

Bonus episode: Take the planet

by

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OZ 9 THANKSGIVING 2023 - NARRATORS' BRIDGE

1 NARRATOR
What are you doing?

SFX: Packing

2 N2
Packing my away-kit.

3 NARRATOR
Taking another trip to the lower
decks?

4 N2
Hell, no. Every time I go down there,
I lose points towards my Narrator
badge. I overheard the crew saying the
planet we're hanging out above is a
possibility for terraforming.

5 NARRATOR
So, they're heading down and you
thought you'd join them? How exactly
were you planning to do that without
being seen?

6 N2
Can't I use the Narrator's shuttle?

7 NARRATOR
Two....

8 N2
Pretty please? With a cyklesian barbed
cherry fruit on top?

9 NARRATOR
There's a reason it's the "Narrator"
apostrophe-s shuttle, not "Narrator"
s-apostrophe shuttle.

10 N2
You could come with me...

11 NARRATOR
Did you double-check their readings?
Last time Madeline said there was
plenty of oxygen, the landing jets set
fire to the entire planet.

12 N2
Double and triple checked. Gravity's a
bit weird, but within range for
walking with grav boots.

13 NARRATOR
You know what? I'm feeling
adventurous. This planet got a name?
Sentient life?

14 N2
It's not on any of the charts. Not
that that's saying much, since the
chart is basically a blank sheet of
paper with bandaids and expired
dramamine taped to it.

15 NARRATOR
Let's do it. Lemme pack and get my
grav boots out of the closet.

SFX: Narrator digging in closet.

16 N2
Meanwhile....

CORRIDOR OUTSIDE AN AIRLOCK

It's a bit echoey here, and Mrs Sheffield, Madeline, Joe,
Jessie, Donna, and Greg are all standing around, ready to go.

17 JESSIE
You sure we don't need gravity boots?

18 MADELINE
I checked the readings twice. The Gs
here read same as Earth.

19 JOE
And the air?

20 GREG
I checked that one: roughly 78 percent
nitrogen, 21 percent oxygen, same as
Earth. A few other things floating
around in there, but nothing that
looked concerning.

21 JESSIE
Says the machine that doesn't breathe.

GREG

22 I am, however, flammable at high
temperatures. I double checked the
numbers, believe me. But by all means,
wear the space suit and helmet, if it
makes you feel better.

SFX: Jessie drops her helmet and suit on the floor.

JESSIE

23 Nah, I'll take your word for it. But
if you're flinging a dingey, I'll take
it out of your aluminum hide.

GREG

24 Flinging a-

MRS SHEFFIELD

25 (interrupts) I believe we're all amply
concerned about our own hides to be
telling the truth, Captain Jessie.

DONNA

26 Are we gonna go down or not? I'm
feeling oddly like I should lie on a
couch and watch football games and
groan a lot. Or go take over my
neighbor's house.

JOE

27 Why groan?

DONNA

28 I have no idea. Weird, huh?

MRS SHEFFIELD

29 Pluto not joining us?

DONNA

30 Nope. He's writing more letters about
his planet's designation to the
International Astronomical Union. And
that Tyson fella. Whooo whee, if we
ever get back to earth, Pluto's gonna
flash fry his chicken nuggets.

JOE

31 You know that's not the same Tyson-
never mind.

32 MADELINE
Uh oh.

33 GREG
Uh oh?

34 MADELINE
Your hooves are glowing.

35 GREG
Ah, hell.

36 MRS SHEFFIELD
Well! It appears our four-legged
friend has netted himself a side
quest.

A sandwich machine appears and sucks Greg, hollering, away.
Yelling from everyone else.

37 JESSIE
I guess we'd best get moving to the
shuttle.

38 JOE
Are we sure Greg's quest is down there
and not here on the ship?

39 MRS SHEFFIELD
Oh dear.

40 MADELINE
Hey, it's HIS quest. If he's on the
ship, Olivia can keep an eye on him.
If he's down there, Jessie's right: we
should get a move on.

Bit of a pause.

41 JOE
Did that seem downright Captainy to
anyone else?

42 MADELINE
Also, I'm hungry, and I can't get to
my trail mix because only Greg knows
the combination.

43 MRS SHEFFIELD
You have a combination lock on your
lunch pail? STOP. You can explain on

the shuttle. Or ... never. Let's go.

NARRATOR'S SHUTTLE

SFX: Soothing music over the sound system. Engine quietly
revs up.

44 NARRATOR
 Seat belt, Two.

45 N2
 All right, all right.

SFX: Seatbelt pull and click.

46 NARRATOR
 Are they still bickering in the
 corridor?

47 N2
 Yep.

48 NARRATOR
 Right. We should be able to take off
 undetected. Look for a good brushy
 spot for us to hide the shuttle.

49 N2
 On it!

50 NARRATOR
 (Narrator voice) As our brave narrator
 and tour guide-

51 N2
 Oh, come ON.

52 NARRATOR
 (continues uninterrupted) set course
 for an alien planet, their minds turn
 to one thing:

53 N2
 Cranberry sauce.

54 NARRATOR
 (normal voice) Huh?

55 N2
 I don't know why. Also green bean
 casserole.

NARRATOR

56 Now you mention it, I've had visions
of Brussels sprouts all morning.
Weird. Hush. (resume Narratoring)
Their minds turn to one thing: *what*
will they find below?

N2

57 So good.

NARRATOR

58 I know. Push that lever forward.

SFX: Shuttle takes off.

SURFACE OF ALIEN PLANET

JESSIE

59 What are you waiting for, Mad Pants?
Get off the bloody shuttle, yer
holding up the line!

MADELINE

60 I'M TRYING. I can't seem to step down.

JOE

61 What does that mean?

MADELINE

62 Not sure how many things that *could*
mean, Joe.

JOE

63 *sigh* OK, maybe explain what's
happening.

MADELINE

64 I put a foot out, I lean forward,
nothing happens. My foot doesn't go
down.

DONNA

65 'Scuse me, there.

SFX: Clonging of heavy boots on the ladder.

MADELINE

66 Hey! How come it works for you?

DONNA

67 Because I can math. Gravity equals

body weight here, meaning you can
neither fall down nor fly up. So I
brought my boots.

JOE

68 Me too. Scoot over, Cap.

Clangs down ramp.

JESSIE

69 Good thing no one listens to you,
Mads. Move it!

Clangs down ramp.

MRS SHEFFIELD

70 If you could just shift over, thank
you!

Clangs down ramp.

MADELINE

71 Great. What about me? I'm not hanging
out on the shuttle all day.

DONNA

72 Oh, I planned for you. See that thing
hanging next to you? That's a gravity
leash. Tie it to your belt and throw
me the other end.

MADELINE

73 How am I supposed to throw it to you
with no gravity?

DONNA

74 It's a *gravity leash*, Captain. It
accommodates to ambient gravity.

MADELINE

75 You couldn't just tell me to bring
boots?

DONNA

76 I figured being tugged around like a
parade balloon for a day might get you
to check your numbers more carefully.

MADELINE

77 This is so undignified. Catch.

78 DONNA
Righty ho and off we go!

79 JOE
What happens if you let go?

80 DONNA
Nothing. She just hangs there like a
rock climber in a fireman's belay.

81 JOE
I have no idea what that means.

82 DONNA
Oh, ya see it's when you're doing a
rappel, and-

83 JOE
(interrupts) or interest.

84 MRS SHEFFIELD
Right. This way, I think.

85 MADELINE
Based on what?

86 MRS SHEFFIELD
Terribly sorry, Captain, I can't hear
you.

87 MADELINE
BASED ON WHAT?

88 MRS SHEFFIELD
I don't think our captain's going to
be much use today. What a pity.
Follow!

89 JESSIE
How you doing up there, MadPants?

90 MADELINE
I feel weirdly bloated. Like I just
ate a LOT. Or like I'm full of air.

91 JESSIE
Yeah, well, how about you stay up
there till the gas passes, all right?

92 MADELINE
Very funny. Hey, I see something.

93 JOE
Yeah? What?

94 MADELINE
Something moving through tall
something elses. Like a dog in a
cornfield sort of thing.

95 MRS SHEFFIELD
Could it be Greg?

96 MADELINE
I can't see what's making the trail,
but the size is right.

97 JOE
We heading in the right direction?

98 MADELINE
A little left. No, MY left.

99 JESSIE
We're facing the same direction, you
daft cow.

100 MADELINE
Just...go that way.

101 JOE
Keep an eye on it, Captain. If it
changes direction or pops up an
eyeball on a stalk, let us know.

102 N2
You have to admit, they don't lack for
bravery.

103 NARRATOR
They're dragging their captain behind
them on a string. Bravery is not what
they need more of.

104 N2
I think she looks kinda cute.

105 MADELINE
Go away! Scoot! Off!

106 MRS SHEFFIELD
Something wrong, Captain?

MADELINE
107 Some weird insect, I think. Ha! I
 thought you couldn't hear me!

MRS SHEFFIELD
108 Mmmmmmm? Sorry. Sound waves just don't
 travel normally here. Oh! Hello!

Expressions of surprise from Joe, Jessie, Donna.

JESSIE
109 Way to keep an eye out, Mad Pants!

JAY
110 **Hello.**

MADELINE
111 Is that an alien?

JAY
112 **I rather think you're the alien,
 actually.**

DONNA
113 Dammit. We need Olivia to translate,
 but without our helmets...

DAISY
114 Is this better?

MRS SHEFFIELD
115 Good heavens. You speak English!

DAISY
116 Not at all. But you apparently speak
 Klep. With a Kretch accent. It's
 lovely to meet you. That's Jay. I'm
 Daisy.

JAY
117 **But you can't understand me?**

MADELINE
118 What are they saying? I can't hear!

DAISY
119 Do you not understand my **husband?**

JOE
120 Your what?

DAISY
121 My **husband**. He speaks with a slight
Kretch accent, but they're not *that*
different. You really don't understand
him?

MRS SHEFFIELD
122 You're saying your language and his
are the same?

DAISY
123 Absolutely.

MRS SHEFFIELD
124 Just a different accent. Like mine and
Joe's here.

Daisy and Jay laugh - which sounds like gargling.

MADELINE
125 Are they choking? Reel me in closer!

DONNA
126 Oh, I can't do that.

MADELINE
127 Why not?

DONNA
128 Eeeeehhhhh... leash compression. Very
dangerous. Could snap you out into
space like a tiny wee jammer at the
end of an overzealous roller derby
whip.

MRS SHEFFIELD
129 I believe...that's laughter.

JAY
130 **You and this one don't have different
accents. You sound precisely the same.**

MRS SHEFFIELD
131 Would you mind translating that?

DAISY
132 Certainly, but you must consider
getting your ears checked. He's
speaking perfectly normally. He said
there's no difference between this
fellow's voice and yours.

133 MRS SHEFFIELD
Oh, I think His Majesty might beg to
differ on that.

134 MADELINE
Do they have Greg?

135 JESSIE
Right - we're looking for a mate of
ours. Four legs, stripey bits?

136 JAY
I believe I saw this friend of theirs.

137 MRS SHEFFIELD
Sorry?

138 DAISY
Jay, would you mind affecting a Kretch
accent? Translating is getting
tiresome.

139 JAY
Very well. Better?

Shock and horror from Jessie, Donna, Joe.

140 MADELINE
What? WHAT????

141 DONNA
There's ehhhh...

142 JESSIE
There's another face back here! Creepy
as fuck-

143 MRS SHEFFIELD
(hastily interrupting) Really,
Jessie.....

144 JESSIE
What? You freaked out too!

145 JAY
Are you saying you only have the one
face each? Well, that does rather
explain a lot.

146 MRS SHEFFIELD
Does it, indeed.

DAISY
147 Perhaps you and your buoyant friend
there would like to join us for lunch?

JOE
148 That'd be nice, if it's no trouble.

DONNA
149 (aside) What are you doing? They might
be hostile, despite sounding like
Thurston Howell III.

JOE
150 They also might have Greg. Who might
need rescuing. Plus, I'm hungry and
kind of cold.

MRS SHEFFIELD
151 Any reason to think their food isn't
safe for humans?

JESSIE
152 Dr von Hackle Pickle gave me his
scanner. I'll give everything a quick
once-over before we tuck in.

JAY
153 (shouting at Madeline) Are you all
right up there?

MADELINE
154 Not bad, thanks. Bit chilly.

JAY
155 Dare say, look out for the batter
bees. One bite can kill you.

MADELINE
156 They're not... green and yellow with
triangles?

JAY
157 Not at all. They're **green and yellow
with triangles.**

MADELINE
158 Oh. Well, I guess that's OK, then.
Brrrrrr.

JAY
159 At our home, we have warmth and food.

MADELINE
160 Sounds good to me. Let's go, troops!

NARRATOR
161 While they follow their hosts Jay and
Daisy home for food and fellowship,
let us tell you a bit about this place
they've found themselves.

N2
162 Apart from completely wonky gravity,
much of this planet looks familiar.
Large, tree-like things shade the
path.

NARRATOR
163 And under the shade are copious ferny
plants and small squirrely animals.
Occasionally something deerish can be
seen in the distance.

JESSIE
164 Oh, look! Something deerish in the
distance.

MADELINE
165 Ow! Dammit, Donna, can you stop
tangling me in the branchy-type
things? Just lower me down under the
canopy.

DONNA
166 Sorry. Gravity compression, ya see.

MADELINE
167 I thought it was "leash" compression.

DONNA
168 That's what I said.

N2
169 Fortunately for Madeline, their hosts'
village isn't far.

NARRATOR
170 Our crew are led to a clearing in the
foresty-type stuff. Around the edges
are several elegant dwellings.

N2
171 Uhhhhh... they're gonna spot us here.

NARRATOR
172 Yeah, duck behind that elegant
dwelling over there. I think that one
belongs to our hosts.

N2
173 How do you know that?

NARRATOR
174 It's the only one with a swimming
pool.

N2
175 Huh?

NARRATOR
176 Hush. Here, let's crouch down over
here. This looks like a windowy thing.
We should be able to hear whatever's
going on inside.

The group arrive at the house.

JAY
177 **Open sesame!**

The door opens.

DAISY
178 Please come in. Can I get you
something to **drink**?

MRS SHEFFIELD
179 Ehhhhh.... yes?

JAY
180 Let me help you with that, my dear.

Jay and Daisy walk out of the room.

MADELINE
181 (From outside) PULL ME IN!

DONNA
182 Sorry, Captain! Oh, it looks like
there's gravity in here. That's nice.

MADELINE
183 (thump) OW!

184 GREG
Hey, all.

Everyone: Greg! Where have you been? Are you OK? Are you a
hostage? Etc.

185 MRS SHEFFIELD
Your hooves are still a-glow, I see.

186 GREG
Yeah. I've been chatting with a bunch
of Kretch folks, but nothing makes
sense for a side quest.

187 JOE
Anything glowing that we need to take?

188 GREG
Just the suns-set reflecting off those
mountainy-sort of things.

189 JESSIE
Ehhhhhh.... is that it, then?

190 MADELINE
What do you mean?

191 JESSIE
We're here to see if this place is
terraformable, remember? Is that
telling us we need to take the
mountainy things? And the lakey bit,
and all that glowy horizon stuff?

192 JOE
Oooof.

193 DONNA
Oh no...

194 JESSIE
I'm not saying I agree. Just putting
it out there. What happens if that's
the side quest and we ignore it?

195 GREG
I'm sure G2 would say eat the food,
kiss the babies, poison the well, come
back when everyone is dead from
smallpox or something, and take the
planet.

196 MRS SHEFFIELD
This is sounding vaguely familiar.

197 JOE
It's sounding very familiar. Captain,
we can't do any of that.

198 MADELINE
Yes, I know, Joe. But we're gonna need
to figure out how *not* to do that
without borking the side quest and
blowing up the ship or something.

199 NARRATOR
Hey, they're coming in. Duck!

200 N2
I'm already ducked.

201 NARRATOR
I know that, but the listeners don't.

202 N2
You're gonna say "hush" now, aren't
you.

203 NARRATOR
You know how to avoid that, right? Put
your helmet on.

204 N2
Why? The air here is fine.

205 NARRATOR
Translation circuits.

206 N2
Got it!

207 DAISY
Good heavens, Jay, stop pushing! I
assume you want to tell me something,
because carrying multiple drinks in
accommodational gravity isn't an
issue.

208 JAY
I did a quick Baggle search on these
creatures. I don't think we want to be
too friendly. They have rather a habit
of overstaying their welcome, to put

it mildly.

DAISY

209 Yes, I saw the same. I'm a bit
confused about the beads, though:
apparently if you accept them, you
either have to give them an island or
reveal your mammary glands.

JAY

210 They are a very confusing species.

DAISY

211 Let's just politely dissuade them from
staying. We have some leftovers of
that awful, dry bird creature in the
pantry. I'll serve them that. Also the
sour, canned, gelatinous goop your
aunt insists on foisting off on us.

JAY

212 We have some stale bread as well.
Perhaps we do something with that...I
know!

DAISY

213 What?

JAY

214 It's a bit gross, but it'll for sure
turn them off.

DAISY

215 Let's hear it.

JAY

216 Stuff the dry bread up the bird's
backside.

DAISY

217 (giggles) You are awful.

JAY

218 I said it was gross!

DAISY

219 I'll throw some seasoning on it so
they don't get suspicious.

JAY

220 There's also some weird, hairy root

vegetable taking over the lower garden. I'll grab some of that.

221 DAISY
Ugh. You know we'll have to eat with them, right?

222 JAY
If the plan works, it'll be worth it.

223 NARRATOR
(whispering) As hosts Jay and Daisy set about preparing the meal...

224 N2
(whispering) our hairy root vegetables of a crew are working out how to fulfill their side quest...

225 NARRATOR
(whispering) without overstaying their welcome.

226 MADELINE
We're agreed: eat quick, make polite conversation...

227 MRS SHEFFIELD
do a quick scan for anything a-glow that isn't an entire planet...

228 DONNA
then high-tail it on outta here and pretend we didn't see Greg's hooves glowing.

229 GREG
I think it's the best we've got.

230 JOE
We should give them a gift. Anyone got anything we can use as a gift?

231 MADELINE
Uhhhhh... I have a comb. It's kinda hairy.

232 MRS SHEFFIELD
Good lord, how? It's not like you ever use it.

233 MADELINE
HEY!

234 GREG
Hang on, there's a bunch of stuff in
here. Lemme look.

235 JAY
We're back! The table is set, if you'd
care to join us.

236 GREG
Oh hell.

237 DAISY
Is something wrong?

238 GREG
There's a flashlight in here.

239 JESSIE
Yer joking. Lemme guess: it's on.

240 GREG
Appears to be, yeah.

241 MRS SHEFFIELD
And shining downwards? Perhaps on your
hooves?

242 GREG
That is a thing that is happening,
yes.

243 JAY
And that's ... meaningful?

244 GREG
Not at all. Thank goodness.

245 DONNA
Hang on just a battered and deep fried
minute - if there's no side quest why
did the sandwich machine bring you
here?

246 DAISY
Are we still speaking Kretch? They've
stopped making sense, Jay.

JAY
247 I wasn't aware they'd started.

GREG
248 I did find some beads.

DAISY
249 Oh dear.

JAY
250 If we must..... I hope this is
acceptable. We don't have any islands.

Sounds of zipper and clothing being lifted.

MRS SHEFFIELD
251 Whatever are you- goodness.

JESSIE
252 Huh. Give 'em the beads, Greg.

MADELINE
253 Is it me, or are the beads glowing?
Also, you can lower your shirts, or
whatever those flowy things are.

JOE
254 That makes no sense at all. We already
had those.

GREG
255 Maybe the side quest is to give them
away? To these folks?

DONNA
256 There is no side quest, remember? But
maybe do it anyways. These folks are
awfully nice.

GREG
257 With pleasure. Here you go.

DAISY
258 These are lovely, thank you. Do you
know, I think this is just what I need
for a pulley system I've been
designing. Shall we lunch?

JAY
259 (aside) I'm feeling a bit guilty about
the lunch, so I'm just going to whip

up some gravy to make it nicer.

260 DAISY
(aside) Good plan. I'll get the booze
and weed.

261 N2
(whispers) Are we far enough away?

262 NARRATOR
(regular voice) I think so. Go for it.

263 N2
So as the triple sun of whatever-this-
place-is begin to set, one by one, our
crew sits down to a better-than-
expected meal of dry bird, weird sour
stuff from a can, and lots of gravy.

264 NARRATOR
They share stories of home with their
hosts and learn about the planet
they're visiting. Then, as the meal
finally ends many hours later,
Captains Madeline and Jessie, Donna,
Joe, Mrs Sheffield, and Greg make
their way back to the shuttle. And
it's not just Madeline who feels
bloated now.

265 N2
Having forgotten they'd need to take
Greg back with them, the crew are a
bit cramped for space on the return
journey, but return they do, side
quest — assuming there was one —
successfully accomplished.

266 NARRATOR
Back on board the 9, the crew
gratefully sink into their bunks to
dream of more adventures and silently
provide enough gas to fuel them to the
farthest reaches of space, if only
they could harness it.

267 N2
Ew.

268 NARRATOR
Just be glad we have our own oxygen

supply.

N2

269 You've been listening to...
Bonnie Brantley as Jessie, Donna, and
Daisy
Eric Perry as Joe and Jay
Shannon Perry as Madeline

NARRATOR

270 Kevin Hall as Greg
Sarah Golding as Mrs Sheffield
Kyle Jones is your Narrator 2

N2

271 And Chris Nadolny Gourley is your
Narrator.

NARRATOR

272 Our music is composed and performed by
John Faley; Lucas Elliott creates our
artwork. Normally, competent people do
the dialogue editing and sound design,
but this time you're stuck with
Shannon Perry, who also penned this
mess.

NARRATOR (DEPENDING ON HOW THIS WORKS OUT)

273 Our music is composed and performed by
John Faley; Lucas Elliott creates our
artwork. Sarah Golding is our dialogue
editor. Normally, the super-talented
Chrisi Talyn Saje does the sound
design, but this time you're stuck
with Shannon Perry, who also penned
this mess.

N2

274 Oz 9 is a proud member of the Fable
and Folly Network. Be sure to check
out all the great shows at
fableandfolly dot com.

NARRATOR

275 See you next time, space monkeys. Till
then, we wish you a happy and healthy
start to the holiday season.

voices and footsteps fading

N2

276 Hey, I sneaked in when no one was
looking and scored some gravy.

NARRATOR

277 Nice! I think there are some protein
strips in the lounge. (pause) This was
a good day.

N2

278 Yeah. Nobody died, not even a random
pod.

NARRATOR

279 Awwwwwww. Madeline on a string,
though. That was awesome. Lights!

click