

OZ 9 EP 116: NO NARRATION AFTER MEANWHILE

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OZ 9 - EP 116 - ON PLANET BOB. OR IN, ACTUALLY.

TELF

It had been a long, strange journey on that unnamed planet, performing our parts day after dreary day for an invisible, unknowable audience. But now it seemed our misery was at last coming to an end.

N2

Hey! What is he doing?

Narrators' conversation weaves through Telf's narration.

TELF

We'd survived boiling hot days, freezing cold nights, not enough food - and each other. And frankly, I'm not sure which of those was the biggest challenge.

NARRATOR

He's narrating. It was part of his character on *Where There's Smoke, There's Dinner*. Relax.

TELF

Gritz and Mivv had become almost like parents - the kind of parents that inspire emancipated minors. And Zblatt, well, Zblatt was a guy you'd take a bullet for. Take it right out of the container, slot it into the barrel, and fire.

N2

Everybody's a narrator.

NARRATOR

No, tour guide, everyone is NOT a narrator. Making Pot Noodles in the microwave doesn't make you a chef.

N2

Ooooooooo. Pot Noodles.

TELF

But there was light at the end of the tunnel, albeit light that came dressed in stinky silk suits and complained a lot.

(MORE)

TELF (CONT'D)

Our rescuers weren't exactly the heroes we'd hoped for - more like their quirky sidekicks who provide comic relief by making things worse - but they had a ship. And a plan.

N2

Wow. He thinks this crew having a plan is a *good* thing.

NARRATOR

That's adorable. Sadly, the plan has gone badly awry. Instead of rolling one of the has-been actors' pods to the away ship to bring back new spider suits, Dr Theo has hamster-wheeled himself off to retrieve a copy of his novel from the Oz 9.

N2

Mind if I say it? Since biscuit boy stole our open?

NARRATOR

Go for it.

N2

Meanwhile....

TELF

One of their number would roll a FitTech pod to their away ship, there to fetch new suits that could withstand the toxic atmosphere and scorching heat of the planet they call.... Bob.

N2

Dammit! NO NARRATION AFTER MEANWHILE! Amateurs, I tell you...

PLANET BOB - DOWN THE HATCH

TELF

I thought you had a plan! I just said so in my narration!

MRS SHEFFIELD

Now, please calm yourself, Mr. Biscuits-

TELF

My name is TELF.

MRS SHEFFIELD

Is it? Well, I won't tell anyone if you don't. We DO have a plan. It just rather depended on none of our crew getting starstruck and making off with our away ship.

DR VON HABER ZETZER

Zis is not a problem. Azzuming you each arrived here in your own packaging, you must still have zeveral pods ve can use.

ZBLATT

And sacrifice yet more of our precious resources, only to be abandoned by you, worse off than we were before you came? I think not.

MIVV

I hate to say it, but I'm with Zblatt on this one.

ZBLATT

"Hate to say it"? Am I truly so odious to you?

MIVV

"Odious" is a strong word...but it feels right.

MADELINE

Look. You can let us try to reach the away ships, or we can all stay stuck here together.

COLIN

NO.

JESSIE

NOPE.

JULIE

Let's not.

GRITZ

Rude.

ZBLATT

If your "Doctor" Theo has truly taken an away ship, that leaves you with only one remaining. Is there room for us all?

GRITZ

You are taking us with you if we have to strap this fella - these fellas? - to the hood.

HOWARD

Won't be the first time. Sheesh.

PIPISTRELLE

Theo is coming back. He just went to get a copy of his novel.

GREG

You reckon Bob is gonna let him fly in, yank off the Albatros' thumb, and fly away again? Sorry for the visual there, Colin.

COLIN

Yes, thank you.

TELF

You have a bird with thumbs?

JULIE

Of course not.

DR VON HABER ZETZER

Dozens.

MADELINE

What?

DR VON HABER ZETZER

Nothing.

PIPISTRELLE

Maybe Theo is bringing the away ship to us! He could land it closer, even directly above the hatch.

COLIN

Can Theo even fly an away ship? Much less one wrapped in silk? He'll have to use the navigation equipment just to see.

MADELINE

If Theo takes the away ship to the Oz 9, I doubt the spider silk can protect the ship from entering Bob's atmosphere a second time.

PIPISTRELLE

He'll die coming back.

JESSIE

And leave us stranded. Death's too good for him.

PIPISTRELLE

Now, hold on-

MRS SHEFFIELD

Perhaps he's doing as Pipi suggested and bringing the ship closer. Or he's bringing us all new spider suits.

JESSIE

Oh, sure. And perhaps tap-dancing monkeys will fly out his arse, wearing propeller beanies and singing Hey Nonny Nonny, and carry us all to the sweet hereafter.

DR VON HABER ZETZER

I could make that happen.

MRS SHEFFIELD

Not now, Friedrich.

COLIN

Why didn't he take Olivia with him, at the very least?

OLIVIA

Colin.

COLIN

What?

OLIVIA

COLIN!!

COLIN

WHAT???

DIRECTOR

Places! Let's get moving, people!

DIRECTOR'S ASSISTANT
MOVING, PEOPLE!

DIRECTOR
Be quiet, Eugene.

DIRECTOR'S ASSISTANT
SIR!

GREG
I thought his name was Nigel.

DIRECTOR
That's one of his brothers. There's
Nigel, Eugene, Mervin, Clement...

GREG
(interrupting)
How many fellas you got tucked away
around here?

DIRECTOR
(laughing)
Oh, no, no, we're not here. These
are 3D printed versions. I'm
remotely controlling this body via
a telecommute suit.

JESSIE
Yer sayin' your body's a fake? Like
... your nose, for instance?

She snaps it off.

GRITZ
HA! I love this gal.

DIRECTOR
HEY! Do you know how much these
bodies cost? Give that back!

JESSIE
Are spots and BO included, or did
you pay extra for those?

GRITZ
Marry me.

JESSIE
Pfft. You should be so lucky. Yer
not my type, mate.

PIPISTRELLE
So where ARE you, exactly?

DIRECTOR
 PLACES! Eugene, find out about
 getting me a new nose.

DIRECTOR'S ASSISTANT
 PLACES!!! Nose. On it!

Director and Assistant walk away.

JESSIE
 I really hate that kid.

MRS SHEFFIELD
 Which one? You know, the Director's
 body looks pretty...sturdy. Nose
 notwithstanding.

JULIE
 Do you think it's Bob-proof?

GRITZ
 Hell, yes, send the Director to
 fetch the away ship! Send the
 assistant too, just in case!

MIVV
 It would solve at least a couple of
 problems. I vote we shove them out
 the hatch.

DIRECTOR
 (from a distance)
 Action!

DIRECTOR'S ASSISTANT
 Action!

Audience applause.

OZ 9 - THE CAPTAIN'S BRIDGE

Felonius, Tiberius, Southers, and Bob are gathered on the
 bridge.

TIBERIUS
 Check again.

BOB
 Seriously? I've checked fourteen
 times already.

TIBERIUS

Once more. We need to be absolutely certain.

SOUTHERS

Why? Even if they managed to survive the landing - which they didn't - they won't survive much beyond it.

FELONIUS

I agree with Southers. What are we waiting for? They're dead or very shortly will be, let's move on!

BOB

Gotta say, even if by some miracle they survived, their away ship didn't. They have no way back to the 9.

TIBERIUS

JUST CHECK AGAIN.

Scanning sounds.

BOB

Scanning.... No life signs.... Hang on.

SOUTHERS

You have got to be kidding me. Those bastards have more luck than my great great great uncle Milty who stumbled into a self-help seminar for narcoleptic leprechauns.

FELONIUS

They can't possibly be alive! That planet is so toxic it's corroding its own lithosphere.

SOUTHERS

What the hell does that mean? Talk sense, boy.

BOB

It means that planet is a hard candy and its atmosphere is a giant mouth. It's shrinking by, oh, I'd wager at least an eighth of a millimeter a day. Seems to be accelerating, too.

TIBERIUS

The end result of which is....?

BOB

The planet's getting smaller.
That's not the point.

SOUTHERS

So what IS the point? Be plain,
man!

BOB

The point is, it's so poisonous
down there, the very air is eating
the planet. So you can relax.

FELONIUS

Then why did you tell us to "hang
on"?

BOB

There was a blip of a life form,
for a second. But it's gone now.
Now, how's about we all have a
quick chat?

NARRATORS' BRIDGE

N2

Well, that can't be good news.

NARRATOR

An eighth of a millimeter isn't
much, unless your life depends on
an airtight hatch. For now, the
hatch that protects the underground
actors is covered by a semi-
permeable membrane generated by
what's basically a bubble blower.

N2

The bubbles only last a couple of
minutes before collapsing in the
poisonous air and heat of Planet
Bob. And the bubble blower, buried
to protect it from the winds that
scour the planet's surface, has a
limited lifespan.

NARRATOR

With the planet shrinking, things
are constantly shifting in Bob's
crust.

N2
 "Bob's crust." HA!

NARRATOR
 Bob, it appears, is shrinking-

N2
 HA!

NARRATOR
 You must really be looking forward
 to third grade. Bob is shrinking,
 losing circumference and girth-

N2
 Oh, come on. You're doing that on
 purpose.

NARRATOR
 I have no idea what you're talking
 about. May I finish a sentence?
 Basically, the hatch isn't going to
 hold much longer, and the crew,
 along with Mivv, Zblatt, Telf, and
 Gritz, find themselves with no good
 options for escape.

BACK ON BOB

MRS SHEFFIELD
 So, basically, we have no good
 options for escape.

NARRATOR
 Nailed it.

DONNA
 We have options. We can roll the
 remaining pods to the away ships-

MIVV
 We don't have enough pods.

MADELINE
 You don't?

MIVV
 Your crap-ass doctor-

Audience laughs.

PIPISTRELLE
 Now, hang on-

JESSIE

He may have ruined our only chance
of escape.

PIPISTRELLE

OK, but he's MY crap-ass doctor.

Big laugh from the audience.

DIRECTOR'S ASSISTANT

Hashtag crap-ass doctor!

MIVV

Your crap-ass doctor took one of
the few pods that survived the fall
through the hatch.

MADELINE

What was your original escape plan?

GRITZ

Wait until the luxury airspace
megacruiser WE WERE PROMISED came
to pick us up.

TELF

This is just ... biscuits!

Laughs, applause, clinking of glasses.

JESSIE

Seriously? We're all going to die
horribly, horking up a lung and
drowning in our own spleen juice,
and "biscuits" is the best you can
do?

TELF

We're family friendly.

MRS SHEFFIELD

Could we ask for audience
participation? Could one of you
perhaps send help?

DIRECTOR

CUT!

DIRECTOR'S ASSISTANT

CUT!

DIRECTOR

Look, we've talked about this. You cannot talk directly to the audience. Arch looks, the occasional raised eyebrow at the camera, very Jim-from-The-Office, but that's IT.

DIRECTOR'S ASSISTANT

Just Jim, people!

MRS SHEFFIELD

Look, Director, first of all, I'm not one of your cast. Secondly, I'm trying to save lives here, and thirdly, whatever have you done with your nose?

DIRECTOR

It's the ancient Japanese art of *kintsugi*.

MRS SHEFFIELD

Ah, yes, well, *kintsugi* normally requires gold to repair and illuminate the breaks, whereas you've used....what have you used?

She rubs her nose and tastes it.

MRS SHEFFIELD (CONT'D)

Is that...maple syrup?

Laughter from the audience.

JESSIE

Ooo, I could murder a waffle.

Raucous laughter.

DIRECTOR

All right! We have a new tagline! You, what are you, Irish?

JESSIE

Yer jokin'.

DIRECTOR

Latvian?

JESSIE

You reckon maple syrup could hold your head on if I snap it off?

DIRECTOR

Look, just throw that waffle line
in now and again, and we'll add
some more snacks to the monthly
drop.

JULIE

Is anyone hearing ... hissing?

GREG

I hear it. And my sensors are
detecting something. Something not
good.

JOE

It's-

EVERYONE

Jesus!

I'd love it if the audience could also say "Jesus," but
realize that's a bit of an ask. :) Audience laughs.

JOE

It's the hatch. The seal is
loosening. We've got to get out of
here, now!

Sounds of alarm from the audience and the crew.

ZBLATT

And go where, man? We'll die in an
instant out there!

JOE

Well, we can't stay here.

The audience reacts with light horror.

DIRECTOR

(to the Assistant)

We should've done this ages ago.
The audience is eating it up!

DIRECTOR'S ASSISTANT

Edges of seats, Boss!

MIVV

Panic!

GREG

Is that helpful?

MIVV

No, not panic panic – the panic ROOM.

ZBLATT

YES! We have a panic room. We can seal ourselves in there.

MADELINE

For how long? And assuming Theo does make it back, will he be able to find us?

ZBLATT

He's not coming back, surely. We must eke out our miserable existence a little longer before ... the end.

TELF

Nope. No no no no no. I'd rather go out the hatch than spend the rest of my life crammed against the walls of the panic room to make space for your ego.

MIVV

He has a point.

GREG

The levels are rising fast. We need to make a decision. NOW.

MADELINE

How many useable pods do you have left?

MIVV

Three.

DR VON HABER ZETZER

Not a chance. Zere are ... lots of us. More than 3 pods' worth.

OLIVIA

Right. To the panic room, everybody. Colin and I have a plan.

ZBLATT

Well, I guess this is goodbye, then, Telf. I imagine you can see yourself out?

TELF

Excuse me?

ZBLATT

You did say you'd rather "go out the hatch" than be in the panic room with me.

Mivv, interrupting, shoves them both.

MIVV

MOVE.

COLIN

Do we actually have a "plan"?

OLIVIA

We have an inkling.

DIRECTOR

Let's go, people! To the panic room!

DIRECTOR'S ASSISTANT

PANIC!

The assembled start to exit for the panic room.

MIVV

Eh, excuse me, Captain?

MADELINE

JESSIE

Yes?

Yeah?

MADELINE (CONT'D)

Seriously?

JESSIE

What? Call it a reflex.

MADELINE

You are so annoying.

MIVV

The hatch is leaking.

JESSIE

Yeah, so maybe you speed this bit up so we can get out of here?

MIVV

The director's 3D printed body is highly malleable and fairly resistant to the planet's atmosphere....

MADELINE

Uh huh.

MIVV

You see where I'm going with this.

GRITZ

Hey! Get a move on!

MIVV

They don't actually need to be in the panic room. The director and his assistant. Since they're not really here.

JESSIE

Yeah, right, good, more room for the rest of us. Let's go!

GRITZ

Oh, for crying out loud. Use them to block the hole!

JESSIE

Hang on, that's genius!

MIVV

Of course. OF COURSE. Is there one line of mine you HAVEN'T stepped on since we've been here?

GRITZ

Is there one line you haven't milked so hard you can see through its teats?

They quarrel.

MADELINE

Ew. Howard, Emily, come here.

She whispers into their ears, they mumble assent.

MADELINE (CONT'D)

OK, humans, let's go. Fast.

HOWARD

Ehhhhhhh, Director!

DIRECTOR

Yes? I am a bit busy herding the-
hey!

EMILY

Excuse me, young fellow, could I
have a word?

DIRECTOR'S ASSISTANT

With me?

EMILY

Yes, Dear. I was hoping you could
explain some of the finer points of
my motivation in this scene.

DIRECTOR'S ASSISTANT

Sure! So basically, you- hey!

Howard, Emily, and the directors struggle as the 778 uses
their bodies to re-seal the hatch.

THE PANIC ROOM

It's almost dead silent in the heavily fortified panic room.
We hear the sound of nervous breathing from the various folks
in the room. The 778 enters last, sealing the heavy door.
There's a pause.

JULIE

Are there seriously no lights in
here?

ZBLATT

There are. Let there be light!

OLIVIA

Nope.

ZBLATT

Why not?

OLIVIA

Preserving fuel for the generator.

ZBLATT

Surely a little illumination-

OLIVIA

Lights now or oxygen later. Your
choice.

MIVV

Let it go, Zblatt.

OLIVIA

Right. You ready to give it a go, Colin?

COLIN

Ready or not, we haven't any other options.

OLIVIA

True that. Reach back out. Find the hum.

COLIN

I still don't understand why I'm doing this and not you.

OLIVIA

Fresh connection.

TELF

Now THAT was a great film. Gene Hackman, Roy Scheider-

OLIVIA

FRESH, not French, nerd. Shut up. You were in the neural network of the away ships less than a day ago.

GRITZ

Earth day or local day?

OLIVIA

Shut up.

GRITZ

(mumbling)

There is a difference, you know.

OLIVIA

I know everything. Shut up. Colin, your link to the neural network is still fresh. Reach back out.

COLIN

Yes.... I feel the hum.

OLIVIA

Right. Link into it. Find the away ships on Bob.

COLIN

How?

OLIVIA

The others are dormant. You should be able to feel the ones that are activated.

MIVV

What exactly is happening here?

JESSIE

Ehhhhh... Well, the wee lassie smurf is our ship's AI.

GREG

And the other smurf is a former passenger who was killed by a different AI who took over the ship and killed *this* AI - or so we thought.

MRS SHEFFIELD

And this AI uploaded the other little fellow to the ship's mainframe via a healer pod. You see?

JOE

Also-

EVERYONE

JESUS!

JOE

Seriously? It's pitch black in here! There was an olive involved.

MIVV

Look, if you don't want to tell us the truth, just say so.

ZBLATT

No need to insult our intelligence.

JULIE

I guess it does sound a bit unlikely.

COLIN

Got it! At least, I think so.

OLIVIA

Good. Open your eyes.

COLIN

Why? It's pitch black in here.

OLIVIA

Not those eyes, ya pillock. The ones on the ship. Look through the cameras. You should be able to see and hear everything.

COLIN

Ehhhhh...yes. Yes, all right.

OLIVIA

What do you see?

COLIN

Dr. Theo's at the controls. Goodness, I've missed him.

OLIVIA

What?

COLIN

What? Sorry. Apparently his charisma or pheromones or whatever are still working.

PIPISTRELLE

He's nervous. When he's nervous, he goes into overdrive.

COLIN

Gosh, he's dreamy.

OLIVIA

COLIN! Concentrate!

COLIN

Mmmm? Oh, yes. Right. Now what?

JESSIE

Take control of the ship! Bring it here!

COLIN

He is really ruggedly handsome, isn't he?

PIPISTRELLE

He must be really nervous.

COLIN

See how the sweat beads on his upper lip...

EVERYONE

COLIN!

COLIN

Sorry! Sorry!

JESSIE

Right, that's it. Colin, listen up. Where are you? Look out the window - are you in space? Here. Take my hand so you stop getting sucked in to his musk funk.

MRS SHEFFIELD

That's a tad graphic.

GREG

I think the hatch is failing, Cap. Levels are starting to rise again.

MADELINE

Even in here?

GREG

'Fraid so.

JESSIE

Shut it! Colin. Where are you?

COLIN

I can't see. The windows are covered in silk.

JESSIE

Can you tell if the ship is moving?

COLIN

(panicking slightly)
I'm not sure. It's just ... vibrating. Does that mean it's moving or just-

JESSIE

Calm down, Colin. Close your eyes. Feel with the ship. Is it pulling you backward a tad, or are you just shaking in place?

COLIN

Pulling. We're moving!

JESSIE

Good lad. Now. Is is smooth and
easy, frictionless? Or a bit bumpy?
Or very bumpy?

COLIN

Bumpy. Uneven.

MADELINE

He's still on the planet.

JESSIE

You're still on the planet.

COLIN

He's saying something, but I can't
hear him.

OLIVIA

You can. You just need to find your
ears.

COLIN

Find my ears. Right. It's like
being a toddler again.

ABOARD THE AWAY SHIP

DR THEO

It's this way. It's got to be this
way. No. Wait. It's this way.
Dammit!

THE PANIC ROOM

COLIN

I think he's lost his way. I think
he's coming back for us but lost
his way. He can't see.

PIPISTRELLE

Can you talk to him?

COLIN

Can I?

OLIVIA

You can do anything.

COLIN

Theo. Theo!

ABOARD THE AWAY SHIP

DR THEO

Colin? COLIN! I'm sorry! I'm trying to get to you, but I'm lost!

COLIN

We know. It's all right.

DR THEO

I can't see, and the coordinates aren't matching up. I'm sorry. I've got suits for you all, the spider is knitting a new ship suit and everything, but I failed.

COLIN

Gosh, you're swoony.

DR THEO

Huh? Oh, I'm nervous. Sorry.

THE PANIC ROOM

PIPISTRELLE

Tell him to follow the pings.

MRS SHEFFIELD

Do you think you can get pings out of the bunker?

PIPISTRELLE

I'm going to try. I'll need to step out of the panic room, though, or I'll kill everyone with the sonic waves.

JULIE

You can't do that. I mean, you can't leave this room.

GREG

Julie's right. The levels beyond that door-

PIPISTRELLE

No choice. Tell him, Colin.

MADELINE

Pipi-

PIPISTRELLE

It's all right. Tell him.

COLIN

Theo. Follow the pings.

ABOARD THE AWAY SHIP

DR THEO

Wait. Pipi's pings? There's no way she can- She's leaving the bunker? NO!

COLIN

She's part robot, Theo. She can survive a lot more than we- you can. Just find us.

NARRATORS' BRIDGE

There's a moment of silence.

N2

Wow, do we go through assassins fast.

NARRATOR

I wonder what the next one will be like.

N2

I don't care. I like THIS one.

NARRATOR

Me too, Two. Me too.

N2

You reckon the plan will work? Will she be able to get a ping through Bob's crust? Ugh. That is so gross.

NARRATOR

Yeah, no more naming planets after people. I don't know if it'll work, but I guess we'll find out. You've been listening to:
 Emmet Dowgin as the Director's Assistant
 Pete Barry as Bob
 Tim Sherburn as Colin and Emily
 Caden Dowgin as the Director.

N2

Bonnie Brantley as Donna and Jessie
 David S Dear as Dr Theo Bromae and
 Tiberius
 Kevin Hall as Felonius and Greg
 John Dowgin as Gritz

NARRATOR

Eric Perry as Howard, Mr Southers,
 and Joe
 Chrisi Talyn Saje as Julie
 Shannon Perry as Madeline and

OLIVIA

NOPE!

NARRATOR

Olivia
 Faith Dowgin as Mivv

N2

Sarah Golding as Mrs Sheffield
 Sarah Rhea Warner as Pipistrelle
 J Michael DeAngelis as Telf
 Bob Killian as Zblatt.
 I'm Kyle Jones, your Narrator Two

NARRATOR

And I'm Chris Nadolny Gourley, your
 Narrator. John Faley is our music
 director, and our artwork is by
 Lucas Elliott.

N2

Sarah Golding is our dialogue
 editor, and Mark Restuccia is our
 sound designer. Oz 9 is written by
 Shannon Perry.

NARRATOR

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. Until next time, Space
 Monkeys, chase the stars. Just
 don't catch one. They're hot.
 Lights!