

All The Pretty Little Horses: Episode 3 - General
Nastiness

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SCENE 1 - FLASHBACK: HIGH SCHOOL

Sounds of a busy high school hallways.

1 Sup loser. MEL
Oh. Hey. STELLA
Whatcha reading? MEL
2 Nothing. STELLA
Pretty thick to be nothing. MEL
It's some fantasy. Trash. Stupid. STELLA
Don't worry about it.
Okay. I was just wondering. MEL
(beat)
3 Are you ready for Euro? MEL
I mean, no. I'm never ready for STELLA
Euro.
Well, yeah, but I mean, like, the MEL
project.
What project? STELLA
MEL
(beat)
Are you kidding?
...No? STELLA
We had that project! About MEL
Enlightenment thinkers?
Oh. When is it due? STELLA

MEL

Today, Stella!

STELLA

Was it a...group project?

MEL

Partners.

STELLA

Oh. Right. I guess I should...I guess I should text my partner--

MEL

Your partner was me.

STELLA

Oh. Right.

MEL

So I'm guessing you didn't do your half of the project?

STELLA

Um. The depends. What was I supposed to do?

MEL

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Prepare a PowerPoint on Pascal, Descartes, and John Locke.

STELLA

Well I could--

MEL

And write an essay about Edmund Halley.

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STELLA

Hm. Yeah. No, okay, I didn't do that.

MEL

Didn't think so.

(exasperated grunt)

Stella, I can't always be the one keeping track of your life for you.

STELLA

You don't have to be!

MEL

Clearly I do because you can't seem to remember anything on your own.

STELLA

Hey! I just...I have had a lot on my mind recently, okay?

MEL

Like what? Because ever since you quit softball AND you dropped Movie Club AND you dropped Journalism, I'm really not sure what you've been so busy with lately.

STELLA

(pause)

Um. Well, my dad--

MEL

Oh. How is--

STELLA

It's been worse.

MEL

Right.

(Pause.)

I'm sorry, Stella.

STELLA

It's okay. You didn't know.

MEL

No. I did.

(beat.)

I'll cover for you okay?

STELLA

What, you're gonna write my essay in the next--

(pauses to check
clock)

--hour and thirty two minutes?

MEL

No. But I bet I can whip up your side of the presentation.

STELLA

...thanks, Mel.

MEL

Of course. I got your back, girl.
Always have, always will.

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NARRATOR

This, of course, was a lie. Mel did not have Stella's back when she was tricked aboard a spaceship by an alien conwoman named Baz. This was, of course, no fault of Mel's. It was because Mel had been killed by two other aliens named Stu and Jerry, and now Stella was utterly alone in the universe as a talking cat threatened to claw out her eyes.

INTRO AND THEME MUSIC

SCENE 2 - THE HALLWAY PT. 2

STELLA

So you guys...you aren't daring space explorers?

BAZ

/Nope

BUTTERCUP

(simultaneous)

/Far from it

STELLA

So what do you...wait. The smell...the flies...the general nastiness. Oh my god. Oh my god!

BAZ

Yeah.

STELLA

You guys transport dead bodies! This is a ship full of dead people! You're...you're intergalactic serial killers! And you're gonna kill me too!

BAZ

What? No.

STELLA

No?

BUTTERCUP

Where would you get that idea?

STELLA

It just...I don't know. It seemed like it made sense before I said it.

BUTTERCUP

We're garbage collectors.

STELLA

What?

BUTTERCUP

Garbage collectors.

BAZ

See? I didn't totally lie. We do go all over the galaxy visiting all sorts of fun planets--

BUTTERCUP

Cleaning up their garbage.

STELLA

Oh. Wait. So you used me so that you could get back on a garbage collection ship?

BAZ

Yeah.

STELLA

Why?

BAZ

That's not important.

STELLA

I...don't know if I wanna be here.

BAZ

C'mon! What do you have to lose?

STELLA

Ouch.

BAZ

Oh. I didn't mean it like that.
Er. Actually yeah, I guess I did.

STELLA

You're bringing that up now? The
fact that I lost my entire world?
You're bring that up NOW to
convince me to play into your
scheme?

BAZ

But seriously! Think about it!
When I found you, you were ready
to give up. And then I gave you a
reason to live!

STELLA

Yeah, and it was a lie!

BAZ

But it was still a reason. And
I've got plenty more reasons
where those came from.

STELLA

Are they lies too?

BAZ

Some of them. But not all.

STELLA

So is everything you say a lie?

BAZ

No! I only lie when it's
convenient.

STELLA

And when is it convenient?

BAZ

Almost always.

(beat)

Oh. I see your point. Look, it doesn't matter how I got you here. The point is that you're here now and you're gonna love it. You should meet the rest of the crew!

BUTTERCUP

Baz, you seem to be forgetting that you are not part of the crew, and the interloper you brought on board won't be either.

BAZ

I told the Captain I would find a replacement--

BUTTERCUP

You also told them they'd never have to see you again.

STELLA

Wait, if I'm your replacement, what was your job? What am I replacing?

BAZ

Oh, technically you wouldn't be my replacement.

BUTTERCUP

You'd be the replacement for the guy she killed.

BAZ

I didn't kill anyone!

BUTTERCUP

Yes you did.

BAZ

It's a matter of interpretation.

STELLA

How can that be a matter of interpretation?

BAZ

Was I involved in his death? Yes.
But was I responsible for his
death? Also yes. But did I intend
on his death?

BUTTERCUP

Also yes.

BAZ

Not exactly!

STELLA

Please explain.

THEED

Is that Baz I hear?

NARRATOR

The voice came from around the
corner, so Stella didn't see its
source at first. When the speaker
came around to face the trio,
Stella could not help but comment
on their appearance.

STELLA

(screams)

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THEED

Okay I'll just go then.

STELLA

Sorry, that was rude of me--

BUTTERCUP

No shit.

STELLA

I just-- I'm used to snails being
tiny? So seeing you was just a
little...shocking.

THEED

It's okay. I'm used to it.

STELLA

You're-- you're, like, a giant
snail--

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THEED

Actually I'm a regular sized snail. This is just what snails look like.

STELLA

Oh. Right.

THEED

It's okay. I'm just a little self-conscious about my size.

STELLA

I am so sorry.

BAZ

Stella, this is Theed. Theed is our cook.

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THEED

Where are you from?

STELLA

I'm from a fictional planet that it turned out was just a 4-billion year simulation devised as a cruel joke.

THEED

Cool.

STELLA

Where are you from?

THEED

Florida.

STELLA

Wait, what?

BAZ

Florida is a tropical planet on the outer rim full of snails. Have you heard of it?

STELLA

Sort of.

BAZ

What do you mean?

STELLA

The guys who made up my planet...they seem to have built in a lot of inside jokes.

THEED

And what was your Florida?

STELLA

Um. Also a tropical planet full of snails.

THEED

(completely genuine)
How delightful.

BUTTERCUP

Theed-- Baz has used this woman the trick ScottBot into letting her on board.

THEED

Very sneaky.

BUTTERCUP

Yes, and very wrong.

THEED

I don't really see what the problem is.

BUTTERCUP

How do you-- She betrayed us, Theed!

BAZ

That's a little dramatic.

THEED

No that's true actually.

BAZ

Theed! I thought you were on my side!

THEED

I like you. That doesn't mean I'm on your side.

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BUTTERCUP

I say we just throw them both off now.

STELLA
Off? Like, into space?

BUTTERCUP
Sure.

STELLA
Please don't do that.

BUTTERCUP
You called me cute!

STELLA
Yeah cos you're a sweet little
fuzzy baby!

BUTTERCUP
Try saying that when you're
floating in a vacuum!

THEED
We should tell the Captain.

BUTTERCUP
They don't need to know. They
don't want to know.

THEED
They did say they wanted a
replacement for Sid.

BUTTERCUP
Look at her. She couldn't do what
Sid did.

STELLA
What did Sid do?

BUTTERCUP
Sid was the Poker.

STELLA
Okay. Cool.
(beat)
What is a Poker?

BUTTERCUP
(to Theed)
She doesn't even know about the
Poker.

THEED

Hm. Maybe we should throw her off then.

STELLA

Hey!

THEED

Actually no, we can't do that.

STELLA

Thank you.

THEED

There's always organ traffickers.

BUTTERCUP

Good point.

STELLA

Um...please don't sell my organs.

BUTTERCUP

Now who's cute, bitch!

STELLA

I'm sorry I called you cute, okay! Just please don't...I'd like to stay alive, please.

BAZ

Me as well. For what it's worth.

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BUTTERCUP

You don't get a vote. This woman, on the other hand-- sorry, what's your name?

STELLA

Stella.

Buttercup and Theed start laughing.

BUTTERCUP

Are you serious?

STELLA

Yes.

BUTTERCUP

Wow. That's hilarious.

STELLA

What does it--

THEED

You don't want to know.

STELLA

Yes I do. That's why I asked.

BUTTERCUP

Stella here didn't actually do anything wrong, other than possess poor judgement.

STELLA

Exactly, thank you!
(Rethinks this.)
Wait.

THEED

We need to have a crew discussion.

BUTTERCUP

Theed! Not everything needs to be a crew discussion!

THEED

I like a crew discussion.

BUTTERCUP

We know. Last time you called a crew discussion because you didn't know which kind of milk we should stock with.

THEED

And I still don't know. There's 1%. There's 2%. There's skim. There's whole.

BUTTERCUP

No one cares, Theed.

THEED

13 There's skim. There's oat.
There's coconut.

BUTTERCUP

Please stop naming milks.

THEED

There's almond. There's rice.

BUTTERCUP

(in an act of
desperation)

SCOTT!

Whirring as Scott arrives.

SCOTTBOT

That's my name!

BUTTERCUP

(defeated)

Call a crew meeting, please.

SCOTTBOT

You got it, Buttercup!

THEED

Thank you.

SCENE 3 - LOUNGE

NARRATOR

And so the crew took Stella deeper into the bowels of the Starship Raccoon, which wasn't actually very deep at all. One might think that the Raccoon was named after that adorable but vicious trash-monster that lives on Earth, but one would be mistaken, as Earth and all its creatures were merely a simulation. In actuality, the Raccoon was named after Truman J. Raccoon, the first person in the galaxy to ever consider collecting garbage. Prior to the advent of garbage collection, the universe was a very stinky place. It still is, but now most of that stink is concentrated in the cargo hold of the Starship Raccoon.

Many starships that travel from planet to planet doing odd jobs develop a bit of a reputation for themselves. The Starship Raccoon was not one of those starships, despite doing one of the oddest jobs out there. It was, unfortunately the kind of job most people liked to ignore, and it wasn't as though they were particularly good at it. It also didn't help the Raccoon's lack of a reputation that no one hung around the crew very long, as they had a distinct skill for making people very uncomfortable. This was something Stella was discovering as a liar, a cat, and a regular-sized but to her very large-sized snail led her to the crew lounge, which was not so much a lounge as little oval room with a table, some mismatched chairs, and a little pile of UNO cards.

Door sound.

STELLA

Honestly, I'm a little surprised. I thought aliens were all going to look like those blobby guys I first saw, but you guys all look like...well, animals that I knew back at home. I mean, for the most part.

BAZ

Well sure. Organic life can only take so many forms. Those guys may have spent a lot of time making up your world, but they definitely didn't have enough time to reinvent biology or physics.

STELLA

I don't know, they spent a lot of time developing some pretty complex concepts. Like they developed this thing called race--

BAZ

I don't even want to know.

THEED

Hi Gerald.

GERLAD

Oh. Hi. Want some peanuts? **14**

BAZ

Oh, Stella, here's another member of the crew, Gerald. He's our main trash collector and also our janitor.

STELLA

Oh. We've met.

GERALD

Have we?

STELLA

Yes. Three times now. How do you not remember?

GERALD

("I don't know" sound)

I meet a lot of people.

BAZ

Gerald is not the friendliest guy on the crew.

PUPPET

I am, actually. I ranked us based on all of our best and worst qualities.

STELLA

(surprise)

Oh!

(she sees him) **15**

OH.

NARRATOR

Stella turned around to see what looked like a giant marionette with no strings. He looked as if Pinnochio had finally given up on becoming a real boy and just decided to grow up and become a wooden man. He bore the same ruffled blue jumpsuit as the rest of the crew, but his wooden face was painted like the goat herd from the Sound of Music.



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BUTTERCUP

That's Puppet.

PUPPET

That's not my real name.

BAZ

But we don't actually know his real name, so we call him Puppet.

STELLA

Is it because he looks like--

BUTTERCUP

Because he's an android made of wood, yes.

THEED

But it's also a little joke on our part because he's our pilot. He looks like a puppet...

BUTTERCUP

But he's a puppeteer.

PUPPET

Ranked most friendly, most talented, second least likely to commit homicide, third most competent--

STELLA

You ranked yourself third?

PUPPET

Well I didn't want to lie.



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STELLA

Sorry if this is a rude question,
but...how do you make an android
out of wood?

PUPPET

You cut down some trees.

STELLA

Also...look, back where I come
from we never really had serious
discussion about AI ethics...but
why is Puppet like a member of
the crew, but ScottBot is just a
software you bought online? I
mean, if they're both robots.

BUTTERCUP

ScottBot isn't sentient.

SCOTTBOT

No I am not!

THEED

He's basically just a database
that you can talk to.

SCOTTBOT

I have knowledge and no feelings!

BUTTERCUP

ScottBot, we hate you.

SCOTTBOT

This means nothing to me.

BUTTERCUP

Puppet, we hate you.

PUPPET

Wait are you serious?

BUTTERCUP

See?

PUPPET

Hold on. Do you guys actually
hate me?

THEED

No. Buttercup was just proving a
point. We don't hate you.

BUTTERCUP

At least not all of us.

PUPPET

Okay good. I get a little nervous-- wait, what?

STELLA

Can I ask one more question?

BUTTERCUP

I get the sense you're going to anyway.

STELLA

Why do you make ranked lists of the crew?

PUPPET

For the gossip column. I'm a journalist, you see.

STELLA

Really?

BUTTERCUP

No. Not really.

PUPPET

I am the writer and editor of the ship's best and only weekly newspaper.

BUTTERCUP

Please make him stop.

PUPPET

Since we have no conception of what a "week" is when we're not on a planet, I just start working on a new issue every few hours. Next one is the swimsuit edition, in which I try on and then review various swimsuits.

BUTTERCUP

I am begging you to shut up.

PUPPET

Most of them do not protect me from water damage, and also do not complement my slender form.

BUTTERCUP

You need to stop going swimming.
You are made of wood.

PUPPET

Let me know if you want to sign
up for a subscription.

BUTTERCUP

You don't, but it won't change
anything.

PUPPET

You get the first month free, and
since we have no concept of a
"month" while we're in space,
your free month lasts forever.

STELLA

Cool, because I don't have any
money. In fact, I don't even know
what anyone uses for money here.
Now that I think of it, I'm
pretty sure I accidentally stole
from Dairy Queen.

BAZ

We've all been there.

STELLA

Stealing from Dairy Queen?

BAZ

Oh, I just meant, like, culture
shock. But yes, actually. I think
we've all stolen from Dairy
Queen.

BUTTERCUP

I have.

THEED

Me too.

PUPPET

All sorts of things can be used
as currency. On one planet we
visited, everyone paid with
facial expressions.

STELLA

Really?

BUTTERCUP

One place used skin.

PUPPET

They did not like me there.

STELLA

How do you pay for something using skin?

BUTTERCUP

You don't spend it all at once.

BAZ

Listen, I'm glad you all are becoming great friends with Stella here, but considering that fact that you all were just discussing whether or not to sell my organs, I'd really like to talk to the Captain now.

BUTTERCUP

We called the meeting. They're just late.

THEED

They're always late. **18**

BAZ

ScottBot--

SCOTTBOT

The Captain is busy and you will wait for them.

BAZ

But--

SCOTTBOT

The Captain is busy and you will wait for them.

BAZ

Fine.

Long silence.

BUTTERCUP

So what did you steal from Dairy Queen?

THEED

Cups.

BAZ

Boring.

THEED

What did you steal?

BAZ

Money.

STELLA

Really?

BAZ

I worked there for a little while. It wasn't too hard.

BUTTERCUP

I stole M&Ms.

THEED

How?

BUTTERCUP

Jumped straight over the counter.

STELLA

Cats aren't supposed to eat chocolate. It's bad for their digestive system.

BUTTERCUP

What are you, some kind of cat doctor?

STELLA

...yes.

BUTTERCUP

Well. I know that. Now.

Sound of door opening.

CAPTAIN

Apologies for the delay,
everyone. I had some important
business to attend to. Now,
ScottBot tells me that Baz is
back-- very much against my
wishes, and that she brought
a...guest with her.

BAZ

Absolutely right, your
captianliness! I am back and I
know deep down you're happy about
it. And this is my new best
friend: Stella. Stella, meet the
Captain.

CAPTAIN

I'd say nice to meet you, but I
must admit that considering the
circumstances under which we are
meeting, it is not nice at all.

STELLA

Oh.

CAPTAIN

Oh.

Pause.

STELLA

Um.

BAZ

Is something wrong?

STELLA

You're...you're...

CAPTAIN

You're a human.

STELLA

You're a horse.

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END OF EPISODE