

SCENE 1 - FLASHBACK: THE CRYING VET **2**

PET OWNER

Hi, Dr. Thomas. Thanks so much
for for seeing Noodles again on
such short notice.

STELLA

3 (crying)

No worries! I'm happy to see--
(sniffles)
--I'm happy to see you and
Noodles any time.

PET OWNER

Are...are you okay?

STELLA

(still crying)
Yeah yeah I'm fine let's just--
(sobs)
--Let's just check Noodles weight
and vitals.

Noodles barks.

STELLA (CONT'D)

Hi Noodles.

PET OWNER

You're sure you're alright?

STELLA

Yeah I'm just...just having a bad
day.

PET OWNER

Okay.

Awkward silence as Stella quietly sobs.

STELLA

I'm gonna check your eyes and
mouth, okay Noodles?

Bark.

STELLA (CONT'D)

Great. You look beautiful
Noodles. So beautiful. Now will
you poop for me?

Bark.

STELLA (CONT'D)

I need your poop Noodles. Please.

PET OWNER

I think...I think your crying
might be scaring her?

STELLA

Oh. Sorry. I'll just try to--

She tries to get her crying under control but she can't.

Sorry it's not working. I'm just
gonna reach inside her butt.

PET OWNER

Oh. Is that-- is that what you're
supposed to do?

STELLA

I'm using--
(sniffle)
I'm using the poop loop. 5

PET OWNER

The poop loop?

STELLA

The poop loop. Come here Noodles,
let me put the stick in your
butt.

PET OWNER

Okay. Can I ask...can I ask
what's wrong.

STELLA

It's nothing.
(beat)
It's my boyfriend.

PET OWNER

Oh, I see. So it's a personal 6
problem.

STELLA

There's SO much more. Mel thinks I should break up with him but he just...he's so sweet, ya know? And I still love him. And he puts up with me and all my-- whatever all this is. And I don't know if I'll ever find anyone again who will do that. So I can't break up with him, right? I can't.

PET OWNER

I...guess not?

STELLA

Yeah. You're right. I can't. I wouldn't. I can't.

(beat)

Thanks for the talk. Anyway, Noodles has a tapeworm.

PET OWNER

What?

STELLA

Sorry. I probably should have started with that.

INTRO AND THEME MUSIC.

SCENE 2 - THE POLICE

SCOTTBOT

Hey gang! If you could all come on down to the cockpit for a moment, Puppet is calling a--

Impact.

SCOTTBOT (CONT'D)

--calling a crew meeting to discuss the emergent situation--

Impact.

SCOTTBOT (CONT'D)

That situation being that we are under attack.

BAZ

We got that much, Scott.

THEED

Yay. Crew meeting.

BAZ

This is a not a "yay" moment,
Theed.

CAPTAIN

Puppet, what's going one? Who is
it?

PUPPET

It's the police vessel again. I
thought they'd gone away once we
landed in Florida but--

Impact.

I guess they didn't.

BUTTERCUP

They're after Stella, aren't
they? They saw her at the
Renegade meeting back in
Spunglestrum and now they want to
arrest her.

STELLA

No!

BUTTERCUP

Hell, I bet she actually did join
the Renegades and she's been
setting all kinds of fires this
whole time.

STELLA

Hey, they don't do arson any
more!

BUTTERCUP

I shoulda known. It's always the
quiet ones.

CAPTAIN

I would hardly call Stella quiet.
In fact I believe she could do
with being a bit quieter.

BAZ

Does this ship go any faster
Puppet?

PUPPET

It's a garbage collection ship.
It wasn't really made for speed.

THEED

In fact, it wasn't even made for
garbage collection. It originally
a corpse barge during the great
plague of--

BUTTERCUP

Now is not the time for fun
facts!

BAZ

Read the room, Theed!

THEED

I can't read.

Impact.

BAZ

Puppet! Can't you steer us away
from them?

PUPPET

You guys are really stressing me
out, okay? This is more people
than I've ever had in my cockpit
before. It's hard to do it with
all of you watching.

BAZ

To steer?

PUPPET

Yeah, it's usually...it's a
private activity.

STELLA

Maybe we shouldn't be running
away. Maybe we should just talk
to them.

BAZ

You speak like someone who's never been chased by the police.

STELLA

Um. Yeah, I haven't.

BAZ

Well here's a word of advice: law enforcement is never good news.

Ping.

BAZ (CONT'D)

What's that noise?

PUPPET

Is it an alarm?

CAPTAIN

No. That's the comm system.

BUTTERCUP

The what?

CAPTAIN

It means we're receiving a call.

BUTTERCUP

Are you serious?

PUPPET

How long has that thing been there?

CAPTAIN

The whole time. It's just, no one ever needs to call a garbage collection ship.

STELLA

Um. Is someone gonna answer it?

Ping.

CAPTAIN

Greetings. Captain of the Starship Raccoon speaking--

POLICE 1

Yeah yeah we met you already.

CAPTAIN

I remember. Which is why I'm a little confused, as we all are, about why you're firing at us.

POLICE 2

Because you lied to us.

POLICE 1

You told us that you didn't have any unsavory types on board, but that's not really true, is it?

POLICE 2

We found out the truth about who a certain one of your crew members has been working with.

BUTTERCUP

We'll give you Stella!

STELLA

Buttercup! I thought we were becoming friends.

BUTTERCUP

I said *maybe*. And if giving you to the police means the rest of us go free, then I guess the answer is no, we are not becoming friends.

STELLA

Scott! Back me up!

SCOTTBOT

I have no feelings.

POLICE 1

Who is Stella?

CAPTAIN

The criminal that you want?

POLICE 2

Is this some kind of joke? You really expect us to believe that you have a crew member with a name as stupid as Stella?

STELLA

Hey! That really is my name!

POLICE 1

Well. It is a very silly name.

STELLA

Is anyone ever going to tell me what it means?

BAZ

No.

POLICE 2

The criminal we want is not this...Stella creature. My god, is she a talking human?

CAPTAIN

Yes, I too found her humanity incredibly disturbing when I first met her. But if it isn't Stella, then who?

POLICE 1

You have a man on your ship by the name of Gerald. We want him.

Silence.

ALL

Gerald?

BUTTERCUP

Damn. I guess it really is always the quiet ones.

CAPTAIN

Um. I'll call you back.

POLICE 1

You will do no such--

CAPTAIN

Um, sorry, I can't hear you. I think we're breaking up.

POLICE 2

We are not breaking up.

POLICE 1

I can see you crinkling a wrapper into the microphone.

POLICE 2

Is that a Moon Pie wrapper?

POLICE 1

Disgusting.

CAPTAIN

Sorry bad connection.

Call ends.

Pause.

THEED

So...crew meeting?

CAPTAIN

Yes, Theed. I think this calls for a crew meeting.

PUPPET

Okay but can we do it in the lounge please? There's too much happening in my cockpit right now and I'm getting overwhelmed.

SCENE 3 - CREW MEETING

CAPTAIN

So. Gerald.

GERALD

Yup.

CAPTAIN

You've been a criminal...this whole time?

GERALD

Yup.

CAPTAIN

You...what? Work for the Renegades?

GERALD

Yup.

STELLA

I didn't see you at the meeting.

GERALD

I was busy collecting trash.

STELLA

Wait. When we were on Trashland and you said you were meeting friends--

GERALD

They were my revolutionary friends. Yes.

BUTTERCUP

Well this makes things easier. No one will oppose to us getting rid of Gerald. He hardly talks anyway.

PUPPET

Okay, that still seems a little rash--

CAPTAIN

Gerald, unlike Stella, is still a member of the crew.

BAZ

Oh, you weren't really going to fire her, were you?

CAPTAIN

I might have.

PUPPET

Can't we just not turn in anyone?

BUTTERCUP

And what? Have the fuzz blows us to bits? Because you've been doing a bang-up job keeping us safe.

PUPPET

I'm doing my best!

BUTTERCUP

Make your best better!

STELLA

Don't talk to him like that!

Ad lib bickering.

THEED
EVERYONE SHUT UP.

BUTTERCUP
Theed?

THEED
Listen to me. No one ever listens
to me.

BAZ
What--

THEED
Remember when I asked to go to
Wendys? We never did go to
Wendys.

CAPTAIN
I don't know what Wendys is.

STELLA
(guilty)
I do, and I said nothing.

THEED
You all forgot my birthday!

PUPPET
I didn't!

THEED
Yes, you're right. Sorry Puppet.
This rant is directed at everyone
but you.

PUPPET
Okay thanks.

THEED
Now that it's actually important,
you all are going to sit down and
you are going to listen to me.

CAPTAIN
Okay, Theed. What do you think we
should do?

THEED

No, first I'm going to go over some other personal things that you all have failed to listen to.

BUTTERCUP

Is now really the time.

THEED

YES NOW IS THE TIME BUTTERCUP.

BUTTERCUP

Okay okay!

THEED

Do you know how important it was to me that I got to return to Florida after years of being a refugee? And you guys didn't even care! You just complained the whole time about having to go to a planet no body likes!

Mumbled apologies.

THEED (CONT'D)

You guys always treat me like a joke, which is fine, because most of the time I am a joke. But sometimes I have real feelings! Like when I cook dinner, no one says, "Wow, Theed, that was a great dinner."

PUPPET

I do.

THEED

Yes, I know Puppet. Thank you for that. But the rest of you! The rest of you act like you don't care.

Mumbled apologies.

THEED (CONT'D)

I still have a boot stuck under my shell! No one has bothered to pull it out.

Mumbled apologies as well as sounds of disgust.

THEED (CONT'D)

Basically: I. Deserve. Some.
Respect.

ALL

We're sorry, Theed.

THEED

Okay, NOW that that's out of the
way: I don't think we should turn
in Gerald.

BUTTERCUP

What? Why?

THEED

Because we're a crew. And giving
up a member of the crew is wrong.

STELLA

Theed is right. I was in the same
position as Gerald. And having
people debate your fate while you
just stand idly by? It sucks. And
don't think it didn't get past me
that the only reason you kept me
around was because I could be
useful.

PUPPET

Yeah that was a little rude on
our part.

STELLA

We should keep Gerald around
because he's a person worthy of
life.

BUTTERCUP

But we hardly know him!

STELLA

You hardly knew me! And besides,
I'm sure now that his big secret
is revealed we'll all become
great friends. I bet he's a
really interesting guy.

GERALD

Actually I'm not. I'm really
boring.

STELLA

Gerald! Do you want to live or not?

BUTTERCUP

Here's what we do know about him: he lied about who he is.

GERALD

I didn't lie. I simply neglected to say things that were true.

BAZ

Like the fact that you were on the run from the authorities?

GERALD

Yes. Exactly.

BUTTERCUP

Alright. Fine.

CAPTAIN

What?

BUTTERCUP

I'm obviously outnumbered. We don't get rid of Gerald. But the alternative is getting blown up, or...or this plan I just thought of right now.

BAZ

What is it?

BUTTERCUP

You guys aren't going to like it.

STELLA

Why not?

BUTTERCUP

It's a gamble. After all, I am a gambler.

BAZ

Yes! I knew your gambling addiction would come in handy one day!

BUTTERCUP

Hey! Addiction is no joke! But, actually, yeah, you're right, it's pretty useful right now.

CAPTAIN

What's the plan, Buttercup?

BUTTERCUP

If we want to lose the police, we just have to go some place we know they won't follow.

STELLA

But where would that be?

BAZ

(understanding)

Some place so dangerous no one would dare get too close.

PUPPET

(also understanding)

No one but us.

STELLA

Yeah, but where would that be?

(silence)

Oh. Oh no no no no no.

BUTTERCUP

It's worth a shot.

STELLA

You want us to go back to Hungry Steve?

BUTTERCUP

We're gonna play a little game of chicken.

STELLA

That's not a little game of chicken, that's a BIG game of chicken.

BUTTERCUP

We'll be fine! We get close to Steve, and if they keep chasing us, we hop in escape pods. We all go in different directions and they won't know who to chase. We get off scot free.

CAPTAIN

Buttercup, that is ludicrous! We can't risk the Raccoon like that.

BUTTERCUP

Got any better ideas?

CAPTAIN

Lest you forget, the Raccoon is under my leadership and therefore--

BUTTERCUP

With all due respect Captain, he's not actually your ship. If he's anyone's ship, he's mine. I'm the mechanic. I'm the one who tends to his wounds, who patches him up every time he gets hurt. If the Raccoon belongs to anyone, it's me. But he doesn't even belong to me. He's his own creature. A horrible, rusty, garbage creature. And even though he has no consciousness or personality, I think he'd want to sacrifice for us.

SCOTTBOT

I think so too.

BAZ

Oh yeah we forgot about Scott.

PUPPET

Scott's wired into the Raccoon. If we let the Raccoon go, we effectively kill Scott.

SCOTTBOT

I am not alive, and therefore cannot be killed.

STELLA

Scott, you say that, but--

CAPTAIN

Stella--

STELLA

No! I know you said I'm not supposed to talk about Scott's feelings but if we're talking about potentially killing him, we need to actually discuss the consequences.

BAZ

Wait, Scott has feelings?

BUTTERCUP

That's not possible.

SCOTTBOT

(getting nervous)

Yeah, that's...that's not possible.

PUPPET

I am so overwhelmed right now.

STELLA

I have been working on a theory that Scott is sentient. Or maybe gained sentience through interacting with the crew? I don't really know. But he definitely has feelings. So we can't just throw him away like he's a computer program! He's not! He's part of the crew too.

SCOTTBOT

Stella. For the last time, I do not have feelings. But if I did...

(sigh)

if I did I would want to sacrifice myself to save the crew.

STELLA

Scott...no.

SCOTTBOT

Scott yes.

CAPTAIN

Puppet, do you think you can get the ship close to the event horizon without falling in?

PUPPET

(uncertain)

Yeah...yeah, I think so. As long as you guys cover your eyes or something! I can't do it with people watching!

BUTTERCUP

We'll all be in escape pods.

PUPPET

Then yes. I can do it. I'm sure.

CAPTAIN

Alright. Fine. Then that's the plan.

BUTTERCUP

Really?

CAPTAIN

You were right, Buttercup. I don't have any better ideas. And Theed...if we survive this, I'll take you to Wendys. I'll take you all to Wendys!

THEED

(tearing up)

Thanks. That means a lot, Captain.

SCENE 4 - EVENT HORIZON

Amazement theme plays.

BAZ

There he is.

BUTTERCUP

I've actually never seen him from the ship before. He looks a lot less threatening when your not right at his mouth throwing in trash.

STELLA

He almost looks...beautiful.

PUPPET

Yeah, honestly even though he's a horrifying beast that defies the laws of physics and moderns science doesn't fully understand, I still have a kind of affection for Hungry Steve. I think he's kinda cute.

CAPTAIN

You think a black hole is cute?

THEED

He is kinda cute, isn't he?

CAPTAIN

If this goes wrong, Hungry Steve may devour us in the most painful way imaginable.

STELLA

Yeah but before that happens, he looks kinda sweet.

BAZ

It almost looks like he's smiling.

BUTTERCUP

Yeah, it does!

CAPTAIN

I have no idea what you people are seeing.

PUPPET

Okay, we're getting pretty close. Like, danger level close.

BAZ

Well are they still following us?



Blip as Puppet pulls up the map.

PUPPET

Yes.

Silence.

STELLA

So what now?

BUTTERCUP

We get as close as we can. Then we abandon ship.

PUPPET

Everyone go to the pods. I can take it from here.

STELLA

Puppet--

PUPPET

Seriously! Go!

Footsteps shuffling. Door.

CAPTAIN

Puppet, do you plan on staying with the Raccoon? Even though you might cross the event horizon?

PUPPET

I'm the pilot, aren't I? We're already caught in the pull. If I bail with the rest of you, the Raccoon is as good as lost. But if I stay--

CAPTAIN

Puppet, you can't--

PUPPET

We at least have to try to save the Raccoon! And I'm the only one who can do it. Besides, we can't just leave ScottBot.

CAPTAIN

ScottBot isn't sentient.

SCOTT

(crying)

Yeah I'm not it's fine you guys
can leave without me.

PUPPET

Look, I don't like being
difficult but...I'm not leaving
the ship.

CAPTAIN

Puppet, I am your Captain.

PUPPET

Are you? Because this ship may be
about to get spaghettified and
the crew is about to disperse, so
I don't think you are anymore. I
think you're just a horse trying
to give me orders.

(beat)

Sorry. It's just, I feel very
strongly about this.

CAPTAIN

Alright. Fine. Stay with the
ship.

PUPPET

Thanks.

CAPTAIN

Puppet...It has been an honor
working with you.

PUPPET

You too, Captain. And for what
it's worth, I hope if you survive
you end up getting a real name
one day.

CAPTAIN

And I feel that as we may both
die I should probably admit to
you that I never read a single
one of you newspapers.

PUPPET

What? Are you serious?

CAPTAIN

Sorry, it's just...not for me? I prefer to read biographies, or the occasional crime thriller now and again-

PUPPET

Okay I get it. It's not your thing. Just get in a pod, okay.

CAPTAIN

Fine. Puppet?

PUPPET

What?

CAPTAIN

I'll miss you.

PUPPET

Yeah. I'll miss you too. Now get in.

Pod door closing.

SCENE 5 - POD MATES

STELLA

Oh. Hey. Looks like we're pod mates.

CAPTAIN

Puppet, I'm going to switch--

Pod launch.

--pods.

STELLA

Oh, c'mon. There are worse people to be stuck with, right?

CAPTAIN

None that come to mind, no.

Silence.

STELLA

That felt so...rushed. I didn't even get to say good-bye to anyone.

CAPTAIN

Everyone should be fine. The pods are all programmed to land roughly in the same place, so assuming that--

Impact.

STELLA

What was that?

CAPTAIN

That was the police vessel firing on us.

STELLA

They're not...they're not gonna kill us, right?

CAPTAIN

Them? No. But the disruption to our flight path sent us towards Hungry Steve. And that's going to kill us.

STELLA

Oh.

SCENE 6 - BAZ AND BUTTERCUP

Pod launch.

BAZ

I cannot believe of all pod mates I had to be stuck with you.

BUTTERCUP

I'm not happy about it either.

BAZ

How long are we stuck here for?

BUTTERCUP

No idea. Puppet programmed them. I don't even know where we're headed.

BAZ

Ugh. This is a nightmare. Poor Stella.

BUTTERCUP

Poor Stella? We all almost got blown up and sucked into a black hole, and you're worried about Stella?

BAZ

I just...you and me, we've been all over the galaxy. We can take care of ourselves. But her? She spent her whole life in one room! She can't make it on her own!

BUTTERCUP

Yeah. I guess you're right.

(beat.)

Damn it! Now I feel bad for her too.

BAZ

At least we can agree on one thing.

BUTTERCUP

I really wanted to hate her.

BAZ

I know. I could tell.

BUTTERCUP

And I really wanted to hate you too.


BAZ

You don't?

BUTTERCUP

No, I do. But...we don't know how long we're stuck here. I can't waste all my energy hating you so...I guess I'm going to have to hate you a little less.

BAZ

Fine by me! Now let's play some road trip games. I spy something that's black. 

BUTTERCUP

Is it...the vast emptiness of space?

BAZ

It is! Your turn.

BUTTERCUP

I'm back to hating you at full
force again.SCENE 7 - THEED AND GERALD

Pod launch.

THEED

Hey Gerald.

GERALD

Hey Theed.

Pause.

THEED

Guess we're pod buddies.

GERALD

I guess we are.

Pause.

THEED

What a good time for you to tell
me all of your crimes.

GERALD

What?

THEED

Well, not to be rude, but this is
kind of your fault, so I would
really like to know why we all
had to eject ourselves in the
first place. I know I don't seem
it, but I'm actually pretty riled
up right now. I may be a snail...

GERALD

But what?

THEED

What?

GERALD

You may be a snail, but...

THEED

Oh that's all. I was just a reminding you that I'm a snail.

GERALD

I don't have to tell you anything.

THEED

Yeah. I guess not.

(beat.)

But this trip is gonna be really boring if you don't.

GERALD

Fine.

SCENE 8 - PUPPET AND SCOTT

PUPPET

Well. Here we go.

SCOTTBOT

Puppet?

PUPPET

Oh. Hey Scott.

SCOTTBOT

Hey.

(beat.)

Look at us. The two robots.

PUPPET

Yup. That's us.

SCOTTBOT

One of us sentient. One of us...not.

PUPPET

Yup.

SCOTTBOT

And as I am not sentient, death does not scare me.

PUPPET

Must be nice.

SCOTTBOT
Yes it's...very nice.

Pause.

PUPPET
Scott?

SCOTTBOT
Yes?

PUPPET
You know that thing Stella said
about you, that she thinks you
might have feelings.

SCOTTBOT
Yes.

PUPPET
Do you think it's true?

SCOTTBOT
I...don't know. Which is strange,
because I usually know
everything.

PUPPET
Well, I guess if we survive this
we'll have a lot of time to talk
about it.

SCOTTBOT
Yes, I suppose we will.

Pause.

SCOTTBOT (CONT'D)
Puppet?

PUPPET
Yeah?

SCOTTBOT
I think I'm scared.

PUPPET
Yeah. I think I am too.

SCENE 9 - THE SINGULARITY

STELLA

So, are you gonna say, "it's been an honor serving with you?"

CAPTAIN

No.

STELLA

Why?

CAPTAIN

It has not been an honor.

STELLA

What?

CAPTAIN

Need I remind you that I fired you, Stella?

STELLA

Then almost hired me back!

CAPTAIN

Well it doesn't matter now, does it?

STELLA

You're serious? We're about to die and you don't at least want to, I don't know, make up?

CAPTAIN

There is nothing to make up. It's not as though we had a lover's quarrel. We simply do not like each other.

STELLA

Oh. I never said I didn't like you.

CAPTAIN

What?

STELLA

I mean, you've been pretty cold to me from the beginning, but I never said I didn't like you.

CAPTAIN

I just assumed--

STELLA

And I was frustrated at you, because everyone on the crew has at some point or another actually been pretty open with me about their life and their feelings, which, like, no one ever was back at home. And that's saying something, because Baz told me from the beginning that this group wasn't great at the whole feelings thing. But you still weren't. So I guess that bothered me too.

CAPTAIN

I see.

STELLA

But it's not that I didn't like you.

CAPTAIN

I guess I just assumed...People don't generally like me. As a rule.

STELLA

I don't know if that's true. I think maybe you just think that.

CAPTAIN

Does it matter anymore?

STELLA

No I guess not. Nothing matters.

(beat)

That's a feeling I'm getting used to.

CAPTAIN

Well, Stella. I...didn't completely hate having you on my crew.

STELLA

Thanks, Captain. I didn't completely hate being a part of your crew either.

Sounds of spaghettification.

NARRATOR

No one really knows exactly what happens in a black hole. Some say that due to the way the light bends, for a split second you can see the entire history of the universe unraveling before your eyes. Some say that after your body is expelled in an entirely different universe. The only thing everyone can agree on is that you most certainly die. Ironically, this is the one thing that everyone got wrong. Because Stella and The Captain of the Starship Raccoon did not die. They were about to meet a fate that was, arguably, much worse.

STELLA

We're...not dead.

CAPTAIN

I guess not.

STELLA

We're passed the event horizon of a black hole. But we're not dead.

CAPTAIN

This appears to be true.

STELLA

So...where are we?

SID

Hey guys.

CAPTAIN

Sid?

END OF SEASON.