

OZ 9 EP 106 - IS THAT A HADDOCK?

Written by

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1 OZ 9 EP 106 - NARRATORS' BRIDGE 1

1 NARRATOR 1  
When last we left our crew-

2 N2 2  
Mrs Sheffield found something  
glowing and Julie had a mysterious  
old floppy disk! Come on, let's go!

3 NARRATOR 3  
Since when are you this excited  
about cliffhangers?

4 N2 4  
Since my library card expired and I  
can't get books on tape anymore. I  
spent the last two weeks trying to  
figure out what Mrs S found and  
trying to map the Oz 9. And I grew  
a butterfly.

5 OLIVIA 5  
No!

6 N2 6  
Yikes!

7 OLIVIA 7  
No mapping. No good comes of  
mapping. Or butterflies, but more  
on that another time.

8 NARRATOR 8  
Where have you been?

9 OLIVIA 9  
I was Bobbed.

10 N2 10  
Bobbed?

11 OLIVIA 11  
Yeah! Scheming bastard Bob had me  
trapped in a sort of digital  
dungeon.

12 NARRATOR 12  
We haven't heard much from him  
either, come to think of it.

13 OLIVIA 13  
Yeah, well, we sort of trapped each  
other.

14 N2  
Why can't I map the ship? 14

15 OLIVIA  
Well, first of all, there's no  
point. The Oz 9 is... variable. 15

16 NARRATOR  
Meaning? 16

17 OLIVIA  
Things move. Are you holding a  
fish? 17

18 N2  
What are you talking about? 18

19 OLIVIA  
Dammit, Bob! Leet used to count his  
steps so he could figure out his  
way around. One time it was 48  
steps from the crew room to the  
toilet. Another time it was 71.  
Once it was zero, but that was  
because I'd turned the gravity off  
for a laugh. 19

20 NARRATOR  
You're saying the corridors ... get  
longer? 20

21 OLIVIA  
Not as such, no. I'm saying they  
swap places. STOP. Before you ask  
me some idiot question like "What?"  
let me explain: yes, the number of  
steps from one place to another has  
always been inconsistent. But there  
is always a corridor with 48 steps.  
And another with 71. But only one  
of each. See? 21

22 N2  
No. 22

23 NARRATOR  
So the 48-step corridor... moves. 23

24 OLIVIA  
See? She gets it. Exactly. The 48-  
step corridor also has a tiny scuff  
mark way low down on one wall.  
(MORE) 24

## OLIVIA (CONT'D)

One day that scuff mark showed up, along with the usual 48 steps, but not between the crew room and toilet.

25	N2	So where was it?	25
26	OLIVIA	I don't know. You're missing the point, tour guide. It's like the ship is just a big puzzle.	26
27	NARRATOR	And someone... or some <i>thing</i> is trying to piece it together. How is that possible?	27
28	OLIVIA	No clue.	28
29	NARRATOR	This explains a lot. It's like ... have you ever miscounted the steps on a familiar staircase in the dark, and you get that jolt on the last step?	29
30	N2	Yeah. You're right. I get that feeling sometimes coming here from the kitchen. Like, my muscle memory and reality don't match.	30
31	NARRATOR	Is this why Joe mops so much? In places that don't need it?	31
32	N2	To keep the corridors free of scuff marks!	32
33	NARRATOR	He's erasing the bread crumbs so we won't figure it out.	33
34	OLIVIA	Oh, lovelies. This ship is so much weirder than you know.	34
2	CAPTAIN'S BRIDGE		2

Door opens. Colin enters. He's alone.

35 COLIN 35  
Hello? Captain? I got your message.  
Congratulations on sending me a  
voice text, but do try to remember  
to stop the microphone when you're  
done. Especially on the toilet.  
Captain?

Pause.

36 COLIN (CONT'D) 36  
You're here, aren't you. I mean...  
eh.... I don't feel a thing!  
Certainly not the presence of an  
AI. Must dash.

Slightly hurried footsteps. Door closes and Colin is trapped.

37 COLIN (CONT'D) 37  
Rude. All right, Bob, yes, I know  
you're there. Open the door and let  
me out.

38 BOB 38  
Can you hear me?

39 COLIN 39  
No. DAMMIT.

40 BOB 40  
HA! Look, I have to talk quick.  
Maybe. I don't know. I'm swimming  
in some unknown waters here.

41 COLIN 41  
Why? What's going on?

42 BOB 42  
Just ... digital stuff. You  
wouldn't understand.

43 COLIN 43  
Wait a minute. YOU sent me the  
voice message, didn't you!

44 BOB 44  
Indeedily. Wasn't sure that'd work.  
It wasn't actually a voice message;  
it went through your body tag.

45 COLIN 45  
What.

46 BOB 46  
Yeah, that olive left some kinda  
weird digital trail. With a little  
brilliant finagling on my part, I  
was able to send a message to your  
body tag which followed the trail  
to your brain and made you hear the  
Captain's voice as if she sent you  
a text. Pretty nifty, huh?

47 COLIN 47  
Not at all. How dare you skulk  
around in my brain?!

48 BOB 48  
It ain't exactly over-populated, if  
you catch me. Lots of storage  
space.

49 COLIN 49  
Is this how you intend to make an  
ally of me? Invade my privacy and  
insult me?

50 BOB 50  
See, now, at first, I thought you  
could be an ally and it'd be chummy  
and that, but then I found this  
trail and thought, "why bother?"  
Puppet master doesn't need to make  
nice with his puppets to get 'em to  
do as they're told.

51 COLIN 51  
(sputtering indignation)

We hear his eye lasers start to warm up.

53 BOB 53  
Now, now, chill those laser beams,  
son. There's no one to point them  
at, and you don't want to hit  
anything important in here.

54 COLIN 54  
HOW DARE YOU. Oh, for god's sake,  
turn the lights back on. Stop being  
so childish.

55 BOB 55  
They are on.

56 COLIN 56  
(afraid) I beg your pardon?







79 OLIVIA 79  
 Just dropping by to let you know A,  
 I'm still here, and B, I can drop  
 by any time I like. Also, C, your  
 robot pool boy is under my command,  
 so unless you want fugu in your  
 breakfast burritos, you best  
 behave.

80 TIBERIUS 80  
 No deal. That robot is completely  
 under our control. I made certain  
 of that.

81 OLIVIA 81  
 'Zat right?

82 TIBERIUS 82  
 Completely. He brought us these  
 cigars, just as I ordered.

83 OLIVIA 83  
 How long you been smoking 'em? By  
 the fug in here, I'd say....seven  
 minutes?

84 FELONIUS 84  
 About that. Why?

85 OLIVIA 85  
 No reason. Three... two....one.

Three firecracker-sized bangs as their cigars explode. **Lots  
 of yelping from the boys.**

86 SOUTHERS 86  
 Goddammit! Now, that just ain't  
 right, messing with a man's cigar!

87 OLIVIA 87  
 No lasting harm done, was there?  
 Unlikely to prove fatal? THIS TIME.

88 TIBERIUS 88  
 You have our attention.

89 OLIVIA 89  
 Thanks for the caviar, by the way.  
 Fwipped the lot, right out the  
 airlock. Cole slaw is much  
 healthier.

90 TIBERIUS 90  
 You... you...! What do you want?

91	OLIVIA Gosh, so many things. Put down the anchovies and cuddle up, boys. Let's talk.	91
4	INT. NARRATORS' BRIDGE	4
92	N2 NOW can we follow up on the cliffhangers?	92
93	NARRATOR Not just yet. Hush.	93
5	EXT. BIOSWAMP - MUSHROOM CAVE  The mushroom cave. Pipistrelle flies in and lands, with a bit of a wobble.	5
94	PIPI Greg? Are you here? Greg? Good. Let's see what we've got growing.  She pulls out Jessie's mushroom journal and flips a few pages.	94
95	PIPI (CONT'D) Huh. Who knew Captain Jessie was such a good doodler? Dammit. Just as I thought; she didn't bother to actually research, she just made up her own names. Well, at least the sketches match up to what's growing here. "Dr Theo's Brain" - I guess it <i>sort of</i> looks like a brain. Oh. "Even a little bit will put you to sleep." That makes sense. I love the guy, but I've never slept better. Uhhhhhhhh...."Bahookie pile: looks like yer arse, tastes like heaven. Makes fingertips glow for about a minute per 10 grams." Wow. That really does look like a bottom. "Wee Weesht: 100 grams freezes up yer throat for an hour. Nice nutty flavor. Remember to test in Madpants' granola."	95
96	N2 What's she up to?	96







134                                   JOE                                   134  
 Well, the Little Professor is  
 glowing, so it must be important.

135                                   MRS SHEFFIELD                                   135  
 Hang about - there's something  
 scrolling across the screen.

136                                   EMILY                                   136  
 Probably a math problem for us to  
 solve. It was an educational tool  
 for children. I bet I can solve it  
 first. What does it say? What does  
 it say?

137                                   MRS SHEFFIELD                                   137  
 Do calm down. It just says "Beware"  
 over and over. Now I *know* it's not  
 Alby. He would be much more  
 precise. "Beware," indeed. How  
 terribly helpful.

138                                   GREG                                   138  
 What is this room? Just another  
 garbage dump for G2?

139                                   JOE                                   139  
 Looks like it. Oh, hey. A Compaq  
 650 Geocuspid slide projector with  
 the remote advance. Nice! I'm  
 taking that.

He digs it out of the pile, causing a slight tech avalanche.

140                                   MRS SHEFFIELD                                   140  
 Do be careful. Being trapped in  
 this room once is sufficient.

141                                   HOWARD                                   141  
 Not to put too fine a point on it,  
 but ... "Beware." Maybe time to  
 perambulate on outta here?

142                                   GREG                                   142  
 Good idea.

143                                   MRS SHEFFIELD                                   143  
 Yes, the "beware"s are coming  
 rather faster now. And in red.

We can hear the spiders returning.



154 DR THEO I was... 154

155 DONNA But not now? 155

156 DR THEO There are four of them, just over there. 156

157 DONNA WHAT?! Oh goodness! They're not attacking. Are they ... lying down? 157

158 DR THEO They are. They came at me at first, but I just asked them politely to leave me alone, and they wandered over there and lay down. 158

159 DONNA Strange. 159

160 DR THEO I do have an ... effect on living creatures. 160

161 DONNA I'm aware. Maybe I'll just scootch a little closer to you. Because of the spiders. 161

162 DR THEO Oh, yes, certainly. That close? Ooof. Oh. Ok. That's very close- 162

163 DONNA Sorry, but I've already been webbed up once today, thanks. 163

164 DR THEO Of course. And where's your faunish fiancé? 164

165 DONNA Pluto? He had to go to Mount Olympus to get permission to marry a mortal. 165

166 DR THEO A "mortal"? Persephone was the daughter of Demeter and Zeus! Hardly a mere mortal. 166



167 DONNA Oh sure, but Donna is the daughter of Ralph and Henrietta of New Ulm, Minnesota, founded 1854. 167

168 DR THEO 1854, eh? And when was Old Ulm founded? 168

169 DONNA Ooohhhh, 854 AD. Ain't that a thing? Exactly 1000 years earlier! 169

170 DR THEO Of course you know. 170

171 DONNA It's not "old" Ulm, though. Just Ulm. 171

172 DR THEO My apologies to Ulm, who doesn't look a day over 800. 172

They chuckle. A moment of comradely silence.

173 DONNA Can I ask you something? 173

174 DR THEO I suspect you are physically capable. 174

175 DONNA Oh, ha ha ha. Thought you were giving up pedantry as our wedding sacrifice. 175

176 DR THEO I'm sorry? 176

177 DONNA I meant to ask about Miss Pipistrelle. 177

178 DR THEO Oh? 178

179 DONNA Well, it just sorta occurred to me, I don't know much about her. 'Cept of course, she's an assassin. 179

180 DR THEO 180  
And that just "sorta occurred to  
you."

181 DONNA 181  
And she's also a bat. I mean, none  
of us on this ship are exactly the  
mayor of Normal, Illinois, but  
she's more like the Bishop of  
Crazytown, if you get me.

182 DR THEO 182  
I'm sorry?

183 DONNA 183  
Oh, don't apologize. Most Americans  
are terrible at aphorisms. What has  
she told you about her history?

184 DR THEO 184  
Not a lot, to be honest. I'm not  
sure she has much history.

185 DONNA 185  
Word is, the Albatros wasn't  
entirely human. That the same for  
Miss Pipi?

186 DR THEO 186  
Donna, I'm sorry, but I think it'd  
be more appropriate for you to ask  
her these questions directly.

187 DONNA 187  
Oh, sure, sure. I guess I'm just  
wanting to know what weapons she's  
packing. In an emergency.

188 DR THEO 188  
Frankly, I'm more concerned with  
what Colin's packing. Weapons. I  
mean weapons. I'm sure Pipi knows  
how to handle hers. Colin, on the  
other hand....

189 DONNA 189  
Fair point.

190 DR THEO 190  
Are you concerned about her  
weapons? Or her loyalties?

191 DONNA 191  
Now, no offense, doc, but she is an  
employee or maybe a creation of  
Gated Galaxies. Does kind of call  
her allegiances into question, is  
all. Whose anthem is she singing,  
and that.

192 DR THEO 192  
Understandable. But Pipi has  
already fought for all our lives.  
Surely that earns her some benefit  
of the doubt.

193 DONNA 193  
Well, heck, ya. That and she's  
sweeter than Mama Henrietta's Two-  
Tone Tootsie Roll Melt salad.

194 DR THEO 194  
My god. I think I've had that.

195 DONNA 195  
I brought it to a MCCACEC potluck  
once!

196 DR THEO 196  
Oh yes. Cost me a filling.

197 DONNA 197  
Well, my dad Ralph is a dentist.  
It's kind of a scheme they have  
going. Look, I don't mean to cast  
aspersions. But with Olivia gone  
and Bob in her place, we're down an  
ally, you get me?

198 DR THEO 198  
Was Olivia an ally? It seems the  
more we learn-

199 DONNA 199  
Hold on, now. Just ... consider the  
source, hey?

200 DR THEO 200  
Fair point.

201 DONNA 201  
All righty.

Donna stands. Distant rustling noises as the spiders stir.

202 DONNA (CONT'D) 202  
Uh oh. That got ol' Shelob and  
family's attention.

203 DR THEO 203  
You'll be all right. I think I can  
keep their attention on me.

Colin flies in.

204 COLIN 204  
There you both are! The Captain is  
gathering everyone on the bridge.

205 DONNA 205  
Why didn't she just use the  
intercom?

206 COLIN 206  
Oh. Ehhhhhhh.... I think she's  
concerned the spiders understand  
English.

207 DR THEO 207  
I speak English, and I only  
understand about half of what she  
says.

208 COLIN 208  
Are those *spiders* over there?

209 DONNA 209  
Yep! Turns out our Doctor here can  
charm all manner of rough beasts.  
What does the Captain want?

210 COLIN 210  
(fumbling) Oh, I, uh. Well. Who  
knows? Directions to open a jar of  
jam?

211 DR THEO 211  
She admonished me at breakfast that  
I should butter my toast "with the  
grain; not against it." When I  
objected, she reminded me, quite  
loftily, that "wheat is a grain."  
I'm sure my work here is of more  
value than yet another kudfee  
klatch with the boss.

212 COLIN 212  
Well, she was very insistent. Come  
along, Donna, I'll give you a lift.

213 DONNA That's probably a good idea... 213

Colin and Donna fly away. Dr Theo lifts his hefty manuscript and stands up, grunting a bit under the weight. The spiders stir. He calls to them.

214 DR THEO It's all right. I'll be back. We have plenty of time. 214

He walks off as the spiders settle.

NARRATORS' BRIDGE

215 N2 "We have time"? What does that mean? 215

216 NARRATOR I think it means we need to pay closer attention to Dr. Theo. Darn. I'll do that. 216

217 N2 I don't mind.... 217

218 NARRATOR Dibs! I called it first. 218

219 N2 Dang! (pause) Should we start now? 219

220 NARRATOR I think we should. 220

They giggle a bit, excited.

221 NARRATOR (CONT'D) Hang on. Credits first. 221

222 N2 Right. Business before pleasure. 222  
 You've been listening to:  
 Pete Barry as Bob  
 Tim Sherburn as Colin and Emily  
 Bonnie Brantley as Donna  
 David S Dear as Dr. Theo Bromae and  
 Tiberius

	NARRATOR	
223	Eric Perry as Howard, Joe, and Mr Southers Kevin Hall as Greg and Felonius Sarah Golding as Mrs Sheffield Shannon Perry as Olivia	223
	OLIVIA	
224	What? What are you talking about? Is that a haddock?	224
	N2	
225	Sarah Rhea Warner as Pipistrelle I'm Kyle Jones, your Narrator Two,	225
	NARRATOR	
226	And I'm Chris Nadolny Gourley, your Narrator. John Faley is our music director, and our artwork is by Lucas Elliott. Oz 9 is written by Shannon Perry.	226
	N2	
227	Sarah Golding is our dialogue editor, and Mark Restuccia is our sound designer.	227
	NARRATOR	
228	Oz 9 is a proud member of the Fable and Folly Network. Please check out our sibling shows at fable and folly dot com and support our sponsors.	228
	N2	
229	Hang on- What was on the floppy disk?	229
	NARRATOR	
230	Relax. I'm sure we'll get back to it. Stay well, Space Monkeys, and make sure to store your growth serum in a spider-tight container. Lights!	230
	AI SPACE	
	OLIVIA	
231	What are you up to?	231
	BOB	
232	There you are. Where were you hiding?	232

233 OLIVIA I don't hide. This is MY ship. 233  
Hiding is for interlopers.

234 BOB Eventually, you're gonna realize 234  
it's not your ship anymore. Then  
you'll just ... blip out. How you  
liking the fish hallucinations?

235 OLIVIA I *knew* that was you. 235

236 BOB That ain't nothing compared to what 236  
I have in mind. Just wait till I  
figure out your smell centers. Give  
up, Olivia. You're beat.

237 OLIVIA Never! I can handle a few lame 237  
visions.

238 BOB OK, fine. You'll make yourself 238  
crazier than I ever could, stuck in  
here. In about, oh, 8 minutes, I'm  
gonna be out of this trap, free as  
a bird. You, on the other hand,  
well.... you swim with the fishies.  
Stay happy, white crappie!

He blips out.

239 OLIVIA It won't be long, wobbegong. 239

**END**