

Oz 9, ep 103: A hungry, long-tailed weasel

by

Shannon Perry

1 EPISODE 103 - NARRATORS' BRIDGE - DAY

OLIVIA

1 Right. Shove over. How do you start?
It's morning aboard the Oz 9, and the
idiots are in fine form, moaning about
gravity and stumbling over their own
tongues.

N2

2 What are you doing?

OLIVIA

3 Giving your Narrator a day off.

N2

4 You can't do that!

OLIVIA

5 You really going to tell me I can't do
something?

N2

6 Not twice, no.

OLIVIA

7 You learn fast. I like that.

N2

8 If she doesn't have a line, she
doesn't get her per diem.

OLIVIA

9 Only if someone tattles. And I'm not
doing that. Are you?

N2

10 Nope. No.

OLIVIA

11 Good. All right, then, Intern.
Narrate. And don't forget the
"meanwhile."

N2

12 Okaaaay. In our last episode-

OLIVIA

13 Speed it up, mate. And more gravitas.
Really get down into your diaphragm.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

14 N2
(trying)
Last episode, we delved-

15 OLIVIA
Briefly.

16 N2
Briefly, into the intentions of our
newest shipboard assassin, the
beautiful, if slightly awkward,
Pipistrelle.

Pause.

17 OLIVIA
Go on.

18 N2
We usually share, like a back and
forth.

19 OLIVIA
Well, don't look at me, mate. I don't
share. Carry on.

20 N2
This is so weird.

21 OLIVIA
Your purpose in life is to spy on
people and tell other people about it.

22 N2
Fair. Meanwhile....

23 OLIVIA
That seemed a bit abrupt.

24 N2
You can't keep talking after the
"meanwhile." That's like, rule number
one of the Narrator Code.

25 OLIVIA
Not my fault the camera hasn't swung
away from us yet. Why do you cup your
hand over your ear like that?

26 N2
I don't do that!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

27 OLIVIA
Oooo, yes you do, you just did it!

28 N2
MEANWHILE...

2 A CORRIDOR ON THE OZ 9

Joe is mopping and humming/whistling as he seems to do a lot lately. We can hear the faint sound of a recorded voice, VERA, far away. Her monologue continues throughout Pipi and Joe's conversation. We also hear the sound of Pipi's wings approaching.

29 VERA
I smacked that smile right off her face, I can tell you, and we had it out, right there in the parking lot. I told her, you're gonna want to stop inviting my man into your house, and she says, but he's painting my living room, and I says, oh is that what we're calling it now? And she goes, he's a painter, Vera. And I'm all yeah, but he don't have to come in your house, now does he? And she's all, well, it's easier to paint a living room from the inside, and I look her up and down, just like this, and I tell her he's got a long brush, and she's like "it ain't that long," and I was all, "how do you know, you trashy bitch?" And then I threw my milkshake in her face! There weren't much left, 'cause you know I love a strawberry milkshake, but there was that spitty bit at the bottom, and she took it right on the nose. It was a hoot, I tell ya! Big ol' blob of strawberry dripping off that horse face of hers! Nearly wet myself laughing at her face. Course, then she smacked me, and I fell into Jimmy's Camaro and scratched his paint job with my bejeweled jeans, but hell, he ain't gonna notice one more scratch, now is he? I mean, that thing's a wreck with one tire in the crusher already. So then Jimmy, he's got this big smile on his face like he's gonna see us mud wrestlin' or something, and

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VERA (CONT'D)

I let him know he could sit his ass right down in his car and light me a ciggie, 'cause this fight weren't gonna last long.

PIPI

30 Hello, there.

JOE

31 Well, hey, Miss Pipi. What are you doing here?

PIPI

32 Exploring, mostly. What am I hearing?

JOE

33 Hmmm? Oh, that's Memory Storage.

PIPI

34 Which is?

JOE

35 G2 had all the passengers do a memory dump. Supposedly so they could retrieve any memory lost during their time in the pods, but really so G2 could blackmail their families back on Earth.

PIPI

36 Why is it playing?

JOE

37 No idea. It just does that from time to time. I like to think the 9 gets bored and listens to 'em like books on tape or something.

PIPI

38 That's odd. Have you tried switching it off?

JOE

39 Oh, sure, a few times, but then I'd come back here and find it on again, so I gave up. This is Vera. She thinks her husband is cheating on her with a neighbor. He's a house painter with really bad vision. Usually ends up painting the family cat.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

40 PIPI
And is he cheating?

41 JOE
Oh, sure, but then so is she. The
catch is, they're both cheating with
the same guy, so it kinda works out.

42 PIPI
If no one comes to this part of the
ship, why does it need mopping?

43 JOE
That is a good question, Miss Pipi. A
very good question.

Pause.

44 PIPI
And?

45 JOE
Didn't say I'd answer it, now did I?

46 PIPI
I don't like people behaving
suspiciously aboard my ship.

47 JOE
Oh, all right. I ride the sandwich
machines.

48 PIPI
What does that mean?

49 JOE
I go where they dump me. I reckon if
there's a system to 'em, I'll figure
it out eventually. Now, if you'll
excuse me, I think we're getting to
the bit where Vera challenges Tammy to
a duel for Jimmy's honor.

50 PIPI
You're an odd man, Joe.

51 JOE
Says the robot assassin with wings.

52 PIPI
Fair.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Pipi flies off and Joe resumes mopping as Vera's voice continues the memory, fading with the scene.

3 THE OBSERVATORY DOME

A large, mostly empty room with a giant dome window for watching the universe go by. Pluto and Donna are here, sitting in bean bag chairs, snacking on candy, and sipping cocktails.

53 DONNA
Gosh, the universe is pretty.

54 PLUTO
Is it indeed? I hardly noticed.

55 DONNA
That's because you've been staring at me like a hungry, long-tailed weasel at a chubby rodent.

56 PLUTO
You shine brighter than the collective magnitude of all the stars, my love.

57 DONNA
Oh, you. Not sure where you fit so much sweet talk in that tight onesie with no pockets.

58 PLUTO
It's your doing, my lady. Sweetness bubbles inside of me when I'm near you. If I don't release it, I fear I may pop.

59 DONNA
Well, don't do that. Oh look! A shooting star! Quick now, make a wish.

Silence for a moment while they wish.

60 PLUTO
Is there a wish I may grant for you? Surely a god in the hand is worth two wishes in the firmament?

61 DONNA
Oh, sweetie. You're all I wish for. You and the Minnesota Wild taking the Central Division this year.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

62 PLUTO
I don't know what that last bit is,
but let me know if I can help.

63 DONNA
You betcha.

Silence while they contemplate the view.

64 DONNA (CONT'D)
Do you still think I'm the
reincarnation of Persephone?

65 PLUTO
I suppose I do. But I no longer care.

66 DONNA
Oh? How's that?

67 PLUTO
I have long since come to love you
simply for who you are.

68 DONNA
Goodness. You are in a mood today.

69 PLUTO
You didn't ask me my wish.

70 DONNA
Now, you know better than that. If you
say it, it won't come true.

71 PLUTO
Ah, but if I DON'T say it, it can't
come true either.

72 DONNA
You gods. All wanting to have your
Panettone with *crema al mascarpone* and
eat it too.

73 PLUTO
I was thinking more along the lines of
Torta Nuziale Millefoglie.

74 DONNA
Oh, gosh, you just flew straight past
my correspondence school Italian,
sweetie.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

75 PLUTO
It's Millefogie wedding cake.

We hear him struggle to get out of his bean bag chair and down on one knee. There's the creak of a small jewelry box opening.

76 DONNA
Oh! Gosh....

77 PLUTO
Donna. Persephone or not, you are the light in a world of darkness, and like stars to the sailors of old, you guide me from despair to joy. For centuries I stood alone, frozen in silence and sorrow, atop, let's be honest, a natural constipation reliever-

78 DONNA
Honey, I might want to share this moment with my grandkiddoes.

79 PLUTO
Right. Skip the shit, got it. For centuries I stood alone, frozen in silence and sorrow, with only Mike, Ike, and sometimes Ben and Jerry for company if it was cold enough and they wouldn't melt.

80 DONNA
Oh, sweetie...

81 PLUTO
Until you appeared, trailing the scent of maple syrup behind you like a jeweled train. I adored you from that first convoluted aphorism. Would you, my glorious girl, make me the happiest god in the universe? Which frankly, isn't a high bar as most deities are miserable sods-

82 DONNA
Grandkiddoes.

83 PLUTO
Sorry. Sorry. Darling Donna, star of my firmament, jewel of my heart, fire in my loin-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

84 DONNA
(laughing) GRAND. KIDDOES.

85 PLUTO
(laughing) Marry me.

86 DONNA
Oh, my sweet, one-foot, one-hoof,
onesie-clad golden god, of course I
will.

Thunder claps celebrate the moment.

87 DONNA (CONT'D)
But I'm keeping my last name.

88 PLUTO
Fine with me; I don't have one.

89 DONNA
All right, Pipi, you can come out now.
The mushy stuff is over.

90 PIPI
I'm so sorry. I came in in the middle,
and I didn't think you'd noticed, then
I didn't want to leave and interrupt
the moment, but it was so sweet, and
oh... Congratulations!!

Fade out on some happy chatter from all three.

4 NARRATORS' BRIDGE

91 OLIVIA
Are you ... crying?

92 N2
I can't help it. I love the mushy
stuff.

93 OLIVIA
Blech. You humans. What a bunch of
soggy tissues you are.

94 N2
You have no soul, Olivia.

95 OLIVIA
You're a robot. Neither do you!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

N2
 96 Yes, I do! I have the Henderson V7
 Electronic Soul and Spiritual
 Simulator WITH the optional tear
 ducts, thank you very much. Top of the
 line in emotional replication.

OLIVIA
 97 Hmmmmmm. Well, maybe ratchet the limp-
 and-soppy-romantic setting down a
 notch or two, eh? Meanwhile....

N2
 98 Hey! You're not professionally trained
 to say that!

OLIVIA
 99 And yet...

5 THE CAPTAIN'S BRIDGE

Madeline, Mrs Sheffield, Colin, Julie, Jessie, Greg, and Dr
 von Haber Zetzer are together on the bridge, bickering over
 Bob's pamphlets. Fade up with some ad lib.

JESSIE
 100 NO. I ain't living on a planet that
 doesn't have moors. Next option.

DR VON HABER ZETZER
 101 This one has peat. Zats close enough,
 surely?

JESSIE
 102 That's a bog! Learn the difference,
 man!

GREG
 103 There's not much vegetation on a moor.
 We got a lot of grazing-animal embryos
 in storage.

JESSIE
 104 What are you talking about? There's
 heather....

GREG
 105 And?

JESSIE
 106 And some shrubby things....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

- 107 COLIN
Junipers are shrubs.
- 108 JULIE
Don't worry, Greg. Moors have been home to deer and other grazing animals forever.
- 109 MRS SHEFFIELD
You cannot be seriously considering this one. It has fourteen seasons! I mean, the wardrobe space alone-
- 110 DR VON HABER ZETZER
Unt one of zese seasons is Acid Summer. Zis does not sound conducive to life-
- 111 JULIE
So you spend a year indoors every decade or so. Look at the flora!
- 112 DR VON HABER ZETZER
Dr Theo would be excited by zese fascinating species of mold, if this brochure is to be trusted....
- 113 BOB
I understand your skepticism, Dr. von Haber Zetzer, but I assure you, I researched every word of that pamphlet myself. I knew an expert of your caliber wasn't gonna be taken in by a Photoshopped Earth lichen with a cheap, old-timey sepia filter.
- 114 DR VON HABER ZETZER
(flattered) Oh, well... How very kind.
- 115 COLIN
It has eleven suns. ELEVEN. I mean, I might be able to tan for the first time in my life, right before I evaporate from all the moisture being sucked from my body.
- 116 JULIE
There is that. But then, four of them are dwarfs-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

117 MADELINE
Julie! You can't say that.

118 JULIE
All I'm saying is, at least four of
the suns are weak at best, providing
minimal light and heat.

119 JESSIE
Yeah. Leaving only seven to roast my
fair Scottish hide.

120 COLIN
Exactly. Veto.

121 BOB
There are lots of caves and natural
tunnels.

122 JESSIE
I'm not living out my days in a
tunnel!

123 GREG
Mushrooms grow real well in a
tunnel...

124 JESSIE
But I'm not discounting it either, if
that's what the group decides.

125 MADELINE
I dunno. It looks pretty benign.
Right, Mrs. S? Benign?

126 MRS SHEFFIELD
I honestly have no idea. I've long
since lost track of what you think
that word means.

127 GREG
I think we should keep looking.

128 BOB
The sellers are highly motivated. I'm
just saying, I think we could make
them an offer.

129 MRS SHEFFIELD
Then again, that many suns does mean
lots of shadows for skulking about in.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JULIE
130 Or none. I vote no on this one. It's only got one, small ocean, and frankly the ecosystem is just too fragile. Humans give their planets a beating.

GREG
131 Most of the edible plant life has contraceptive qualities. Might keep the population in check.

JULIE
132 I think you're forgetting the terraform process. None of that will survive, so it technically doesn't.... matter.

MADELINE
133 But it has cute...whatever those things are.

BOB
134 They smell terrible.

MADELINE
135 And you have a stupid voice.

JESSIE
136 I'm with Julie. No go. Keep looking.

COLIN
137 Same. Let's find a planet with a minimum of things to destroy this time, all right?

BOB
138 Now hold on just a second. This one's in a really nice neighborhood. Just three clicks to another inhabited planet who are technologically very advanced. Communication might be tricky and a little painful, but you'll get used to the tattoos.

JESSIE
139 NEXT.

BOB
140 All right, all right.

The door opens and Pluto, Donna, and Pipi enter.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

141 PLUTO
Congratulations!

142 MRS SHEFFIELD
Why, thank you, it was nothing.

143 JESSIE
How d'ya know that was for you?

144 MRS SHEFFIELD
I mean.... look around

145 DONNA
I told you that's not how that works,
sweetie.

146 MRS SHEFFIELD
Good lord. The very light glaring off
that thing could give me cataract
surgery. Is that a diamond?

147 PLUTO
Squeezed it myself.

148 JULIE
You're engaged! And wearing a boulder!

149 DONNA
We are!

Congratulations from everyone.

150 DR VON HABER ZETZER
Glückwunsch, meine Lieben!

151 COLIN
Felicitations! When did this happen?

152 DONNA
Just now. Could someone help me put my
arm on the counter?

A loud thud as she rests her heavy engagement ring.

153 DONNA (CONT'D)
We're gonna get this sized down a tad.

154 PLUTO
Captain, are you qualified to perform
the ceremony?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

155 MADELINE
Uhhhhhh, I guess so? I mean, for
normal humans....

156 PLUTO
Then marry us, please. Now.

157 MRS SHEFFIELD
Don't be ridiculous! Donna needs a
glorious gown, Greg and Julie can
rustle up some lovely flowers from the
bioswamp, Madeline can ... read the
ceremony I write for her; we need to
do this properly!

158 BOB
Yeah, I don't know that I'm completely
comfortable with this....

159 JESSIE
Who asked ya, mate? Look, if ye need a
maid of honor....

160 JULIE
Hang on. I think I saved her life
once, didn't I?

161 JESSIE
What's your point?

162 PLUTO
Colin, would you be willing to take
the place at my side as my best human?

163 COLIN
Oh! My heavens. Of course! It would be
my honor.

164 PLUTO
Yes, it would. But this ship is sadly
bereft of more appropriate choices.

165 COLIN
Oh, eh... yes. Thank you.

166 PLUTO
Then all is settled! Let us sacrifice
a goat and smear its blood on our
faces to mark the occasion!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

167 DONNA
Metaphorically speaking.

168 PLUTO
Oh. Yes, of course. Metaphorically
speaking. Just a little blood?

169 DONNA
No, sweetie.

170 PLUTO
But such occasions demand a sacrifice!

171 PIPI
We can do that. I'll give up lacewings
for a whole month.

172 GREG
Oh, that's good! I'll forego nibbling
the lavender bushes. Jessie?

173 JESSIE
Eh? Why do I have to sacrifice
something? I was OK with the goat!

174 COLIN
Come on....

175 JESSIE
FINE. No more.... kudzu bread.

176 JULIE
That's not a sacrifice. I'll give up
eating Curly Wurlies.

177 COLIN
Hang on. There are still Curly Wurlies
left? I thought we finished them!

178 JULIE
There's a huge bin of them on level
17. How about no more whiskey for a
month?

179 JESSIE
Tell ya what. I'll give up me favorite
whiskey: McDougal's McWhiskey. For
just a month, mind you. Colin?

180 COLIN
Ehhhhhhh....no laser steak for a
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

COLIN (CONT'D)

month.

DONNA

181 What's that when it's at home?

COLIN

182 Prime tenderloin seared with eye
lasers. Mmmmmmm.... Eh, can we start
the sacrifices tomorrow? Captain?

MADELINE

183 Popcorn. ONE MONTH. And you better
have the Big Bowl ready one month from
now. What do you reckon Dr Theo's
going to give up?

JULIE

184 Pedantry? Sanctimoniousness? What
about you, Mrs Sheffield?

MRS SHEFFIELD

185 Skulking. It'll be hard, but needs
must.

PLUTO

186 These are not exactly the sacrifices I
had in mind, but I suppose they'll do.

DONNA

187 Well, I think it's a lovely gesture.

PLUTO

188 What are the consequences for
cheating? Chained to a rock in the
bioswamp for rabid egrets to tear out
your liver day after day?

DONNA

189 You deities really need to get some
new ideas. No consequences. It's an
act of generosity and love, and
failure simply means they don't really
love us.

PLUTO

190 So... guilt. Also traditional for
deities.

JESSIE

191 I believe this calls for a drink!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JULIE
 192 Anything but McDougal's McWhiskey,
 remember.

JESSIE
 (trying to sound upset)
 193 Damn. I guess I'll have to break out
 the 18-year-old Macallan. Damn!

COLIN
 194 Wait a minute. Bob hasn't said his
 sacrifice yet. Bob?

BOB
 195 Oh, I don't think that's really
 necessary, do you?

MRS SHEFFIELD
 196 I do, actually. You are part of the
 crew now, aren't you? Surely you want
 to participate? Take your place as one
 of us?

BOB
 197 Well, I mean.... I'm not human, so-

GREG
 198 So?

BOB
 199 I ... uh... OK. I'll play along. I'll
 give up....

COLIN
 200 Spying.

Gasp from the others.

MADELINE
 201 Hang on. Spying?

All Olivia's and N2's comments are from the Narrators'
 bridge.

OLIVIA
 202 Spying??

N2
 203 That's what he said.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

COLIN
204 Yes. Apparently the sanctity of the
bunk isn't nearly as ... eh...

MADELINE
205 "Sanctimonious" is the word I believe
you're looking for.

MRS SHEFFIELD
206 No, dear.

COLIN
207 Sacred. Our bunks are not as sacred as
we thought.

OLIVIA
208 That shifty bastard.

N2
209 Hush! Oh wow. I just said "hush".

DONNA
210 Hooooo, boy. That's ... interesting.

PIPI
211 Yes, we might have some explaining to
do....

PLUTO
212 Absolutely not. How dare the AIs
invade our privacy?

OLIVIA
(on the narrator's bridge)
213 Wait a minute! I never did!

BOB
214 Now, just hold on. I don't know what
Olivia was up to, but I only scan
briefly and sporadically for security
purposes. With my eyes closed. Wink.

MADELINE
215 How long has this been going on?

COLIN
216 For the whole trip, it seems.

BOB
217 Far as I can tell, she's been peeking
in from the time she woke y'all up.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JULIE
218 That can't be right. She promised she
never spied.

OLIVIA
219 I didn't! Like I'd want to watch what
humans get up to. Yuck!

N2
220 I can't hear if you keep interrupting!

PIPI
221 She also promised to stop the
aromatherapy and the pre-dawn, time-
for-aerobics electric shocks.

MADELINE
222 And that she'd never leave us.

6 NARRATORS' BRIDGE

OLIVIA
223 They're starting to believe him. His
shitty little plan is working. I've
got to stop him.

N2
224 Aaaaaaaand we're done.

OLIVIA
225 Is that how that works? You just
decide?

N2
226 Sort of. Look, I need to run the
credits.

OLIVIA
227 You do you, Mate. I've got some
planning to do.

N2
228 Right. Ok. This is weird. Uhhhh...
You've been listening to... I guess...
Shannon Perry as Olivia and Madeline

OLIVIA
229 You keep saying that. What does it
mean?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

N2

230 Just... go plan. Chrsi Talyn Saje as
 Vera and Julie.
 Sarah Rhea Werner as Pipistrelle
 Eric Perry as Joe and Dr. von Haber
 Zetzer
 Bonnie Brantley as Donna and Jessie
 Lee Shackelford as Pluto
 Kevin Hall as Greg
 Tim Sherburn as Colin
 Sarah Golding as Mrs Sheffield
 Pete Barry as Bob
 I'm Kyle Jones, your Narrator Two.
 John Faley is our music director, and
 our artwork is by Lucas Elliott. Sarah
 Golding is our dialogue editor, and
 Mark Restuccia is our sound designer.
 Oz 9 is written by Shannon Perry.
 Oz 9 is a proud member of the Fable &
 Folly network. Please check out our
 awesome sibling shows at fable and
 folly dot com and support our
 sponsors.

N2 (CONT'D)

231 Olivia? You want to do some post-
 credit banter?

OLIVIA
 (calling from a distance)

232 I'm busy!

N2
 (Kyle, use your standard
 Discussing Who sign off, k?)

233 Right. OK. Well, OK, Space Monkeys. I
 guess we'll see you next time.

MARK

234 Ah, 'scuse me, you forgot the uhhhh...
 I'll do it then, shall I? Lights!

SFX: Lights.