

Oz 9 Episode 72: Cahooty

Shannon Perry

EPISODE 72: SOUNDS OF THE ALBATROS'S GENERAL AREA

NARRATOR

1 There are a few firsts in a man's life
that he never forgets: the first time
he locks eyes on the love of his life.
Holding his child in his arms the
first time. The first time he recites,
flawlessly and fluently, the sixth
sick sheikh's sixth sheep's sick. And
the first time he is forced to eat a
banana-spam sandwich with tomatoes,
boiled okra, and vanilla frosting on
kudzu bread. To the Subway employee
whom I berated for the gluey, limp
inadequacy of their bread, and the
sub-standard freshness of their
fillings, I am profoundly sorry.
I've been on the Oz 9 for about 48
hours now, a vacation from sanity I
wouldn't wish on my worst enemy.
The lack of urgency that is the
hallmark of this crew I at first
attributed to the soporific effect of
the mold, which was, it appears,
created not to destroy the alien
plants but rather to lull them into a
harmless stupor. Surely, I thought,
their effect must extend to humans -
it's the only explanation. But no.
Lazy is skin deep. This kind of
indolent ignorance runs to the bone.

(Pneumonia chirps, startling Narrator)

NARRATOR

2 GAH! What the hell are you?!

THE BRIDGE

COLIN

3 Did you want to see me, Captain?

[woots of surprise from Madeline, Jessie]

MADELINE

4 Jesus, Colin! And, yes, I did.

COLIN
5 Well, you're out of luck. Leet's still
filling up my bath with juniper berry
lotion, so I'm not visible yet.

JESSIE
6 I thought he did that yesterday. He
must have made fifty trips up to the
94th level gathering up all those wee
bottles.

COLIN
7 Well, the bath is full, but the lotion
is quite chilly. Leet is trying to
devise a way to warm it up for me.

MADELINE
8 Oh, god. I shouldn't ask, but ... how?

COLIN
9 Taping toast around the outside of the
tub.

JESSIE
10 Really?

COLIN
11 I don't know, do I? Whatever he's
doing, it's probably dangerous,
inefficient, and short lived, but as
long as I don't have to splootch into
a tub of cold mayonnaise-

MADELINE
12 Splootch?

COLIN
13 Might we move on to another subject?
Why did you want to speak to me?

JESSIE
14 Tell him, Madpants.

MADELINE
15 I overheard a bit of conversation
between Dr. Theo and Mrs Sheffield.
It's probably nothing, but-

JESSIE
16 Are you one of them?

COLIN
17 One of whom?

MADELINE
18 Who.

COLIN
19 M, I assure you. Why this sudden and
utterly inappropriate need to
"correct" everyone's grammar?

JESSIE
20 Shut it, both of ye. That thing you
said a few times in the bioswamp -
apparently it means something.

COLIN
21 What thing? I say a lot of things.

MADELINE
22 I'm not sure exactly. Long may it...
leather? Later? It was kind of
muffled.

COLIN
23 I have no idea what you're talking
about. Now, I'm going to go ensure
Leet hasn't set himself ablaze, then
settle into my tub. With luck, the
next time you see me, you'll
actually... see me!

JESSIE
24 Fine, but just know the Doc and Mrs S
and Mister Shiny Shorts have their
concerns about you.

COLIN
25 And now so do you, I assume?

MADELINE
26 Of course not. When have you ever lied
to us?

COLIN
27 Is that sarcasm?

MADELINE
28 Huh?

COLIN
29 Oh. It's not. Seriously? Horace? Wife?
Goodness.

LEET
30 Hey, Colin, your bath is almost ready,
but I had to open a window to let the
smell of toast and sterno out.

JESSIE
31 "Open a window"?

LEET
32 Metaphorically speaking.

COLIN
33 Metaphor- Well, that's it. I have set
a new, unofficial world's record for
longest bewilderment.

MADELINE
34 OK, as long as we're all here-

JESSIE
35 "All"?

MADELINE
36 The original crew. Sort of. I mean,
minus Joe, unless he's back to
blending in with the wallpaper...

[they wait...nothing]

MADELINE
37 OK, guess not. I don't know about you
all, but I kind of miss when it was
just us and Colin was visible and the
scariest thing on the ship was the
look on Joe's face when you got swamp
mud on the linoleum.

JESSIE
38 And Olivia hitting you with a blast of
rancid cabbage, exhaust fumes, and
caramel from the aromatherapy.

COLIN
39 I miss feeling safe.

LEET
40 You felt safe? Didn't you think one of

us was trying to kill you?

COLIN

41 That's true. I guess I miss feeling
only one person was trying to kill me.
O those carefree, halcyon days of
yore.

JESSIE

42 We weren't safe then, of course. The
plants were already on board. Still I
do miss the old days.

LEET

43 Funny how none of us misses Earth,
though, right?

[pause for thought]

COLIN

44 That is strange. I didn't even think
about Earth.

MADELINE

45 Neither did I. I mean, I have family
back there.

JESSIE

46 Yeah. The last time any of us was
truly safe was before we set foot on
an Oz ship.

LEET

47 I guess that means we're all each
other's family now, right?

[silence]

JESSIE

48 All right, before we get goopier than
Colin's bathtub, do we have a circle
of trust here?

MADELINE

49 Yeah. As dysfunctional a family as we
may be, can we agree to have each
other's backs?

LEET

50 And fronts!

51 MADELINE
And fronts.

52 COLIN
Yes.

53 LEET
Yep!

54 JESSIE
Aye.

55 MADELINE
Here!

56 JESSIE
We're not taking attendance, you
numpty.

57 COLIN
DON'T START. Who else can we trust?
The Albatros?

58 JESSIE
She tried to shove me into space!

59 COLIN
That was ages ago. Surely you don't
hold a grudge?

60 JESSIE
"Hold a grudge"? Holding a grudge is
for trying to steal my boyfriend or
eating the last slice of papyrus
papizza. Trying to pitch someone out
an airlock is a tad more serious,
don't you reckon?

61 MADELINE
And she seems to be in cahoots with
Mrs S and co.

62 LEET
You don't trust Mrs Sheffield?

63 COLIN
I trust no one about whom the word
"cahoots" might be used.

64 LEET
Yeah, I mean, I guess she is kinda

cahooty.

JESSIE

65 Donna?

[laughter]

LEET

66 So, you don't trust your wife?

MADELINE

67 He thinks she bumped her head when she
fell out of that plane.

COLIN

68 I do not think she "bumped her head"!

LEET

69 You think she fell fourteen thousand
feet and *didn't* bump her head?

COLIN

70 Well of course she bumped her head,
she bumped everything! That's not what
I, why am I having this argument
again?

MADELINE

71 What about Greg? We can trust him,
can't we?

JESSIE

72 He was a bomb!

LEET

73 Well, yeah... but he didn't want to
be.

MADELINE

74 Wow, I'd totally forgotten about that.

COLIN

75 That's because you kept skipping out
on your 30-minute shifts for punching
in his code.

MADELINE

76 I had captaining to do!

LEET

77 I trust Greg, but he's got lots of

functions even he doesn't know about.

78 JESSIE
So does Colin.

79 COLIN
Excuse me?

80 LEET
Oooooooooo, that's true.

81 COLIN
Don't be absurd. I may have random
useless powers, but no scientists are
making me eat weird things as a
research project.

82 JESSIE
Are we sure about that? Did you have
any of Leet's rabid egret egg omelette
this morning?

83 MADELINE
Oh, wow. What if this whole thing is
some crazy research project? What if
we're really in the biodome in the
desert?

[pause for consideration]

84 JESSIE
Hang on, Leet and I have both been
outside. That's definitely space out
there.

85 MADELINE
Oh, yeah, right. Still....

86 JESSIE
Dr. von Half Baked?

87 LEET
Wasn't he trying to heal the Bichon
Frise?

88 JESSIE
Oh yeah. And the French poodle is a
definite no.

89 MADELINE
He hasn't tried to kill anyone in a

while, though.

COLIN
90 Are we sure about that? He's a
terrible assassin. Maybe he's trying
all the time, he's just not
succeeding.

JESSIE
91 Fair point.

LEET
92 Dr. Theo!

[collective sigh]

JESSIE
93 I hate to say it, but I don't think
so.

LEET
94 Why not?

JESSIE
95 Cahooty.

LEET
96 Ah.

COLIN
97 Is that everyone?

MADELINE
98 The 778 is a definite no, what about
Joe?

COLIN
99 He's truly odd, but I don't feel ...
unsafe around him. I mean, there's
always the initial shock of
discovering he's in the room, but I'm
starting to understand how that feels
from his perspective.

MADELINE
100 We are forgetting one.

JESSIE
101 Who?

102 Olivia.

103 Olivia?

104 We have to consider it. I mean, think about it. She melted down the D&G wing so she could wake us up, and I hate to say it, but I don't think we were the only crew that got awakened.

105 Oh god, I really don't want to think we can't trust her. I mean, the random electric shocks and occasionally getting gassed because she gets bored of listening to us, fine, but.... Jessie, why were you awake?

106 On the 6748? Dick said the microwave in crew room eleven shorted out.

107 Your AI woke you up because of a microwave?

108 Yeah, it did seem a bit flimsy at the time. It wasn't even on fire.

109 Well, if he hadn't, you'd be a bunch of space bits, floating out there for eternity.

110 That is true.... Still hate him, though.

111 You really do hold a grudge.

112 Again, murder. Hard to let that go.

113 Did we decide about Olivia?

LEET
114 We can trust her.

COLIN
115 YOU can. We don't all have your ...
assets.

JESSIE
116 I don't think it's his ass-sets she
cares about, but point taken. I'm
inclined to trust her, though, if
mostly because it scares the crap out
of me to think otherwise.

MADELINE
117 Same. Where is she, by the way?

COLIN
118 Probably trotting around inside Greg.

JESSIE
119 So, now that we've decided all this,
what do we do about it?

LEET
120 What *can* we do about it?

[they all ponder this for a moment]

MADELINE
121 What if we... try to take back control
of the ship?

COLIN
122 "Take back"?

MADELINE
123 Fine. TAKE control of the ship.
Whatever.

LEET
124 How?

JESSIE
125 The only way to do that is to get rid
of the plants.

COLIN
126 Well, so much for that idea. Perhaps
an escape pod?

MADELINE
127 There's gotta be a way. They must have
 some sort of weakness, a clink in
 their armor.

COLIN
128 "Clink"?

MADELINE
129 We just have to figure out what it is.

THE ALBATROS'S GENERAL AREA

NARRATOR
130 At the Ron Howard School of Expository
 Sciences, the first thing you're
 taught is the Narrator's Prime
 Directive: Narrators must never
 interfere with the natural development
 of plot lines. I could turn on this
 intercom right now and tell them that
 olive oil kills the plants, but I took
 the Attenbouric Oath. Does the fate of
 the crew, this ship, my god - *the*
 entire galaxy - rest in my hands?

FRENCH LICK - DAYTIME

FELONIUS
131 Sir, it's time for the final stage of
 the evacuation to begin. The vents are
 nearly aligned for the sulfuric spew.

TIBERIUS
132 Surely we can find a less disgusting
 name for what's about to happen?

FELONIUS
133 We're going to poison the planet,
 killing most of the life forms on it,
 whilst bugging off to a soon-to-be-
 terraformed planet many light years
 away, and you're concerned about what
 we call it?

TIBERIUS
134 Someday, Felonius, someone will write
 the history of this moment, when a few
 brave souls, the last, scrappy but
 impeccably dressed remnants of the
 human race, sacrificed their home so

that humanity might survive elsewhere.
I prefer our courageous relocation not
be referred to as the "human spew."

135 FELONIUS
It's the "sulfuric spew," Sir.

136 TIBERIUS
Can we just get the word "spew" out of
it entirely? Now it sounds funny.
Spew. Spew. How do you spell it?

137 FELONIUS
No idea, Sir. Are you ready to take
your place aboard the Oz Ark ship?

138 TIBERIUS
We're not actually using an Oz 8000
for US, are we? I thought that was a
sort of wink-wink inside joke while we
have the Tesla detailed?

139 FELONIUS
We are taking an Oz ship, Sir, but
this Oz 8000 is different.

140 TIBERIUS
How so?

141 FELONIUS
It was made to fly. In space.

142 TIBERIUS
How very novel. Do we have the four
sacred objects?

143 FELONIUS
They are all collected aboard the Oz
9, just as we expected they would be.

144 TIBERIUS
And with the ship's AI in corporeal
form, we can begin transferring the
plants back to Earth as soon as the 9
reaches ... how do you say their
planet name again?

145 FELONIUS
[makes a gagging sound]

146 TIBERIUS
Are you quite all right?

147 FELONIUS
I am, Sir. That's the name of their planet. [gagging sound]

148 TIBERIUS
How have I never known that?

149 FELONIUS
Because every time someone says the planet name around you, you send them to the nurse, Sir.

150 TIBERIUS
My god. First "spew" and now... say it again, Felonius?

151 FELONIUS
[gag]

152 TIBERIUS
[tries to repeat it]

153 FELONIUS
More phlegm, Sir. With a sort of gurgly death rattle at the end. [gag]

154 TIBERIUS
[tries again] How are the historians going to spell that?

155 FELONIUS
[sarcastic, mumbled] Yes, that is the most pressing question of the hour, Sir.

156 TIBERIUS
How long before ... the *spew*?

157 FELONIUS
Roughly.... seven more episodes, Sir.

158 TIBERIUS
Are we the cliffhanger, then?

159 FELONIUS
I suspect so, Sir.

160 TIBERIUS
Very good. You may take a candy from
my hand.

161 FELONIUS
Oh! What an honor, Sir. [unwraps
candy] It's quite warm. Where were you
keeping these?

162 TIBERIUS
Explain to me again how this transfer
of plants and planets will work?

163 FELONIUS
We've worked out the exchange rate:
for every plant that comes aboard the
Oz 9 from [gag], someone from Pod Bay
3 will be exchanged to our new planet.
It's a bit tricky, since it's not a
one-for-one, ship-to-earth trade, but
our numbers people assure me it'll
work. Once all the Pod Bay 3
inhabitants are safely in the biodome
on our new home planet, we'll switch
the coordinates. As plants come to
Earth from the Oz 9, one of the
evacuees - that's us, Sir - is taken
from the Oz Ark to the new planet.

164 TIBERIUS
This all sounds terribly fragile.

165 FELONIUS
I agree, Sir, but the scientists in
charge of managing the swaps will be
with us on the Ark, assuring us some
measure of trust.

166 TIBERIUS
Then what are we waiting for?

167 FELONIUS
The last piece, Sir. Dr. von Haber
Zetzer's AI. We need it to fly the Ark
and to allow the space door to stay
open long enough to complete all the
exchanges.

168 TIBERIUS
Can we trust it?

FELONIUS
169 Not for a nanosecond. But we're
bringing its pet monkey aboard, as
well as the Doctor. That should give
it reason enough to see us safely to
the new planet. Once there, the sacred
objects and the one will be brought
together to conduct the terraforming,
burning themselves out in the process,
and assuring no one can follow us.

TIBERIUS
170 I must say, Felonius, this is all
coming together rather nicely.

FELONIUS
171 No one is more surprised than I, Sir.
Except possibly the writer.

TIBERIUS
172 I'm going to have a shower. I shall
miss the Showertorium. Queue up the
Admiral's speech on the intercoms,
will you? One last listen before we
depart.

FELONIUS
173 Very good, Sir.

NEARBY

BEN
174 Well, I guess that's sealed it. We
have even less time than we thought.

PLUTO
175 How do you know this?

BEN
176 Know what?

PLUTO
177 That the timeline has accelerated.

BEN
178 Didn't you just hear that
conversation?

PLUTO
179 I did, but we had no idea the original
timeline, nor do we know the current

one, so how do we know we have less time than previously?

BEN
180 Is this important right now?

PLUTO
181 Far be it from me to say "the devil is in the details," but ... here I am.

[phone rings]

BEN
182 Hang on, that might be Julie. Hello?

MRS SHEFFFIELD
183 Hello, Benjamin? Mrs Sheffield here.

BEN
184 Why are you calling me? Aren't you, like, just over there?

MRS SHEFFFIELD
185 Oh, heavens no. I'm on the Oz 9 now.

BEN
186 What?!

PLUTO
187 Who is it? What's happening?

BEN
188 Mrs Sheffield is on the Oz 9!

PLUTO
189 Oh, yes. I knew that.

BEN
190 You knew that?

MRS SHEFFFIELD
191 Slightly less hysteria, please, Ben. You're making Greg's kidneys rattle.

BEN
192 Who's Greg?

GREG
193 "Who's Greg"? Seriously?

194 MRS SHEFFFIELD
He's the zebra with the phone.

195 BEN
The entire galaxy is just a giant
asylum, isn't it.

196 MRS SHEFFFIELD
Well, yes. Have you never met Wonko
the Sane?

197 ALBATROS
Mrs Sheffield, perhaps we could stick
to the point?

198 MRS SHEFFIELD
Yes, yes, very well, Alby. Look,
Benjamin my boy, I'd love to chat more
about your tenuous grip on reality,
but time is of the essence. Is Pluto
with you?

199 BEN
Yes. The ancient god who is the king
of hell is standing next to me in
golden short shorts, and I'm about to
hand him a cell phone so he can talk
to a British spy in space on a ship
full of hostile plants that want to
kill us all and take over Earth. Can
you hold?

200 MRS SHEFFIELD
Don't be pert, Benjamin, it doesn't
suit you. Is Julie there as well?

201 PLUTO
Julie is on golf ball collection duty.

202 ALBATROS
Julie is? You put your botanist and
best- sorry, ONLY strategist on golf
ball duty?

203 PLUTO
She is the strongest swimmer amongst
us.

204 ALBATROS
Does that really seem like the best
allocation of resources?

205 MRS SHEFFFIELD
We'll let that one go for now, shall we? We've gathered the four sacred objects up here, but we seem to be missing our "tie that binds them." You haven't seen a tiny, greenish-hued artificial intelligence, have you? Rather Dickensian-urchin sounding?

206 BEN
Isn't that ... Olivia? The ship's AI is on earth? Who's flying the ship?

207 MRS SHEFFFIELD
Now, don't get your Yankee overalls unbuckled at one shoulder... is that how it goes?

208 BEN
How *what* goes?

209 MRS SHEFFFIELD
American idioms are a minefield of confusion, aren't they.

210 ALBATROS
Moving on with some urgency, Clara.

211 GREG
Yeah, could we hurry this up? Long-distance calls make me have to tinkle.

212 JOE
Gentlemen.

213 PLUTO/BEN/MRS SHEFFIELD/ALBATROS/GREG
Me!/Jesus!

214 JOE
Even over the phone, huh? Good to know. Hello, Mrs. S., everyone.

215 MRS SHEFFIELD
Joseph. Still wearing the belt, are we?

216 JOE
Keeps me off Tiberius's radar.

217 MRS SHEFFIELD
Fine, but you might have brought

enough for the whole class.

218 BEN
I still don't understand the plan.
We've got a crap ton of golf balls,
but there's no way we can hit every
golf course in the world in time.

219 PLUTO
Again, I must ask how you know how
much time we have?

220 BEN
NOT NOW.

221 ALBATROS
We need to find Olivia.

222 PLUTO
Have you no sensors?

223 ALBATROS
Not for her corporeal form, no.

224 GREG
I've checked my insides; she's not
there.

225 BEN
She's away from the four sacred
objects, so surely that's a good
thing.

226 PLUTO
Not particularly. Remember what we
just heard from Tiberius and Felonius.

227 JOE
Oh, lord. Now what? Lemme guess,
they've discovered a way to give
everyone on Earth a really nasty paper
cut on their way out.

228 BEN
Not exactly. They want Olivia because
they want to make her the AI of their
escape ship, the "Oz Ark."

229 PLUTO
And then exhaust her power and the
power of the sacred objects in

terraforming another planet for
themselves and the occupants of Pod
Bay 3.

230 MRS SHEFFFIELD
If she's powering the Oz Ark, they'll
likely force her to bring that ship
alongside the Oz 9, to have the
objects in close proximity. Or....

231 ALBATROS
No.

232 MRS SHEFFFIELD
Peut etre! Didn't Colin say one of the
Pod Bay occupants was already missing?

233 BEN
Or what? Poot what?

234 MRS SHEFFFIELD
Poot--never mind. It's possible the
occupants of Pod Bay 3 are being
slowly awakened to be ready to grab
the sacred objects once the exchanges
of plants and humans are complete.

235 GREG
Man, every day is just worse than the
last. And I REALLY have to tinkle.

236 ALBATROS
You can't let them get hold of her.
You need to find Olivia and get her
back to the Oz 9.

237 GREG
But we've got all the sacred objects
up here. Do we have any idea what'll
happen if the four-oh-one are all
together?

238 JOE
Long may it- dammit! There are some
sacred books in the Showertorium that
might shed some light.

239 BEN
We looked all over that place. I don't
remember any sacred books.

JOE
240 They're *behind* the pornography.

BEN
241 Oh.

ALBATROS
242 Get the books. Get the urchin. Get moving!

PLUTO
243 Wait. Let me speak to Donna.

ALBATROS
244 She's not here. I can relay a message
- what do you want to tell her?

PLUTO
245 Tell her I yearn for the sweet,
rounded vowels of her Minnesotan
homeland, I pine for the heat of her
hand on my arm, I hunger for her maple
flavored lips and deceptively
hackneyed sounding wisdom. Tell her-

ALBATROS
246 Nope. I'll let her know you say hi.

ALBATROS'S GENERAL AREA

NARRATOR
247 You've been listening to:

Eric Perry as Joe and Howard
Sarah Golding as Mrs Sheffield
David S Dear as Tiberius
June Clark Eubanks as the Albatros
Aaron Clark as Ben
Richard Cowen as Leet
Kevin Hall as Greg and Felonius
Tim Sherburn as Colin and Emily
Bonnie Brantley as Jessie
Lee Shackelford as Pluto
Shannon Perry as Madeline
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 and produced by Shannon Perry.
Support us on Patreon by going to our

website, Oz dash nine dot com and
following the links.
Until next time, Space Monkeys,
Narrator out.

THE CREAKING HOLD OF A SHIP AT SEA

248 NARRATOR 2
 Who's there?

249 EMILY
 We- I am.

250 NARRATOR 2
 Step forward. I can't see you.
 [footsteps, Narr 2 gasps] What the
 hell happened to your other half?

251 EMILY
 Flattened by an alligator. An
 unfortunate but necessary sacrifice.

252 HOWARD
 [urgent mumbles through flat mouth]

253 NARRATOR 2
 What's he saying?

254 EMILY
 I have no idea, but it probably
 includes the words "there" and "Tater
 Tot."

255 NARRATOR 2
 Where are we?

256 EMILY
 On a boat. At sea. I see you brought
 your microphone.

257 NARRATOR 2
 Narrator code. We never travel without
 it.

258 EMILY
 It looks very much like the one the
 other fellow had.

259 NARRATOR 2
 Oh, sure. But his is a Next-Gen Audio-

Technica AT2035 with built-in
broadcast capabilities. I won't get
one like that until I pass my boards.

260 EMILY
Where did your microphone come from?

261 NARRATOR 2
Oh, this old thing? I found it in the
basement of MCCACEC. Cleaned up nice,
don't you think?

262 EMILY
It ... glows. With purpose.

263 HOWARD
[urgent mmmffffrrrling]

264 EMILY
Hush, Dear. Do you think I might
borrow your microphone? Just for a
while.

265 NARRATOR 2
Oh, well, I hate to be rude, but a
microphone is kinda like the nib on a
fountain pen. Once it's set for one
person's speech patterns and oral
resonance, it doesn't work very well
for anyone else. And if someone else
uses it differently, well, it's just
never the same.

266 EMILY
And yet, I think you will allow me to
borrow it.

267 NARRATOR 2
Oh, I'd really rather not. And since I
have arms, and you don't, I don't see
as how you're gonna get it from me.

268 EMILY
c]sF?:Z62S (small C, right bracket,
small s, capital F, question mark,
colon, capital Z, numeral six, numeral
two, capital S)

269 NARRATOR 2
I beg your- [shutting down sounds]

EMILY

270

I suspected as much. How kind of Leet to teach us his password-guessing methods. Now, to retrieve his microphone. Howard. HOWARD. With me. I need you to move your leg. HOWARD. Crap.