

Putting the freeze on boogerology

Oz 9 Episode 48

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The bioswamp in daytime. Greg is wandering through, eating different things.

NARRATOR

1 Last night, I stayed up late,
 sketching out ways to communicate with
 the Ninecompoops about the plants. I
 came up with Morse Code, signal flags,
 coded messages, and writing on mirrors
 in their bunks. Then I realized I
 can't do any of those things, so I
 went to sleep instead. [pause] It's
 actually quite lovely in the bioswamp
 right now: a mild breeze is blowing,
 Albert is gently rumbling in his
 sleep, even the rabid egrets are quiet
 for a change. A sun is shining, and
 there's nothing to disturb the
 stillness of this sanctuary. Almost.

GREG

2 [chews, spits in disgust] ACK! Come on
 now, y'all, enough of this. I'm tired
 of eating Marigags and Bittercups and
 Hollyhurls. And don't think I don't
 hear you giggling over the kidney
 phone. Someone down there on earth
 better be getting some *science* from
 all this.

LBF

3 Monsieur le Zebra?

GREG

4 "Greg" is fine. Please excuse the
 drooling; I'm snacking for science
 today, and I believe something I ate
 was kinda toxic. What can I do for
 you?

LBF

5 Are you certain you are all right?
 Your tongue is quite ... turquoise.

6 GREG
Oh, ignore that. It's covered in
layers of litmus paper. If it starts
to go bright red, would you mind
feeding me some of the baking powder
in my saddle bag? Oh, and if you could
speak to me on my left side, that'd be
a big help. There's a potato in my
right ear at the moment.

7 LBF
Ehhhh, very well. Why the potato?

8 GREG
Testing it as a back-up power source.
Swamptaters seem to have a bit more
kick to 'em.

9 LBF
I see. Yeeeeeeeeee! One of your
eyeballs is rolling.

10 GREG
Seismograph.

11 LBF
You are measuring earthquakes...on a
space ship?

12 GREG
Rapid detection system for engine
malfunction. Ship vibrates differently
when there's a spanner in the works.
Or Howard's arm. That one was my idea.
Let me know if it really starts
rolling.

13 LBF
It is most disconcerting. However,
this leads me to my point. You are our
only connection with the Earth that is
working at the moment, is that right?

14 GREG
I believe so, for now.

15 LBF
What if you were to have some sort of
accident?

16 GREG
[suspicious] I beg your pardon?

17 LBF
Do not be concerned, Monsieur le
Zebra! I realize when an assassin of
my caliber asks such a question, it
can cause some ... discomfortableness.
I merely ask in case of emergency!

18 GREG
Uh huh. And how soon should I expect
this "emergency"?

19 LBF
Ah, you are too suspicious! If I may
be so bold, Mon- Greg, it is only that
I find I have developed ... feelings
for someone. You see?

20 GREG
I see.

21 LBF
And should there be, shall we say, an
interruption in your ability to
communicate, and only in the most
extremement of emergencies, of course,
can use be made of your kidneys
without your assistance?

22 GREG
Who's the lucky crew member?

23 LBF
Ah, now, a gentleman does not speak of
such things.

24 GREG
Mr. Frise, last night, *during dinner*,
you told us of a time when you
assassinated someone and hid his
fingers, eyeballs, and nose in plastic
Easter eggs and hid them around the
city. On Easter weekend. Dressed as a
bunny.

25 LBF
But of course it was Easter weekend!
It is the only time when those little
plastic eggs are to be found in the
everything-for-one-franc shops!

26 GREG
My point is, calling yourself a
"gentleman" might be a bit of a
stretch.

27 LBF
In truth, I have the passions for the
... eh... strangely accented woman
from earth. This is why I wish to have
access to your kidneys.

28 GREG
Can we call it a telephone from now
on? You having dibs on my kidneys is
making me nervous.

29 LBF
Yes, yes, I would not want your
kidneys to be nervous. You understand
my wish to communicate even if you
are... incommunicado, oui?

30 GREG
Far be it from me to stand in the path
of true love. The external override
for my phone is up my left nostril.

31 LBF
You are not serious.

32 GREG
I am. But relax, Frise, I'm a machine.
There's nothing up there but some
wires and a button. Push it and hold,
and you'll be connected to the G2
switchboard. Can't guarantee there'll
be anyone there to answer, but it's
worth a shot. Don't let up on the
button, though, or you'll disconnect.

33 LBF
I see. Well, this is very good to know, should there ever be any sort of GREVY'S BOAT.

sound of Greg powering down

34 LBF
Argh! Why must you go to sleep with your snoot nearly touching the ground! This is most awkward. Perhaps if I lie down... Ugh. I should have said your password in a less squelchy place. Ah. *Bien*. Now, was it left nostril or the right? *Mon dieu*, why did I not listen more closely! Who knows what might be up the wrong side? Ah, well, *bonne chance* to me! [grunts and noises as he starts fishing] Your face is very long and heavy, Monsieur. I am up to my elbow already and there is no button here. Ah! There! What is that? GAH! THAT HAD FUR!!! Wrong side! Wrong side! Monsieur le Zebra, I am suddenly unfond of you. All right. Side la gauche. Going very carefully now...up...past le elbow...nothing furry or with the teeth... Ah! Le button!

35 OPERATOR
Good morning, Gated Galaxies, may I have your credit card number, please?

36 LBF
What?

37 OPERATOR
You're already in debt to G2 for four letters and a question mark, Sir; may I advise you that the next thing you say should be a credit card number?

38 LBF
I am trying to contact Monsieur Southers. I do not have a credit card.

39 OPERATOR
You don't have a credit card? In that
case, you are able to lower your
already sizable debt through hard
labor. Shall I put you down for coal
mining or teaching high school
English?

40 LBF
What are you saying? What is this?

41 OPERATOR
Sir, your phone bill is now large
enough to impoverish your
grandchildren. You may be able to
relieve some of their suffering
through organ donation. I hear from
your accent that you're French, so we
aren't able to accept your liver. A
kidney or lung will gain you nearly
800 credits.

42 LBF
This is *incroyable*! Get me Monsieur
Southers *tout de suite*!

43 OPERATOR
For every word I'm forced to
translate, you incur an additional
fee. May I suggest you stick to
English? Mr. Southers is a patriot,
Sir.

44 LBF
I am lying on my back in a swamp, with
my arm up to my shoulder in a zebra's
nostril.

45 OPERATOR
What you do in your free time is
entirely up to you, though if you
insist on confiding in me, there will
be an additional confidentiality
surcharge.

46 LBF
This is ridiculous! Stop this nonsense
speaking at once.

47 OPERATOR
This call is now entering zone 2, and
all fees double in zone 2.

48 LBF
Zone 2?

49 OPERATOR
You're tetchy. That costs extra.

50 LBF
Find Monsieur Southers and tell him I
have found. his. dog.

51 OPERATOR
Sir, I- Hang on, his dog?!

52 LBF
Yes! Le- Uhhhhh... the bitching
freeze.

53 OPERATOR
Transferring you now.

54 SOUTHERS
[whispering] What?!

55 OPERATOR
A gentleman on the phone for you, Sir.
He says he has found your dog.

56 SOUTHERS
What?! Cuddles?

57 OPERATOR
Perhaps another time, Sir.

58 SOUTHERS
Oh, for god's sake, just patch him
through!

59 LBF
'Allo? I mean, hello?

60 SOUTHERS
Freeze? That you? Why do you sound so
muffled?

61 LBF
I am talking up a zebra's nose and
through his kidneys.

62 SOUTHERS
I don't care if you're talking out
King Tut's sphincter on mummy's day!
Dang. This is one of those rare times
when your reality is weirder than my
homespun wisdom. Now tell me about my
dog!

63 MRS SHEFFIELD
Who the devil are you talking to? And
shove over; you're taking up all the
room in the tent!

64 SOUTHERS
This ain't a tent, it's a GD straight
jacket with zippers!

65 MRS SHEFFIELD
Well, I suspect you'd know what that
feels like better than I.

66 SOUTHERS
What exactly are you implying?

67 JULIE
Would you two shut up? We're trying to
lay low, remember?

68 SOUTHERS
I am lying on the ground on an
inflatable sleeping pad that was blown
up by a lazy, one-lunged lackey with
asthma. I can't lay much lower.

69 BUCK
You blow it up next time. You got
enough hot air to keep the Macy's
Thanksgiving parade goin'.

70 BEN
Buck, I swear, you stick your foot in
my face *one more time...*

71 BUCK
Oh, yeah? What're you gonna do, huh?

72 DONNA
I'd like to lie on my right side now.
Everyone ready for a roll over? Count
of 3!

73 GLEENDA
Shut it, all of ya.

74 SOUTHERS
THAT'S IT. Let me outta here.

Southers keeps mumbling while struggling to get loose, rustling sleeping bag, zipper, **grumbling from others** "you're stepping on my hair," etc. **LBF**, some "allo? are you there? Southers!" etc. from you, plz.

75 SOUTHERS
I went from a 65-room mansion with a chandelier in the GD refrigerator to a sweaty tent in the middle of nowhere. No scotch, no servants, just a bunch of hippie idiot do-gooders, AAAAAAH! Free at last.

76 MRS SHEFFIELD
Remember, there are bears out there.

77 SOUTHERS
Why, Mrs. Sheffield, are you expressing concern for my well-bein'?

78 MRS SHEFFIELD
No, I just want you to step away from the tent so it only eats you and not the rest of us.

79 SOUTHERS
HI-larious. Freeze, you still there?

80 LBF
Oui.

81 SOUTHERS
Tell me about Cuddles!

82 LBF
Ehhhhh, that is odd, but very well. When two peoples are very very fond of one another, they wrap their arms around each other...

83 SOUTHERS
Oh, for the sake of a batter-fried rattlesnake dropping, would you tell me about my dog?!

LBF

84 Ah, oui. I have found him and he is well. I am calling you to learn how to thaw him out safely without having to involve the so-saucy computer.

SOUTHERS

85 Is he in pod bay 3?

LBF

86 He is.

SOUTHERS

87 Then you just flip the lever on the side of his pod and open the door. No one in that bay was frozen using the MRDR protocol. Just shut the door quick before my wife wakes up, or you'll be dreaming of the sweet release of death before your first anniversary. Ah hell, something's rattlin' the bushes. You get him out safe and high-tail it back here, you hear me?

LBF

88 Oui. Wait, what is this "high tail"? Argh! He has hung up. How do I return to Earth? Perhaps the "high tail" is the name of the escape vessel?

sounds of **shouting from Southers**, phone disconnects

NARRATOR

89 Having overheard the Albatros' explanation of how to get in and out of pod bay 3, the Bichon Frise is able to enter the secure area undetected and with relative safety. His math isn't quite as good as hers, so he ends up with a few bruises and a cracked rib, but I did say "relative" safety. Once in pod bay 3, however, he doesn't release Mrs. Southers or her dog.

sound of pod door opening

LBF

90 Ow ow ow ow! Come along. You'll be all
 right in a minute. Lean on me. Ow! Ow!
 No! No! Do NOT lean on me!! Now...
 where is that button? Ah. Here.
 Allons-y! We have only 3 minutes.

sounds of the bridge

THEO

91 I'm no psychologist, but I do think we
 need to be cautious. The Bichon Frise-

JOE

92 Pretty sure that's "Freeze."

THEO

93 Nope. ...is a man of drive and
 ambition. Without a mission to keep
 him occupied, he could be even more
 dangerous.

MADELINE

94 It's not that I don't agree with you,
 Doc; but what do you want me to do? I
 can't exactly offer up one of the crew
 as a target to keep him busy. Much as
 I'd like to.

THEO

95 You know, asides don't really work
 when you're standing this close to me.
 I can still hear you.

MADELINE

96 So what do you suggest?

THEO

97 Standing farther away.

MADELINE

98 Don't be silly. I mean, what do you
 suggest about the Freeze?

THEO

99 You need to give him something to do.
 Something that doesn't involve killing
 anyone.

100 MADELINE
Like what? I'm pretty sure that's all
he knows.

101 THEO
The Bichon Frise-

102 JOE
Pretty sure-

103 THEO
May I?

104 JOE
Just sayin'.

105 THEO
Thank you. He is extremely arrogant,
so whatever you tell him to do, it
needs to feel important, vitally
necessary, even.

106 JOE
That sounds like a really bad idea.

107 THEO
It doesn't have to *be* important. It
just has to *seem* important.

108 OLIVIA
So, like being the captain then?

109 MADELINE
Hey!

110 JOE
You got any suggestions, Doctor Theo?

111 THEO
I do, actually, one that both *seems*
and *is* critically important. But also
keeps him constrained so he can't do
any damage. He could be: *my research*
assistant.

112 JOE
[unimpressed] Wow.

THEO
113 I know. It's at considerable
sacrifice, as he'll no doubt slow me
down exponentially, but I'm prepared
to, as they say, "make one for the
team."

JOE
114 "Make" one? Make one what, exactly?

THEO
115 A sacrifice. Good heavens, Joe, stay
up with the modern vernacular.

JOE
116 Yeah. Ok. I'll try.

MADELINE
117 What would you have him do?

THEO
118 I'm sure I can find something. I
spotted him this morning lying on his
back in the bioswamp with his arm up
the zebra's nose. Clearly Frise has
some rudimentary scientific instincts.

JOE
119 Freeze had his arm up Greg's nose?
Why?

THEO
120 I have no idea. I can only surmise
Frise was gathering some sort of
information.

JOE
121 I'll bet he was.

OLIVIA
122 I vote yes. Absolutely and
immediately. Now.

JOE
123 You do?

OLIVIA
124 One less person for me to keep track
of. OK, so we're putting the Freeze on
boogerology; what do we do about
Colin?

THEO
125 Why does anything need to be done
about Colin?

OLIVIA
126 Do you really want a super-powered
sulker aboard this ship?

door opens

ALBATROS
127 We've got to do something about Colin.

THEO
128 I wasn't aware there was a branch of
science called "boogerology."

OLIVIA
129 Have you never heard of Professor
Curtis Armstrong?

ALBATROS
130 Captain. We need to get Colin into a
healer pod instantly.

JOE
131 What's wrong with him?

ALBATROS
132 Wait. Is he here? Colin?

OLIVIA
133 He's in his bunk. His left cheek
showed up today, and he's too
embarrassed to come out.

THEO
134 Why? Does he need to shave?

OLIVIA
135 Well, it wouldn't hurt, but he might
have a time doing it. Hard to shave
what you can't see.

THEO
136 I thought you said it showed up? Why
can't he see his cheek?

JOE
137 Very funny, Olivia.

THEO
138 What? Ohhhhh.... Ha!

ALBATROS
139 Now that we've concluded the
discussion on boogers and butt cheeks,
perhaps the adults in the room could
take over?

looooooong silence, giggling

140 Oh, for heaven's sake, CAPTAIN! And I
expected better from you, Dr. Theo.

THEO
141 I confess, I am finding this
conversation quite amusing. I believe
I may be regressing. Fascinating.... I
wonder if it's oxygen deprivation, or
just the company I'm keeping...

MADELINE
142 AHM. What's wrong with Colin?

ALBATROS
143 Please give him something to do. There
is only so much besotted adoration I
can handle before I change my mind and
feed him to the damn plant. For now,
guilt over his wife is keeping him in
check, but I'd prefer not to find out
how Colin ... woos a woman. [shivers]

OLIVIA
144 Does anyone know what happened to
Colin's wife? I mean, why she's alive
and if anyone actually tried to kill
her?

JOE
145 And why is she in pod bay 3?

ALBATROS
146 Does it matter?

OLIVIA
147 Yes, it does. That's the VIP wing.
It's almost entirely off my radar
except ambient temp and a few other
things, and no one in there is subject
to the MRDR protocol.

ALBATROS
148 I see. So she's important. Or
important to someone-

JOE
149 *Important.* Olivia, you have comms in
pod bay 3, don't you?

OLIVIA
150 Yeah, but I can only get in there when
someone with a body tag is there as
well.

ALBATROS
151 There's a whole room full of people
with body tags in there.

OLIVIA
152 Platinum body tags, yes. You don't get
it. Those aren't passengers like Colin
or any of the others. I did a bit of
prowling and discovered that pod bay 3
is totally independent of my life
preserving systems, AND it has an
automatic jettison function.

JOE
153 So, a big enough bang, from, say, an
apocalypse device, and it pops off
like an air bag.

OLIVIA
154 Yep. And far as I can figure, it can
be steered from earth.

ALBATROS
155 So what does that mean? Clearly they
weren't intended to be food for the
plants.

JOE
156 I'll bet Southers knows something -
maybe everything. And he's with our
gang now, so maybe they'll get some
answers from him.

THEO
157 Or get him killed.

NARRATOR
158 So. Colin's wife is in the VIP wing,
but not because he put her there.
Meanwhile, Colin is falling in love
with the Albatros who will only break
his heart. And then feed it to him.
Personally, my money is on Leet and
Dr. Theo. They seem well-matched, like
Leet can protect the Doctor from all
his swooning fans, and- Oh. My. God.
What is happening to me?

DONNA
159 Well, let's try to steer clear of that
from now on, all righty?

GLENDA
160 What the hell? Did that bear just give
you a fish?

MRS SHEFFIELD
161 Oh yes, you haven't met the new Donna,
have you? The one who can terrify the
black bears with nothing more than
Minnesotan homilies?

DONNA
162 I only suggested he consider fattening
up on berries instead of losing his
own.

SOUTHERS
163 That was damned impressive, all I can
say.

DONNA
164 I come from the land of the Vikings,
you know. I once kissed the Kensington
Runestone.

SOUTHERS

165 The what-?

BEN

166 DON'T-! Dammit!

A nooooooo of sorts from **Mrs Sheffield**, and groans from **Ben/Glenda/Mrs S** to go under Donna's speech.

DONNA

167 Just proof that the Vikings were in the land now known as Minnesota as long ago as 1362, that's all. It's a stone slab covered in runes, discovered by Olof Ohman in 1898, tangled in the roots of a tree.

BEN

168 Hey! Where's Julie?!

MRS SHEFFIELD

169 Ah! Excellent distraction technique, Benjamin!

BEN

170 No, really - where is she?

GLENDA

171 She was just here. Wasn't she?

DONNA

172 And where's Buck?

MRS SHEFFIELD

173 He ran into the lake to get away from the bear.

DONNA

174 Did no one tell him black bears can swim?

MRS SHEFFIELD

175 I'm sure one of us would have...had we known that.

SOUTHERS

176 Your lady wife has been mighty keen to get back to those tunnels. We should probably head on back, just in case. I reckon she just slipped away to do some reconnoitering on her own.

177 BEN
Honestly, I have no idea what Julie's
capable of.

178 MRS SHEFFIELD
She may not have known herself until
recently. Nothing like a good
adventure to loosen the bolts, eh?

179 BEN
I'll try her cell again.

180 JULIE
Don't bother. I'm here.

181 DONNA
There you are! You missed the
excitement. Where you been?

182 JULIE
It looked like you had the bear
situation under control, so I went
back to the hotel. I created those
plants. I just wanted to be sure they
hadn't hurt anyone.

183 BEN
Couldn't you just wait until tomorrow
and read it in the newspapers like
everybody else? So what actually
happened?

184 JULIE
The plants are gone. Everyone's OK,
there's no damage except the shower
curtain and the carpet are gone. Looks
like they went out the bathroom
window.

185 SOUTHERS
No doubt heading back to the tunnels
to join up with momma and poppa plant.
We should intercept them before they
get a chance to join forces.

186 JULIE
I can't believe I'm saying this, but I
agree with Southers. The tunnels are
unattended now, but the closer they
get to whatever they're planning, the
harder it'll be to get in there.

187 SOUTHERS
Young lady, people pay good money to
agree with me.

188 JULIE
No, they pay good money to not get
beat up. There's a difference.

189 SOUTHERS
Not on my end, there ain't.

190 MRS SHEFFFIELD
I'd pay you hush money right now, if I
thought it would work.

191 DONNA
Seems like going back might be more
informative if we had an idea what
we're looking for. How's about we
split up? Two of us can scout for info
in the resort, and three of us can
head to the tunnels.

192 SOUTHERS
I reckon it's the tunnels for me.

193 DONNA
Oh, you miscounted. Ben, Mrs.
Sheffield, Julie, Glenda and I make
five. I reckon it's the trunk for you.

194 SOUTHERS
Oh, now come on! Ain't I shown I can
be trusted?

195 JULIE/BEN/DONNA/MRS SHEFFFIELD
No. Not at all. Not in the least.
Nope, etc.

196 MRS SHEFFFIELD
Don't look so disappointed, Southers.
If Buck survives, you'll have someone
to keep you company. If he doesn't,
you'll have more room and oxygen.

197 SOUTHERS
FINE. But leave me my flask. Nope,
leave me one of yours, there ain't
room for me and my flask in there.

198 DONNA
All right, then, let's break down the
campsite and get a move on!

noise and mumbling from Mrs. Sheffield, Southers, Donna re:
cleaning up, going to tunnels, etc.

199 JULIE
Ben!

200 BEN
What?

201 JULIE
Southers didn't offer to stay here.

202 BEN
Why would he? That tent is more
uncomfortable than our old fold-out
couch.

203 JULIE
More uncomfortable than the trunk of a
car? He's up to something.

204 BEN
He is the one who suggested we go back
to the tunnels. You think he might
know what we're looking for?

205 JULIE
I'm sure he does. He's in this up to
his overgrown ear holes. We have GOT
to get in touch with the Oz 9 and find
out what they've learned. And to warn
them to stay away from the plants. I
just hope they haven't done anything
stupid.

206 NARRATOR
[laughing, trying to speak] Hang on a
minute. Wait. Wait. Sorry, this is so
unprofessional. Hang on, just gimme a
sec. Ok, Ok, avocado yogurt, avocado
yogurt. Sorry. That was just...
[laughs]. Deep breath, deep breath.
I'm good. So, Julie and company are
clearly living in an alternate fantasy
reality in which the crew of the Oz 9
might go 10 whole minutes without
doing something stupid. On the ship,

the crew are doing something stupid. You've been listening to: Kevin Hall as Greg, Aaron Clark as le Bichon Frise and Ben, Eric Perry as Joe and Mr. Southers, Sarah Golding as Mrs Sheffield, Iri Alexander as Julie, Tim Sherburn as Buck, Bonnie Brantley as Donna, June Clark Eubanks as Glenda and the Albatros, David S Dear as Dr. Theo Bromae, Shannon Perry as Olivia and Madeline, and guest starring Nikki Richardson as the Gated Galaxies Switchboard Operator. Our music was 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. We love reviews (glowing ones, preferably), so feel free to leave us one on Podchaser, Apple Podcasts, or the podcatcher of your choice. Until next time, Space Monkeys, Narrator out!