

All The Pretty Little Horses: Episode 9 - Let's Go To  
Florida

written by Alex Kingsley

SCENE 1 - FLASHBACK: MEETING DAN

1 Sound of a park.

STELLA

Vomiting a lot?

DAN

What?

STELLA

Oh! I meant-- the cat. Your cat.  
Is she vomiting a lot?

DAN

Um...I mean that's what cats do,  
right?

STELLA

I mean, yeah but-- sorry, I know  
it's none of my business, but she  
looks like she might have  
hypothyroidism.

DAN

What?

STELLA

Never mind. Ignore me. I'm not  
here.

DAN

No, I wanna know.

STELLA

2 So how she looks a  
little...hollow?

DAN

Well she lost a lot of weight  
recently.

STELLA

Yeah! Which must seem weird,  
because she's eating and drinking  
a lot, yeah? Like more than  
normal?

DAN

How do you--

STELLA

Here.

DAN

What's this.

STELLA

Rub it in her ear every night.

DAN

Do you just...carry around cat  
thyroid cream with you?

STELLA

Yeah.

(beat)

Is that weird?

DAN

Yes.

STELLA

Oh.

(beat)

I'm a vet.

DAN

Oh.

(beat)

It's still weird.

STELLA

Right.

(beat)

She's a beautiful cat.

DAN

Thanks.

(beat)

Can I get your number?

STELLA

Right! Yes! Here's my card in  
case you want to schedule an  
appointment, my office is--

DAN

No. I meant your cell phone  
number.

STELLA

Oh. Well, I don't really take pet  
calls on my cell, so--

DAN

No, I meant-- I think you're  
cute.

STELLA

Oh. Oh? OH! You meant--

DAN

Yeah.

STELLA

You want--

DAN

Yes.

STELLA

I get it.

Cat meows.

DAN

So...

STELLA

YES! Yes you can! Here--here it  
is

Sounds of phone typing.

I'm gonna...I'm gonna go now.

DAN

Wait! What's your name?

(she's already gone)

Okay Buttons, I guess we're  
giving you some thyroid  
medication. Courtesy of the  
mystery vet.

4

NARRATOR

Stella never considered herself very good with people. She thought it was sheer luck that Dan ever did decide to ask her out after that first meeting, and the reason as to why he stuck with her remained a mystery to her. This is why it came as no surprise to Stella when she was fired from the Starship Raccoon without warning. To her, it just felt like another in a long strings of rejections. Little did Stella know she was not nearly as bad with people as she thought.

INTRO AND THEME MUSIC.

SCENE 2 - DISCUSSION

CAPTAIN

Guess what day it is, Theed.

THEED

5 Tuesday?

CAPTAIN

No, it's-- wait, what? No, it's not Tuesday.

THEED

Oh. Sorry, I don't process time the way the rest of you do so I can never keep the days of the week straight.

CAPTAIN

Theed, everyday I learn something new about you that both shocks and horrifies me. No, today is the day we're scheduled to take a visit to Florida.

THEED

Florida? My home?

CAPTAIN

Is there any other?

THEED

Wow. I'm so excited.

CAPTAIN

I can tell you're bursting with anticipation.

THEED

So many long lost relatives I can reconnect with. I haven't been back since the end of the Snail War.

CAPTAIN

So I gathered. I understand this will be a big moment for you.

THEED

I've missed Florida so much.

CAPTAIN

I can't say I relate. No one other than giant snails actually go out of their way to go to Florida.

THEED

I can't wait to finally return after so long being alienated from the only home I've ever known. I'm so thankful to--

Door.

6 PUPPET

Hey, Captain! Slight problem.

CAPTAIN

What?

BAZ

Puppet just told us we're being tailed by a law enforcement vessel.

CAPTAIN

Actually that is a huge problem. What would the police be after us for?

BUTTERCUP

Oh, I don't know, maybe the fugitive we've been harboring?

BAZ

Hey! I've been running from a lot of things, but the law is not one of them. I'm hiding from *criminals*. There's no proof I've ever done anything illegal.

PUPPET

But you have.

BAZ

Of course I have, but there's no proof of it. Besides, I've been on the crew for a long time now. If they were after me, don't you think they would have shown up a long time ago?

CAPTAIN

That's a good point. Stella, on the other hand, is brand new.

STELLA

Wait, what are you trying to say?

BUTTERCUP

7 That's true. Stella is the only rogue element.

STELLA

You think the police are after me?

CAPTAIN

It is a logical explanation.

STELLA

No it's not! I mean, I'm new to this world. You said it yourself, I'm like a newborn baby. I can't be a criminal.

PUPPET

But do we actually know that you were telling the truth about that?

STELLA

Puppet!

PUPPET

What? Just trying to stir the pot  
a little. Make some drama. 8

THEED

Stella was the one who went to  
Renegades meeting back in  
Spunglestrum.

STELLA

Theed! C'mon!

THEED

It's just an observation.

BUTTERCUP

I said from the beginning that we  
should boot both of them. But did  
you listen to me? Of course not!  
No one ever listens to me.

PUPPET

Well I think--

BUTTERCUP

Shut up Puppet.

CAPTAIN

This can all be easily solved.  
All we need to do is invite the  
police aboard the Raccoon, answer  
their questions, and then we're  
on our way to Florida.

BAZ / BUTTERCUP

No!

BAZ

We can't let the police on our  
ship.

CAPTAIN

Why not? It's not like there's  
anything suspicious on board.

BUTTERCUP

Yes, there is! Two somethings  
suspicious to be exact!

CAPTAIN

Honestly I highly doubt this has anything to do with Baz or Stella. It's probably just a routine inspection.

STELLA

I've already established that I don't know much about space law, but if it were an inspection, wouldn't they send...I don't know...inspectors?

Ping.

What was that?

PUPPET

Let me check.

Footsteps, his response is distant.

They sent us a request for access. What do I say?

CAPTAIN

Um.

BUTTERCUP

C'mon.

BAZ

This is a bad idea.

STELLA

I mean, it's not like we can say no.

THEED

Are we still going to Florida?

GERALD

Anybody want peanuts?

Pause.

CAPTAIN

Let them on board, Puppet.

Sound of uproar.

BUTTERCUP

CAPTAIN

As much as I hate to say this,  
and believe me, I do hate it,  
Stella is right! While she and  
Baz maybe be incredibly  
suspicious--

BAZ

Hey!

CAPTAIN

--it would be more suspicious if  
we refused. This decision was  
made with the best interest of  
the crew at heart. Probably  
they'll simply ask us some  
questions and the whole affair  
will be over quickly.

THEED

And then I get to go home?

CAPTAIN

And then Theed gets to go home.

SCENE 3 - POLICE BOARD

Air lock sounds.

CAPTAIN

Welcome to the Raccoon, officers.  
What can we do for you?

POLICE 1

We'd like to speak to your trash  
poker, please.

BAZ

That would be me.

POLICE

We just want to ask you some  
questions. Ma'am.

BAZ

Go ahead.

POLICE 1

In private.

10

Rest of the crew mumble, "right. Sure totally. Gotcha. Makes sense."

BAZ

I'll show you to the crew lounge.

Footsteps on metal.

BAZ (CONT'D)

So. What's up?

POLICE 1

We were wondering if at some point in the past few months--

POLICE 2

Oh they don't have months, remember? No planet so--

POLICE 1

Right. Whatever. We were wondering if recently you might have seen something that looks a bit like the item pictured here.

BAZ

A big metal box?

POLICE 1

Yes.

BAZ

Um. I've seen a lot of big metal boxes.

POLICE 1

Yes but do you see how this one says "government property" in big letters on the side?

BAZ

Huh. Yeah I guess I do see that.  
(attempting to be casual)  
So, like, what is it?

POLICE 2

Oh! It's a --

POLICE 1

We can't tell her that!

POLICE 2

Oh. Right. Sorry.

BAZ

So is this like a "good cop bad cop" thing?

POLICE 1

Not intentionally. It's just that I'm a good cop and he's a bad cop.

11

POLICE 2

It's true. I was not cut out for this life.

POLICE 1

He ate evidence once.

POLICE 2

I ate evidence once. It was delicious.



12

BAZ

So this box...that I've totally never seen before in my life, by the way...had something in it that belonged to the government Like, the Politicians?

POLICE 2

Yes! And they really want it back because--

POLICE 1

That's confidential information!

POLICE 2

Right! Sorry! I'm just really bad at keeping secrets. That's why I told your wife you cheated on her.

POLICE 1

Anyway, we need to know-- wait, you what?

POLICE 2

Never mind. Let's keep doing the interrogation.

BAZ

Look, I'm afraid I'm not gonna be much help. I see a lot of scrap metal on this ship, so it's totally possible that that particular box would have come through, but we just did a dump into Hungry Steve. If we had it, which, again, no idea if we did, box is definitely gone. And I'm not even lying this time.

POLICE 1

Well, thank you for-- excuse me?

BAZ

I said the box is definitely gone.

POLICE 1

No after that.

BAZ

I didn't say anything after that.

POLICE 2

I said that your wife knows about our affair, if that's what you mean.

POLICE 1

No that's not what I-- so you did tell her!

POLICE 2

She deserved to know the truth.

BAZ

So...am I free to go?

POLICE 1

You're sure the box is destroyed?

BAZ

(disappointed)

Positive.

(beat)

If we even had it. Which I don't know if we did.

POLICE 1

Alright. I guess that's it then.  
You're free to go.

POLICE 2

And as always, let me know if you  
have anymore questions--

POLICE 1

No don't do that. What is the  
matter with you?

POLICE 2

I never wanted to be a police  
officer. I wanted to be a  
professional improv actor.

13

SCENE 4 - STELLA AND BUTTERCUP

NARRATOR

Meanwhile, Stella realized that,  
having just been fired, this may  
be her last opportunity to say  
things to the crew that she  
wanted to say. While Baz was  
being interrogated, she thought  
it was the perfect time to get  
some of her crew mates alone,  
especially those who would not  
normally have the patience for  
her.

STELLA

Hey, Buttercup.

BUTTERCUP

What do you want?

STELLA

Nothing! It's just...Baz told me  
about your whole thing with  
engineering school.

(Beat.)

BUTTERCUP

She had no right to tell you  
that.

STELLA

I mean, yeah, no, she didn't. But  
I'm glad I know!

BUTTERCUP

Why?

STELLA

Because then I can understand you better.

BUTTERCUP

Why does that matter?

STELLA

Because-- look, when I had a patient back at home, it would help if I knew a lot about them. Like Snuffles. Snuffles was the sweetest little calico. She was a rescue so she had a lot of weird habits she must have learned on the streets. Like she refused to use to litter box--

14

BUTTERCUP

Are you serious? You're trying to compare me to a pet cat? I'm not one of your fucking patients, Stella! I'm not anyone's pet!

STELLA

No, I didn't-- okay I see how that came off. But that's...that's no actually why I thought of Snuffles. It has nothing to do with the fact that your both cats. The truth is, I spent so much time working as a vet...I got to know the pets a lot better than I got to know any people. The reason I think of Snuffles is, well, I knew her. And I couldn't say that about most humans in my life.

BUTTERCUP

Oh. I see.

STELLA

Once I understood Snuffles idiosyncrasies, I could help her. I'm sure if I got close enough with the people in my life I could have done the same.

BUTTERCUP

Wait, didn't you have a  
boyfriend?

STELLA

I mean, yeah, but Dan didn't  
really have any idiosyncrasies.  
He was just a normal guy.

BUTTERCUP

That doesn't make any sense.  
Everyone is hiding some weird  
shit. Everyone. Even if they are  
living in a simulation.

STELLA

Well. Not Dan.

BUTTERCUP

Or maybe you just didn't know  
your boyfriend that well.

STELLA

What? No, that's impossible--

BUTTERCUP

You were trying to think of  
examples of people you knew well  
and the first person you thought  
of was a cat.

STELLA

Well, sure, but that's because--  
 oh my god, you're right. Dan knew  
 everything about me. He knew how  
 I always had to bring a sweater  
 to the grocery store because the  
 frozen food aisle was always too  
 cold for me. He knew about how I  
 always bought spiral notebooks  
 when I was stressed even though I  
 never finished using them. He  
 knew that I needed to have hand  
 15 lotion on me at all times, even  
 though I rarely used it. It was  
 just nice to know I had it. He  
 knew that I would sometimes  
 16 forget to eat and he would cook  
 me dinner and I'd be like, "whoa!  
 I forgot about dinner!" He knew  
 that I was really self-conscious  
 about the fact that I had a Jar  
 Jar Binks sex dream, even though  
 I secretly think a lot of people  
 have.



17

BUTTERCUP

This is far more information than  
 I need.

STELLA

Don't you see? I never knew any  
 of that stuff about him! I was  
 such a bad girlfriend.

BUTTERCUP

Or he was a bad boyfriend.

STELLA

What?

BUTTERCUP

Sharing his own baggage? That's  
 on him, not you. If you want to  
 have a decent friendship with  
 someone, you have to be open  
 about your issues.

Pause. Buttercup sees the hypocrisy.

18 It was hard. After I got kicked  
out. I really did wanna be an  
engineer. I was the first in my  
family to go to school off world,  
and they were really proud. Once  
I got expelled...not so much.  
Theed was the one who brought me  
on to the Raccoon. We met at an  
Interplanetary Farmer's Market.  
19 Ze was looking for some fresh  
slorb to keep aboard the ship and  
I was sabotaging people's vessels  
so they needed to hire me to  
repair them. For a while Theed  
was the only person I could call  
a friend. Then I met Sid.

20 STELLA  
Oh, you were...friends with Sid.

BUTTERCUP  
Yeah.

STELLA  
That's why you were so upset--

BUTTERCUP  
That Baz killed him? Yeah, you  
could say that.

STELLA  
Oh. Buttercup, I'm so sorry.

BUTTERCUP  
Yeah, well, sorry doesn't feed  
the admiral's human.

STELLA  
What?

BUTTERCUP  
Sorry, that's probably an  
insensitive expression.

STELLA  
For what it's worth, Baz really  
regrets it.

BUTTERCUP

It's not worth anything.

(beat)

She does? How do you know?

STELLA

She told me. Wait. Shoot. I wasn't supposed to tell you that. That was a secret.

BUTTERCUP

I won't tell her.

STELLA

So...does that mean we might be becoming friends?

BUTTERCUP

We'll see.

SCENE 5 - END OF INTERVIEW

Door sound.

BAZ

We're in the clear baby!

THEED

Yay.

CAPTAIN

Really? Just like that?

BAZ

Well, you know me. I used my irresistible charm and disarming charisma to convince them we had nothing to hide.

BUTTERCUP

What charm? What charisma?

BAZ

It also helped that it seemed like they were working through some personal issues.

CAPTAIN

What did they want?

BAZ

They were looking for...  
(defeated)  
They were looking for the package  
that I lost.

STELLA

Seriously? So it must have been  
really important!

BAZ

Yeah, of course it was important!  
I wouldn't have people hunting me  
over it if it weren't important!  
I wouldn't be hiding on a garbage  
ship if it weren't important!

STELLA

Right. Sorry.

BAZ

It's just...I don't feel great  
about losing it.

BUTTERCUP

But you feel fine about murder.

BAZ

I don't feel great about that  
either! I'm used to being  
more...I don't generally fail at  
my missions, okay? But I failed  
at this one and now the police--  
you know what? It's fine. They're  
gone, we're in the clear. Let's  
just go to Florida.

CAPTAIN

Alright. Let's go to Florida. 21

THEED

Yay. Florida.

## SCENE 6 - FLORIDA

NARRATOR

Florida is a planet-- well, honestly, there's not very much to tell about Florida. If you've ever seen a sidewalk on a humid, rainy day, then you've basically seen Florida. It is wet, slimy, and politically unstable ever since the Great Snail War. The war actually came as quite a shock to most of the galaxy, as most people didn't think snails really cared about anything enough to go to war over it. To this day, no one really knows what the fight was about, least of all the snails. The conflict left many dead and even more displaced, but most of all it left many confused. But snails, being the way they are, promptly forgot about the struggle and went back to lounging around their moist planet as if the conflict had never occurred.

Footsteps on cat walk.

CAPTAIN

Alright everyone, snails don't produce much trash because they don't really do much of anything, so this should be any easy one. We'll just head to the loading site and-- Oh. Stella.

STELLA

Yes?

CAPTAIN

Your services won't be needed as you are no longer part of the crew.

STELLA

You're really sticking to the whole "firing me" bit, aren't you?

CAPTAIN

It's not a "bit." I really did fire you.

BUTTERCUP

Wait, what? You can't fire Stella!

CAPTAIN

Oh, since when are you so attached to Stella?

THEED

**22** Stella, don't leave.

PUPPET

Yeah, Stella's our friend now! And also she's my best reader.

STELLA

It's true. I am a big fan of the Raccoon Weekly. I loved your last Op Ed, Puppet.

PUPPET

Thanks. It's really hard to Op your own Ed but I gave it my best.

**23**

CAPTAIN

Need I remind you all that Stella may have been the reason we just got interrogated by the police?

BAZ

I just got interrogated for the police. And it was my fault.

BUTTERCUP

So you admit it!

BAZ

Yes! I admit it! If I had been honest with you all from the beginning then Sid would still be alive, and maybe we wouldn't have lost the package. But no. I did a stupid thing and it was all my fault! Not Stella's! So leave her out of this.

Pause. This is the first time Baz has admitted guilt.

BUTTERCUP

Wow.

CAPTAIN

We don't know with absolute certainty--

BAZ

We do.

THEED

Don't go, Stella.

STELLA

Sounds like I might not have a choice.

BAZ

Captain, are you serious? You had a little disagreement and now suddenly you can't deal with her?

CAPTAIN

It's not that! It's just...our personalities don't mix, alright?

PUPPET

**24** Is it because she's human?

CAPTAIN

It has nothing to do with that.

BAZ

It's because she hurt your feelings.

CAPTAIN

It has nothing to do with that either!

BAZ

So...she did hurt your feelings?

CAPTAIN

Argh! What is going on with you people? Not so long ago, you all considered throwing her off the ship. Now you're attached to her?

 **25**

PUPPET

I mean, yeah! Stella is nice and she talks to us about our feelings and she bakes us cookies which I'm sure taste good but I can't eat so I don't know. We like her! So of course we're attached to her. We're almost more attached to her than you!  
(awkward pause)

CAPTAIN

What?

PUPPET

Almost! I said almost!

CAPTAIN

Okay, fine! I will consider rehiring Stella while we are in Florida. When we get back on board I'll make up my mind.

#### SCENE 7 - REDEMPTION

NARRATOR

So the crew of the Raccoon, did, in fact, have a chance to visit Florida. Everyone hated it and complained the entire time, which is how most people respond to being in Florida. Theed had a very cathartic experience revisiting childhood memories, but none of the crew noticed because they were too busy complaining about the humidity. That evening, when they returned to the ship, the Captain still had not announced a decision as to Stella's fate, so she waited anxiously in Baz's room.

BAZ

So what are you gonna do if the Captain decides you're not crew anymore?

STELLA

I don't know. Try to find another job, I guess. Another sympathetic crew that will take me.

BAZ

It almost makes me jealous. The thought of losing you to another crew.

(beat)

Almost.

STELLA

I mean, I'd be jealous of whatever doctor you guys hire after me.

BAZ

So now that I may never see you again...can I ask you something?

STELLA

Only if I can ask you something first.

BAZ

What?

STELLA

Why do you wear those goggles?

BAZ

These?

STELLA

Yeah! You always have them on your head but I've never once seen you put them over your eyes. Are they just...are they just an accessory? Like, a hat?

BAZ

No, it's actually-- okay so you know how I'm sort of a con artist slash black market trader? At least I used to be.

STELLA

I'm very well aware.



BAZ

I often find myself...in places where I'm not supposed to be. And I've discovered after many years of getting in trouble that if you have something on you that makes you look like you have a job-- goggles or gloves or a lab coat or something-- no one will question.

STELLA

So it's a disguise?

BAZ

Sort of. A vague non-specific disguise.

STELLA

I can't believe I didn't figure that out. It's been bothering me this whole time. I've been staring at you like, when is she gonna use those goggles?

BAZ

I've never put them over my eyes once. I don't even know what they're for. Are they welding goggles? Are they chemistry goggles? I have no idea.

STELLA

So what's your question?

BAZ

What was the whole deal with your dad and the horses and everything?

STELLA

My dad got in an accident when I was really little. It made him really bitter. He always claimed that he was the one who left my mom but...honestly I think it was the other way around. As a kid I remember him being really sweet to me. He used to read me stories and even sing me songs--

BAZ

And then?

STELLA

And then there was the car crash. And he couldn't walk. And then my mom left. And all he had left were--

BAZ

Horses?

STELLA

His studies. He was a biology professor. So he just threw himself into his research, deciding he was gonna write a book. I mean, I guess all middle aged men decide they're gonna write a book, right? But no, he...he really meant it. And for some reason he just latched onto horses. Partially because he grew up on this island called Chincoteague that's famous for it's wild horses. Like, the horses reminded him of a simpler time when he didn't have a daughter but he did have legs. But I also think there was something about the...the freedom of horses that he liked so much. He sort of...identified with them.

BUTTERCUP

So it was a fetish thing!

STELLA

Ah! Buttercup! What are you doing here?

BUTTERCUP

Eavesdropping. Obviously. I thought maybe you were gonna explain what you did to the Captain that made them boot you, but this is way more interesting.

STELLA

No, it wasn't a fetish thing! I mean, it wasn't anything because he wasn't even real.

BAZ

But he was real to you.

STELLA

Yeah.

BAZ

Do you want to bring him back?

STELLA

What? No, I can't. The Politicians deleted the simulation.

BAZ

Well I'm sure they have a back up.

STELLA

What? Are you serious? You mean...you mean I could have gone home this whole time?

BUTTERCUP

They probably kept your neurological construct backed up too.

STELLA

Meaning...

BAZ

They saved your boyfriend's brain. And your friend Mel's.

STELLA

And you guys didn't think to tell me this before we were running from the government?

BAZ

We figured that if you wanted to go back to the simulation, you would let us know!

STELLA

I didn't know there was a simulation to go back to!

BUTTERCUP

Well. Now you know.

BAZ

Do you want to go back?

STELLA

I mean...it's a little late for that, I think. Even if I did ask to go back, there's no way they'd let me back into the building, let alone back into the simulation. Now they might think I'm some kind of terrorist.

BAZ

Oh, yeah, getting back into that building would be a crazy risk. But you took a crazy risk defending me to the rest of the crew. I owe you. If you want me to break into that building with you to get your world back, I will.

BUTTERCUP

You're joking.

BAZ

Nope. I'm serious.

STELLA

Um.

BAZ

Stella. Do you want to go back and get the constructs of your friends?

(A long pause)

STELLA

Yeah. Yeah I do.

Impact sound.

STELLA (CONT'D)

What was that?

PUPPET

(over PA)

Hey guys! Nobody panic, but we  
are under attack. I repeat, we  
are under--

Impact sound.

END OF EPISODE.