

All The Pretty Little Horses: Episode 4.5 - The Trial
of Baz
Part 2

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SCENE 5 - THE TRIAL

NARRATOR

When last we left our heroes-- well, they're not exactly heroes, are they? One has lived in the same room in the same building her entire life, so it's not as though she's had the chance to do anything heroic, and the other is the farthest thing from heroic there is.

So, when we last left our decidedly not-heroes, Stella was woefully unprepared for the trial Baz had far too much confidence in her. They made their way to the to the Crew Lounge, where the trial was to begin.

CAPTAIN

All rise for the honorable Scott.

SCOTTBOT

Hi! I'm Scott.

BUTTERCUP

We know.

STELLA

Are you guys sure you want to leave an ethical decision to an AI?

PUPPET

Scott is the only one of us that's not emotionally invested in the situation.

SCOTTBOT

I can proudly say that I have no emotions whatsoever.

STELLA

But is he capable of...you know, morals?

SCOTTBOT

In preparation for this trial, I downloaded every text on ethics ever to be produced. I'm currently reviewing all of them as we speak. I'm currently on Plato's Socrates fan fiction right now and I'm beginning to think things are about to get gay. **2**

STELLA

It just feels wrong that the judge isn't...sentient?

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THEED

ScottBot is the perfect judge because he is incapable of bias. He has no emotions.

SCOTTBOT

I have no feelings. It's one of my greatest strengths.

BAZ

It's literally impossible to make him feel something! Try it!

BUTTERCUP

ScottBot, we all regret purchasing you as our shipboard AI. We wish we splurged and went for an EileenMachine instead.

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SCOTTBOT

(offended)

Were I a sentient being, I would be offended by this. But I am not, so I feel nothing.

STELLA

Guys, I think you hurt him. I think maybe being off-brand is something he's sensitive about.

SCOTTBOT

(near tears)

I have no feelings. It's one of my greatest strengths.

STELLA

Okay, so, um...how does this work?

BAZ

I imagine trials are pretty much the same everywhere. It's not like the guys who made your simulation put that much energy into creating a whole new legal system right? There's a prosecutor, a defense attorney, a judge, a court reporter, a jury and the "mmmmmm."

STELLA

Yeah, okay that sounds-- sorry what was that last one?

BAZ

The "mmmmmmmm"

PUPPET

That one's me!

BUTTERCUP

We know.

PUPPET

I wanted to be the court reporter but they told me no.

BUTTERCUP

Last time we asked you to write up a report you wrote erotic fan fiction about the crew.

PUPPET

And I could do it again!

STELLA

Wait so what is the
(struggling to say it)
mmmmmm?

BAZ

Well, when you have a trial you don't want anyone to lie.

STELLA

Sure.

BAZ

There's an appointed person who listens to everything, and if anyone says anything that sounds like a lie they go, "mmmmmm I don't think so."

STELLA

I don't understand who that keeps people from lying.

BAZ

What did they do in your courts?

STELLA

They had you place your hand on the Bible and say "I promise to tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth."

PUPPET

The whole truth? Like, all of it?

BUTTERCUP

But there's so much truth in the universe?

CAPTAIN

We don't have time for someone to start spouting all known truths, and maybe even some unknown truths.

PUPPET

I'm not ready to know the whole truth! My feeble mind can't take it! I want to live in blissful ignorance forever!

STELLA

No, you don't-- Not like, the whole truth. Just the important parts.

BUTTERCUP

Well, you said the whole truth.

STELLA

That's just what they say!

BAZ

How would they hold you to it?

STELLA

Um, well you can get in big trouble if you lie.

BAZ

But how will anyone know if you lie if there's no one to go "mmmmmm?"

STELLA

That doesn't prove that anyone is lying!

PUPPET

But it does let the jury know that something suspicious is going on.

STELLA

Wait, do we even have a jury?

PUPPET

We didn't have enough crew members, so I made a few fake jurors out of garbage.

BUTTERCUP

So Baz will be judged by a jury of her peers.

STELLA

Are you the prosecutor?

BUTTERCUP

Yup. And Theed is the court reporter.

THEED

I am. I am the court reporter.

STELLA

What are you doing Captain?

CAPTAIN

Oh, I'm also judging, but silently.

STELLA

Is that another part of your court system? The Silent Judge?

CAPTAIN

No that's just what I do.

STELLA

Oh. Okay. Great.

BUTTERCUP

I call Baz to the stand!

STELLA

Wait, we're doing that already?
We don't get to do opening
statements or--

SCOTTBOT

Technically there is no stand,
but Baz, please sit on the this
crate of beets, which we are
using to substitute for a stand.

THEED

Not my beets.

BUTTERCUP

You can still cook with them
after.

THEED

Yay.

BAZ

7 Okay. I'm sitting on the beets.

BUTTERCUP

Do you promise to tell the
relevant parts of the truth?

BAZ

Sure.

PUPPET

Mmmmmmm. We'll see.

BUTTERCUP

Okay, then will you please tell
us, in your own words, what were
you doing on our ship in the
first place?

BAZ

I needed a job! See, Stella, it
was all perfectly innocent--

PUPPET

Mmmmmmm.

BAZ

Okay, well. Technically I had a job. As a...saleswoman.

BUTTERCUP

Con artist.

BAZ

Well, you know what they say. Theft is art.

PUPPET

They say "art is theft."

BAZ

I don't see the difference.

BUTTERCUP

The point is, you sell stuff and you lie.

BAZ

Not true! I have never lied about anything I have ever sold to anyone. I'll occasionally spice up the truth, but my clients are very happy with me.

STELLA

Clients?

BAZ

Clients. Customers. Business partners. Buddies. What's the difference?

BUTTERCUP

Would you say that the difference is that they were all *criminals*? Or is the difference that you are a criminal?

STELLA

Wait, isn't this leading the witness?

SCOTTBOT

Yes, but it's leading the witness to the truth, so I'll allow it.

STELLA

Okay, so you were a...dealer? Of what?

BAZ

Lots of things. Tech. Art.

BUTTERCUP

Drugs.

BAZ

On occasion.

CAPTAIN

Rare animals.

BAZ

Only one time.

PUPPET

Illegal wood polish.

BAZ

Um...no, never that.

PUPPET

I know. I'm just saying...consider it.



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STELLA

How do you all already know this?

CAPTAIN

After...everything that transpired, we made Baz tell us everything about her history.

BAZ

So they know very well that I needed to get on board the Racoon for a simple and innocent reason: I needed to make a sale.

STELLA

The them?

BAZ

No. To one of my regular clients. They wanted me to pick up this...package for them. Before it got destroyed. So instead of trying to steal it, I waited until it was already thrown out. Then I applied to work on the Raccoon, which was the ship scheduled to pick up that planet's garbage next.

STELLA

Wait, so what was the package? And why if it was so important, why was it getting thrown out?

BUTTERCUP

Theed, please note that Stella is taking up all of my question time.

THEED

Noted.

BUTTERCUP

You didn't write it down!

CAPTAIN

Theed, are you writing any of this down?

THEED

No.

CAPTAIN

But you're supposed to be the court reporter.

THEED

Oh I can't read.

PUPPET

Are you serious? I've been giving you copies of my newspaper for years and you never told me!

THEED

I like them.

PUPPET

What do you do with them?

THEED

I use them for my nest.

BAZ

I didn't know snails had nests.

THEED

They don't. Just me.

STELLA

(beginning to get fed
up with the crew)

What was in the package?

BAZ

Honestly? I don't know. I never found out. I think maybe whoever owned it thought it was dangerous, and they knew that the only safe way to dispose of it was to give it to a trash collection ship. But my clients wanted it, and I am a very responsible saleswoman, so--

BUTTERCUP

She pretended to be a doctor and started working for us.

BAZ

And you have to admit, I was a pretty decent doctor!

PUPPET

Mmmmmmm.

BUTTERCUP

When I came to you with an ear infection you asked me if I could try to drain it out through the other ear.

CAPTAIN

When Gerald had a broken arm, you put a bandaid on it.

GERALD

It's still broken.

THEED

One I got an old boot stuck under my shell you wouldn't help me because you said it was just "too nasty."

BAZ

Okay, but was I wrong? It was nasty!

PUPPET

Also you poisoned everyone.

STELLA

You did what?

BAZ

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Okay that's not exactly fair. I thought I was giving everyone Vitamin D supplements.

STELLA

But what was it really?

BAZ

Poison.

CAPTAIN

Honestly I'm shocked we didn't realize you were a fake sooner.

BAZ

Okay, I was not the best doctor. But did any of you die?

BUTTERCUP

Yes!

BAZ

That doesn't count! That had nothing to do with my doctoring.

STELLA

So how did Sid die?

BAZ

Well, he was the trash poker. So he was doing his job, poking the trash and...well, he found the package.

STELLA

So he knew what it was?

BAZ

Yeah, and he started freaking out about it. He was going to go tell the rest of the crew when we-- when I bumped into him.

STELLA

What do you mean?

BAZ

I was headed to the cargo hold to go pick up the thing and leave. But I ran into him on the catwalk over the trash. If he'd been a little more, um, calm, he might have asked me what I was doing there because I would never go to the trash hold but he-- he just started going on about this thing he found and about how we had to get rid of it and how he had to tell the Captain. And of course I couldn't let that happen! So I tried to convince him that we should keep it.

STELLA

I'm guessing he wasn't convinced?

BAZ

That's when he started to get suspicious. He started asking me what I was doing there, saying I shouldn't even have an opinion when I hadn't even saw the thing for myself.

BUTTERCUP

He almost figured you out. So you killed him.

BAZ

No!

PUPPET

Mmmmmmm.

BAZ

A little.

STELLA

How do you kill someone a little?

BAZ

I was scared. He was really convinced he needed to tell everyone, and I was starting to get nervous that he had figured me out and he was gonna tell everyone about that too. So when he tried to get past me I...I pushed him. Not hard! But hard enough that he fell.

BUTTERCUP

Off the catwalk.

STELLA

And then he died.

BAZ

Um...no.

STELLA

He fell into the trash and he was still alive?

BAZ

Okay, look. This is the part that doesn't reflect super well on me.

STELLA

This part doesn't reflect super well on you?

BAZ

He was hurt pretty bad-- I mean, that's a long fall, and I could have told the crew what happened, but...but then Sid would tell them what had happened. So I told them that he was sick. That some kind of contaminant from the trash had poisoned him and that I was ensuring he was quarantined.

STELLA

And they believed you?

BUTTERCUP

Yeah. We did.

STELLA

So you left him in the trash
until he got, what? Incinerated?

CAPTAIN

Oh, Stella. Did no one tell you
what we do with our trash?

STELLA

I guess not.

THEED

We feed it to Hungry Steve.

STELLA

YOU FED SID TO HUNGRY STEVE?
Wait, who is Hungry Steve?



SCOTTBOT

"Hungry Steve" is the colloquial
name for Meepee, the black hole
at the center of the galaxy.
Steve is about 62 billion miles
long, and was once a neutron star
before--

STELLA

YOU FED SID TO A BLACK HOLE?

BAZ

Technically it was Puppet who did
that.

PUPPET

I wouldn't have emptied the cargo
if I knew the cargo was Sid!

BAZ

But you did empty the cargo! So
why aren't you the one on trial?

STELLA

This...I mean, honestly, yeah,
this looks pretty bad for you,
Baz.

BAZ

That's not what you want to hear
from your defense lawyer, is it?

STELLA

But you guys can't just kill her!

BUTTERCUP

Are you serious? Now you know that she is a *murderer* and you still don't think we should kill her?

STELLA

I mean, don't get me wrong, I get it, but-- but-- but it's wrong to kill people!

BUTTERCUP

Yeah, that's kinda the whole point.

STELLA

Think about where I'm coming from: I had my whole world taken from me by creatures who didn't even see me as a person. They saw me as a toy for their entertainment. I begged them to let me die and they wouldn't kill me. I have only lived in this world a little while, but already I have seen unimaginable cruelty. I have seen creatures judge others as a waste of time and space just because they think they're better. And I will not let you all make the judgement that you are more worthy of life than Baz. What she did was terrible, but what would you have done in that situation?

BUTTERCUP

I would never be in that situation because I don't deal on the black market.

STELLA

But let's say you did. And you thought you were in danger of having your identity revealed, and maybe even getting killed. Would you push Sid?

PUPPET

I wouldn't. I'm least likely to commit homicide.

STELLA

I'm not asking you. I'm asking Buttercup.

BUTTERCUP

Hey, I'm not the one sitting on the box of beets.

CAPTAIN

Buttercup would do it.

BUTTERCUP

What?

SCOTTBOT

Based on Buttercup's past actions of selfishness and cruelty, I am able to statistically extrapolate that she would, in fact, do it.

CAPTAIN

See?

STELLA

Do you understand what I mean? Killing Baz isn't right. So if you want to kill her for that? Well, then you lose me too.

PUPPET

We have to kill you too?

STELLA

What? No. I just meant I won't be your doctor.

BUTTERCUP

I wouldn't mind killing Stella too.

STELLA

Buttercup!

BUTTERCUP

What? You're a stowaway, and thanks to you the whole crew knows I have worms. It's not like I'm dying to keep you around.



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CAPTAIN

Stella is right, though. Without a doctor, what happens if we all get sick again?

BUTTERCUP

That probably won't be an issue when there's no one around to poison us.

CAPTAIN

But say it is an issue. Say we catch something even worse. We deal in waste, remember. We deal in garbage other people want to get rid of. We're liable to get all sorts of nasty diseases, and without a doctor, we're taking on a huge risk.

BUTTERCUP

Stella is a huge risk. And Baz is a huger risk.

STELLA

Listen, I know you miss Sid. And he must have been-- what was it you said? Determined and brave and not afraid to die and-- wait a second.

CAPTAIN

What?

STELLA

Baz is all of those things. I mean, she was determined enough to get herself back on the ship even though you were all dead set against it. And you have to admit it's pretty brave of her to do that when she knew she was risking you all throwing her out again. And I mean-- look at her. She's facing death like a pro. This may be her last day alive and she's over there finger knitting.

BAZ

I'm making a scarf for Theed.

THEED

That's very sweet. I do get chilly.

STELLA

Why would you sentence her to death when Baz could be your new trash poker?

CAPTAIN

What?

BUTTERCUP

What?

PUPPET

What?

THEED

13 I heard her. She said--

BUTTERCUP

We heard what she said, Theed. But still-- what?

STELLA

I mean, what do you have to lose? You get a new doctor-- one who's actually certified-- and a capable replacement for Sid. Seems like a win-win.

BUTTERCUP

We can't just replace Sid with his murderer.

CAPTAIN

Well, technically there's no rule against it.

BUTTERCUP

Captain!

CAPTAIN

Just saying.

STELLA

So it's decided that?

CAPTAIN

It's not up to me. It's up to the judge.

SCOTTBOT

That's me! I'm the judge.

STELLA

Alright, Scott. What's your verdict?

SCOTTBOT

After a quick review of every ethical text ever written, I have come to the conclusion that philosophy is a waste of time. No one agrees on anything and there are no right answers. Oh dear lord we are just heathens in a godless world.

BUTTERCUP

Yeah but we knew that already. What do you think of Stella's proposal?

SCOTTBOT

Well, speaking as your administrative AI and not your judge, I would like to point out that a waste vessel without a doctor is in violation of a number of codes.

BUTTERCUP

The Raccoon is already in violation of a number codes.

BAZ

And whose job is that?

BUTTERCUP

14 I've been busy!

SCOTTBOT

It seems to me that the wisest course of action is to keep Stella around as your doctor, which does mean keeping Bazzel as the trash piker.

BAZ

Woohoo! Trash piking!

SCOTTBOT

That is my verdict as your
shipboard computer.

CAPTAIN

And as our fair and balanced
judge?

SCOTTBOT

As your judge, my verdict is that
morality is an illusion, so do
whatever you want.

BAZ

I want to eat a bagel.

THEED

Yeah I could go for some bagels.

BUTTERCUP

You guys are serious? You're just
gonna let her stay?

CAPTAIN

I don't like it either,
Buttercup, but who are we to
argue with space law?



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SCENE 6 - BED TIME 2

NARRATOR

After the honorable ScottBot's
final decision, Baz was welcomed
back onto the crew as the trash
poker, but to Buttercup's
chagrin. The rest of the crew
seemed relatively indifferent, if
not glad that they were not going
to have to be the one to poke the
trash. Baz celebrated in the only
way she knew how: sleeping. It
wasn't often she had anything to
celebrate, and usually the thing
she was celebrating was narrowly
avoiding death, so at that point
she felt a nap was always well-
deserved.

BAZ

You can sleep in the bed tonight.

STELLA

I told you, I'm not going to sleep in the bed with you!

BAZ

Stella.

STELLA

Oh, you meant--

BAZ

Yeah.

STELLA

I don't know why I keep thinking--

BAZ

Yeah, I don't know why you think that either.

STELLA

Because that would be weird.

BAZ

Yes.

(beat)

STELLA

I'll take the bed.

BAZ

Sure.

Blankets rustling.

Thanks. For defending me. Buddy.

STELLA

I am not your buddy!

BAZ

Oh c'mon!

STELLA

Baz, I defended you because it was the right thing to do. But we are not friends. You tricked me. And it sounds like you tricked all of them too.

BAZ

Well, sure, but that doesn't mean we can't still be pals.

STELLA

We are not pals and we never will be!

BAZ

(resigned)

Okay.

Pause.

BAZ (CONT'D)

I was scared.

STELLA

What?

BAZ

Earlier today. You said during the trial I would make a good trash poker because I wasn't scared. Well, I will make a fantastic trash poker. But...I was scared. I was just acting like I wasn't. That's kinda what I do. Act.

STELLA

Oh.

BAZ

And I was scared when I pushed Sid, too. That's why I did it. If I could do it again, I would just let him turn me in. But...but I panicked. And I think about that and regret it every day.

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STELLA

Well you should tell the crew that! They wouldn't be so angry at you if they knew you felt bad about it!

BAZ

I can't! They need to think I'm cool.

STELLA

They don't think you're cruel.
They think you're a psychopath.

BAZ

Well it's better that they think
that than that they think I'm...

STELLA

What?

BAZ

Emotional.

STELLA

There's nothing wrong with them
thinking your emotional. I mean,
I talk about my emotions with
them all the time and that
doesn't seem to be an issue.

BAZ

Hm. Right.

STELLA

Do you...do you think that'll be
an issue?

BAZ

I don't know.

STELLA

Do I need to stop being so
emotional?

BAZ

Good night, Stella.

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STELLA

Baz! Baz answer me!

BAZ

I can't. I'm asleep.

STELLA

No you're not.

BAZ

Snore snore.

STELLA

Baz! Stop pretending to be asleep
and talk to me about my feelings!

(beat)

Didn't you want to be my friend
or something?

BAZ

Look, I'm just saying...people on
this crew don't do well with
feelings, alright?

STELLA

What's that supposed to mean?

BAZ

Good night.

STELLA

(begrudgingly)

Good night.

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END OF EPISODE