

Oz 9 eighty-eight: A hairball in your haggis  
by Shannon Perry

EPISODE 88 - NARRATORS' BRIDGE

1                   N2  
It's night on the Oz 9. That is to  
say, it's the time most of the crew  
choose to call "night," since in space  
there really isn't day or-

2                   NARRATOR  
TWO. What did I say about exposition?

3                   N2  
(sulkily) I don't remember.

4                   NARRATOR  
Twoooooooooo....

5                   N2  
I'm trying to create a picture here.

6                   NARRATOR  
The corridors of the Oz 9 are silent,  
not even the whisper of a mop nor the  
hollow ring of boots to be heard. The  
lights are dim now, and the windows no  
longer reflect the fragile humans  
within but instead reveal the endless  
night. The hush is complete save for  
the quiet, raspy breathing of slightly  
over 40,000 sleeping passengers-

(alarm goes off)

7                   N2  
(whispers) Pod Bay 14.

8                   NARRATOR  
of just under 40,000 sleeping  
passengers.

(alarm stops)

9                   N2  
That was awesome.

10                  NARRATOR  
You'll get there.

There's a thump against the window.

11 N2  
Jesus! What the hell just hit the  
window?

12 NARRATOR  
Kudzu bread. There were some pretty  
rancid loaves in the kitchen on this  
floor, so I fwipped 'em. What are you  
doing?

13 N2  
Practicing my golf swing. What are you  
doing? FORE!

14 NARRATOR  
Shadowing in this drawing of Albert.  
What's the par for this hole?

15 N2  
Four. Shadowing, huh? It's very  
subtle.

16 NARRATOR  
We're nothing if not subtle 'round  
here.

#### THE BIO SWAMP

17 GREG  
(humming to himself)

18 JESSIE  
What

19 GREG  
Jesus!

20 JESSIE  
are you doing?

21 GREG  
I'm tending to my mushrooms! What the  
hell are you doing up?

22 JESSIE  
Couldn't sleep. Any of those good for  
insomnia?

23 GREG  
Why don't you lie down and let the  
mold wrap you up?

24 JESSIE  
Worked up too much of an immunity. And  
now I know there's zombies wandering  
round the ship...

25 GREG  
Yeah. Olivia said Pod Bay 14 just went  
offline, so we may have more by  
morning.

26 JESSIE  
Well, that'll put a hairball in your  
haggis. You got any fungus in there  
that'll make me not care about  
zombies?

27 GREG  
No ma'am, and don't you start taste  
testing again. Remember how crazy you  
got last time when you ate four-

28 JESSIE  
Shadowing me again, eh?

29 DR THEO  
Not at all. Just feeling a bit  
restless.

30 GREG  
Did either of you do something with  
the kudzu bread up on Level 17?

31 DR THEO  
No. Why?

32 GREG  
I've been doing some experimenting  
with the Albatros's recipe and some of  
these mushrooms. Went up to check on  
the fermentation process, and the  
loaves were gone.

33 JESSIE  
Ehhh, probably Dr. von HalfWit's ants.

34 DR THEO  
How many loaves did you lose?

35 GREG  
Four.

36 JESSIE  
Shadow!

37 GREG  
Beg your pardon?

38 JESSIE  
Och, my wee friend there. See him  
poking his head out of that burrow? I  
named him Shadow as he only ever comes  
out when it's dark.

39 DR THEO  
Well, that's inaccurate. Shadows  
appear in the light.

40 JESSIE  
I'm training him to attack people who  
annoy me.

41 GREG  
He's gonna be mighty busy.

42 OLIVIA  
Hello? Swamp things?

43 DR THEO  
Yes, Olivia?

44 OLIVIA  
We've got a problem. Another problem,  
that is.

45 DR VON HABER ZETZER  
Vy is everyone here in ze swamp?  
Ooooo! Is it Albert's time?

46 JESSIE  
Why are you here?

47 DR VON HABER ZETZER  
Oh, I am just here for zum...fresh  
air.

48 JESSIE  
No one comes to the bio swamp for  
fresh air. You're here for the  
shrooms!

49 GREG  
They're NOT shrooms! But you are here

to steal my mushrooms.

50 DR VON HABER ZETZER  
Don't be absurd, my boy.

51 GREG  
Then why do you have a frying pan?

52 DR VON HABER ZETZER  
Ehhhh... To protect myself from  
egrets, of course.

53 DR THEO  
And the butter?

54 DR VON HABER ZETZER  
Very well, I was hoping to add a  
little fungal zest to my egret egg  
soufflé. But I see someone has already  
had a bit of a nibble.

55 GREG  
Dang, you're right!

56 OLIVIA  
Yeah, if we could take just a moment  
and regroup, I did say we had a new  
problem.

57 GREG  
Hoooo, I sure hope that wasn't Albert.  
That patch is ... aggressive. How did  
I not notice some were missing?

58 DR THEO  
I don't think it could be Albert. The  
plants between the cave entrance and  
that patch are untrammeled.

59 JESSIE  
You're right. How the hell? Must've  
been an egret.

60 OLIVIA  
I don't think so.

61 JESSIE  
There's no footprints, no path. It has  
to be a bird.

OLIVIA  
62 Mmmmmmmmmmm.... does it, though?

DR THEO  
63 Apparently Olivia already knows the  
answer and is waiting for one of us to  
ask.

OLIVIA  
64 Let me just turn on the intercom....

COLIN  
65 (over the intercom, in the background,  
flying) I've got you now, foul fiend!

OLIVIA  
66 What else flies? And eats mushrooms?

COLIN  
67 You'll never take me! (flies headlong  
into wall) AUGH!

Thump as Colin knocks himself out and falls. **Makes gurgling noises.**

GREG  
68 Oh hell.

OLIVIA  
69 He's gurgling up foam. If anyone's  
interested.

DR THEO  
70 He could choke. Roll him onto his  
side!

OLIVIA  
71 Yeah, all right.

Screams and whoa! What's happening! What the hell's going on!  
from **Jessie, Dr Theo, Greg, Dr vHZ**

GREG  
72 What the hell happened? Why did the  
ship tilt?

OLIVIA  
73 I don't have hands! How the hell else  
was I going to roll him on his side?

74 DR THEO  
Is he at least in the right position?

75 OLIVIA  
He's invisible! The foam appears to be coming out at a right angle, so ... yes?

76 DR THEO  
Thank goodness. He's safe.

77 JESSIE  
SAFE? He's high as my Aunt Mòrag's knickers when the Royal Air Force does a fly-by for St. Andrew's day!

78 DR VON HABER ZETZER  
Vat is your concerns, former Captain Jessie? I belief you vere coming here to do the same, no?

79 JESSIE  
Yeah, but I didn't eat your laser-eyes olive, did I? What if he sees a spider and fires those up and cuts a hole through the side of the ship?

80 DR THEO  
Oh. Jessie does have a point.

81 JESSIE  
I have more points than Alexander Wood, the Scot who invented the hypodermic needle.

82 DR VON HABER ZETZER  
It's possible you've been spending too much time with Donna.

83 JESSIE  
That did sound very Donna-ish, didn't it.

84 GREG  
Nothing wrong with being proud of your heritage.

85 DR THEO  
You've clearly been studying up on your Scottish history.



86 JESSIE  
ATMs, kaleidoscopes, gin and tonics:  
ALL invented by Scots.

87 OLIVIA  
I am SO SORRY to interrupt, but he's  
waking up.

88 COLIN  
I'm looking for Colin. Has anyone seen  
me?

89 JESSIE  
He's off his nut.

90 COLIN  
Is that a spider?

91 OLIVIA  
Oh, bollocks.

Sound of laser eyes firing up.

NARRATORS' BRIDGE

92 N2  
Man, we just got Olivia back from the  
effect of the I Drops.

93 NARRATOR  
First olives, now mushrooms. We've  
really got to keep that man away from  
the crudité.

94 N2  
You know, the shuttle I took to Earth  
is still stocked up and just sitting  
there.

95 NARRATOR  
Are you suggesting we abandon our  
oratorical obligations?

96 N2  
Uhhhhhh. Yes?

97 NARRATOR  
Just ... keep the key handy.  
Meanwhile...

## THE CAPTAIN'S BRIDGE

Greg, Dr Theo, Jessie, and Dr vHZ burst through the door.

98                               DR THEO  
                              Captain!

Thump.

99                               MADELINE  
                              OW!

100                              DR THEO  
                              Where is she?

101                              MADELINE  
                              I'm under here.

102                              JESSIE  
                              What the hell are you doing, Mad  
                              Pants? And why does it involve ...  
                              tools??

103                              MADELINE  
                              I'm trying to solve the riddle of the  
                              giggle. There's this wire I can't  
                              figure out what it's attached to. I  
                              followed it up here from the engine  
                              room, but then I lost it.

104                              GREG  
                              Forget the wire, Captain, we've got a  
                              problem!

105                              MADELINE  
                              Now what? Duck!

Colin flies in and loops around the room.

106                              COLIN  
                              I warned you about those coconuts!

107                              JESSIE  
                              Jesus, Mary, and Sheena Easton, what  
                              the hell is he doing?

108                              COLIN  
                              Heads will roll for this! Also knees!

Laser sounds.

GREG  
109 Look out!

Shouts as everyone hits the floor.

MADELINE  
110 What the hell is going on? Goddammit, Colin, you scorched my captain's chair.

DR THEO  
111 "Scorched"? He cut it in half!

MADELINE  
112 I can scoot it back together, but there's nothing I can do about those burn marks. You better not have shorted out the popcorn popper, though.

COLIN  
113 We must drain the lake and free the whippoorwills!

He flies out.

MADELINE  
114 That was different. Anyone care to tell me what's going on?

DR VON HABER ZETZER  
115 Our friend Colin is experiencing the wonders of psychedelics.

GREG  
116 He dipped into my experimental mushroom patch.

MADELINE  
117 I thought you said there weren't any magic ones in there!

GREG  
118 I was trying to keep you from taking some and flying us into a black hole!

MADELINE  
119 I wasn't going to eat any, I just wanted to-

120 GREG  
You had a frying pan.

121 MADELINE  
Because egrets!

122 GREG  
AND BUTTER.

123 DR THEO  
Duuuuuude, trying to be a scientist  
aboard this ship is well-nigh  
impossible. I feel you, brother.

124 GREG  
There are spores in your beard.

125 DR THEO  
For SCIENCE. I'm not actually enjoying  
this. (giggles)

126 JESSIE  
You've got to be kidding.

127 DR VON HABER ZETZER  
I did wonder why ze gut doctor is no  
longer wearing pants.

128 MADELINE  
What now?

Thump.

129 MADELINE  
OW! And he is totally wearing pants.

130 DR VON HABER ZETZER  
True. But zat vas a good vun, no? Ha!

131 OLIVIA  
Were you planning on following Colin,  
or shall we just let him wreak havoc  
on the ship while you focus on Dr  
Theo's trousers?

132 JESSIE  
Where is he, Olivia?

133 OLIVIA  
I've stuck him on Level 78, and he's  
banging around in there like a trapped

housefly. Best hurry up before he realizes he has a way to get free.

MADELINE  
134 He does?

GREG  
135 Laser eyes.

MADELINE  
136 Let's go!

OLIVIA  
137 Follow the doors!

IN THE CORRIDORS

Running foot (and hoof) steps, down corridors and up stairs.  
**Conversation should be a bit breathless as they run.**

DR THEO  
138 From the scorch marks on the walls, it appears Colin also came this way.

JESSIE  
139 You sobered up quick.

DR THEO  
140 I'm cursed with a rapid metabolism.

JESSIE  
141 Do tell.

DR THEO  
142 I suspect it has to do with my innate athleticism. My muscles demand-

JESSIE  
143 No, you misunderstand. When I say "Do tell," the "someone else" is silent.

DR THEO  
144 (cold) I see. (pause) That said, it appears vigorous exercise does hyper-oxygenate the blood, reviving some of the mushrooms' more hallucinogenic properties. Raspberries.

Thunk.

JESSIE  
145 Thank god. (shouting) Doc's down!

MADELINE  
146 Any foam?

DR VON HABER ZETZER  
147 Nein!

MADELINE  
148 Olivia! Keep an eye on him and bring  
him to us when he catches up!

GREG  
149 Captain. How very ... sensible!

MADELINE  
150 If he's spewing nine kinds of foam,  
someone better keep watch.

OLIVIA  
151 LEFT!

They burst through a door and come to a sudden stop. **Gasps  
and oooo's of surprise.**

JESSIE  
152 What the hell is all this?

MADELINE  
153 It's our old crew room. The one that  
got blown up ages ago.

GREG  
154 Did Colin do this?

DR VON HABER ZETZER  
155 Zis cup of tea is still varm.

MRS SHEFFIELD  
156 Yes, and I'd appreciate you getting  
your finger out of my beverage.

DR VON HABER ZETZER  
157 Clara! Vat is all zis? Duck!

Colin flies by.

COLIN  
158 It's the Eurovision Song Contest. I'm  
voting for Ukraine.

159 MRS SHEFFFIELD  
I suppose it was only a matter of time  
before you stumbled on this.

160 MADELINE  
What's going on here?

161 MRS SHEFFFIELD  
My dears, there is so much more  
happening on this ship than are dreamt  
of in your philosophy.

162 MADELINE  
Dammit. Mrs. S got into the mushrooms  
too!

163 GREG  
Is this... another crew?

164 MRS SHEFFFIELD  
No. I'm afraid this is where the  
people you insist on calling "zombies"  
gather.

165 JESSIE  
Pull the other one.

166 MRS SHEFFFIELD  
I assure you, I am pulling neither  
leg. Nor your finger — you're not  
getting me with that one again.

167 GREG  
But it's so clean!

168 MRS SHEFFFIELD  
Gregory, you really must set aside  
your Hollywood-inspired notions of  
zombies. These people who are now some  
version of "undead" are the remnants  
of the very rich. They thawed out  
their cleaning staff first thing.

169 DR VON HABER ZETZER  
But vat of ze MRDR protocol?

170 MRS SHEFFFIELD  
What of it? They've an entire pod bay  
of cleaners, butlers, maids, pool  
boys, etc. And it's not like the rich  
have ever been concerned with using up

finite resources.

JESSIE  
171 How long has all this been going on?

OLIVIA  
172 The Albatros's power surge popped  
their pods.

JESSIE  
173 That was ages ago! I mean, I've  
entirely lost all sense of time, but  
it feels like ages ago...

DR THEO  
174 (breathless) I'm here! I made it.  
Whoa. Where the hell am I? EGRET!

Colin flies by.

COLIN  
175 Raspberries!

DR THEO  
176 Solidarity, brother!

Thunk as he passes out again.

MRS SHEFFIELD  
177 Mushrooms for dinner, I see. Do roll  
Dr. Theo onto his side, won't you,  
Jessie?

JESSIE  
178 Hang on. How come you know about all  
this and we don't?

MRS SHEFFIELD  
179 I only discovered it when I followed  
the survivors back from the shopping  
mall ... incident.

GREG  
180 Shopping mall? Is there a Radio Shack?

MRS SHEFFIELD  
181 Do pay attention, Gregory. I tried to  
communicate with them, but  
unfortunately, they're unable to  
speak. But they did NOT attack me, and  
I do think we might show them the same



LOOK OUT!

Colin flies by.

COLIN  
182 Save the spatulas!

MRS SHEFFIELD  
183 Hasn't anyone got a net?

OLIVIA  
184 No, but I do have a bug zapper. Colin!

Electricity. Pause. Thunk.

MRS SHEFFIELD  
185 Thank you. As I was saying, these  
people are harmless-

JESSIE  
186 (from a distance, moving some papers)  
Eh....you sure about that?

MADELINE  
187 What you got there?

JESSIE  
188 Plans.

DR VON HABER ZETZER  
189 Oooooo! Gimme! Gimme!

JESSIE  
190 Looks like they're preparing to stage  
a coup.

GREG  
191 How do you know?

JESSIE  
192 There's a title page: "Our Coup." Also  
a copy of *Coups for Beginners*.

MRS SHEFFIELD  
193 AS I WAS SAYING, MOST of these people  
are harmless-

DR THEO  
194 You didn't say "most."

MRS SHEFFIELD  
195 Welcome back, Dr. Theo. Do rest your  
poor, addled brain and let the clear-  
headed amongst us talk, mmmmm?

DR THEO  
196 I think I'm all right. Remember, I was  
put on this ship as part of the  
revolution. I know coup plans when I  
see them. May I?

Someone hands over the plans. He flips through the pages.

DR THEO  
197 Mmmmmm. Yes. I see. Ahhhh.

MADELINE  
198 Well?

DR THEO  
199 Raspberries.

He goes down again.

JESSIE  
200 Well, that was helpful. Are this lot  
going to be coming back any time soon?

COLIN  
201 Where am I?

MADELINE  
202 Earth. Welcome home.

COLIN  
203 What? My god. We're ... home?

MADELINE  
204 Just kidding. You're stoned.

COLIN  
205 I hate you.

MADELINE  
206 Sobered you up though, didn't it?

MRS SHEFFIELD  
207 According to this, there's some sort  
of leader, name of *Frihetssnubbe*.

COLIN  
208 What does that mean? Dr. von Haber  
Zetzer?

DR VON HABER ZETZER  
209 How would I know?

COLIN  
210 It sounds... *Germanish*.

GREG  
211 Swedish. Freedom dude.

DR THEO  
212 Solidarity, brother!

GREG  
213 No-  
Thunk.

GREG  
214 We lost Dr. Theo again.

COLIN  
215 I'm exhausted. How long was I ...

JESSIE  
216 Off yer fricking nut? Too bloody long.

COLIN  
217 My god. Did I ... my laser eyes!

OLIVIA  
218 Yeah, you did whack off a bit one of  
the interior wings.  
Gasps of shock, alarm from **everyone**.

OLIVIA  
219 It's all right, calm down. He sort of  
cauterized the wound. Howard and Emily  
are out there now, sealing up the  
cracks.

COLIN  
220 But surely we need our wings to fly!

OLIVIA  
221 This one was largely decorative. At  
least I think so. We'll find out when

we hit an atmosphere.

JESSIE  
222 You trusted the 778 to make repairs?

OLIVIA  
223 No, I said *they* were sealing up the  
cracks. Bodily. I might have welded  
them to the ship.

JESSIE  
224 Harsh. I like it.

COLIN  
225 So what do we do about the coup?

MADELINE  
226 I think we need to find this "Freedom  
Dude" and ask him a few questions.

GREG  
227 You speak Swedish?

MADELINE  
228 Nah, I just watched a lot of The  
Muppet Show.

MRS SHEFFIELD  
229 Oh, wonderful. Any countries or  
linguistic groups left we haven't  
insulted?

JESSIE  
230 Latvia. No, wait-

COLIN  
231 Where do we find "Freedom dude"?  
Olivia?

OLIVIA  
232 He's a revolutionary. He's probably  
hiding behind some palm fronds or  
something.

COLIN  
233 Could you perhaps scan for a body tag?

OLIVIA  
234 He doesn't have one.

235 DR VON HABER ZETZER  
How is that possible?

236 OLIVIA  
Dug it out with one of Albert's shed  
teeth, packed the wound with moss, and  
sewed himself back together with the  
stringy bits from some celery.

237 GREG  
Resourceful.

238 OLIVIA  
Disgusting. It's a festering mess and  
he'll probably lose an arm.

239 MRS SHEFFIELD  
It sounds like you've been keeping an  
eye on him for some time. Any reason  
you didn't alert us to his presence?

240 OLIVIA  
He doesn't wear a shirt.

241 MRS SHEFFIELD  
Ah.

242 COLIN  
But what does he have to do with the  
zom- the awakened passengers?

243 MRS SHEFFIELD  
According to this manifesto, he's  
trying to lead them.

244 JESSIE  
Freedom Dude is trying to lead a bunch  
of rich toffs in a revolution? Good  
luck!

245 MRS SHEFFIELD  
It appears he's promised them he can  
reverse the MRDR protocol.

246 DR VON HABER ZETZER  
But zis is impossible!

247 OLIVIA  
Not... entirely.

COLIN  
248 What?

DR THEO  
249 She's right.

OLIVIA  
250 Welcome back. You planning to stay long?

DR THEO  
251 Blame Greg. They're HIS mushrooms.

GREG  
252 Which I TOLD you not to eat!

MRS SHEFFIELD  
253 To the point?

DR THEO  
254 The secondary healer pod. Not the one that ended up on Tiberius's ship, the other one. It was designed to override the MRDR Protocol.

MADELINE  
255 What? How come I never knew about this?

DR THEO  
256 It was intended for the revolution. MY revolution. Those of us who were sneaked aboard in case we had to take control of the ship.

JESSIE  
257 Why did you never tell any of us about it?

DR THEO  
258 It didn't actually work very well in testing. The scientists were trying to work out the bugs, but in the end, we ran out of time.

GREG  
259 So what happens if you use it?

MRS SHEFFIELD  
260 A story for another time, I think. Right now, we have a loose cannon

aboard the ship.

MADELINE

261 A loose cannon? Great. That's all we  
need.

GREG

262 Where is the other healer pod? Maybe  
we'll find him there.

OLIVIA

263 Actually, no. Bit of a prob.

COLIN

264 How very unusual. Let me guess: he's  
in the swamp making friends with the  
Big Bad.

OLIVIA

265 Yes.

COLIN

266 What? I was joking!

OLIVIA

267 Or were you?

JESSIE

268 Eh.... does anyone else hear moaning?

NARRATORS' BRIDGE

NARRATOR

269 Time!

N2

270 Let me guess. Three thousand words?

NARRATOR

271 Three thousand forty-four. Let's wrap  
it up.

N2

272 You must be real fun at parties.

NARRATOR

273 They woke up in the middle of the  
night, needing narration. Now I need a  
nap. Roll credits.

N2  
274 FINE. You've been listening to:  
Kevin Hall as Greg  
David S Dear as Doctor Theo Bromae  
Bonnie Brantley as Jessie

NARRATOR  
275 Shannon Perry as Olivia and Madeline  
Tim Sherburn as Colin  
Eric Perry as Dr von Haber Zetzer  
Sarah Golding as Mrs Sheffield

N2  
276 I'm Kyle Jones, your Narrator Two

NARRATOR  
277 And I'm Chris Nadolny Gourley as your  
Narrator.

N2  
278 Our music is composed and performed by  
John Faley; Lucas Elliott creates our  
artwork.

NARRATOR  
279 Sarah Golding is our dialogue editor,  
and Chrisi Talyn Saje is our sound  
engineer. Oz 9 is written by Shannon  
Perry. Oz 9 is a proud member of the  
Fable and Folly Network.

N2  
280 I need coffee and a croissant.

NARRATOR  
281 That sounds good. Have those ready for  
me in an hour.

N2  
282 You're not my real mom, you know.

NARRATOR  
283 See you next time, Space Monkeys. Keep  
your eyes on the skies and your hands  
off the crudité.