

Oz 9 episode 73

Is that a Giant Turnip?

Shannon Perry

EPISODE 73 THE ALBATROS' BRIDGE

1 JESSIE  
It's night aboard the Oz 9. The crew,  
slightly the worse for wear on swamp  
hooch, are tucked up in various  
places, some of them even in beds,  
though a few missed the mark and  
landed on floors, and what the hell am  
I doing?

2 NARRATOR  
Hallucinating. What was in that last  
batch of swamp hooch?

3 JESSIE  
Something yellow. Who're you? Your  
voice sounds familiar.

4 NARRATOR  
It doesn't matter. Why are you on my  
bridge?

5 JESSIE  
Oooooooo, don't let Madpants hear you  
say that. All the bridges belong to  
her, you know. Hang on. I'm not going  
to suddenly burst into song, am I?

6 NARRATOR  
No, that episode hasn't been written  
yet.

7 JESSIE  
YET?

8 NARRATOR  
Could you maybe toddle off now and  
forget everything you saw here?

9 JESSIE  
[yawns] With pleasure. Hey, am I maybe  
going to wake up on Earth, or the  
6748?

10 NARRATOR  
We are none of us in control of our  
own destiny.

11 JESSIE  
That's deep, for a fever dream.

12                               NARRATOR  
Hang on. Did *all* of you drink the  
swamp hooch?

13                               JESSIE  
Of course. It was Saint Leonard's Day,  
bless his pointy ears. Right. That's  
me, off to Bedfordshire. Feel free to  
evaporate whenever, but lock up, won't  
you?

[stumbles out door]

14                               NARRATOR  
Oh boy.

15                               NARRATOR 2  
[over radio] Did you just interact  
with one of your narratees?

16                               NARRATOR  
Yeah.

17                               NARRATOR 2  
Oh boy.

18                               NARRATOR  
Yeah.

[music]

OZ 9 BRIDGE

19                               LEET  
Ouch.

20                               COLIN  
"Ouch"?! My head is exploding in slow  
motion, and you say "ouch"?!

21                               LEET  
My everything hurts. And I have a lot  
of some things.

22                               LBF  
Why oh why did you add that yellow  
thing to the drinking liquid?

23                               LEET  
It was pretty!

24                   ALBATROS  
      Could you maybe shout at one another  
      with semaphore flags or something? No,  
      don't do that. I think even the breeze  
      would hurt.

[door opens, hooves]

25                   GREG  
      Gooooood mornin'!

26                   MADELINE  
      Die horribly.

27                   GREG  
      Oh boy. I told you not to add the  
      yellow stuff.

[door]

28                   JESSIE  
      The weirdest thing just happened to  
      me...

29                   LBF  
      Me too. I have never created that  
      color before.

[collective groan of disgust]

30                   GREG  
      What happened, Captain Jessie?

31                   JESSIE  
      What are you talking about?

32                   GREG  
      You said something weird happened.

33                   JESSIE  
      Did I? This floor looks comfy. [drops]

34                   NARRATOR 2  
      Well, that was lucky.

35                   NARRATOR  
      I fear there will still be  
      repercussions. WWRD?

36                   NARRATOR 2  
      He'd narrate, that's what he'd do.

NARRATOR

37       Damn right he would. Having toasted  
Saint Leonard's elegantly arched  
eyebrow and pointy ears a few too many  
times, the crew are now suffering the  
effects of swamp hooch. Though they  
believe themselves in the hangover-  
and-recovery phase of their bacchanal,  
little do they know the "yellow stuff"  
doesn't quit that easily.

MADELINE

38       This room seems unusually crowded.

LEET

39       I was thinking that too.

COLIN

40       It's because you're in it, Lord  
Chesterfield.

ALBATROS

41       No, the captain is right. There are  
extra people in here.

GREG

42       Just the usual suspects.

LEET

43       Who's that?

GREG

44       The wall.

LEET

45       No, in front of the wall.

GREG

46       There's no one there, Leet.

BEN

47       Well, that's insulting.

LEET

48       Hey, I know that voice. Ben?

BEN

49       Sort of. I'm pretty sure I'm a  
hallucination.

50                   MADELINE  
AN hallucination.

51                   COLIN  
There you go again. What is it with  
you and the grammar?

52                   ALBATROS  
I must be dreaming. I think she's  
right this time.

53                   LBF  
I am calling the dibs on the healing  
pod.

54                   DR VON HABER ZETZER  
Unt vy am I seeink chewink gum on ze  
bottom of zis vork station, mmmmmm?

55                   ALBATROS  
Because you're lying on the floor.

56                   DR VON HABER ZETZER  
Ah. I am surprisingly comfortable for  
one whose head is suddenly full of  
pointy things.

57                   DR THEO  
If I asked nicely, do you suppose  
Olivia would fwip me?

58                   LEET  
You'd probably have a better chance if  
you asked meanly. [pause, worried]  
You're not going to ask, are you?

59                   DR THEO  
No, Leet. Well, probably not.

60                   MADELINE  
Leet, you're being rude to our guest.  
Introduce us.

61                   LEET  
Oh, sorry. Ben, this is everyone.  
Everyone, Ben.

62                   ALBATROS  
Ben-from-French-Lick Ben?

63                   BEN  
I'm actually from- never mind. Yeah,  
Ben-from-French-Lick Ben.

64                   MADELINE  
Nice to meet you, Ben-from-French-Lick  
Ben. Who else we got here?

65                   JOE  
Hello.

66                   EVERYONE  
Jesus!

67                   JOE  
Even as a fever dream, huh? Good to  
know.

68                   SOUTHERS  
Oh, hell. This is an Oz ship, isn't  
it.

69                   JULIE  
Don't panic. We're not real.

70                   SOUTHERS  
Thank god for that. These boots are  
made outta some kind of vegan leather.

71                   JULIE  
"Yellow things" in the swamp hooch,  
huh? I'm going with *Brugmansia*, given  
the description.

72                   DR THEO  
Dammit, Leet, I told you to stay away  
from those trumpet-shaped flowers.

73                   LEET  
How can something so pretty be so  
dangerous?

74                   ALBATROS  
Pfft. If I had a nickel...

75                   MADELINE  
Well, at least we know what did it.  
Does it count if a hallucination tells  
us?

76                   BEN  
I thought it was "an" hallucination.

77                   MADELINE  
Seriously?

78                   BEN  
You started it.

79                   JULIE  
So, there's some bad news.

80                   DR VON HABER ZETZER  
Worse than my aching head unt knowing  
zere is zis much chewink gum under all  
ze vork stations? Zis is zo  
disgustink.

81                   JULIE  
Yeah, so I just popped over to the  
bioswamp.

82                   COLIN  
How did you do that?

83                   JULIE  
I'm a ... an... whatever. There are  
perks to being a figment of someone's  
imagination. Is this what you put in  
the swamp hooch?

84                   LEET  
Yep. Pretty, right?

85                   JULIE  
Yeah, well, it's been genetically  
modified.

86                   DR THEO  
How so?

87                   JULIE  
The bit that causes the psychotropic  
effect is in these little beads, see  
here?

88                   DR THEO  
Leet, how thoroughly did you crush  
these flowers in your mix?



LEET  
89 Not much. They're too pretty. I used them as garnish.

JULIE  
90 Yeah, it's gonna be a long day.

ALBATROS  
91 Why?

DR THEO  
92 Basically, these little beads are perfect time-release capsules. Until they pass through our systems, they're going to pop open periodically and-

LEET  
93 Hey, when did we get a swimming pool?

[crash]

MADELINE  
94 How long is this going to keep happening?

JULIE  
95 I'm guessing at least 24 hours. It might be good if you all hole up somewhere safe.

COLIN  
96 Safe? [hysterical laughter] We're on the Oz 9. I'm guessing that unicorn isn't real?

GREG  
97 I'm a zebra, not a unicorn.

COLIN  
98 Not today, you're not.

MADELINE  
99 Greg, how about you eat one of these and let the scientists tell you how long the effects are going to last?

GREG  
100 Much as I'd love to participate, I think maybe one of us should keep a clear head.

COLIN  
101 When did Greg grow a horn?

GREG  
102 I DIDN'T. Everyone, off the bridge  
before you break something we might  
need someday.

PLUTO  
103 Why have I been summoned here?

COLIN  
104 Where's your other foot?

LEET  
105 It's a hoof! Cool!

LBF  
106 You may untwist your panties, tall  
person. You're not real.

PLUTO  
107 I beg your pardon?

GREG  
108 Actually, I can see him too.

ALBATROS  
109 Well, what the hell does that mean?

JULIE  
110 You didn't drink any swamp hooch?

GREG  
111 Nope. Learned my lesson from the fugu  
fondue.

JESSIE  
112 Don't even say those words. [gag]

MADELINE  
113 Hey, welcome back, Jessie.

JESSIE  
114 Why is there so much chewing gum under  
here?

DR VON HABER ZETZER  
115 I am asking the same question! It is  
revolting, no?

116 JESSIE  
[chewing] It's Juicy Fruit. Who has  
Juicy Fruit?

117 MADELINE  
Did you just pull off a- And chew- I  
really am gonna be sick.

118 PLUTO  
WHICH OF YOU HUMANS SUMMONED ME?

119 COLIN  
You're very shouty. Also shiny. Could  
you put a robe on or something?

120 DR THEO  
I don't suppose you found some sort of  
antidote when you popped over to the  
swamp?

121 JULIE  
'Fraid not. But who designed your  
biodome? It's like Jurassic Park in  
there.

122 LEET  
Did you see an alligator?

[door]

123 MRS SHEFFIELD  
Did someone forget to invite me to the  
party? Oh, hello, Julie, Ben, Pluto.  
Southers, you're here as well? The  
French Lick gang is all back together!

124 BEN  
We're not real. Are you?

125 MRS SHEFFIELD  
I believe so. Oh, dear. Is that an  
angel's trumpet you're holding, Julie?

126 JULIE  
Yeah.

127 MRS SHEFFIELD  
Well, that would explain the  
hippopotamus in my shower this  
morning.

128                   LEET  
You got a hippo? Man. I just got a  
duck.

129                   MADELINE  
How did a hippo fit in your shower?

130                   MRS SHEFFIELD  
Vertically. Also, it wasn't real.  
Which is quite good news as it was  
awfully crowded.

131                   COLIN  
Is there any purpose to this story  
line, or can I go back to bed?

132                   BEN  
Yeah, I think I was about to order  
waffles at the resort when I got  
pulled up here.

133                   LEET  
Oooooo, waffles. I bet I could make  
some with kudzu flour and egret eggs.

134                   MRS SHEFFIELD  
I think you've toyed with my liver  
enough for one day, Leet, thank you.  
So we can expect to drift in and out  
of reality for a day or so, eh? Bit  
like London in the 60s, eh,  
Friederich?

135                   DR VON HABER ZETZER  
Which 60s?

136                   MRS SHEFFIELD  
Fair point.

137                   PLUTO  
As long as I'm here, perhaps I could  
see my lady love?

138                   JESSIE  
Nope.

139                   PLUTO  
"Nope"? Puny human, one does not say  
"nope" to a god.

140 JESSIE  
Nope, your honor.

141 PLUTO  
Is she always like this?

142 MADELINE  
Yes. Donna's doing some research. She  
has a theory that the mold can form  
some kind of protective suit.

143 MRS SHEFFIELD  
Sort of a cross between a ghillie  
suit-

144 JULIE  
And armor against the plants! That's  
brilliant.

145 PLUTO  
That's my girl.

146 GREG  
She allowed herself to be wrapped up  
to see if she could eventually build  
up a resistance to the sleep effect.

147 JULIE  
Is it working?

148 MADELINE  
She stopped snoring. We think it's a  
good sign.

149 COLIN  
I don't care. I'm not allowing those  
horrid vines to creep all over me.

150 LEET  
They're not horrid. They smell nice.

151 COLIN  
How do we know they're not... eating  
her? Or maybe she'll emerge *changed*.  
Gah! Is that a giant turnip?

[thump as he passes out]

152 JULIE  
Looks like round two of the Brugmansia  
is starting.

153 MRS SHEFFIELD  
That would explain the extra arms,  
yes.

154 MADELINE  
Could everyone please stop blurring?

155 JESSIE  
Passing out was nice.

156 ALBATROS  
There's got to be a way to speed this  
up. Coffee?

157 JULIE  
I wouldn't recommend it. Caffeine  
could intensify the effects.

158 ALBATROS  
Food, then.

159 JULIE  
Do you have any food on board that  
you're sure of? I mean, anything that  
didn't come from the bioswamp?

160 ALBATROS  
You're not making this any easier.

161 BEN  
Hey, it's not Julie's fault you all  
poisoned yourselves.

162 JULIE  
Actually, it might be. This was my PhD  
project.

163 BEN  
Huh?

164 JULIE  
Brugmansia doesn't grow in the wild.  
Whatever creature allowed it to  
pollinate or germinate doesn't exist  
any more. I was trying to figure out  
how to re-engineer-

165 COLIN  
Is anyone else bored?

166 LBF  
I am.

167 DR THEO  
Oh, no! Did you almost learn  
something? Poor children.

168 COLIN  
There's no reason to get snippy.

169 JULIE  
But why is it on board?

170 PLUTO  
Do you think it was intentional?

171 MADELINE  
Probably a joke. Just like the  
foreign-language manuals and the  
inferred directional signs.

172 GREG  
Inferred?

173 MADELINE  
Yeah. It's why only the Albatros can  
read them.

174 DR THEO  
Infrared?

175 MADELINE  
That's what I said. Why are you so  
small?

176 DR THEO  
I'm not. Those are my knees. My head  
is up here, Captain.

177 MADELINE  
Pretty sure it's down there, since  
that's where your nose is. And your  
glasses.

178 JULIE  
Round two.

179 MRS SHEFFIELD  
Is it possible we could just accept  
that anything unusual is the flowers  
talking and get on with the more

important conversation?

GREG

180 No one here is in any shape to have  
important conversations [mumbles] at  
the best of times. Now get off this  
bridge. Go to the bioswamp and check  
on Donna. Shoo!

PLUTO

181 I believe this to be very wise  
counsel.

BEN

182 You just want to kissy face with your  
girlfriend.

LEET

183 Awwwww! That's sweet.

DR VON HABER ZETZER

184 I haf become a giant strudel, and  
while intellectually I know zis to be  
a- an hallucination, I am still unable  
to walk on my strudely legs.

MADELINE

185 Colin, can you fly Dr von Haber  
Strudelrr ?

ALBATROS

186 Oh, I don't think that's a good idea,  
do you?

MADELINE

187 I think I just suggested it.

ALBATROS

188 Oh, I wasn't asking you. Julie?

MADELINE

189 You'll take the word of an  
hallucination over your captain?

ALBATROS

190 Of course not. You clearly just  
dreamed that. Julie?

MADELINE

191 You're still doing it!



192 ALBATROS  
I'm not! You're dreaming! Julie?

193 JULIE  
Probably best to just do everything  
the safest way possible until the  
effects wear off.

194 LEET  
I'll carry him. Unless, of course, Dr.  
Theo is feeling strudely too?

195 DR THEO  
I'm fine, apart from this dense mat of  
body hair, thank you, Leet.

196 JESSIE  
It's almost restful down here, isn't  
it?

197 DR VON HABER ZETZER  
You are a very strange woman, once-  
captain Jessie.

198 MRS SHEFFIELD  
Right. So. We've established that any  
weirdness outside the normal weirdness  
is a result of the Brugmansia, yes?

199 PLUTO  
Unless it's an alien invasion.

200 MADELINE  
What?

201 PLUTO  
Perhaps these creatures aren't  
hallucinations but are in fact aliens  
come aboard in disguise to lull you  
into a false sense of security before  
taking over the ship and dispatching  
all of you to Elysium?

202 LEET  
Is that another ship?

203 COLIN  
I doubt it.

204 JULIE  
You know that's not true.

205 PLUTO  
Exactly what a disguised alien would  
say.

206 MRS SHEFFFIELD  
I suspect Pluto here is having a bit  
of fun at our expense.

207 LBF  
You were the first one on board from  
the Licking of the French - which I  
would advise none of you do, by the  
way - perhaps you are also an alien,  
ehhhhh?

208 LEET  
Actually, you came aboard before she  
did.

209 LBF  
From the 6748!

210 LEET  
Or so you say.....

211 JESSIE  
He's from the 6748. I can vouch for  
him.

212 COLIN  
Fabulous. Now who's going to vouch for  
you?

213 JESSIE  
You're joking.

214 JULIE  
See what you've done?

215 PLUTO  
Humans. They're so ... easy.

216 BEN  
We're trying to HELP them.

217 MRS SHEFFFIELD  
Hang on. Are our hallucinations  
arguing? With each other?

218 JULIE  
Someone must have gotten a clipping

from my lab. But that was ages ago. I destroyed all the clippings when I finished my research.

219 MRS SHEFFFIELD  
Was your lab at MCCACEC?

220 JULIE  
Under it, yes.

221 MRS SHEFFFIELD  
Oh dear.

222 MADELINE  
"Oh dear"?

223 MRS SHEFFFIELD  
Those labs were donated by MI 18, you see. To learn from student research projects into plants. Sort of a cross-pollination. About pollination.

224 JULIE  
Yeah, I thought it was odd that a community college offered doctorate degrees.

225 GREG  
Is that where my scientists are? In those labs?

226 MRS SHEFFFIELD  
Yes, well, I rather suspect so.

227 GREG  
They went quiet a while back. Real quiet.

228 MRS SHEFFIELD  
Did they indeed? Pluto, dear, would you mind popping back and checking on them? I'd do it, only the floor is covered in snakes and bananas, and I don't exactly trust my eyes at the moment, you see.

229 DR VON HABER ZETZER  
Did you say there are snakes on this floor? You are reasonably confident this is only a vision, yes?

230 MRS SHEFFIELD  
Reasonably. Not sure about the  
bananas, though.

231 GREG  
No snakes, doc.

232 JESSIE  
What about the bananas?

233 DR THEO  
Which concerns you more?

234 GREG  
How many times am I gonna have to ask  
y'all to leave the bridge before you  
break something?

235 MADELINE  
Have we left yet?

236 GREG  
Nope.

237 MRS SHEFFIELD  
Then at least once more, but perhaps  
you could stop for the moment. None of  
us seems to be moving, so I think the  
equipment is relatively safe, for now.

238 COLIN  
Why aren't we moving? I think I'm  
trying, though I've forgotten how to  
move things.

239 LEET  
Yeah. I remember I used to do a thing  
called "walking," but I don't really  
remember what it is.

240 JULIE  
This is fascinating.

241 COLIN  
We're all just a bunch of lab rats to  
you, aren't we.

242 GREG  
Pretty sure the phrase now is "lab  
zebra."

COLIN  
243 Of course, it's all about you.

GREG  
244 I'm just saying y'all are getting a  
taste of what it is to be me.

COLIN  
245 You're joking. I've been an experiment  
since I ate the olive!

GREG  
246 Whose fault is that?

COLIN  
247 EVERYONE BUT ME. And could you stop  
kaleidoscoping while I'm talking to  
you?

JESSIE  
248 I'm not an alien.

MADELINE  
249 What? Oh, yeah, we were talking about  
you being aliens, but we got  
sidetracked. You sidetracked us!

JULIE  
250 Not on purpose...

COLIN  
251 Which is precisely what an alien would  
do!

LEET  
252 Ah, come on. Leave her alone. She  
smells nice.

DR THEO  
253 She's a- AN hallucination. You can't  
smell her.

LEET  
254 She could be an olfactory  
hallucination.

DR THEO  
255 Leet. You surprise me.

LEET  
256 Gretchen in your novel suffers from

phantosmia.

DR THEO  
257 I... I didn't think you were  
listening.

LEET  
258 You followed me around the ship for  
three days. I couldn't help it.

DR THEO  
259 Leet. I'm ... I'm ... genuinely  
touched.

LEET  
260 Like this?

DR THEO  
261 Ouch! You have claws on that arm! In  
fact, you have claws on all the arms  
on your right side.

SOUTHERS  
262 Well, being someone's fever dream has  
been an experience, but I think I  
might just head on back to earth now,  
if y'all will release me.

ALBATROS  
263 "Release" you? How exactly would you  
have us do that?

SOUTHERS  
264 Well, hell, little lady, how should I  
know? Wake up, sober up, man up,  
whatever it takes!

ALBATROS  
265 Call me "little lady" again, and I  
will punch you hard enough to make the  
real you bleed.

SOUTHERS  
266 All right, all right-

ALBATROS  
267 Be quiet or I'll rip off your antennae  
and carapace, got it?

MADELINE  
268 Anyone else's hallucinations have,

like, really bad accents?

269 DONNA  
[muffled, leaf sounds] Hallucination?  
I told Leet not to use the yellow  
flowers.

270 LEET  
They're pretty!

271 DONNA  
So are box jellyfish, but you wouldn't  
fill your swimming pool with them,  
would you?

272 LEET  
It's not actually a swimming pool. I  
tried that already.

273 DONNA  
I was right. You do develop a  
resistance over time. And I made  
another discovery. The sleep effect  
comes from these little seed pods. You  
pop 'em like bubble wrap, see, and  
they release these little spores...  
[pop pop pop, everyone passes out but  
Greg, Donna, and Pluto]

274 GREG  
Genius.

275 DONNA  
Oops.

276 PLUTO  
My lady. Wrapped in greens as befits  
the daughter of Demeter, Queen of the  
Harvest.

277 DONNA  
Well, hey there! Didn't see you with  
these fronds over my eyes.

278 PLUTO  
Are you ready to return with me to  
Earth?

279 DONNA  
Oh, not just yet. You head on back,  
though.

280 PLUTO  
But first, a kiss.

[pause for smoochies]

281 GREG  
Uhhhhhh. This is getting a little  
awkward. Hello?

[more smoochies]

282 GREG  
Seriously? Come on now, at least one  
of you has to come up for a breath.

283 NARRATOR 2  
Uh... Aren't you gonna draw the  
narrative curtain?

284 NARRATOR  
Yes, I suppose. It's fun to watch Greg  
squirm though.

285 GREG  
Guys? Hello? Wow. This has to be some  
sort of record.

286 NARRATOR 2  
OK, now I'm getting uncomfortable.  
You've been listening to-

287 NARRATOR  
My bridge. My outro.

288 NARRATOR 2  
Well, hurry up. This is a family show.

289 NARRATOR  
Who told you that? FINE. You've been  
listening to...

Bonnie Brantley as Jessie and Donna  
Richard Cowen as Leet  
Tim Sherburn as Colin  
Aaron Clark as Ben and le Bichon Frise  
June Clark Eubanks as the Albatros  
Kevin Hall as Greg  
Shannon Perry as Madeline  
Iri Alexander as Julie  
Eric Perry as Dr von Haber Zetzer, Mr  
Southers, and Joe



David S Dear as Dr. Theo Bromae  
Lee Shackleford as Pluto  
Sarah Golding as Mrs Sheffield  
Kyle Jones as Narrator 2, and  
I'm Richard Nadolny as your Narrator

Our music is by John Faley; our  
artwork is by Lucas Elliott. Oz 9 is  
written by Shannon Perry. Stop by Oz-9  
dot com and pick up our free fan kit.  
Minutes of fun for the whole family.

Until next time, Space Monkeys,  
Narrator out.