

All The Pretty Little Horses: Episode 4 - The Trial of  
Baz

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SCENE 1 - PROFESSOR GREGORY THOMAS

GREG 1

Stella, would you come in here  
for a moment?

STELLA

Oh. Um, I was actually just on my  
way to Mel's. I was gonna  
sleepover at her--

GREG

No, I don't think you were.

STELLA

What do you mean? Is something  
wrong?

GREG

"Is something wrong?" My god,  
child! You act is if you don't  
know!

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STELLA

Um...I don't know.

GREG

I saw your last bio test.

STELLA

Yeah. I got a B.

GREG

You say that like it's a good  
thing.

STELLA

It is a good thing.

GREG

Do you know what a B means,  
Stella?

STELLA

A B means passing.

GREG

A B means average.

STELLA

So?

GREG

I didn't raise you to be average.

STELLA

Dad, it's not like I care that much about bio anyway.

GREG

What do you mean you don't care about bio? Don't you still want to be an ecologist?

STELLA

I guess...

GREG

Put that book down.

STELLA

What?

GREG

The book. Put it down.

STELLA

I wasn't even reading it.

GREG

You were thinking about reading it. I could tell.

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STELLA

It's a good book--

GREG

No it's no. Biographies. Those are good books. Philosophy books. Science books. Those are good books. Any book that you have to make something up for is not a good book.

STELLA

Dad, c'mon. I mean, who are you to decide--

GREG

I'm Professor Gregory J. Thomas, that's who I am! Now tell me, why did you perform poorly on that test? Did you not study?

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STELLA

I don't know. I guess bio is just not that interesting to me?

GREG

Biology is the most interesting subject there is. How are you going to learn to be an ecologist if you don't understand the building blocks of life itself?

STELLA

I get the basics. I don't need to understand any more than that.

GREG

"I don't need to understand more than that." Listen to yourself! You sound just like your mother!

STELLA

So?

GREG

What, you want to end up like her? Wasting her life in some dead end job because she didn't have the dedication or the intellect to get an education?

STELLA

...no.

GREG

There's a reason you live with me and not her, Stella. You are a Thomas. And though you may not always act like it, Thomas blood flows through your veins.

STELLA

It's weird when you say it like that, Dad.

GREG

You were born to learn. To research. To achieve! Isn't that what you want?

STELLA

Yes, Dad.

GREG

So how about you get studying for that next test, shall we?

STELLA

It's not for another two weeks.

GREG

Stella!

STELLA

Yes, dad.

NARRATOR

Stella would soon come to discover that Professor Gregory Thomas was in fact no one to decide what counted as a good book because he was, in fact, no one. He single-handedly shaped her childhood, despite being a chain of ones and zeros. He still made Stella study animals even when she wanted nothing more than to-- well, she never really did get to figure out what it was she was interested in because she spent so much time studying animals. Dogs and rats and birds and of course, horses. This is why Stella was more than a bit taken aback when she met the Captain of the Starship Raccoon. Up until that point in her life, after all her studies of everything equine, never once had a horse spoken to her. Until today.

INTRO AND THEME MUSIC.

SCENE 2 - EQUINE ISSUES

STELLA

You're a horse.

HORSE

You're a human.

Beat.

BAZ

Um...what's going on you guys? Is something...something going on here?

STELLA

Listen I'm not trying to be...it's just weird for me, okay? Where I'm from, horses are not-- I mean, my father loved horses-- he was obsessed with them, really-- but they were always-- I grew with-- I'm sorry, every time I try to say it, it just comes out sounding weird.

CAPTAIN

I understand. Honestly it's not much easier for me with you. I've only ever seen a human prancing naked in the pastures. And now there's one fully clothed, speaking my language, claiming to be a part of my crew? It's.../weird.

STELLA

/Weird.

BAZ

Oh. I see.

BUTTERCUP

So...it was like a fetish thing, right?

STELLA

What?

BUTTERCUP

When you say your dad was obsessed with horses...

STELLA

No! He just... I don't know, he just really liked them. He grew up on a farm--

CAPTAIN:

I did too, actually.

STELLA

Oh, really? What kind of farm?  
(Beat. She gets it.)  
Oh come on.

CAPTAIN

I don't like this any more than  
you do.

STELLA

A human farm? You grew up farming  
humans?

CAPTAIN

I didn't know they could be  
sentient!

STELLA

Well, apparently they can.  
According to Baz I was "made  
special."

BAZ

As a joke.

STELLA

(begrudgingly)  
Yes. As a joke.

CAPTAIN

I see. Not very funny.

STELLA

No.

CAPTAIN

Well, perhaps we'll end up  
deciding that we don't want you  
on our ship it won't be a problem  
at all.

STELLA

Yeah I mean maybe-- wait a  
second.

BUTTERCUP

Here's the situation, Captain:  
Baz tricks this poor human  
experiment into boarding the  
Racoon with her so that ScottBot  
will let her on board. Now we  
have to decide what to do with  
them.

STELLA

Um. Well. Keep me on board,  
preferably.

CAPTAIN

And what talents recommend you to  
be part of our crew? I don't mean  
to show bias, but the fact that  
you only recently discovered that  
everything you knew was a  
simulation-- how long ago was it?

STELLA

Like, two hours.

CAPTAIN

Considering the fact that you  
have been in this world only two  
hours you are -- and I mean no  
offense by this -- practically a  
newborn baby.

STELLA

Oh, none taken. I actually get  
that lot.

CAPTAIN

So this begs the question: what  
skills do you provide?

STELLA

Well, I'm sure I can replace--  
um, what was his name?

BUTTERCUP

Sid.

STELLA

Sid! So sorry about that, by the  
way, to hear that he was, um,  
killed.



BUTTERCUP

Murdered.

BAZ

Accidentally...ended.  
Prematurely.

STELLA

But I'm sure I could be your new,  
um, poker.

CAPTAIN

Really? You think you could be  
the poker?

BUTTERCUP

Do you know what the poker does?

STELLA

Um...poke...things?

Beat.

BUTTERCUP

Yes, actually.

STELLA

Really?

THEED

The poker pokes all the trash we  
load into the cargo hold.

STELLA

Oh. That doesn't seem too hard.

BUTTERCUP

To check it for dangerous life  
forms, toxins, contaminants, and  
other deadly debris.

STELLA

That sounds a little more hard.

CAPTAIN

Being a poker takes endurance,  
determination, bravery, and, most  
importantly, a willingness to die  
at any moment.

STELLA

Well. Um. I guess it's not too bad about Sid then, is it?

(Awkward laugh.

Everyone else is silent.)

Never mind. My condolences again.

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CAPTAIN

Considering that fact that you are, as I said, a newborn baby, I don't believe you're qualified to be our new poker. Therefore it seems we have no choice but to--

STELLA

(resigned)

Throw my out into space. Yeah, I know.

CAPTAIN

What? No. Buttercup, did you tell this poor woman that we were going to throw her out into space?

BUTTERCUP

She called me cute.

CAPTAIN

I see. Word to the wise, baby-woman, do not call cats cute.

STELLA

Yes I already learned that. Also Theed said ze wanted to sell my organs.

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CAPTAIN

Theed, did you say that?

THEED

Yeah.

CAPTAIN

Ze didn't mean anything by it. Floridians, you see, have incredible plasticity. You can take all their organs and they'll grow back in seconds. Theed, I believe, sometimes forgets that not all carbon based life forms share hir resilience.

THEED

It's true. I do forget.

PUPPET

I didn't threaten her at all Captain.

CAPTAIN

Noted, Puppet.

PUPPET

I don't wanna lose my rank as the friendliest crew member.

CAPTAIN

We know, Puppet.

STELLA

So what...what are you planning to do with me? And what about Baz?

BAZ

Yeah, what about me?

CAPTAIN

The conwoman is a different matter altogether. You, baby-woman--

STELLA

You can call me Stella.

CAPTAIN

8 ( I like to refrain from that type of language. You, baby-woman, stumbled onto this ship unknowingly. Blindly, foolishly, ignorantly, without reason, stupidly one might say, idiotically even--

STELLA

Yeah, I get it.

CAPTAIN

Your...sponsor on the other hand,  
knew very well what she was  
doing.

STELLA

Um. Sorry, I know this is a sore  
subject, but...what exactly did  
Baz do?

PUPPET

She pretended to be a doctor so  
that she could steal from us.

BUTTERCUP

And then she killed Sid.

BAZ

Technically, gravity killed Sid.  
I just...helped it along.

STELLA

Wait, hold on. So you're not just  
missing a poker. You're also  
missing a doctor.

CAPTAIN

And?

STELLA

Well, I was a vet. And a lot of  
you are, well...you're not that  
different from the pets I used to  
treat.

BUTTERCUP

Pet? I am not a pet!

STELLA

I'm not saying you're anyone's  
pet! I'm just saying I have  
treated cats exactly like you.  
And I could deal with that  
tapeworm problem you have going  
on.

BUTTERCUP

No one...knows about that.

STELLA

I'm telling you, I'm a professional! I could tell from your distended stomach. And I'll bet your stool has been looking--

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BUTTERCUP

Please stop.

STELLA

And I used to do livestock, too, so I've treated plenty of horses. I mean, like I said, my dad was--

BUTTERCUP

"Obsessed"

STELLA

It wasn't a fetish thing! Admittedly I've never treated a snail, but--

THEED

Oh, that's okay. Snails can heal from almost anything. You could stab me right now if you want.

STELLA

I don't--

THEED

Go ahead. Stab me. **10**

BAZ

I will!

THEED

I was talking to Stella.

STELLA

I don't want to stab anyone.

CAPTAIN

You have a point.

STELLA

I do?

CAPTAIN

While I don't like the fact that you just called me "livestock"--

STELLA

Whoops. Sorry.

CAPTAIN

I do believe you could be a valuable Asset to our team. Baz, on the other hand--

BUTTERCUP

Throw her into space! Throw her into space!

CAPTAIN

Yes, we do that.

STELLA

What? I thought you said you weren't going to do that!

CAPTAIN

I said we weren't going to do it to you.

BAZ

I think they're still a little mad at me.

BUTTERCUP

I hope your death is slow and painful.

BAZ

Oh, you'll get over it.

STELLA

Baz? You don't seem very concerned for someone who's about to be thrown into space.

BAZ

That's because I've been with this crew long enough to know that they're not really going to do it.

BUTTERCUP

I wouldn't be so sure.

BAZ

Oh, I know you're capable of it. But you wouldn't do it without a fair trial first.

CAPTAIN

You want a trial?

STELLA

Well, it is her right. At least, where I come from it is.

CAPTAIN

Very well. We'll have a trial. But who will defend you?

BAZ

Easy. My new best friend, Stella.

STELLA

What?

CAPTAIN

Stella was the one who was so gung-hoe about justice.

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STELLA

I wouldn't call myself gung or hoe...

CAPTAIN

It's settled then! Tomorrow we'll host the trial of Baz, and Stella will be her defense.

STELLA

Oh no.

### SCENE 3 - BED TIME

NARRATOR

That night-- or rather, in a few hours, as arbitrary divisions like night and day mean nothing in the vast emptiness of space-- Stella went to Baz's room. She asked if she could sleep in Sid's room, but the crew didn't feel comfortable so quickly turning their dead crew mate's room over to a relative stranger. The only person who offered to share their room was Baz and, deciding that this would be slightly better than sleeping on the metal grate in the hallway, Stella accepted.

It was a cramped little cupboard of a room that made Stella feel as though she had stepped into an oversized tin can, the metal of the walls corroded and peeling like everywhere else on the Raccoon. The "bed" was not much more than a few layers of cardboard draped with blankets, and the floor was covered in a tattered sack that Stella realized was supposed to be a rug. A wooden crate served as a nightstand, though the only thing on it was a little lamp that gave an eerie orange light.

BAZ

Here, you can sleep there.

STELLA

On the floor?

BAZ

Yeah.

(beat)

Okay, fine, you can have the bed.

STELLA

Wait-- with you?

BAZ

What? No.

STELLA

Oh, cos I thought--

BAZ

I meant I could be on the--

STELLA

I'm not gonna sleep in the bed with you.

BAZ

Yeah. I know.

STELLA

I sleep on the floor then.



BAZ

Okay. Nighty-night.

STELLA

Good night.

A long pause. Maybe mechanic whirring of the ship.

STELLA (CONT'D)

You can't just...you can't just do that.

BAZ

Do what?

STELLA

Call me your best friend.

BAZ

Why not? I don't have any friends, but then I met you, so you're my best friend by default.

STELLA

No, it doesn't-- it doesn't work like that. Best friends have to be mutual.

BAZ

Says who?

STELLA

I mean, it's not written-- it's just like a law of friendship.

BAZ

I mean, sure maybe in your simulation world, but out here--

STELLA

No! Some things are the same no matter where you go. You said it yourself. Friendship is one of them. You can't be my best friend because I already have a best friend.

BAZ

From home?

STELLA

Yeah. Her name is Mel. Short for Melody. Which is ironic because she's tone deaf. Like, seriously tone deaf. We used to do karaoke together. I've known her since I was a little kid and we always did everything together, even though she was a lot braver and smarter than me. She would still hang out with me even when I wasn't fun to hang out with. Even when my dad had his accident. Even when she went to college and I didn't. She was always there for me--

BAZ

Stella?

STELLA

What?

BAZ

She's gone now.

STELLA

Yeah. I know.

(suddenly offended)

Yeah, I know! You think I don't know that?

BAZ

No, of course you know! I'm just-- I'm just saying, I think it's time to move on.

STELLA

Oh well that would sure be convenient for you, wouldn't it? If I moved on and then I was on the market for a new best friend and you could take advantage of me again just like you did to get back onto the ship?

BAZ

...maybe.

STELLA

Well I'm not! Mel is still my best friend. She may be dead but she's still my best friend and that is something you will never be, okay?

BAZ

...okay.

Pause.

STELLA

I've never...I don't think I've ever yelled at someone like that before.

BAZ

Good. I'm glad you got it all out.

STELLA

I'm gonna sleep now.

BAZ

You should.

#### SCENE 4 - CONSULTATION

NARRATOR

The next day, as Stella and Baz sat in the cramped little room preparing for the trial, Stella felt it only fair to let Baz know exactly how much she knew about being a lawyer.

STELLA

I have no idea how to be a lawyer.

BAZ

Being a lawyer is easy! I do it all the time!

STELLA

You do?

BAZ

No but I bet I could if I tried.

STELLA

Can't you get someone else to defend you?

BAZ

No.

STELLA

Why not?

BAZ

Because everyone else hates me.

STELLA

Aren't I the impartial third party? Shouldn't I be the judge?

BAZ

No. You can't be the third party because there is no second party. There's the people who hate me, which is everyone, and then there's you.

STELLA

What about you?

BAZ

I also fall into the category of people who hate me.

STELLA

Are you serious?

BAZ

Yes.

STELLA

Are you at least going to tell me what you did?

BAZ

Um...no. I don't think so.

STELLA

How can I defend you if I don't know the truth?

BAZ

Look, I'm no lawyer, but I find that when defending myself, the truth is usually not all that helpful.

STELLA

So you're telling me to lie?

BAZ

No! I'm just not telling you what really happened because I can't risk you hating me too.

STELLA

So it was bad?

BAZ

Oh, it was heinous.

STELLA

Like, murder bad?

BAZ

Mmmmm close.

STELLA

Baz!

BAZ

What? I said close. I didn't murder anyone. In fact, that should probably be how you start out. "Ladies and gentleman of the jury: my client did not murder anyone."

STELLA

I think I'm gonna get you killed.

BAZ

It'll be fine!

STELLA

No, I don't think it will be fine! How do you not see how pissed the crew is at you?

BAZ

They'll get over it.

STELLA

No, I don't think they will. I think there is a very legitimate possibility that they will vote to kill you.

BAZ

But you'll convince them not to, right?

STELLA

I don't...I don't know if I can. And honestly? I don't know if I want to.

BAZ

Shit.

**12**EPISODE BREAK.  

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