

All The Pretty Little Horses: Episode 7 - The Core of **1**  
Activism

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Episode 7 - City Living

SCENE 1 - FLASHBACK: SAM'S CLUB

**2** Spicy music.

STELLA

Wow. This place is amazing. I'm in awe, honestly. I'm just-- wow. I'm speechless.

Music cuts out.

MEL

It's Sam's Club. **3**

STELLA

I've never seen anything like it before.

MEL

So you've never even been to like a Costco, or...?

STELLA

Who are you, Sam? And what does it take to become a member of your exclusive inner circle?

MEL

Just, like, a membership fee.

STELLA

I didn't even know you could buy Frosted Flakes in a box that big.

MEL

Do you...want the Frosted Flakes?

STELLA

No. The tiger makes me nervous. He's too human. And like, for an anthropomorphic tiger he's really buff?

MEL

Yeah, it's a little ironic that their whole advertising campaign is about physical fitness when they're literally selling crunchy sugar.

STELLA

Yeah, right! I mean, they have "frosted" in the name. Also, who chose the word "flake?" I don't want to eat a flake.

MEL

I think it comes from Corn Flakes.

STELLA

Flake just makes me think dandruff flake.

MEL

Ew! Why would you say that? I'll never eat corn flakes again!

STELLA

Where you going to anyway?

MEL

I might have!

STELLA

WOW that is a big box of Goldfish.

MEL

I've got some actual food to pick up. Can I trust you to entertain your self in the snack aisle?

STELLA

(not paying attention)  
The snack that smiles back--  
goldfish!

MEL

Okay. Great. I'll take that as a yes. Don't go anywhere.

Footstep. Stella hums to herself.

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STELLA  
GUSHERS? My dad never let me have Gushers! I mean, also I was scared of them because I thought they were gonna turn my head into a fruit like they did in those horrifying early 2000s commercials, but I wanted them anyway because all the kids at school had them and I didn't. Mel! Mel! Can we get these-- oh. Mel?

(sigh)  
Not again.

INTRO AND THEME MUSIC.

SCENE 2 - SCOTT'S FEELINGS

CAPTAIN  
Stella, may I have a word.

STELLA  
Sure!

CAPTAIN  
I heard you were talking to ScottBot the other day.

STELLA  
Yeah. I mean, that's what he's there for, right?

CAPTAIN  
Yes, but...he tells me you tried to tell him he might have feelings.

STELLA  
Yeah. I think he might.

CAPTAIN  
You can't tell him that. It's making him stressed.

STELLA  
You see! That's a feeling!

CAPTAIN

Not necessarily.

STELLA

Yes it is! Believe me, I know feelings. I've had a lot of them.

CAPTAIN

I can tell.

STELLA

I just think that if Scott is sentient--

CAPTAIN

He's not.

STELLA

He has a right to know.

CAPTAIN

Stella, Scott is a crucial part of the Raccoon's functionality. If his circuitry gets...overloaded...there's no telling what might happen.

STELLA

So you're saying he might be sentient, but you don't want him to know?

CAPTAIN

Not at all. I'm just saying that we skimmed a little when buying Scott's software, so he's not the most advanced. Still, he does an important duty when we near a blackhole. I mean, imagine if he hadn't been focused yesterday when you--

STELLA

Yes, I remember.

CAPTAIN

That could have been a disaster.

STELLA

I know.

CAPTAIN

We can't afford for our AI to go into an existential crisis.

STELLA

Wait, but you do realize that he can't have an existential crisis unless he has feelings, right?

CAPTAIN

No. No I don't "realize" that.

STELLA

But--

CAPTAIN

Stella. Stop confusing Scott. He is not a smart computer.

STELLA

That's because he's--

CAPTAIN

That's an order from your Captain.

STELLA

(resigned)

Yes, Captain.

CAPTAIN

Good.

SCENE 3 - PRE - CITY

Door sound.

BAZ

What's up for today, Scott?

SCOTTBOT

According to the schedule, your next stop is collection at Spunglestrum.

THEED

Oh no.

BUTTERCUP

Finally!

STELLA  
What's Spunglestrum? **6**

BAZ  
The Capital City.

STELLA  
The Capital City of what?

BAZ  
No, it's *the* Capital City.

STELLA  
Sorry, I'm confused.

BAZ  
Okay, so you know what cities are like?

STELLA  
Horrible cesspools filled with disease and filth?

BAZ  
Exactly. So why would every country on every planet want one? So some planets adopted to outsource their city.

STELLA  
What like, put their Capital City...on another planet?

BAZ  
Yup! So instead of having to deal with a bunch of nasty cities, we only have to deal with a single planet that is one giant really nasty city.

STELLA  
That sounds like a nightmare.

THEED  
It is.

BAZ  
Yeah, for boring people. For the rest of us, Spunglestrum is the only place where anything really exciting happens. Murders, theft, time manipulation crimes--



**7**



**8**

BUTTERCUP

Drugs, gambling, illegal  
cloning--

BAZ

All that fun stuff.

STELLA

None of that sounds fun.

THEED

It's not.

STELLA

Maybe I should just stay on  
board. It's...I get lost easily.

BAZ

I'm sure you'll be fine!

THEED

Unfortunately for Spunglestrum we  
all need to go out and do  
collection. I don't like it any  
more than you do.

STELLA

Why is it that of all people on  
this crew I have most in common  
with the giant snail?

THEED

Do you also like to play  
checkers?

STELLA

I do!

THEED

Finally, someone who can move the  
pieces for me. I've always wanted  
to play checkers but I've never  
had the hands.



## SCENE 4 - THE CITY

NARRATOR 10

Spunglestrum, like many cities, had endless lists of song and stories and poems written about it, all by people who have never actually been to Spunglestrum. One of the most iconic pop singles in the galaxy was "Take Me to Spunglestrum," written by teen sensation Billy Quasar, though when his manager actually fulfilled his wish and took him to Spunglestrum to perform a concert, he was tragically killed in a knife fight. He wasn't actually involved in the knife fight, but knife fights in Spunglestrum have a tendency to spill over. Spunglestrum is, in fact, a terrible place, like most cities, and no one who has visited it has ever been inspired to write a song about it. In fact, the closest thing to a poem Spunglestrum has inspired anyone to write is a eulogy, and it's actually inspired a lot of those because of the sheer number of stabbings.

Stella would have benefited from an understanding of just how dangerous Spunglestrum could be but, of course, the crew of the Raccoon neglected to tell her.

Sounds of ship landing. Sounds of the city.

CAPTAIN

Alright, everyone. This is a big planet with multiple pick up sights so we're going to need everyone on trash collection duty.

BUTTERCUP

Yeah yeah whatever. Can't we show Stella around a bit first?

CAPTAIN

Last time we let Stella "explore"  
she almost got sucked into a  
black hole.

BAZ

And whose fault was that?

BUTTERCUP

Her own.

BAZ

Well, it's funny you say that,  
because the way I remember it,  
someone was put in charge of  
looking after Stella. But ya  
know, and it's the weirdest  
thing, I can't remember who--

Cat hiss.

CAPTAIN

Excellent point, Baz. Buttercup  
has proved to be irresponsible.  
For this trip you will be looking  
after Stella.

BAZ

What?

CAPTAIN

(conspiratorially)

And, between the two of us, I  
think maybe you should look after  
Buttercup as well. To make sure  
she doesn't--

BAZ

Right. You got it, your  
captainliness.

CAPTAIN

You have to stop saying that.

BAZ

No I do not.

NARRATOR

Though Stella didn't know she was venturing into one of the seediest cities in the galaxy, she was led through it by one of the seediest people in the galaxy, so the forces of seediness canceled each other out and, for the time being, she was safe. Blissfully unaware of the organized crime (and more often, disorganized) crime that was happening around her, Stella followed Baz and Buttercup down the dirty streets of Spunglestrum, everyone's Capital City.

BAZ

Okay, c'mon Stella! This is the perfect opportunity for you to learn about all the species you've never seen before!

STELLA

Um. Okay. What's that?

BAZ

That guy is a Fleshbeast.

STELLA

Hm. I don't know if I like them.

BUTTERCUP

Why not?

STELLA

Too fleshy. What about that guy?

BUTTERCUP

That's a Spaghettiman. 12

STELLA

Spaghetti? Like the food?

BAZ

You had a food called Spaghetti?

STELLA

Yeah, long noodles, just like-- well just like that guy.

BUTTERCUP

Ew! That is so weird!

STELLA

So should we start collecting trash?

BUTTERCUP

Yeah, yeah, in a minute. But first...

BAZ

Buttercup!

STELLA

Where is she going?

BAZ

The first place she always goes when we arrive in the city.

#### SCENE 5 - CASINO

Casino sounds.

BAZ

Is this what casinos looked like on Earth?

STELLA

Actually it's pretty similar. There are a few things I don't recognize...

BAZ

This one has all the basics. All the classic card games-- poker, black jack, Socialism. And all the other games too! A slot machine--

Sound of a slot machine.

--roulette,--

Sound of roulette.

--Russian roulette...

Gunshot.

STELLA

Ah!

BAZ

Yeah I wouldn't recommend that one. But we're not here to play any games. We're just here to make sure Buttercup doesn't--

BUTTERCUP

Hit me.

**14** DEALER

And the cat stays in another round.

BAZ

Oh no.

DEALER

I've got a Loaded Diaper with a Three-Way Hopscotch.

BUTTERCUP

(sarcastically)

Oh noooo looks like you really got me, if only I had a-- BAM! Seven Dirty Sixes with a Cherry on top.

STELLA

I don't understand this game at all.

Sound of poker chips clacking.

BUTTERCUP

Come to momma, baby.

BAZ

Ugh. I had one job and I already failed.

BUTTERCUP

Alright, who's next?

STELLA

Sorry if this a weird question, but, um...does Buttercup have a gambling addiction?

BAZ

Buttercup has... a lot of problems. She hasn't been doing so well since she was kicked out of engineering school. Well, actually, she wasn't doing well before that either, which is why she got kicked out.

STELLA

What happened?

BAZ

Well, as you may have noticed, she has a tendency to be a little...aggressive.

STELLA

Yeah I got that. Wait-- did she really claw someone's eyes out?

BAZ

What? Oh, no, of course not.

STELLA

Good.

BAZ

Only one eye.

STELLA

Are you serious?

BAZ

She was a great mechanic, though-- cats usually are. They can fit into tight places, and they're very nimble. But no one wanted to hire the infamous former pupil of One-Eyed Professor McGrew.

STELLA

So she got hired by a trash collection ship.

BAZ

Exactly.

STELLA

Ya know, for some who scammed their way onto the ship in the first place, you really got to know the crew well.

BAZ

Yeah, I mean, of course. I had to. As part of the con.

STELLA

Right. As part of the con.

BAZ

I had to seem like I was becoming their friend.

STELLA

But you weren't?

BAZ

I mean, ya know, I don't really make friendships. I travel too much.

STELLA

Because, a while back, you were calling me "best friend"--

BAZ

Yeah I mean it's just a thing I say. It doesn't mean anything.

STELLA

So why are you still on the ship?

BAZ

Oh, I mean, whatever the package I lost was, it was super valuable. I got paid a pretty large advance, so when I didn't return with it-- let's just say I probably shouldn't show my face in any of my old circles any more.

STELLA

So you're hiding?

BAZ

Pretty much. And who would look that closely at the Raccoon? No one pays attention to where their garbage goes. No one wants to. We're practically invisible.

STELLA

Huh.

BAZ

What?

STELLA

Nothing, it's just...well, sometimes it feels like I've gone my whole life being practically invisible. It feels...I don't know, ironic? I get to live an adventure that I spent my childhood dreaming of but still I'm just--

BAZ

Hey Buttercup! Not the Russian roulette! That's where I draw the line!

STELLA

Invisible.

(sighs)

Okay. I'm sure I can find something fun to do in the city. Yeah. I'm sure I can.

City sounds.

STREET VENDOR

Hey you.

STELLA

Who, me?

STREET VENDOR

Yeah you. Wanna be cloned?

STELLA

No, I'm fine, thank you. I like it when there's only one of me. Sometimes I think even that's a little too much.



STREET VENDOR 2

You wanna buy some Six?

STELLA

Oh, um, is that a drug?

STREET VENDOR 2

No, but if drugs are what you want--

STELLA

No, I don't want drugs either!

STREET VENDOR 2

Oh. Then why'd you ask?

STELLA

I'd like to be leaving here now please.

Stella bumps into someone.

Oof! Sorry!

STREET VENDOR 3

Hey! You lookin' to get killed?

STELLA

Please don't kill me.

STREET VENDOR 3

No I'm not threatening you. It's a service I offer. I'm a free-lance murderer. Would you like me to kill you? My prices are very reasonable.

STELLA

Um. I'll think about it. I mean. No. No I'm good. Thanks for the offer though.

STREET VENDOR 3

Of course. I am always happy to offer my services.

CLUB PROMOTER

Hey! You lookin' for a club tonight?

**16**

STELLA

What kind of club? Like a chess club?

CLUB PROMOTER

What? No. Not a chess club.

STELLA

Oh. Oh you meant like a--

CLUB PROMOTER

**17** It's a knitting club.

STELLA

Wait. Yes. Please. Please take me off of these streets and to the knitting club.

SCENE 6 - MEETING

Door sound.

CLUB PROMOTER

Got a new member for you.

STELLA

Oh. Um hi.


JORB **18**

Is that a talking human? I've never spoken to one before.

STELLA

Yeah. I know it's a little weird, but for what it's worth, I've never spoken to a Fleshbeast before either, so we're in the same boat.

JORB

Oh, you are a delight! What's your name? 

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STELLA

Stella.

Everyone laughs.

Yeah, I know.

JORB

Well, Stella, welcome to our little gang. My name is Jorb, this is Bill--

BILL

Hi there!

JORB

And this is Sylvia.

SYLVIA

Greetings.

STELLA

Thanks for letting me in. I was getting really scared out there on the streets, so honestly I was really thankful to hear the club promoter promoting a knitting club. Though that's...that's really weird come to think of it.

JORB

Yeah, that's just our front.

STELLA

Oh. So you're...not a knitting club?

JORB

Nope.

STELLA

What are you?

JORB

We're the Renegades.

STELLA

Wait. Like...the terrorist organization?

(pause)

JORB

Now who has been calling us that? Bill, was it you?

BILL

Nope. I never said that.

STELLA

No, that's just like..what people call you.

JORB

Well we don't do any kind of  
terror. We are community  
organizers.

STELLA

But you guys set the fire. On  
Trashland!

JORB

No we-- oh my god. Did one of you  
do that? Did someone set a fire?

SYLVIA

I like fires.

JORB

I think we all need a reminder of  
our new slogan. Remember:

ALL


We don't do arson anymore.

JORB

Now, to business: Whose week was  
it to bring snacks?

(beat)

Are you people kidding me? How  
are we supposed to organize if we  
can't organize a decent snack  
rotation?



STELLA

(to herself)

I have made a big mistake.

SCENE 7 - BAR FIGHT

Casino sounds.

THEED

Hey Baz.

BAZ

Theed! Where have you been?

THEED

Collecting trash. Like we're  
supposed to do for our job.

BAZ

Oh right. Honestly I totally forgot about that.

THEED

What have you been doing?

BAZ

Captain told me to keep an eye on Buttercup and it is...more difficult than expected.

THEED

What do you mean?

BAZ

She claimed that the snail over there was counting cards, which ended up being really awkward, because it turned out that he couldn't count.

THEED

Yeah I can't count either.

BAZ

Really?

THEED

On Florida we have no need for numbers.

BAZ

So why would a snail play blackjack?

THEED

We like to feel included.

BAZ

Where did she get to now?

THEED

Looks like she's at the bar licking vodka out of a water bowl.

BAZ

Shit! We're not supposed to let her drink!

THEED

Well everybody needs to drink.

BAZ

No, I mean-- look at her tiny cat body! Do you know how much alcohol it takes for her to absolutely lose control?

THEED

I don't know. How much al-

Angry cat sound. Sound of glass smashing people shouting. Maybe someone shouts "My eye!"

BAZ

Okay time to intervene.

SCENE 8 - MEETING 2

STELLA

Listen, I should probably be going...

JORB

What do you mean? You just got here! You're our newest member!

STELLA

What? No, I don't...I don't really want to be part of a terr-- I don't really want to be a community organizer.

JORB

Uh oh. Looks like someone is complacent with their oppression.

STELLA

No, no that's not it at all! I mean, believe me, I'm mad about my oppression too! You wanna know why I'm the only talking human you've ever seen? Because the Politicians made me and two others as a joke, and then raised us in a simulation. And then when they told me my whole world was fake, they killed the only other real intelligent humans right in front of my face!

JORB

WOW. Now that is abuse of power if I ever heard it.

STELLA

Yeah. So you don't get to tell me that I'm complacent. I'm not. I'm just...I'm just trying to get some form of a life back.

JORB

Don't you wanna fight back?

STELLA

I mean, sure I do, but they're immortal. What can we really do?

BILL

Well, everyone says their immortal. But we don't have proof.

STELLA

Um. Isn't the fact that none of them have died proof?

JORB

None of them have died yet.

BILL

We can't know that none of them have died because none of us live long enough to tell.

STELLA

So you're saying...they lied?  
About being immortal? And...and  
taught false history just so they  
could stay in power? But how  
could they do that? How could the  
Politicians lie?

JORB


Someone's getting radicalized.

STELLA

No! I'm not-- I'm not getting  
radicalized. I'm just saying that  
that's wrong.

BILL

All radicalization really is is  
recognizing that bad things are  
wrong.



JORB

So why don't you join us Stella?  
Like you said, they destroyed  
your whole world. So you have  
nothing left to lose!

STELLA

I...I don't know. I just got  
hired to the crew of this  
spaceship, and I really like  
them. We have this job collecting  
trash and-- oh wait! I'm supposed  
to be collecting trash right now!

SYLVIA

So you're a wage slave.

STELLA

No, I'm not-- I like my job!  
Well, I mean, I like the people  
at my job-- it's complicated. I  
don't want to overthrow the  
government.

JORB

But don't you? A little?

STELLA

Okay a LITTLE. But not enough to  
leave the only people in the  
universe who might care about me.



JORB

Well we care about you, Stella.

STELLA

You do?

JORB

Of course!

BILL

Radical love is at the core of activism.

STELLA

You know sometimes I don't know what your guy's words mean but I like it.

JORB

So you'll join us?

STELLA

Ahhhhh I'm gonna have to go with no on that one.

BILL

Awwwww why?

STELLA

I mean, aren't you guys, like, technically criminals?

Mumbled sounds of agreement like, "that's true. We are. You got us there."

I don't think I could lead a life of crime. I'm too delicate emotionally.

JORB

But sensitivity is at the core of activism!

STELLA

Wow I'm learning so much. I wonder if this is what college would have been like. But no, I can't. I'm sorry. I need to get back to the Raccoon.

JORB

I understand. But before you go, please, do you have any suggestions for our movement? You see community organizing is a actually really data driven. A lot of people don't know that. Any feedback for us?

STELLA

Well, a new slogan maybe?

JORB

What's wrong with the one we have?

STELLA

Well, saying "we don't do arson anymore" implies that you used to do arson.

JORB

But we did.

STELLA

Yeah but maybe you don't want people to know that?

Sounds of understanding.

SYLVIA

Wait, so we're changing the slogan? I already made t-shirts!

JORB

It's okay. We can donate them.

BILL

You did your best, and that's all that matters.

STELLA

So if you guys are so sweet, why are people so afraid of you?

JORB

We're proposing change. And a change people don't understand. People are afraid of both of those things.

SYLVIA

Also there's the fact that we used to do arson.

JORB

That too. But that's how revolutions are born!

STELLA

Through arson?

JORB

No. Well, sometimes. Through getting the public eye. And then once you have it, using the spotlight to send a message. It was the last part that we kinda messed up.

SYLVIA

Now people think all we do is go around committing crimes.

STELLA

Well. I don't think that. Anymore. I think you guys are pretty cool.

JORB

Thanks Stella. That means a lot.

#### SCENE 9 - AFTER

NARRATOR

As Stella departed from the meeting that was not in fact a knitting club, the rest of the crew met up outside the Raccoon, where it was wedged awkwardly between two buildings. It was not Puppet's best parking job, but there's very little parking space on a planet that's entirely a city. Unless you have the money for it, which the crew of the Raccoon did not.

CAPTAIN

Alright, are we all met?

BAZ

Buttercup got into a bar fight  
but I managed to extract her.

CAPTAIN

Excellent. And Stella?

BAZ

What about her?

CAPTAIN

You were supposed to keep her  
from getting lost in the city.

BAZ

Um...

PUPPET

You had one job!

BAZ

Yeah, to keep Buttercup out of  
trouble. And I did it!

CAPTAIN

I also tasked you with looking  
after Stella.

PUPPET

You had two jobs!

BAZ

Well that's one job too many!

BUTTERCUP

I can keep myself out of trouble.

BAZ

I had to pull you off of that  
guy's face.

BUTTERCUP

He was the one in trouble, not  
me.

(to herself)

I was the trouble.

CAPTAIN

Have we already lost our newest  
member of the crew? Do we need a  
new doctor already?

BAZ

I'm sure we can find her.

CAPTAIN

In this city? We'll be lucky if we can find her body.

STELLA

Hey guys!

BAZ

Stella?

STELLA

Thanks for showing me the way, comrades.

JORB

No problem, Stell. Come back any time.

BILL

You are a riot!

STELLA

Oh, Bill, you flatter me.

SYLVIA

You guys are lucky to have her.

JORB

Safe travels!

STELLA

You stay out of trouble!

JORB

Ha!

BILL

Yeah right!

STELLA

Classic.

BAZ

Stella! What happened to you?

STELLA

What? Oh, I got a little turned around.



BAZ

The streets are numbered!

STELLA

Are you serious?

BAZ

You should have known better.  
Buttercup was worried about you.

BUTTERCUP

No I wasn't. Puppet was worried  
about you.

PUPPET

It's true. I was.

STELLA

Guys, it was fine! My new friends  
showed me the way back.

BAZ

Yeah, who were those guys?

STELLA

The Renegades.

ALL

What?

STELLA

Look, I know how it sounds, but  
they're not like people think  
they are. At all! They're just  
community organizers.

BAZ

They were just saying that to  
fool you.

STELLA

I don't know. I'm not easily  
fooled.

BUTTERCUP

Stella, remind me how you got  
onto the Racoon in the first  
place.

STELLA

Well, Baz told me that-- Oh. I  
see your point.

BAZ

Stella you need to stop getting recruited to things that you don't understand!

STELLA

Wait, you were the first person to recruit me!

BAZ

Yeah, and look where it got you!

CAPTAIN

I can't believe I have to say this to my doctor, but Stella, no more fraternizing with terrorists.

STELLA

They're not terrorists!

CAPTAIN

I bet that's what they told you.

STELLA

Yeah! Cos it's true! People only think that because they used to do arson. But they don't anymore!

(beat)

Huh. Maybe that is a good slogan.

NARRATOR

And so Stella decided, at the behest of the crew, that she wouldn't engage with the Renegades ever again. Of course, like most things in Stella's life, this was not at all up to her.

END OF EPISODE.

