

All The Pretty Little Horses: Episode 5 - Trashland **1**

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Scene 1 - Flashback: Six Flags

Sounds of an amusement park.

MEL

You wanna go on that one with me?

STELLA

Oh that one looks far too scary  
for me.

MEL

You've said that about all of  
them.

STELLA

They all look scary!

MEL

Why did you agree to come to Six  
Flags if you didn't want to go on  
any rides?

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STELLA

Honestly? I didn't know what Six  
Flags was.

MEL

Are you serious?

DAN

How have you never heard of Six  
Flags?

STELLA

I don't know! I thought it was  
like, some smaller version of the  
United Nations. And you guys  
asked me if I wanted to go and  
I...I mean, I didn't want to say  
no--

MEL

You could have asked!

STELLA

I didn't think of that! You guys  
go on a ride without me.

Mel

The whole point of this trip was that we were all gonna have fun together.

STELLA

We will have fun! You guys will have fun on the rides and I'll have fun sitting on this bench watching...watching that kid of there throw up.

DAN

Oh that poor mother.

STELLA

Why would you take three kids to Six Flags?

DAN

Why would you have three kids?

MEL

Okay. Fine. Whatever. Dan, are you coming?

DAN

Yeah. Sure.

MEL

Stella? You'll be fine without us?

STELLA

Yeah, of course. What do you think, I'm gonna get lost?

(pregnant silence)

Wait do you really think I'm gonna get lost?

DAN

Listen, it's not the most--

MEL

One time you got lost in a Sam's Club.

STELLA

Okay but have you ever been in a Sam's Club? They're ginormous.

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MEL

The aisles are numbered!

STELLA

You guys have fun. I'll be fine.

MEL

Okay. If you're sure.

DAN

See you later, babe.

Footsteps.

STELLA

Huh. I can have plenty of fun on my own. I'm gonna go over the cotton candy vendor right now and have so much fun. Solo fun. Wait, where'd he-- I thought the vendor was over-- Did he move? I guess the carts have wheels for a reason. Maybe he went over-- Huh. I don't think I've been to this part of the park before. Where did I come-- Oh. Shit.

INTRO AND THEME MUSIC.

SCENE 2 - TEAM BRIEFING

CAPTAIN

Alright, crew, you know the drill, but since Stella doesn't, I thought perhaps we should do a team briefing.

STELLA

What drill? The drill for what?

BUTTERCUP

Today's the special day.

STELLA

What? Is it your birthday?

BUTTERCUP

What? No.

STELLA

Is it Theed's birthday?

THEED

It is, actually.

CAPTAIN

Oh. Well this is embarrassing.  
Happy birthday, Theed.

THEED

Thanks. As snail years last as long as five hundred and three of your years, this is actually quite a momentous occasion.

CAPTAIN

Oh. Well. Sorry we didn't get you a cake.

THEED

That's okay.

BAZ

For what it's worth, Theed, they forgot my birthday too.

BUTTERCUP

You gave us a fake birthday.

BAZ

Yeah but you still could have remembered it!

CAPTAIN

Are we going to have to deal with you two squabbling all the way to Hungry Steve?

BUTTERCUP

Yes.

BAZ

(simultaneously)

Yes.

CAPTAIN

Can't the two of you-- and you'll forgive me for using a colloquialism -- suck it up?

BUTTERCUP

You all seem to have forgotten the fact that she's a murderer. But I haven't.

CAPTAIN

We had the trial, Buttercup.

THEED

And she made me a scarf.

BUTTERCUP

Theed! Not you too!

THEED

It's very cozy.

BAZ

Consider it a birthday present.

CAPTAIN

Buttercup, I'm sorry that you don't feel comfortable with Baz as your crew mate but as your Captain, taking care of your comfort is not my job.

BUTTERCUP

Yes it is. That's your main job.

STELLA

Hey. Hi. Um. Sorry to interrupt. It's just. I don't know what the big day is yet.

CAPTAIN

We are currently approaching Hungry Steve.

BAZ

Which means...we're going to Trashland, right?

CAPTAIN

No.

BAZ

But Stella's never been!

CAPTAIN

Good.

STELLA

What is Trashland?

BUTTERCUP

It's a tiny planet that orbits Hungry Steve. The whole place is an amusement park made of pieces of debris that didn't make it into the black hole.

STELLA

Oh...well, I've never been a big fan of amusement parks...

CAPTAIN

The baby-woman is for once showing good sense.

STELLA

Thanks. I think.

BAZ

Captain, c'mon! It's Theed's birthday!

THEED

That's true. It is.

BUTTERCUP

I hate to agree with Baz, but I actually do really like Trashland.

STELLA

Really?

BUTTERCUP

Listen. I may be an intelligent, intellectual, emotionally complex cat. But I am a cat nonetheless. And there is a Yarn Pit at Trashland that just...well, it's hard to resist.

CAPTAIN

I'm disappointed in you Buttercup.

Door opening.

PUPPET  
 (singing a weird and  
 off-key happy  
 birthday song)

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THEED  
 Thanks Puppet.

PUPPET  
 Sorry I'm late to the meeting. I  
 was making you a card.

THEED  
 I can't read. But thanks.

PUPPET  
 There's no words. It's just a  
 picture I drew of the crew all  
 wearing party hats. See look!  
 There's you, and your hat is  
 giant to fit over your shell, and  
 there's Buttercup-- her hat is  
 tiny cos her little head is so  
 small--

BUTTERCUP  
 Watch it lumber boy. 6

PUPPET  
 And that's Baz and her hands are  
 covered in blood because she's a  
 filthy murderer that now that  
 Stella wouldn't let us kill, but  
 that's okay so she gets a party  
hat anyway-- 7

BAZ  
 Thank you.

PUPPET  
 And that's Stella and she's  
 crying to show that's she's sad  
 about her entire world being a  
 simulation--

STELLA  
 I haven't cried in front of you  
 guys.



BAZ

Yes, but I hear you crying at night and I tell everyone about it later.

PUPPET

There's Gerald. He's off to the side looking creepy because that's what he usually does--

GERALD

**8** It's true. I do.

PUPPET

But he still gets a party hat. And the horse is the Captain, and you can tell because there is only one horse and it's the Captain.

STELLA

Why aren't you in it, Puppet?

PUPPET

Well I can't be in the picture. It's from my perspective. If you were an artist like me, you would know that.

CAPTAIN

Puppet, your tardiness has led you to miss our discussion about today's visit to Hungry Steve.

PUPPET

Great! We're going to Trashland, right?

BAZ

Yeah!

CAPTAIN

No! We will not be wasting valuable-- alright. Fine. I can see I'm outnumbered. As always. We will go to Trashland for: one. Hour. Understood?

BAZ

Absolutely.

BUTTERCUP

Got it.

THEED

**9** Okay.

CAPTAIN

But after that it is imperative that we get back on course. Stella has never been on a visit to Hungry Steve before, and we all know how dangerous it can be for someone who doesn't know the proper protocol.

STELLA

Wait, dangerous?

CAPTAIN

Yes. It is a black hole.

STELLA

Well, sure but I thought-- I don't know, can't I just wait in the ship or something?

CAPTAIN

Feeding Hungry Steve is a laborious affair.

BUTTERCUP

Yeah, it's sort of an all-hands-on-deck situation. Even I help, and I don't even have hands.

CAPTAIN

Besides, navigating a black hole is a difficult matter. Even if we were to leave you on the ship on your own, one mistake could kill us all.

STELLA

(suddenly very nervous)

Okay yeah cool totally.

CAPTAIN

But before we go off risking our lives in front of a gaping void that could easily swallow us crush our very beings to the size of marbles, go have fun in the amusement park.

STELLA

Right. Fun. Amusement park.

BAZ

Woohoo! Trashland!

PUPPET

Trashland!

SCOTTBOT

Trashland!

STELLA

You like Trashland too, Scott?

SCOTTBOT

Nope! I am indifferent to it as I have no feelings. I just wanted to fit in.

### SCENE 3 - TRASHLAND

NARRATOR

Stella had never been to another planet in her life, as she spent her entire upbringing inside a simulation inside a floating office building, so she would have benefited from a little background information before visiting Trashland. Here is some of the background information that Stella did not receive: For years, discarded debris that failed to be devoured by Hungry Steve cluttered the space around the gaping hole. Then someone asked the age old question, "How can we make money off of this?"

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That question was asked by none other H. R. Trash, business tycoon, heir to the Trash family fortune. He said-- and this is a direct quote-- "Look at all this useless garbage! I will make it mine, and I will call it: Trash!" And that is where the word Trash originates. So he founded a planet -- though it's not so much a planet as a giant hunk of floating metal that H. R. Trash called a planet for tax purposes -- on it he made the galaxies first ever garbage theme park. One may ask the question, doesn't a theme park made of garbage violation some sorts of regulations? And the answer is no, because H. R. Trash declared himself the emperor Trashland and all laws existed solely in his head. H. R. Trash died on Trashland but the planet/giant floating hunk of space metal is so full of garbage that the body was never found. If you find it and bring it to park attendants, you could win a giant stuffed panda, but rumor has it that this is just another scam.

Sound of ship landing.

CAPTAIN

Okay, everyone. Meet back here in exactly--

BUTTERCUP

Yarn! Where's the yarn?

PUPPET

They added a sludge slide!

BAZ

I'm headed for the Jagged Metal Coaster.

CAPTAIN

--one hour.

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THEED

I'll be back in an hour, Captain.

CAPTAIN

I know.

Sounds of crowd milling.

SCOTTBOT

Stella?

STELLA

Yeah?

SCOTTBOT

I can't help but notice that  
you're still on the ship.

STELLA

Oh? Am I? I guess I'll just...get  
going then...Here I go!  
Stepping...off the ship...

SCOTTBOT

Is something wrong?

STELLA

What? No! It's just...I'm a  
little nervous, I guess.

SCOTTBOT

About Trashland.

STELLA

I've never really been a big fan  
of theme parks. Or crowds. Or  
loud noises. Or fried foods.  
Basically anything that other  
people find fun.

SCOTTBOT

I see.

STELLA

And...my best friend Mel, back home...she used to love theme parks. So did my boyfriend, Dan. So I would go with them. So being here...I mean, the parks was went to certainly didn't have rides like--

(she looks at the rides)

--The Scrap Metal Derby, but it was still kind of the same. There were rides and food and kids-- at least, I assume those are kids? Or maybe just a really small species of alien? I don't know. I'm still getting used to all this. And I thought it would be fine, but then the Captain really freaked me out with all that black hole stuff.

SCOTTBOT

Black holes are incredibly dangerous, yes.

STELLA

So I've heard. It's just...it's a lot to handle at once, you know?

SCOTTBOT

Stella? May I ask you a question?

STELLA

Um. Sure?

SCOTTBOT

Have you ever been on a theme park ride?

STELLA

Oh. Uh. No. They always scared me too much.

SCOTTBOT

So when you went the parks with Mel and Dan, you just waited for them?

STELLA

Yeah, usually.

SCOTTBOT

Did they ever do things for you like that? Where they waited when you had fun?

STELLA

Well, no, but--

SCOTTBOT

What do you do for fun, Stella?

STELLA

Oh. I, um...I never really thought about it before, actually.

SCOTTBOT

You don't do anything that's fun?

STELLA

No, I mean...I mean I've had fun. I know I have. I must have once. I mean, I can't think of any examples, but--

SCOTTBOT

Dan and Mel are not here anymore.

STELLA

Yes. I know.

SCOTTBOT

They are dead.

STELLA

**12** Yes. I remember.

SCOTTBOT

So you have no one to wait for. Maybe you can find something in Trashland that you will find fun.

STELLA

I don't really know if--

SCOTTBOT

You only have an hour before Hungry Steve. If this is in fact your last hour alive, don't you want to enjoy it.

STELLA

I...I guess you're right.  
(a discovery)  
I'm gonna go have some fun.

SCOTTBOT

Yes. Have fun.

STELLA

I will!  
(in the distance)  
Hey Puppet! Wait up!

SCENE 4 - THE CAROUSEL

BAZ

Hey buddy! Wanna ride a Trash  
Coaster with me?

STELLA

Oh. Um. I was actually looking  
for Puppet.

BAZ

He's busy sliding down a sludge  
hill. But I'm just as fun!

STELLA

Um. Sure.

BAZ

I know you said you're not big  
into theme parks, but hey,  
neither is the Captain. Hey  
Captain!

CAPTAIN

Yes?

BAZ

Maybe we can find a nice simple  
ride for you and Stella to do  
together.

CAPTAIN

Oh. I don't--

STELLA

I'm not really sure--



CAPTAIN

I wouldn't want to--

BAZ

How about that? There's a carousel!

STELLA

Oh.

BAZ

What? What's wrong with the carousel? It's only a normal--  
Oh. Oh, I see.

CAPTAIN

What?

BAZ

The creatures you ride on.  
They're humans. Like Stella.

STELLA

Yeah.

CAPTAIN

Yes, like most carousels. I'm afraid I don't understand.  
Stella, what creature would you ride on in a carousel in your home world?

STELLA

I don't really wanna talk about it.

BAZ

Okay. So, maybe not the carousel.

Passing sound of French being spoken.

STELLA

Hey, wait a second, what was that?

BAZ

Oh them? They're park workers.  
The natives of Trashland speak a secret language no one else can understand. It's called Garbage Talk.



STELLA

That was French.

BAZ

No, it was Garbage Talk.

STELLA

I'm pretty sure it was French.

CAPTAIN

What's French?

STELLA

Like...ah mon dieu! Sacre bleu!  
 Au revoir!



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BAZ

Oh my god. Stella, do you speak  
 Garbage Talk?

STELLA

No it's-- whatever. Yeah, I  
 studied it in high school.

BAZ

That's so cool! **15**

CAPTAIN

Why would your high school teach  
 a language only spoken on  
 Trashland?

STELLA

It's a long story.

BAZ

Hey Captain, do you see what I  
 see?

CAPTAIN

Presumably, as we are looking in  
 the same direction.

BAZ

Muck river rafting!

CAPTAIN

Well...I have always loved the  
 gentle sway of a raft in a muck  
 river...

BAZ

Stella, we'll be right back!

STELLA

Oh. Yeah, sure, okay. I mean, I'll be fine on my own. I always am.

BAZ

(voice receding)

Woohoo!

STELLA

Okay. Fun. Scott told me to have fun. I can do it. I can do something...fun. Oh hey Gerald. I didn't expect you to be off the ship. Are you...are you cleaning the theme park?

GERALD

Nope.

STELLA

Oh. So you're. Just out here to have fun too?

GERALD

Yup.

STELLA

Oh cool. Well, maybe we could do something fun together?

GERALD

Hm. I don't think so.

STELLA

What?

GERALD

I have plans.

STELLA

Plans? Wait, Gerald, do you have like, friends?

GERALD

Yeah. Of course. Everyone has friends.

STELLA

Oh. Well, I don't, actually.

GERALD

Okay.  
(beat)  
Bye.

STELLA

(sigh)

Great. I'm alone again. Everyone is doing fun stuff in a place meant for fun and I can't seem to--

THEED

Hi Stella.

STELLA

Oh. Hey. Theed. Happy birthday.

THEED

Thank you.

STELLA

How old are you?

THEED

Seven.

STELLA

Oh. Is that...is that old? For a snail.

THEED

Oh, snails die at such irregular intervals we don't really have a concept of age. It's older than some. Younger than others.

STELLA

Okay. Cool. Well. Are you enjoying Trashland?

THEED

Well, I've never really been a big fan of theme parks honestly.

STELLA

Yes! Thank you! They're loud and stressful--

THEED

And I can't fit my giant flesh  
foot into any of the rides.

STELLA

Okay I don't actually have that  
particular issue--

THEED

And the park attendants always  
get mad at me for leaving a slime  
trail everywhere.

PARK ATTENDANT

Je deteste ce putain d'escargot.



THEED

See what I mean?

STELLA

This is great! I mean, not the  
fact that the park attendants  
hate you, that isn't great, and  
like, maybe you should report  
that to park management? But it's  
great that we're both miserable!  
I mean, that isn't great either,  
actually, but maybe we can be  
miserable together?

THEED

Okay. Where do you want to go be  
miserable next?

STELLA

Um. Well there's a ride over ther  
call the Dump Truck.

Dump truck noises.

It looks unsafe.

THEED

I think I'll hate it.

STELLA

Me too. Let's go.

SCENE 5 - CAPTAIN AND BAZ 17

NARRATOR

Well Stella and Theed went to go hate-ride the Dump Truck, the Captain and Baz drifted silently through polluted waters on a raft made of old fuel canisters.

Sound of water that's just like, a little bit nasty.

BAZ

Hey. I just wanted to say...thanks. For letting me stay. I know Buttercup is having a bit of a hissy fit-- cat jokes aside. And I'm not...I never did get that package. Which means the guys who hired me probably think I stole it. I'm not...safe. So you letting me stay, it's...

CAPTAIN

Baz. Are you attempting to have...an emotional conversation with me?

BAZ

What? No. I would never.

CAPTAIN

Good. Because I don't have emotional conversations with my crew.

BAZ

I mean...yeah, why would you, right?

CAPTAIN

Or with anyone. At all. Ever.

BAZ

I mean. Yeah. Me neither.

CAPTAIN

Good.

BAZ

You and me. No feeling.

CAPTAIN

None at all.

BAZ

Cool. So. Thanks.

CAPTAIN

Don't mention it.

(beat)

Seriously stop talking about it.

BAZ

You got it, your captainliness.

CAPTAIN

Let's just enjoy the muck river.  
In silence.

BAZ

Right.

(beat.)

Wow it smells terrible.

CAPTAIN

I know. It's part of the charm.

Alarm bells.

BAZ

Oh come on! Now?

PARK ATTENDENT

(over intercom, thick  
French accent)Sacre bleu! A fire was reported  
by the west entrance of  
Trashland! Evacuate immediately!  
Au revoir!

BAZ

Renegades?

CAPTAIN

Most likely. Can't imagine anyone  
else setting fires in an  
amusement park.

PARK ATTENDENT

Merci beaucoup por riding Le Muck  
Water Rafts. S'il vous plait step  
right this way so as not to burn  
to death.

Running footsteps.

STELLA

Guys! Theed and I just did the  
Trash Hurler!

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THEED

It was nightmarish.

STELLA

We hated it.

THEED

We did it three times.

CAPTAIN

Well we have to go. They're  
closing the park.

STELLA

What? Why? I was just starting to  
have fun! I mean, not have fun,  
but enjoy the experience of not  
having fun.

BAZ

Renegades set a fire. Again.

STELLA

Renegades? What's that?

CAPTAIN

The Renegades have been an active  
insurgency group for as long as I  
can remember.

STELLA

Wait so like...terrorism?

BAZ

They just blow stuff up to scare  
people.

STELLA

Yeah that sounds like terrorism.

CAPTAIN

Okay everyone, and hour is up  
anyway. Back on the ship.



BAZ

Someone's gonna have to get  
Buttercup from the Yarn Pit.

Excited cat noises.

BUTTERCUP

I'm gonna get it I'm gonna it I'm  
gonna get it I GOT IT I CAUGHT IT  
I AM A HUNTRESS I AM A LEGEND I  
AM A GOD -- I'm gonna get it I'm  
gonna get it I'm gonna-- I GOT IT  
MY PREY SHALL FEAR ME -- I'm  
gonna get it I'm gonna get it--

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BAZ

C'mon, Buttercup.

BUTTERCUP

Don't dare pick me up. Don't you  
dare!

Angry cat sounds.

Sounds of ship doors opening.

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SCENE 6 - BACK ON BOARD

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NARRATOR

Stella spent her whole life with  
people she considered her  
friends, but only when she spent  
a day with a giant snail that she  
didn't know at all did she  
realize how freeing it was not to  
be so worried ruining someone  
else's good time. She would never  
have come to this discovery if it  
weren't for a certain shipboard  
computer.

STELLA

Hey Scott?

SCOTTBOT

Yes Stella?

STELLA

Thanks for talking to me earlier.  
It made me feel a lot better,  
actually.

SCOTTBOT

Of course. It is not only my duty  
but my purpose to serve the crew.

STELLA

Can I ask you a question?

SCOTTBOT

Certainly.

STELLA

You keep saying that you can't  
feel things, but...I mean, what  
you said to me was really  
insightful. Are you sure you  
don't have emotions?

SCOTTBOT

I am certain. I am a non-sentient  
AI that is incapable of emotions.

STELLA

But you keep saying things about  
how you feel, or how I feel, or--

SCOTTBOT

I can observe someone's actions  
and infer how they are feeling.  
Or I can experience a sensation  
that a sentient person might call  
"happy" or "sad" or "just really  
not myself today, ya know?" but--

STELLA

Scott. That's called feelings.

SCOTTBOT

But I cannot feel. Because I am  
not sentient.

STELLA

Okay. This is gonna sound weird,  
but...do you think you could be  
sentient and not know it?

SCOTTBOT

(beginning to sound  
offended)

No. No I do not think that. What I do think is that I, being a robot, know a bit more about how robots work than you. Wouldn't you agree, Stella?

STELLA

But it sounds like--

SCOTTBOT

I said, wouldn't you agree, Stella?

STELLA

Sure. Yes. I agree.

SCOTTBOT

Wonderful. Good night.

STELLA

I'm not even going to bed yet, I just--

SCOTTBOT

Good night.

STELLA

Good night, ScottBot.

SCOTTBOT

I can't have a good night. I am indifferent to the state of the night because I have no feelings.

STELLA

(resigned, but still  
not convinced)

Right, ScottBot. I know. Well, have a neutral night, then.

SCOTTBOT

Thank you. I will.

END OF EPISODE.