of ships or the
military-

49 MRS SHEFFFIELD
Ah, now THAT'S interesting-

50 PLUTO
of lands, fertility, communities-

51 JULIE
Right. Got it.

52 PLUTO
roads AND fields, which is a bit of a
conflict of interest, if you ask me.
Families. Oh, and also some piglets.

53 BEN
Piglets?

54 PLUTO
It was a LOT of piglets.

55 BEN
What does any of this have to do with
Joe?

56 JULIE
Maybe nothing.

57 MRS SHEFFIELD
Maybe everything.

58 PLUTO
Is there more to his name? That might
give us an indication of which Lares
he is assumed to be.

59 MRS SHEFFIELD
Nope. Just says "Lares" here.

60 JULIE
Maybe he's all of them.

61 BEN
Then he's going to be busy.

62 FELONIUS
Guardian? Protector? HA! Joseph
disavowed Showertorium long ago, and
his member name is forbidden and must
not be spoken! It was stricken from
the record, see?

63 MRS SHEFFIELD
It's in yellow highlighter.

64 FELONIUS
Exactly!

65 JULIE
Yellow highlighter means "stricken"?

66 FELONIUS
You stricken, stroke, strickle - good
god, what is the verb here?

67 JULIE
Strike.

68 FELONIUS
Thank you. You strike *your* way, and
we'll strike ours!

69 JULIE
I was talking to Pluto. Strike.

70 PLUTO
With pleasure.

Thump.

71 FELONIUS
Ouch!

Whump as Felonius falls.

72 MRS SHEFFIELD
I'm sorry, why was that necessary?

73 JULIE
It wasn't. Is there any indication
that someone landed here?

There's a bark in the distance that comes closer. Sound of
panting.

74 BEN
Well, hey there, buddy! Where did you
come from?

75 PLUTO
What is this beast?

76 BEN
Really? It's a dog. A Maltese, I
think.

77 MRS SHEFFIELD
Don't be absurd. It's clearly a
Bolognese.

78 BEN
I'm pretty sure that's a kind of

spaghetti.

79 JULIE
It's a bichon frise.

80 MRS SHEFFFIELD
Is it "frise" or "free-zay"? Never
mind. He looks a bit startled, don't
you think? Where are your humans,
little fellow?

81 MR SOUTHERS
CUDDLES!!!

Much yipping from the dog.

82 PLUTO
Do you know this creature?

83 MR SOUTHERS
Well, hell, yes, I know him! This is
Cuddles! What are you doing here,
Coodle-poo? You're supposed to be with
mom- [frantic whisper] Aw hell, is she
here too?

84 JOE
Nope.

85 MRS SHEFFFIELD/MR SOUTHERS/BEN/JULIE
Jesus!

86 PLUTO
Me!

87 JOE
Whoops. Forgot to take the belt off.
Looks like they got Donna and Gertie,
and you got Cuddles here, and yours
truly.

88 MR SOUTHERS
But he was locked up in a pod. Oh no!
MRDR!

89 BEN
WHAT?

90 JULIE
It's OK, honey. The MRDR protocol is -
it has to do with the pods and how

they wake people up. M-R-D-R. It stands for.... lots of big words. Look, if he wasn't woken up properly, he'd be- He's fine.

BEN

91 What part of that did you *not* want to explain?

JULIE

92 The bit where you go "huh?" and I have to start all over again. Can you just accept it for now so we can move on?

BEN

93 [starts angry but sputters out quickly] I can't- but- you- yeah, actually that works for me.

PLUTO

94 That works for ALL of us.

BEN

95 Hey....!

MRS SHEFFFIELD

96 Was your concern for the dog? Or possibly for your wife?

MR SOUTHERS

97 I'm gonna let you work through that on your own, Margaret Thatcher.

JULIE

98 You said Cuddles was in a pod? Someone must have let him out.

MR SOUTHERS

99 Well, go figure. That pigeon-toed frog leg actually did it. Monsieur assassin, French kiss. [sound of chef's kiss]

MRS SHEFFFIELD

100 I think you mean "chef's kiss," there, Southers.

MR SOUTHERS

101 Mrs Sheffield, my sweet, dognapped boy is back in my arms, so if that goofy haricot vert wants a big, wet smack on

the lips, he'll get one. Now, if you'll all excuse me, we have a very overdue grooming appointment.

MRS SHEFFFIELD

102 Do make sure they trim those nose hairs, will you? Or did you mean the dog...?

SOUTHERS

103 Hilarious. I tell ya, Mrs Sheffield, you could charm the nectar out of an amaryllis.

He walks off and we hear the dog bark fade into the distance.

BEN

104 Aw, that was kind of nice.

JULIE

105 Amaryllis plants are toxic, Ben.

BEN

106 Ah.

Sound of a sniper blast, then Southers shouts from afar:

SOUTHERS

107 GodDAMMIT, Charlie! You almost hit Cuddles!

JOE

108 Well, that's that mystery solved. Heh. I know a bitchin' freeze that must be mighty disappointed about now.

JULIE

109 Disappointed?

JOE

110 That dog was his ticket back to earth. Goldypants, you said Donna has your key, right?

PLUTO

111 I did say that, o tufted one.

JOE

112 Making fun of a man's hairline is dirty pool, Pluto.

113 PLUTO
Yet my golden shorts are fair game?

114 MRS SHEFFIELD
Up with the shutting, gentlemen. What
about the key?

115 JOE
Story goes that Pluto here holds one
of the universe's sacred objects. An
object of immense power.

116 PLUTO
I do. My bident.

117 JOE
You do. But it's not the bident. You
handed the sacred object over to
Donna.

118 JULIE
The key? What is it a key to, anyway?

119 PLUTO
It unlocks the gates to Hades, that's
all. It's of no more power than your
own house key. Although my realm is an
empire far greater than your tiny,
one-bedroom walk-up on 88th street or
what have you. The power resides in
me.

120 JOE
All righty, let's just test that
theory: Send me back to the Oz 9.

121 MRS SHEFFIELD
Good lord, why would you want that?
The way things sound up there, give it
10 more minutes and it'll probably
fall at your feet.

122 JOE
He can't do it.

123 PLUTO
Of course I can!

124 JOE
All righty then. Space me, Hell God.

125 PLUTO
Prepare yourself.

126 JOE
Loins girded. Let's go.

127 PLUTO
You're certain you're ready?

128 JOE
Braced, steeled and standing by.

129 PLUTO
Very well. [pause] Bend your knees a little.

130 JOE
I told you he couldn't do it.

131 PLUTO
I can! I only wish for you to be prepared for a hard landing. You're not exactly a fowl of the vernal equinox.

132 BEN
Spring chicken.

133 JULIE
Wow. You're learning to speak Pluto.

134 BEN
Save me.

135 MRS SHEFFIELD
Is something supposed to be happening?

136 PLUTO
Take a deep breath....

137 JOE
Decks cleared, stage set, locked and loaded. When you're ready. [pause, chuckles] Give it up, All That Glitters, you can't do it without the key.

138 PLUTO
Must have been something I ate.

MRS SHEFFIELD
139 How do you know about this token of
power?

JOE
140 That's a story and then some, Mrs. S.
You reckon we're safe here for the
time being?

Sound of a sniper, bullet in the distance.

JOE
141 I see Wild Eye still works here. Ben,
how about you and I gather up some
kindling, and if Jason and the Golden
Onesie here will share his
marshmallows, we can roast up a little
dinner.

NARRATOR
142 Seriously? I am right this minute
hiding from my captors, desperate to
remain undetected, and you want me to
risk discovery just to narrate this
nonsense? Can't time pass without me
having to say so? Good lord, the hand-
holding you people require! Some time
later....

JOE
143 And the Showertorium has been in my
family's hands ever since.

MRS SHEFFIELD
144 The Admiral did as he was told for
once. Goodness. I only suggested it to
him as a joke.

BEN
145 How old are you exactly, Mrs. S?

MRS SHEFFIELD
146 Now now, Benjamin, you can barely
figure out the time difference between
here and England with both hands and
an abacus. Do you really think you'll
be able to make sense of a time
traveler's age? Plus it's just rude.

JULIE
147 What does the Showertorium have to do

with Pluto's key?

148 BEN
It has something to do with the
plants.

149 JOE
Very good, young man.

150 BEN
They're trying to get back to their
planet, right? They want to use the
key to get them home.

151 JOE
Nailed it in one. Well, almost. Truth
is, the key has a pretty limited
range. I suspect that's why the Oz 9
has been bouncing around the galaxy
like a drunken yo yo. Testing for the
outside limits of the key's ability.

152 JULIE
The plants would let the ships get as
far as they could, and they'd use the
key to beam aboard. Then the Oz ships
would take them the rest of the way.

153 JOE
Not "ships." Ship. The Oz 9.
Everything else was a distraction. And
a massive insurance scam, but that was
a bonus. A little thank-you gift for
Gated Galaxies and the Showertorium.

154 BEN
Why not let them?

155 JULIE
Let them?

156 BEN
Let them go! We don't want them here,
right? So let 'em go! We can beam the
people back the same way, let them
have the ship, and bye bye, Felicia.

157 JULIE
Because they're not going. I mean they
are, but-

158 MRS SHEFFIELD
They're coming back.

159 BEN
Oh. And bringing their friends and family, right?

160 MRS SHEFFIELD
Well, yes, but that's not all, is it?

161 JULIE
We'll be dead long before they get back here.

162 BEN
What? How?

163 JULIE
The miracle of terraforming. They need a pretty sulfuric atmosphere to thrive. We tried and tried to hybridize them so they could live in earth's atmosphere, but we never really could. We got them a little more time, but it's kind of like us eating a diet of nothing but marshmallows. We could last a while, but not long.

164 MRS SHEFFIELD
Any idea on how they're planning to terraform earth?

165 JOE
Acid rain, initially. Climate change.

166 BEN
How could they possibly cause that from underground? And humans are doing that, not the plants. Right?

167 JULIE
You'd need access to the world's richest, most powerful producers of goods. You convince them to invest in fossil fuels. You give them a place to meet in secret, celebrate their successes, plot their next moves, share information.

168 BEN
The Showertorium.

169 JULIE
But Earth isn't nearly sulphuric
enough. Yet.

170 PLUTO
It's working, but clearly they're
planning to accelerate the timeline.
Why now?

171 JOE
Because a certain stupid, greedy,
ambitious young man found four hundred
space ships in the desert.

172 MRS SHEFFFIELD
Four hundred and one.

173 JOE
Long may it- [pause] Sorry. Old habits
die hard.

174 FELONIUS
[waking] Long may it lath-

175 PLUTO
Hush.

[thump, ooof from Felonius, thump]

176 MRS SHEFFFIELD
So how will they enrich the atmosphere
to suit their needs, hmmmmmm?

177 JOE
That I haven't figured out yet.

178 BEN
Volcanoes. Remember Maggie's project?
Volcanoes emit a lot of sulfur
dioxide. And the plants live in
underground tunnels.

179 MRS SHEFFFIELD
Explains you too, eh, Texas Gold 'Em?

180 PLUTO
You all are strangely resistant to
calling me by name. And yes, it is

true; while Hephaestus is the god of volcanoes, magma is the lifeblood of Hades.

BEN

181 If we keep the key away from the plants, it's game over, right? They can't leave Earth, no point in terraforming, all's good? We just have to keep ahold of the key.

PLUTO

182 There are days when I envy a brain so simple. The key is not the only object capable of opening the door. I remember it opened just over a century ago. The same day the village pub was demolished by a half-naked mad man.

MRS SHEFFFIELD

183 Anyone for another s'more? They are devilish sweet, but if you don't mind your teeth dropping out of your head, they're quite nice.

JULIE

184 Mrs S?

MRS SHEFFFIELD

185 Oh, very well. My cane has some ... abilities as well. Beyond thwacking tattletale demigods.

PLUTO

186 Ouch!

BEN

187 Well, that's good news, right? I mean, boo there's another sacred power thingy down here where Tiberius and Felonius can get to it, but yay, at least we have an escape hatch.

PLUTO

188 O-

BEN

189 Stop.

PLUTO

190 Sorry.

JULIE
191 Four - oh - one. It's not four hundred
and one.

JOE
192 Long may it-- sorry.

PLUTO
193 Why do you think this?

MRS SHEFFFIELD
194 OK, I'm with you on the four. It seems
just enough of a reach for science
fiction.

BEN
195 Huh?

MRS SHEFFFIELD
196 Never mind. But what about the one?

JULIE
197 I remember reading something about
this in some papers I found in the
greenhouse. Four tokens brought
together with The One.

BEN
198 The One.

JULIE
199 That's all I remember. I was afraid
someone would catch me reading the
papers, so I put them back and got out
of there before I was discovered.

PLUTO
200 May the papers still be found and
read?

JULIE
201 No. I went back and they were gone.
But I did hide one - the last page. I
figured if there was anything to find
or hide from the bad guys, it might be
on the last page. I never got time to
look at it.

MRS SHEFFFIELD
202 So it may still be where you hid it!

JULIE
 203 I doubt it. I stuffed it in Gertie's
 pot.

BEN
 204 You were helping her after Donna
 blasted us out of the pods. You didn't
 find it then?

JULIE
 205 I poked around in the dirt as
 discreetly as possible, but I didn't
 find it, no. But I bet Donna did.

NARRATOR
 206 Those grubby henchpeople are coming,
 so I have to make this fast. Two
 objects of power are in the hands of
 our bumbling crew, which I guess we
 should be grateful for, but honestly,
 they're only marginally better than
 the bad guys. At least they mean well,
 so we'll hope that's enough.

You've been listening to:

Aaron Clark as Ben
 Bonnie Brantley as Donna
 Iri Alexander as Julie
 Lee Shackleford as Pluto
 Sarah Golding as Mrs Sheffield
 Kevin Hall as Felonius
 Eric Perry as Mr Southers and Joe
 and me, Richard Nadolny, as your
 Narrator.

Our music is composed and performed by
 John Faley; our artwork is by Lucas
 Elliott. This episode was directed by
 June Clark Eubanks. Oz 9 is written
 and produced by Shannon Perry.

Don't forget, you can wear Oz 9
 merchandise as a badge of hon- you can
 wear Oz 9 merchandise. Check out O Z
 dash number 9 dot com for links to our
 Tee Public and Etsy stores.

Until next time, Space Monkeys,
 Narrator out!