Episode 79: Sand where no man is making pearls

by Shannon Perry

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NARRATOR

I'm away from my bridge just now, pausing for a moment to enjoy the relatively fresh... freshish... slightly less fetid air of the bioswamp. From here, I have a view of the stars between the streaks caused by Colin's collisions with the glass. It's quiet, the only sounds the gentle rumble of Albert's snoring and the almost undetectable rustle of egrets settling into their underground burrows. Which is weird, but whatever. The tour quide has taken the shuttle to Earth, and I can only hope he's there now, safe, a sweet tea in one hand; in the other, some kind of ... hope, answers... maybe some documents...

NARRATOR2

(via headset; laughing) That was painful! I've seen more graceful flame outs at Amateur Mic Night at the You-Suck Saloon.

NARRATOR

3 Shut up. Is it Earth?

NARRATOR2

Yes. It's Earth, all right. I managed to park the shuttle on the 11th hole at French Lick.

NARRATOR

5 Good. What do you see?

NARRATOR2

Not much. It's night. Figured I'd get a little shuteye in the shuttle... shuttleeye, ha! Then move out in the morning for some reconnaissance.

NARRATOR

7

Oh sure, excellent plan. I'm totally confident no one will notice a SPACE SHUTTLE PARKED ON THE GREEN. You just take your time, maybe sleep in...

1

2

4

6

8	NARRATOR2 All right, all right! I'm going.
9	NARRATOR Got your headset?
10	NARRATOR2 Yes.
11	NARRATOR Right. Talk me through it.
	[Shuttle door opens to night in French Lick. Sound of N2 heading down the ramp.]
12	NARRATOR2 [over headset] OK, so, it's quiet. My watch says it's 2 AM, but I don't know if that's Earth time or-
13	NARRATOR It doesn't matter! What do you see? Describe it. What's around you?
14	NARRATOR2 This is ridiculous — there's nothing to report! All right, all right. To our right, we can see the putting green of the 11th hole. Funny enough, this fairway was actually named "Brian" after one of the odder characters to play here at the French Lick Resort- hey!
15	NARRATOR [snickers] I knew it. Tour Guide.
	FRENCH LICK - NIGHT - A DIFFERENT FAIRWAY
16	SOUTHERS [weak, coughing] I knew you'd come!
17	FELONIUS You <i>are</i> still alive!
18	SOUTHERS Those Eye-talians know how to make a suit. Damn thing isn't bullet-proof, but it sure slows 'em down!

2.

	FELONIUS
19	Perhaps you'd like to remove your jacket?
20	SOUTHERS And let you tickle me to death? Hell no, son. I've got more important things to do than lie here and let you shoot me until you finally connect four and win the game. I see you've acquired a new thug. Help me up, Butt Thugly, I've got sand where no man is making pearls.
21	MRS SHEFFIELD Nah, I think you lie there nice and quiet-like, maybe have a bit of a kip, all right, Bobby?
22	SOUTHERS Say what again? Where'd you dig this one up, Felonius? 1976?
23	FELONIUS He's not MY thug. I'm as much his captive as you are MY captive.
24	SOUTHERS Have I ever told you how cute you are when you think you h ave the upper hand? Swear on my great granny's secret-and-may-it-stay-that-way Frito pie recipe con roadkill carne. Now gimme a help up, Felonius, we've got him outnumbered.
25	JOE Nah.
26	SOUTHERS/FELONIUS/MRS SHEFFIELD Jesus!
27	JOE Allo, mate, I'm Bashful.
28	MRS SHEFFIELD Doc.
29	JOE "Bashful" makes more sense on account's L only shows up when L

account'a I only shows up when I

hafta, you ken?

SOUTHERS

30	Maybe you boys would like to work that out amongst yourselves while Felonius and I take care of some other business.
31	FELONIUS Do not leave me alone with him.
32	MRS SHEFFIELD/JOE/SOUTHERS Which "him"?
33	FELONIUS Any of you. We stay together.
34	MRS SHEFFIELD You're right, he do take on a bit of a shimmy when he reckons he's in charge, don he?
35	SOUTHERS Whelp, that sounded like a question, and I reckon agreeing with you is the safest course, so, yes.
36	FELONIUS Look, we came to Earth to escape Tiberius. we've done that. So why don't we just shake hands and go our separate ways?
37	JOE So you can nip aboard the shuttle and scarper?
38	FELONIUS I have no intention of "scarpering" anywhere but back to my mansion.
39	MRS SHEFFIELD Tug the other one, chum. We hear tell this planet's gonna be paradise for extremophiles soon, and even that leathery carapace of yours ain't gonna do ya.
40	FELONIUS At least I shall die on my own terms.

41	JOE No, you ain't. Rumor has it the Showertorium has a built-in back-up plan in case any rich geezers get left behind.
42	FELONIUS I have no idea what you're talking about and how the hell do you know that?
43	MRS SHEFFIELD Proper plush, is it?
44	JOE The absolute bell's end, I hear.
45	MRS SHEFFIELD Oof! [own voice, low] And you were doing so well
46	SOUTHERS Now, slow your tumbleweed, I ain't planning to spend my ever-after locked up with Felonius, I don't care how many gold-plated hammocks it has. I'll pay whatever you want for your shuttle, and we can hug it out and say our good-byes.
47	FELONIUS Fine.
48	MRS SHEFFIELD Nah, no deal, gents. Let me confer with my business partner here-
49	FELONIUS With whom?
50	JOE Me.
51	FELONIUS / SOUTHERS Jesus!
52	MRS SHEFFIELD With me, me old China.

They step aside and confer in their normal voices.

53	JOE Do we really need to keep up the disguises here?
54	MRS SHEFFIELD I had the same thought, but just in case, we should probably carry on. Justtry not to talk. Speaking of
55	JOE Yeah, I noticed it too. The effects of my belt are even stronger here. That may mean the sacred objects are close.
56	MRS SHEFFIELD Exactly.
57	FELONIUS Is he talking to himself?
58	SOUTHERS I was thinking that too. Maybe now's the time to- hey!
59	MRS SHEFFIELD Ere now! Where do you think you're trotting off to?
60	FELONIUS Just answering the call of the wild.
61	MRS SHEFFIELD Don' you mean the call of nature?
62	SOUTHERS If you have a gun, I can keep him in line.
63	MRS SHEFFIELD Ain't you bled to death yet?
64	SOUTHERS Italian weave and a size too small.
65	FELONIUS Just one?
66	SOUTHERS Shut up. This suit's tight as a tourniquet

tourniquet.

67	MRS SHEFFIELD I got ya covered, lads; how about you lie down there next to your boy, eh?
68	FELONIUS You must be joking.
69	MRS SHEFFIELD Take a load off, matey. Get comfy.
70	JOE [whispered] So-
71	MRS SHEFFIELD Jesus!
72	JOE Sorry. How about I head off and look for the objects, since they've already forgotten about me?
73	MRS SHEFFIELD And how am I to keep these boys under control?
74	JOE Here.
75	MRS SHEFFIELD Where did you find a gun?
76	JOE Felonius only managed to throw it as far as the reeds, I guess. I suggest you make them remove their jackets, though. That tight weave makes 'em cocky.
77	MRS SHEFFIELD Is that the oddest sentence you've ever uttered?
78	JOE Top ten, anyway. Good luck. I'll find you.
79	MRS SHEFFIELD Be careful. No one person's ever held the four objects at once, as far as we know. No telling what that might do.

80	JOE I know where there's a wheelbarrow.
81	MRS SHEFFIELD Oh well, a wheelbarrow. That'll change everything, obviously.
82	JOE Best I can do.
83	MRS SHEFFIELD I do wish Alby were here with us. We could use an assassin of her caliber right now.
84	JOE Uhhhh, about the Albatros
85	MRS SHEFFIELD OY! On yer kiester, mate, and no more funny business, you hear? [to Joe] We'll head to the tunnels and take a look at the venting process, see if there's any way to slow it down.
86	JOE There are haz mat suits, gas masks, and oxygen tanks in the shed next to the entrance of the main tunnel. Should keep you safe enough. Just don't be in there too long.
87	MRS SHEFFIELD Go carefully. [shouting] Right, me lads and lasses, let's be off. Hand over them jackets, and no messing about or you'll have more holes in ya than my granny's sponge.
Their voi	ices fade as they walk away.
88	FELONIUS Now, just a moment! That's disgusting. And disrespectful.
89	MRS SHEFFIELD What are you banging on about? My gran does a lovely sponge, all airy and light n that.

90	0	FELONIUS hhhhh, you're talking about cake!
91	W	MRS SHEFFIELD hat did you think I was on about?
92	b	SOUTHERS Theeeeee howdy, I bet he was thinking Firth control sponges, eh, Felonius? To on and shoot 'im, Fagin!
93		MRS SHEFFIELD hat's enough outta both of you lonkers
	OZ 9 CAPTA	IN'S BRIDGE
	Door opens	. Sound of wings.
94	0	PIPISTRELLE Captain, my captain?
95		MADELINE ello, Pipi- Found our voice modulater ettings, have we?
96		PIPISTRELLE hat's correct. You're pinging sad. hall I give you a hug?
97		MADELINE h, thanks, but I'd rather have a andwich.
98		PIPISTRELLE could pop down to the kitchen and ake you one.
99	C	MADELINE To, thanks. I have a hard enough time Thoking down kudzu bread without a ump in my throat.
100		PIPISTRELLE of course. The Albatros was the bread waker, wasn't she?
1.0.1	~	MADELINE
101	S	he was.

Door opens. Footsteps.

102	PIPISTRELLE Would you like to tell me about her?
103	DR VON HABER ZETZER Perhaps ve ixnay the confidences until ve haf eztablished your bona fides, Miz Pipi.
104	PIPISTRELLE Come now, Doctor! Olivia trusted me enough to wake me and not fwip me; surely that's reference enough?
105	DR VON HABER ZETZER Ve haf only your vord zat it vas my Olifia who did zis, Miz Pipi. For now ve vill proceed vis ze cautions, eh?
106	PIPISTRELLE [chilly] Very well.
107	MADELINE Is there something you need, Doc?
108	DR VON HABER ZETZER Ah yes! Tinker Bat here haz distracted me, my apologies. It appears that vun of our pod bay 3 fellows- vell, I zay "vun," but really it could be any number of zem-
109	MADELINE DOC.
110	DR VON HABER ZETZER Yes, zorry! My brain iz all ze higgledy piggledy today, ach! Ze bad plant haz escaped.
111	MADELINE What?!
112	COLIN What?!
113	MADELINE/DR VHZ Jesus!
114	PIPISTRELLE Oh, did you not know he was there?

COLIN 115 How is that possible?

Door opens, footsteps.

DR THEO 116 Quick! Turn on the camera for quadrant nineteen!

COLIN 117 Why? What's happening?

DR THEO

118 Just be ready. It's pretty bad.

Screen comes on (warming up noise like old TVs would be funny), then we hear, over the comms, lots of screaming and roars and sucking sounds.

MADELINE 119 My god. Is that the pod bay 3 people?

DR THEO

120 They're ... juice boxes.

COLIN

Go-gurts.

PIPISTRELLE 122 On the bright side, that does take care of one problem....

MADELINE

123 Fair point. OK, we've got to corral that sucker again. Who let it out?

COLIN

- 124 My god Glenda! No!! Not again!
- DR VON HABER ZETZER 125 Ztop vis ze panicking and ze flustering about on ze zeiling, my boy. Your vife is zafe.

COLIN 126 She was is in Pod Bay 3! She's a gogurt!

MADELINE 127 No, she's not.

DR VON HABER ZETZER 128 She iz zafely tucked into ze healer pod in my laboratory. COLIN 129 Thank god. Also, why? DR VON HABER ZETZER 130 Captain Madeline asked me to remoof her from Pod Bay 3. COLIN 131 Why? MADELINE You and the Albatros were getting ... 132 close. I just wanted to make sure she wasn't tempted to ... clear a path. No disrespect to the Albatros, but she IS an assassin. OOOF! Good god, Colin, the next time you hug me out of midair, could you warn me first? COLIN 133 Sorry. Thank you. Hang on. If she's in the healer, is she awake-MADELINE We still need to figure out who let 134 that sucker loose. Any ideas? Old-time VCR noises here while Dr. Theo's talking would be great: fast forward, rewind, etc. DR THEO 135 Check the video feed for the plant's room. Back it up an hour.... there! What is that? COLIN Is that... a nest? My god, is it 136 breeding? Are there eggs? DR THEO 137 It's a plant, Colin. Plants don't lay eqqs. COLIN It's an alien, Doctor. It might. 138

	DR THEO
139	Yes. I suppose that's true. But that nest has pants and shirts in it, neatly folded, I might add. I'd say a human has been living with it. What's that bottle?
140	COLIN It has my scent. It'll come after me! Captain, we must get it back under control immediately.
141	MADELINE I know, Colin, but there's not much point if whoever it was just lets it loose again. Ok, advancing the video Hang on, I see a shoe, don't I? Who the hell is that?
142	COLIN I don't believe it. I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
	Door opens, Colin flies away.
143	PIPISTRELLE I think he recognized our mystery shoe.
144	MADELINE He's flying right toward that thing. We need to go after him! Where's Greg?
	Door opens, Colin flies in.
145	COLIN Why didn't anyone stop me? I was flying right toward that thing!
146	DR THEO Who is it, Colin?
147	COLIN That utter bastard. It was Wiggy.
148	PIPISTRELLE Are you certain?
149	COLIN Completely. He was the only one in our circle who wore Amadeo Testonis.

Pretentious git.

	MADELINE
150	Why would he release the bad plant?
151	COLIN Showertorium, I suppose. His family was relatively new; he probably felt he had something to prove.
152	DR THEO How new is "new"?
153	COLIN Only eight or nine generations.
	DR VON HABER ZETZER
154	Unt zis is "new"?
155	COLIN My family dates back more than 20 generations in the Showertorium, and we only recently got the right to vote.
156	MADELINE Ok, so the plant is loose, but he ate the people who were supposed to survive. Any chance that means Wiggy's on our side?
157	COLIN None at all. He's an idiot. There's a lot of repeats in those eight or nine generations, if you catch my drift.
	MADELINE
158	Ew.
	Door opens. Footsteps.
159	JESSIE What's with all the screamin'? Can't put your head down for five minutes without someone shouting bloody murder.
160	COLIN Well, thank you for coming to investigate after your nap!

161		JESSIE The advantage of being an EX captain, my friend. [pause, stretch] Oooof. Someone celebrating being able to use the ketchup pen again in Quadrant Nineteen?
162		PIPISTRELLE Oh, no. That's blood.
163		JESSIE Whut.
164		PIPISTRELLE Colin's friend let the bad plant loose, and it ate pod bay 3.
165		JESSIE [starts laughing] Seriously? Pod Bay 3 is gone?
166		PIPISTRELLE Sucked up like a strawberry float.
167		JESSIE [laughing harder] Oh, that's bloody brilliant! Friend of yours, eh, Colin?
168		COLIN No friend of mine. Look, hooray we no longer have pod bay 3 to worry about, but that plant is still on the loose. Wiggy must have set it free when we were in orbit over [gag].
	Intercom	beeps.
169		JULIE [urgent whisper over intercom] Captain? We need your help here!
170		MADELINE Mine? Seriously?
171		BEN [urgent whisper over comms] You're the Captain, aren't you?
		MADELINE
172		Well, yeah, but since when has that ever mattered?

	LE BICHON FRISE
173	[urgent whisper over intercom which turns to yelling] Mon Capiton! We are needing you RIGHT NOW!

JULIE/BEN

174 Sssshhhhh!

MADELINE

175 I'm here! Where are you?

GREG

176 [urgent whisper over comm] We're in the bioswamp! The big bad plant is in here with us somewhere. We're hiding, but- ah hell, here he comes again, move move move!!!

Roar as Albert chases them, then the monster plant. If you can have them on each side, I'm envisioning the crew caught between them like towards the end of the first Jurassic Park movie.

Lots of screaming from Ben, Julie, LBF, and Greg.

COLIN

177 We've got to get down there. Gather together, I can take you all at once!

DR THEO

178 Colin, you can't go; you're the one it wants most of all. It'll smell you in an instant.

COLIN

179 It doesn't matter, Dr Theo. We have to help them.

MADELINE

180 Has anyone seen Leet?

PIPISTRELLE

181 I'll see if I can find him!

JESSIE

182 The lights dimmed earlier, so he might be using his chest buffer.

PIPISTRELLE

183 His chest... buff-

184	JESSIE In his bunk go to his bunk!
185	COLIN Come ON! Let's GO!
	Door. Wings x 2.
	THE BIOSWAMP - DAY
	The bioswamp is in chaos - roars, screeches, shouting.
186	COLIN It's a zoo.
187	MADELINE And we're the zoo keepers. Does anyone see the others?
188	JESSIE There! I see Greg! Wow, black and white stripes are actually shite camouflage.
189	MADELINE Do you see the big bad?
190	DR VON HABER ZETZER There!
191	MADELINE Behind that huge tree?
192	DR THEO No, Captain. It IS the huge tree.
193	MADELINE WHAT? When did it get so enormous?
194	DR VON HABER ZETZER In ze very lonk time ve haf not been paying attentions.
195	JESSIE And there's Albert. Holy hell, he's gotten bigger too.
196	DR THEO Captain, between the river, the glass, the plant, and Albert

197	MADELINE They're trapped. OK, Colin, put me down over there. Then fly the docs and Jessie to safety.
198	JESSIE Ha! Even Colin can't fly that far. Set us all down together, Colin; we fight as a team.
199	DR THEO Jessie's right, Captain.
200	DR VON HABER ZETZER Is she, though?
201	COLIN All for one, Captain.
202	DR VON HABER ZETZER All?
203	MADELINE Set us down, Colin. Let's end this.
204	JULIE Thank god you're here.
205	MADELINE Wow. I've heard that one other time in my life, and that time I had the only corkscrew. Sorry. Just getting used to it.
206	DR THEO You can understand the plants, can't you, Julie? Are you getting anything?
207	JULIE Yes, a little. Colin, it knew the second you flew in. You should go.
208	COLIN I'll keep an eye on it. The egrets are keeping it busy for the moment. It must have gotten too close to their burrows. Go on.
209	JULIE Well, it wants to go to Earth, that much is clear. It thinks of Earth as a

"smorgasbord."

210	JESSIE Seriously. You barely speak plant, but "smorgasbord" you get.
211	JULIE I know, weird, right?
212	MADELINE What else? It just wants to go eat people?
213	JULIE Basically. It wants to hurry up and claim Earth for its kind. Clear out the people, crank up the sulfur, and quit messing around.
214	DR THEO It's dangerous, for certain, but surely it doesn't think it can wipe out all the humans alone? It's just one plant.
215	BEN Tell 'em the other bit.
216	JULIE Well-
217	BEN It's going to open up the greenhouses. There are thousands more plants in the greenhouses.
218	DR VON HABER ZETZER Ahhhh, but zese haf been bred to be more benign, no?
219	MADELINE EXACTLY!
220	DR VON HABER ZETZER Not YOUR benign, Captain; everyone else's.
221	MADELINE What does that mean?

222 It means-

BEN

JULIE

223 They aren't friendly. They only seem that way because in the greenhouses they're controlled by the mold. Mold spores are in the air that's pumped through the greenhouses; it keeps them sedated, basically. But as soon as they're out of there-

MADELINE

224 Oh, hell.

JESSIE

225 But the air's not sulfuric enough yet, right? They can't survive.

JULIE

226 Actually-

GREG

Julie says they can for a while.

JULIE

228

JULIE IS RIGHT HERE. But yes, Greg's right. They can survive longer than the original plants. Long enough to do some real damage. Colin, look out!

Plant attacks. Colin flies up and shouts down. **Colin**, we need some shouts from you that can be heard in the distance in this scene: Back, you bastard! Take that! HA! Laser eyes, come and get it! Whatever. Go crazy.

COLIN

229 Bastard! I'll keep it distracted, Captain!

BEN

230 We need to get some of the mold, right?

JULIE

231 It's gonna take a hell of a lot of spores to get this guy under control. He's one of the original colony, so he's ancient and very powerful.

232	MADELINE Colin! Can you see the mold from up there?
233	JESSIE I know where it is. Follow me!
	They race through the swamp. The mold is near the water, so we should hear splashing through the next bit.
234	JESSIE Here! Gather up as much as you can!
235	MADELINE Will we hurt the mold? I don't want to piss off another plant.
236	JESSIE Nope. It sheds these huge leaves, and the pods with the spores are attached to the underside, see? Grab all the leaves you can.
237	GREG It's coming! Hurry!
238	BEN There's more over here!
239	DR THEO Is this enough?
240	JULIE I have no idea. Get all you can, though; as much as you can carry.
241	BEN It's almost here!
242	MADELINE Give me all your leaves!
	Sound of everyone handing leaves to Madeline.
243	MADELINE COLIN! Fly down here and get these! HURRY!!
244	JULIE Here are some more! Ben, give me yours! Here, Captain!

245	JESSIE Oh shit, there it is!
246	MADELINE Back off and leave my crew alone, you son of a biiiiiiiiiiiiii!!!
247	JESSIE Madeline!!
248	COLIN Captain! Hold on! I'll save you!!
249	BEN Nooo!! Let her go!!!
250	DR THEO Captain! CAPTAIN!!
251	JULIE Captain!!!!
	There's a giant splash, and Madeline's scream is cut off.
252	COLIN No. NO!!
253	DR VON HABER ZETZER No!! Zis cannot be happening!! MADELINE!!
254	COLIN She's gone.
	Sad music, if we have some, to play us out.
255	NARRATOR And just like that, another player is removed from the board. One episode left in Season Four, space monkeys. Will anyone survive?
	You've been listening to
	Kevin Hall as Felonius and Greg Sarah Golding as Mrs Sheffield Eric Perry as Mr. Southers, Dr. von Haber Zetzer and Joe Sarah Rhea Werner as Pipistrelle Shannon Perry as Madeline Tim Sherburn as Colin

David S Dear as Dr. Theo Bromae Bonnie Brantley as Jessie Aaron Clark as Le Bichon Frise and Ben Chrisi Talyn Saje as Julie Kyle Jones is Narrator 2, and I'm Chris Nadolny Gourley as your Narrator.

256 Oz 9 will be hosting a live listenalong for our season finale! Join us at 10 AM US Pacific time on our Discord channel on October TBD. Keep an eye on our website and our Twitter, @Oz9podcast, for the exact date once we know what it is. To join us, find the invite link on our website, https://oz-9.com. Or just use this one, I suppose: https://discord.gg/4zXBRxH.

257 Until next time, space monkeys, shoot for the stars, but don't eat the sandwiches.