

EP 98 - NARRATORS' BRIDGE ON THE OZ 9

NARRATOR

1 Well, after costing me my per diem in
the last episode by hanging out on an
alien ship that doesn't have a
narratorial explication agreement,
former Captain Jessie, Colin, and the
778 have returned to the Oz 9.

N2

2 Now, having finally completed a long
and much-exaggerated retelling of
events on the Kestochalian ship, our
sojourners are ready for food, a
towel, and some sleep.

NARRATOR

3 But sadly, they'll have to continue to
be damp, hungry, and tired a little
longer. The Oz 9 took some serious
hits from the other vessel, and
there's work to do.

CAPTAIN'S BRIDGE

SFX: The sounds of rather frantic mopping. Madeline, Jessie, Pipi, Dr Theo, Greg, Colin, Joe, Mrs Sheffield, Dr vHZ, Julie, and the 778, and anyone I forgot (except Donna), are gathered on the bridge. We hear occasional peeps from Daniel (the alligret).

JESSIE

4 It said, "Something's coming.
Something's coming, and there's
nothing you can do."

Murmurs of concern and disbelief from the crew.

JOE

5 Look-

EVERYONE

6 JESUS!

JOE

7 Mmmmm hmmmm. I don't mean to be
ungrateful about the whole stopping-
the-Kestochalians-from-killing-us-all
thing, but you're still dripping.

35 GREG
No- (sigh) Not NOW.

36 MADELINE
Then maybe keep your warnings to
yourself, sheesh.

37 GREG
I was just repeating-

38 MADELINE
Anyway, Jessie, what did the scuba
diver mean by "something is coming"?

39 GREG
That's what I-

40 DR THEO
It's pointless.

41 MRS SHEFFIELD
Yes, I'm quite curious as well.
"Something's coming"?

42 MADELINE
Where? WHERE?

43 MRS SHEFFIELD
Oh, do figure it out, Captain. What
else did the diver say? And how
exactly did he say it? I mean, being
dead and all.

44 DR THEO
Yes, was it some sort of mental
projection?

45 JULIE
Or a hallucination? I mean, you were
under a lot of stress.

46 JESSIE
Don't be daft. All right. One more
time. I pulled the glowing starfish-

47-48 DR THEO Sea star. JULIE Sea star.

49 JESSIE
Shut it. -from the diver's pocket, and
his skull swiveled round to look me
right in the eye. His mouth opened,
and he said, "Something is coming.
Something is coming, and there's
nothing you can do."

your bunk so I can fwip you when you're dead asleep. Call it an act of mercy.

62 DR THEO
Shushing.

63 OLIVIA
Mmmmm. We have something of a situation on the ship.

64 PIPI
Which is?

65 OLIVIA
Bits of it are on fire.

Expressions of concern from all. More electricity.

66 OLIVIA CONT
So until that little problem is sorted, everyone is to carry a fire extinguisher with them at all times. And before you ask, as many of you no doubt will, you point it at the bit that's on fire and pull the trigger.

67 MADELINE
Sadly, our extinguishers are full of silly string, but hopefully there's enough to suffocate the smaller fires.

68 OLIVIA
Wait, what?

69 MADELINE
It's OK. Apparently silly string is really good at putting out fires.

70 NARRATOR
Yeah, it's not. Quite the opposite in fact. Don't do that.

71 MRS SHEFFIELD
Ouch, Daniel! Do stop nipping. We'll get you some food in a moment. About that thing that may or may not be approaching, Pipi, can you detect anything?

PIPI
72 Nothing beyond the usual, no. I've
been sending out pings since Jessie
and Colin returned-

HOWARD
73 Just "Jessie and Colin," eh? Nothing
about the 778, which also took an
enormous risk to life and only-
recently-returned limb.

GREG
74 I'm gonna stomp you to death.

COLIN
75 You're in a mood today, Greg. Ouch!
Mrs Sheffield, do control your
alligret!

MRS SHEFFIELD
76 He's nervous around strangers.

COLIN
77 I'm NOT a stranger! I've been on this
ship longer than you have!

GREG
78 Captain, maybe now's the time to tell
you: For a while now, I've been
getting ... noises from my scientists.

JULIE
79 What scientists?

DR THEO
80 Greg is equipped with all manner of
sensors that send information back to
a group of scientists on Earth, but
they've been quiet for some months
now.

GREG
81 Until recently.

MADELINE
82 What sorts of "noises"?

GREG
83 I don't rightly know how to explain
it. Kinda spooky stuff. A collection
of creaks, a cat fight, dripping

water, a shipwreck, an unsafe bridge,
a really long fuse.... I haven't had a
decent night's sleep in weeks.

84 DR VON HABER ZETZER
You sleep?

85 PIPI
That's an oddly specific set of
sounds. Any bats?

86 JULIE
Why would there be bats?

87 PIPI
It just sounded very ... Halloween.
There's usually bats.

88 COLIN
How chilling.

89 MRS SHEFFIELD
And oddly thrilling.

90 GREG
Sounds like a haunted house.

91 MADELINE
Well, until we have more information,
we should probably concentrate on
fixing the damage from the
Kestochalians. Everyone off the
bridge. You'll find the fire
extinguishers-

92 DR THEO
Silly string dispensers.

93 MADELINE
Yes, thank you, Dr. Theo. You'll find
the canisters on level six. If you see
a fire, shoot string at it until you
put it out.

94 N2
Reminder, listeners, this does not
work. Actually, it's a really good way
to burn your house down.

95 MADELINE
Also, avoid level four for now. Unless

you want to get sucked out a tiny hole
that'll turn you into human thread.

96 JULIE
That's disgusting.

97 MADELINE
Even more so when it's zombie thread.
Oh, and good news on the zombie front.

98 MRS SHEFFIELD
Not zombies.

99 MADELINE
And not our problem any more. Ouch!
Dammit, Mrs S, would you feed that
thing? Jessie, add the starfish-

100-101 JULIE DR THEO
Sea star. Sea star.

102 MADELINE
Shut it. -to our pile of glowy things.
Let's go, people!

NARRATORS' BRIDGE

103 N2
Seriously, all that wind up about
zombies on board, and they're suddenly
gone?

104 NARRATOR
Our writer has a short attention span.
After a brief battle when more than
one person wanted the green one, our
feckless crew are armed with canisters
of silly string and begin policing the
ship for fires.

SOME DISTANT PART OF THE SHIP

105 JESSIE
Mind your foot.

SFX: Sounds of silly string being shot at a small fire. It
whooshes into a much bigger fire as they move on.

106 COLIN
That's eleven on this floor alone.
We're going to die, aren't we.

JESSIE
 107 Eventually. Not from this. Olivia
 could herd us all into one room and
 turn off the air to smother the fires.
 If she's not doing that, she's not
 worried.

COLIN
 108 Why is she not doing that?

JESSIE
 109 Who knows? Team building exercise? Or
 her own amusement.

COLIN
 110 Captain Jessie...

JESSIE
 111 Mmmm?

COLIN
 112 I never thanked you. For saving my
 life back on the Shrimp Ship.

JESSIE
 113 Pffft. I just wanted to see you with a
 plastic submarine on yer head. (pause,
 softer) And yer welcome.

JULIE PIPI
 114-115 Hey, there. Hello!

JESSIE
 116 What are you two doing here?

PIPI
 117 Extinguishing life-threatening fires
 with a children's birthday party
 gimmick. You?

JULIE
 118 We thought this was our floor. You
 didn't get hijacked by a sandwich
 machine, did you?

COLIN
 119 No, actually, I haven't seen one of
 those in a while.

N2
 120 Yeah, what about those?

121 NARRATOR
Short. Attention. Span.

122 N2
Riiiiight.

123 PIPI
I swear these floors were created by
MC Escher.

124 JESSIE
Is that, like, a popular DJ or
something?

125 COLIN
Philistine. MC Escher is the artist
who created those impossible
staircases. What was the name of that
work? Ah yes, Relativity!

126 JESSIE
Ooooh, I loved that podcast! Hang
on... Pluto....

127 PIPI
If we might drag it back from the
shameless plug?

128 COLIN
We did sort of owe him one.

129 PIPI
The floors. They don't work like
regular floors. They ... wind. Has it
always been that way?

130 COLIN
My god. Is that ... the Dolce and
Gabbana wing?

131 JULIE
Mind your heads.

Sound of silly string fire extinguisher. Then a whoosh of
flames.

132 COLIN
Twelve.

133 JULIE
Phwaaw! What is that stink?

COLIN
134 Several of my childhood friends.

JULIE
135 What?! Really? Oh, jeez. Sorry.

COLIN
136 It's all right. Most of them were
total bastards. Does anyone else feel
a chill?

JESSIE
137 I can see my breath!

PIPI
138 Yeah, Captain Jessie-

JESSIE
139 Oy! I haven't had a chance to brush my
teeth-

PIPI
140 Huh? Oh, I wasn't going to talk to you
about that, though, when you have a
moment... Uh, anyway, I wanted to ask
you about your dead scuba diver. You
know... hypoxia is a real thing.

JESSIE
141 I had my helmet on the entire time. It
was real.

PIPI
142 OK, so, is there a chance all this is
... connected? Greg's noises, the
warning from the dead diver, the cold
spots right next to a small fire? Oh,
mind your elbows.

Sound of silly string fire extinguisher. Whoosh.

COLIN
143 What are you saying, Pipi?

PIPI
144 Well, I didn't want to say it, but ...
I've been getting some strange returns
too. I was trying to ping the
Kestochalian ship, and yeah, curious
phenomenon, because even though sound
generally travels faster through

water-

COLIN
145-146 Heard this.

JESSIE
Heard this.

PIPI
147 Really? Oh, right, the 778. Anyway, I was trying to ping for the two of you, but the interference I got was mostly on our side.

JULIE
148 What kind of "interference"?

PIPI
149 That's just it. Mind your shoulders.

Sound of silly string fire extinguisher. Whoosh of flames.

PIPI CONTRR
150 The patterns I was seeing were ... wafty.

JESSIE
151 "Wafty."

PIPI
152 I mean, not solid. M y pings are super sensitive, but even I can't detect... smoke or shadows. Or whatever that was. It had to have some substance. Just ... not much.

JULIE
153 OK, look. I'm a scientist. There's no such thing as ghosts.

LADY NIBBLE BISCUIT
154 Oh?

Screams from **Julie, Jessie, Colin.**

LADY NIBBLE BISCUIT
155 I beg to differ, "scientist." "There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy."

JULIE
156 (grumbly) Yeah, the Fakespeare was like, six episodes ago.

LADY NIBBLE BISCUIT

157 I'm aware of that. What a disaster.
The Bard and I had quite a good giggle
over it. Ta ta!

She whooshes out.

PIPI

158 Ok, maybe I can? I knew she was there.
Damn, I'm good. So ANYWAY, what I'm
saying is that whole "something is
coming" may relate to what's already
here.

JESSIE

159 (alarmed) Are you saying there's
shrimp aboard this ship?

COLIN

160 (alarmed) What? Are there shrimp?

PIPI

161 No shrimp. There are no shrimp.

JESSIE

162 OK. Phew. I'm kinda tetchy about
shrimp at the moment. Do we have
cocktail sauce?

JULIE

163 That's a bit hostile.

JESSIE

164 You ever been in a tank with a dead
astronaut and a limited supply of
oxygen?

JULIE

165 Well-

JESSIE

166 Thought not.

PIPI

167 The question is, is it a problem?

COLIN

168 It was enough of a problem for a dead
scuba diver to come back to life and
warn us. *While I was nearly drowning,*
just saying.

SFX: Intercom clicks on.

169 OLIVIA
Oz 9 crew and other assorted semi-
evolved apes, please report to the
bioswamp. Apes to the bioswamp, thank
you.

SFX: Intercom clicks off.

170 COLIN
Well, that's just rude.

171 JULIE
She's not wrong. We are all in the
homoidea family-

172 JESSIE
You sure? You strike me as being more
in the *hemorrhoidia* family. Let's go.

THE BIO SWAMP

All is quiet.

173 GREG
What was the big hurry?

174 DR THEO
Seconded. Nothing is happening.

175 OLIVIA
Wait for it.

176 MRS SHEFFIELD
Is it affecting them all?

177 DR THEO
Goodness, Mrs S! Are you all right?

178 MRS SHEFFIELD
Yes, yes. A quick dip in antibiotic
ointment, a few sticking plasters, and
I'm fine.

179 OLIVIA
Daniel?

180 MRS SHEFFIELD
Indeed. He was in a bit of a panic,
poor thing. I brought him here to be

with his family.

181 JESSIE
Right, we're here. Nothing going on,
time for lunch.

182 JULIE
Hang on. Hear that?

183 GREG
I don't hear it, but I can feel it.

184 PIPI
Yes. It's a swarm.

185 COLIN
The egrets? Please, not the egrets.
Where's a hollow plastic log when you
need one?

186 PIRRPI
It's not the egrets.

187 DR THEO
It's the alligrets. Over there, look!

Wings and other sounds which are cute when individual, but
terrifying in numbers.

188 DR VON HABER ZETZER
Zey are feelink threatened!

189 DR THEO
Dr. von Haber Zetzer, that is utterly
unscientific. This is an entirely new
species we know nothing about.

190 DR VON HABER ZETZER
You are absolutely correct, mein
fellow. Feel free to stand here and
ask questions ven zey arrive. *Viel
Glück!* (under breath) *Dummkopf.*

SFX: The alligrets are coming in! Everyone runs for shelter.
Shouts, please! (Sarah, can we keep these on separate tracks
so I can do a scatterdrill in Panorama?)

**Everyone, you'll need to shout these next few lines as you're
spread apart and the alligrets are noisy.**

COLIN
191 What's going on? Why are they so ...
whatever they are?

JULIE
192 I have no idea. They're usually super
calm. This could just be a stage in
their development. Like Dr. Theo said,
we really don't know anything about
them.

JESSIE
193 We're pinned down!

MRS SHEFFIELD
194 Do stop being so dramatic, Captain
Jessie! They're not dropping bombs,
just...guano. Or fewmets.

DR THEO
195 Oh, that's interesting. We get to name
their droppings! I think we need an
entirely new word for a new species.

JULIE
196 Good idea! Maybe something like-

JESSIE
197 If you even think about starting this
discussion, I will feed you to Albert.

PIPI
198 They are really agitated by something.
Something here in the swamp.

MRS SHEFFIELD
199 However do you know that?

PIPI
200 Swarming behavior. They may be new
creatures, but swarms are swarms. Look
at their tails. They're signalling.

DR THEO
201 She's right!

PIPI
202 Thank you, Dr. Theo.

DR THEO
203 But of course, my love.

The swarm flies off and all goes quiet.

204 MRS SHEFFIELD
Well, thank goodness for that.
Everyone all right? Where's Greg?

205 DR VON HABER ZETZER
He has trotted off to join ze ozer
animals.

206 MRS SHEFFIELD
But that's absurd. Greg isn't a real
zebra.

207 DR VON HABER ZETZER
I would not be zo zure, mein Clara.
Zumzink has zpoken to a deeper
instinct within him.

Greg bursts through the bushes. **Reaction from cast.**

208 GREG
Well, that was weird, huh? (pause)
What?

209 JULIE
Where were you?

210 GREG
Oh, I went to offload some organic
build up.

211 JESSIE
Pffft. You did a jobbie, mate. There's
your "deeper instinct." Ha!

212 GREG
Shhhh!

213 COLIN
Are they coming? The egrets aren't
coming, are they?

214 JULIE
Wow, they really traumatized you,
didn't they?

215 COLIN
I don't want to talk about it.

GREG
 216 *What about "SSSSHHHHH" is challenging
 for you??*

They're quiet for a moment.

MRS SHEFFIELD
 217 I'm sorry, but I don't hear anything
 unusual. And yes, I realize how absurd
 that statement is, but I mean I don't
 hear anything unusual FOR THE
 BIOSWAMP.

GREG
 218 I'm hearing it on my insides. It's the
 scientists. Or at least, it's their
 comms channel.

JESSIE
 219 Oy, ya burk, put yourself on
 speakerphone.

MRS SHEFFIELD
 220 Yes, that's a good idea. But first,
 for context, these scientists of yours
 – they're MCCACEC, correct?

GREG
 221 Yes.

JESSIE
 222 Not Gated Galaxies.

GREG
 223 Nope. Hang on... looking for the right
 switches.... there.

A sudden loud scream (a la Wilhelm) erupts from Greg's
 speakers.

DR THEO
 224 My god, what's happening to them?!

GREG
 225 No, no, that's just some clown's idea
 of a notification sound. Looking for
 the live stream. There we go.

Ghostly, spectral sounds. Moaning, chains, the usual. This
 keeps going until otherwise noted, so **CAST, YOU'LL HAVE TO
 SPEAK UP A BIT.**

226 MRS SHEFFIELD
That's coming from the lab at MCCACEC?
The last time I heard that much
moaning in there-

227 DR VON HABER ZETZER
Ach, yes, a gut reminder zat one
should never work on the beefier
aphrodisiacs in a public space.

228 JULIE
Ew.

229 DR VON HABER ZETZER
You vere involved vis zat project, no,
Herr Doktor?

230 DR THEO
I was, yes.

231 PIPI
Reeeeeeeallllllyyy.

232 COLIN
How fascinating. No, wait.... it
isn't! What are we actually listening
to?

233 JESSIE
Listen up, ya twats! They're coming
back!

234 GREG
Ah hell, back to the bushes!

We hear the alligrets in the distance, getting louder.

235 DR THEO
Wait, Greg, turn off your
speakerphone!

236 GREG
Right now?

237 DR THEO
Yes, hurry!

Bit of fumbling, then the sounds from Greg stop. The
alligrets wheel in another direction, fading again.

238 PIPI
Turn it on again.

239 GREG
Right. Hang on!

He does, and immediately the alligrets turn back towards him.

240 COLIN
Turn it off, please!

He does, and off they go.

241 PIPI
It appears your supposition bears
fruit, Doctor.

242 MADELINE
EWWWWWWW.

243 DR THEOR
Let me guess: you heard "suppository."

244 MADELINE
What you two do in the privacy of your
quarters is your own business. And
also gross.

245 JESSIE
Where've you been?

246 MADELINE
Joe and I were down in the low levels
of the ship, trying to figure out why
the Kestochalians were targeting that
area.

247 MRS SHEFFIELD
We've decided it was more than simple
pigtail-pulling?

248 JOE
Yep.

Everyone there: Jesus!

249 JOE
Captain, I came up here WITH you.

250 MADELINE
I KNOW AND I'M MAD AT MYSELF.

251 MRS SHEFFIELD
What did you discover, Joseph?

252 JOE
First, there are sub-levels we didn't
even know existed.

253 DR THEO
How is that possible? It's not like a
space ship can have a basement!

254 MADELINE
Why not? Oh, wait. Never mind. Duh!

255 COLIN
You don't know why not, do you.

256 MADELINE
Shaddup.

257 JOE
Second, none of the lights work down
there. Not sure if they ever did.

258 MRS SHEFFIELD
If I may venture a guess?

259 JOE
Be my guest.

260 MRS SHEFFIELD
You heard noises similar to those we
heard on Greg's speakerphone.

261 JOE
Is that where those were coming from?
Yes, you're correct.

262 JULIE
Does that mean the scientists were on
the ship all along?

263 GREG
No way. (pause) Way?

264 JOE
Way.

265 JESSIE
So what are we saying here?

MADELINE

266 Now, hang on. This is all just theory
at the moment. We need to get back
down there with some lights.

PIPI

267 Does this mean the Kestochalians were
actually trying to ... protect us from
something?

COLIN

268 Then why would they kill the astronaut
in the fish tank?

GREG

269 Are you sure they did?

JESSIE

270 You think he had already "scuttled off
to Skegness," and they just plunked
him in the fish tank, thinking he was
a decoration? He really did look like
one, mind you.

OLIVIA

271 Right, idiots, everyone to the bridge,
please.

DR THEO

272 Why?

OLIVIA

273 Because you were stupid enough to use
silly string to try to put out fires,
and now I have to shut off oxygen to
the ship to smother the conflagration.
So toodle along to a breathers
section, unless you want to stay here
in the bioswamp.

A loud "whump" as all the lights go off.

MADELINE

274 Right. Who turned off the lights?

MRS SHEFFIELD

275 Ah. Well, that will make getting to
the bridge a bit harder.

OLIVIA

276 As will the fact that none of the

doors work. Sit tight, everyone;
plenty of oxygen here. Updates as
events warrant. Oh, gosh that's weird.

Her voice goes very distorted on "weird," and there's
silence.

DR VON HABER ZETZER
277 Olivia?

There's a witchy laugh that fades out.

NARRATORS' BRIDGE

N2
278 Uhhhhhhh.....

NARRATOR
279 Yeah. Grab the space suits from the
closet. We've got back-up O-2 in case
our supply shuts off.

N2
280 I can't see anything.

NARRATOR
281 Well, you're in luck, because I have
several pair of night vision goggles.
Here.

N2
282 What's happening?

NARRATOR
283 No clue. But we're only two more
episodes from the end of Season Five,
so I'm guessing we're gearing up for a
cliff hanger.

N2
284 I hate cliff hangers.

NARRATOR
285 Yeah, well, they're a time-tested and
loved narrative device, so ... get
used to it.

N2
286 What do we do now? Just sit tight and
wait for the end?

NARRATOR
287 How about we run the credits? That'll
calm you down, right?

N2
288 Sure. Sure. You've been listening to:
Bonnie Brantley as Jessie and Lady
Nibble Biscuit
Eric Perry as Joe, Dr von Haber
Zetzer, and Howard
Shannon Perry as Madeline and Olivia
Chrisi Talyn Saje as Julie

NARRATOR
289 David S Dear as Doctor Theo Bromae
Sarah Rhea Werner as Pipistrelle
Tim Sherburn as Colin and Emily
Sarah Golding as Mrs Sheffield

N2
290 Kevin Hall as Greg.
I'm Kyle Jones, your Narrator Two,

NARRATOR
291 And I'm Chris Nadolny Gourley, your
Narrator.

N2
292 Our music is composed and performed by
John Faley; Lucas Elliott creates our
artwork. Sarah Golding is our dialogue
editor. Mark Restuccia is our sound
designer. Oz 9 is written by Shannon
Perry.

NARRATOR
293 Oz 9 is a proud member of the Fable
and Folly Network. Be sure to check
out all the great shows at fable and
folly dot com. This episode is
dedicated to the memory of one of our
favorite forever space monkeys, Kate
Wallenga. We love and miss you, Kate.
You will always matter.
Till next time space monkeys, reach
for the stars. But don't touch them.
They're hot. Lights!