

All The Pretty Little Horses: Episode 2 - The Stench of
Adventure

1

written by Alex Kingsley

SCENE 1 - FLASHBACK: COFFEE DATE

Sounds of busy coffee shop.

STELLA

Hi! Sorry! So sorry I'm late! So sorry!

DAN

It's okay.

STELLA

I know it's like, a really bad impression to show up an hour late on the first date.

DAN

It's been two hours.

STELLA

Oh my god, are you serious?

DAN

Yeah.

STELLA

Oh...shoot. Heck. I am so sorry.

DAN

Like I said, it's really okay.

STELLA

I just...I had to stay late at work. There was this cat this woman brought in right before we closed, no appointment or anything, but she said it was an emergency. Turns out the cat had had liver disease for so long that when we touched him, his skin just came off.

DAN

What?

STELLA

His skin came off!

DAN

O...kay

STELLA

And this had already been, like, a day, ya know? Because earlier today we had this dog that for no medical reason only likes to lay on one side. Which seems like it wouldn't be a problem right? Except that the dog got bed sores on that side!

DAN

Oh.

STELLA

And I'm talking, like, nasty bed sores. Like, with maggots in them.

DAN

Ew.

STELLA

Yeah, that's what I said! Wait, sorry, that was a totally gross thing for me to tell you. Anyway, back to the cat that's skin came off. I was gonna text you to tell you that I'd be late, but in all the chaos with the dog, I couldn't remember where I put my phone.

DAN

Was it okay?

STELLA

Oh, yeah, I found my phone. It was in my pocket the whole time.

DAN

I meant the cat.

STELLA

What cat?

DAN

That cat whose skin came off.

STELLA

What? Oh, yeah, it was fine.

DAN

Okay. Good.

STELLA

I mean, it didn't all come off.

DAN

Oh. Cos the way you said it I thought--

STELLA

Oh. No. Oh my god. No. It wasn't like--

DAN

Cos I thought--

STELLA

No it was only like, half.

DAN

Half its skin?

STELLA

Yeah I'd say about half.

DAN

That's horrible.

STELLA

Yeah.

(Beat.)

Oh my god I just realized that is probably not all the conversation you want to be having on a first date. Forget I ever said anything. Pretend that I was totally on time and that I came in and told you a normal story about...taxes. So what do you want to order?

(Beat. Dan starts laughing.)

STELLA (CONT'D)


What?

(beginning to panic)

Did I do something wrong?

DAN

No, no, you did...
 (catching his breath)
 You did everything right.

3 

NARRATOR

Now Dan was dead, and so was the world that Stella spent her whole life in. Well, technically that world wasn't dead, it had just never existed, but Dan? Dan had existed and he was decidedly dead. And Stella was amongst the stars, wandering aimlessly through the hallways of a building she didn't understand, wondering if her life was even worth living anymore, and also wondering what smelled so much like Panda Express.

INTRO AND THEME MUSIC

SCENE 2 - CAFETERIA

NARRATOR

Stella drifted through the halls of the floating office like an empty husk, staring vacantly at the wide windows into which she could see nothing but distant points of light and empty space.

GELATINOUS CREATURE

Hey! What the hell are you doing here?

STELLA

I was spent my entire life living inside a simulation and now I have no idea what my life means.

GELATINOUS CREATURE

Well could you have no idea what your life means some place else? I swear I am sick and tired of creatures from failed simulations cluttering these halls like an infestation.

 **4**

STELLA

Oh. I'm sorry.

GELATINOUS CREATURE

You should be. Now move.

STELLA

Move?

GELATINOUS CREATURE

You're standing in front of the vending machine.

STELLA

Vending machine? Oh my god! A vending machine!

GELATINOUS CREATURE

What's so exciting about a vending machine?

STELLA

It's just, ever since I got out of the simulation everything has been so...well, so alien. This is the first familiar thing I've see. A vending machine!

GELATINOUS CREATURE

Now can you move? I need to get some Flurf.

STELLA

Flurf?

GELATINOUS CREATURE

No that's a different flavor.

STELLA

What?

GELATINOUS CREATURE

Flurf comes in three flavors: Flurf! Flurf? And Flurf. What did they have in your vending machines?

STELLA

Like, Doritos?

GELATINOUS CREATURE

What's a Dorito?

STELLA

Doritos were these...they were
this little orange triangles...

(beginning to cry)

And they...were nacho flavored
except they didn't taste like
nachos...god I miss Doritos so
much...

Vending machine noises.

GELATINOUS CREATURE

Listen, you are not the first
creature in this building to have
grown up in a simulation,
alright? So my advice to you is
to get over your Doritos and move
on with your life.

NARRATOR

Stella tried, to do just this,
but moving on with her life
proved difficult when she
couldn't figure out how to leave
the building. She was so caught
up in her existential quandaries
that she didn't notice the woman
staring at her. Well, had she
noticed, she maybe wouldn't have
used the word "woman" and
probably would have used the word
"creature." She looked almost
human since, unlike the slimy
blobs that had first introduced
her to this brave new world, she
had all her limbs in all the
right places. But her limbs were
a little too stretched out and
spindly to be human, and her
fingers were a little too long.
She looked almost elfin, except
instead of pointed ears, her ears
dangled, like those of a statue
of the Buddah. When she saw
Stella, she could not help but
smile and creep after her.

(CONT'D)

Stella found herself in what must have been the office's cafeteria. She now understood what those creatures had meant about pulling things from their world and putting them on their simulation of Earth. She'd never heard of half the foods being served in the cafeteria -- she didn't know what squinch was, but she didn't like the look of the tubes it came out of, and its pale green color didn't make it look very appetizing. On the other hand, there was a Dairy Queen. Oh, and a Panda Express, which was the cause of the smell. So at least that mystery was solved.

(CONT'D)

Stella didn't know what to do with her life now that her entire reality was gone, so she ordered a Blizzard. And she sat by a window, still mesmerized by the utter emptiness she saw through it. What was out there? Would she ever know? Would she ever find something else to live for now that--

BAZ

Want a spoon?

STELLA

Ah!

BAZ

Sorry, it's just. I saw you had an ice cream but no spoon. And I was like, hey, that's weird, I bet that human wants a spoon to eat its ice cream. Maybe that's why its looking into space all sad. Because she needs a spoon. So here. Spoon.

STELLA

Um. Thanks. You can...you can call me "she." Not it.

BAZ

Okay, cool! Well you can call me "she" too. Mind if I sit?

STELLA

Sure.

NARRATOR

Admittedly, Stella was a little relieved to have a companion that looked a little more like her. She was seated on a little metal chair in the corner of the bustling cafeteria, the only humanoid creature in sight. She wasn't sure what this spindly stranger was, but she was at least relieved that the newcomer looked remotely like the kind of carbon-based life form that she was used to.

BAZ

My name is Bazzel. Like razzle dazzle. But you can call me Baz.

NARRATOR

"Razzle dazzle" seemed the appropriate description, as the first thing Stella noticed were the green-lensed goggles that sat atop the woman's head.

STELLA

What are the goggles for?

BAZ

My eyes.

NARRATOR

The second thing Stella noticed was her dress. It was a patchwork creation that looked more like a poorly-planned quilt than an article of clothing, but the woman-- creature, rather-- looked so tall and lanky that the long sheet of fabric suited her.

STELLA

Why did you come sit with me?

BAZ

You looked lost and sad and lonely. I thought you could use a friend.

NARRATOR

This was a half truth, as half-truths were a language that Baz spoke fluently. She *had* taken an interest in Stella because she looked lost and confused, but not because she was altruistic at heart. Baz simply knew well that people who are lost and confused are easy prey.

STELLA

You don't look like the rest of them.

BAZ

What, you think we're all the same species out here?

STELLA

I mean, I came from a planet with only one sentient species. Or, well, fake planet. Fake reality.

BAZ

The Politicians are the worst. You just happened to get stuck being born on a planet full of them. Those guys are jerks.

STELLA

The what?

BAZ

Those slimy guys. That's why their species is called Politicians.

STELLA

Oh. Well, the Politicians constructed a false reality that I spent my entire life believing in, just as a sick prank, and then ripped all the things I ever loved away from me.

BAZ

Yeah, like I said. Jerks.

STELLA

Yeah.

BAZ

They think just because they're immortal, they're so much more important than the rest of us.

STELLA

I mean, doesn't that make them more important? On a cosmic scale.

BAZ

Plenty of things last for a long time and don't matter.

STELLA

Yeah. Like *Friends*. Or *Supernatural*.

7

BAZ

What?

STELLA

Nevermind.

BAZ

Those guys sit around in their stuffy offices for eons doing absolutely nothing. People like me? We're the ones who do the real work.

STELLA

What do you do?

BAZ

Oh! I didn't even tell you anything about myself.

(this is a lie)

I...am an explorer.

STELLA

An explorer?

BAZ

Yes! In fact, that's why I'm here. In this building. In the first place.

STELLA

To explore?

BAZ

No! To get government patronage for my latest expedition.

STELLA

Wait, so those blobby guys...are the government?

BAZ

I mean, yeah. When an immortal being tells you they're going to rule you, it's pretty hard to say no. So, imagine a governing body that's made up of gods.

STELLA

So...I just met gods.

BAZ

Yeah.

STELLA

And they left me to go eat tacos?

BAZ

I mean, can you blame them? Anyway! I just got funding for another one of my intergalactic adventures. You know, where I explore uncharted lands and discover priceless relics and fight monsters and all.

STELLA

That sounds...unreal.

NARRATOR

It was, in fact, not real.

BAZ

It's very real.

(pretending this has
just occurred to her)

Hey, here's a wacky idea I could use an apprentice. And you seem like you have nothing in life to care about anymore. What if you come join me?

STELLA

Are you serious?

BAZ

Sure. I mean, you just found out that your world didn't exist, so it's not like you have anything else going on, right?

STELLA

I mean, yeah, but...you just met me. You don't even know my name.

BAZ

Oh. Right. Sorry. Should have started with that. What is your name?

STELLA

Stella.

Baz laughs.

STELLA (CONT'D)

What?

BAZ

Who would name their kid that?

STELLA

Well I was named by two cruel aliens who made me a joke.

BAZ

That explains it.

STELLA

What does it mean?

BAZ

You don't know?

STELLA

In my world, "stella" meant star.

BAZ

Oh wow. I mean, I know you're still pretty sore about the fake world thing, but I gotta admit, that is a funny joke. Star? That's hilarious.

STELLA

What does it really-
(discovery)
It means penis, doesn't it?

BAZ

No. What's wrong with the name Penis?

STELLA

Um--

BAZ

That's just a normal name.

STELLA

I guess I'm still-- things on my world. They were different.

BAZ

I bet. I mean, I've never met a talking human before.

STELLA

But...you have met a human before?

BAZ

Well, not met. I've seen them roaming around. In the fields.

STELLA

Wait -- what are humans? To you, I mean.

BAZ

Um, animals? Sorry, no offense, but usually people just domesticate them and use them for labor. They're not sentient, you see, unless you make them special. Sometimes you see them out in the wild. It's like-- well, I don't really know what the world you came from was like, but--

8

STELLA

Like horses.

BAZ

Um. If that's what horses were like in your world, then yes.

STELLA

So I was "made special?"

BAZ

Yeah, probably. Like as an experiment.

STELLA

Or as a joke.

BAZ

(uncaring)

I don't know, maybe.

STELLA

I guess...I guess you're right. I need to forget about Doritos and move on with my life!

BAZ

Yeah sure I don't know what that means but yes! Let's get out of here Susan!

STELLA

Stella.

BAZ

Right.

SCENE 3 - THE PARKING LOT

NARRATOR

Baz led Stella through the maze that made up most of the building to the parking lot outside. It looked a bit like a regular office park, complete with a parking lot and bushes cut into sad little cubes. A few vehicles were parked in the lot. Stella had been excited to see what kind of technologically advanced space cruisers the Politicians drove, but was disappointed to find that most of the vessels looked like Honda Civics. In fact, the only notable real difference between this parking lot and a normal parking lot was that the sky had been replaced with the impossible vastness of space.

STELLA

Hey-- Um--

BAZ

Yeah?

STELLA

That's-- That's space up there.

BAZ

Yeah. That's where space always is.

STELLA

Shouldn't...doesn't space kill you?

BAZ

Well, we're in a dome.

STELLA

Oh. Right. A dome.

BAZ

The Government Building orbits its sun like a whole planet. The Politicians like their privacy, so they didn't want to have to share a planet with anyone. C'mon Let me show you to the ship. It's just over-- shit!

9 Sound of feet scuffling.

STELLA

Baz?

BAZ

Yeah?

STELLA

Why are we hiding behind a bush?

BAZ

Hiding? We're not hiding.

STELLA

Well. We are definitely standing behind a bush.

BAZ

I...uh...I thought I saw a cool bug.

STELLA

(totally buying it)

Oh. Cool. What kind of bug?

BAZ

A...moth.

STELLA

Aw, I love moths!

BAZ

Why don't you look for it?

NARRATOR

While Stella searched the bush for the fabled moth, Baz scanned the parking lot for any familiar faces. She waited until anyone who may recognize her was safely out of sight.

STELLA

I found the moth!

BAZ

Now's our chance!

STELLA

But the--

BAZ

GO!

Sound of running feet.

NARRATOR

Baz led Stella up to a massive metal vehicle, that, had Baz not used the word "ship," Stella would have assumed was a very large and peculiarly shaped dumpster.

BAZ

(trying to sound casual)

Heeeeey Scott. What's going on?

SCOTTBOT

On a cosmic scale, or for me personally?

BAZ

(fake laugh)

Classic ScottBot!

SCOTTBOT

As always, I am monitoring to ensure that only licensed crew members enter the ship.

STELLA

Baz? What is this?


BAZ

This? This is ScottBot!

SCOTTBOT

Hi! I'm Scott!

BAZ

He's the AI we bought to do all our secretarial work. Most ships have some kind of administrative AI, though the really fancy ones have and EileenMachine. ScottBot is just the generic cos we  11
cheaped out.

SCOTTBOT

I do not mind being off-brand. It makes me quirky, unique, and error prone to. 12

STELLA

Why does he have an English accent?

BAZ

A what?

STELLA

An accent. From England.

BAZ

What's England?

STELLA

It's-- why does he talk like that?

BAZ

That's just how robots talk.

SCOTTBOT

This is just how robots talk.

BAZ

Well, Scott, lovely to see you as always but me and my trainee better get on board before--

SCOTTBOT

I'm sorry, Bazzel, but I cannot let you on board.

BAZ

Excuse me?

SCOTTBOT

It's my understanding that you are not invited back on the ship.

13

STELLA

Wait what?

BAZ

No, Scott, I just need to get back on to train my protege! Just gotta show the new girl the ropes, k?

STELLA

Hold on. Protege? I thought you said--

SCOTTBOT

The Captain did not mention tasking you with finding a replacement.

BAZ

And like always, I go above and beyond expectations.

STELLA

I'm your replacement?

SCOTTBOT

Wait, is that a human?

STELLA

Is everyone going to say that when they meet me?

BAZ

Yes. C'mon new girl! I'll show you around. Thanks Scottie!

SCOTTBOT

Do not call me that.

SCENE 4 - THE HALLWAY

Sounds of feet walking up cat walk.

STELLA

Wait, I thought you said we would be on this ship together?

BAZ

We will! I'm gonna train you as my protege and then I'll leave, ya know, eventually!

STELLA

It's just, you didn't saying anything about leaving-- and, I don't know anyone one this-- I mean, I don't even know anyone, at all, ever--

BAZ

Listen, Stell-- Can I call you Stell?

STELLA

Actually I'd rather if you didn't because that's what my--

BAZ

Stell, I'm gonna be here for you. I mean, c'mon, would I lie to you?

STELLA

I don't really know. We just met.

BAZ

Well, here's a fact about me: I wouldn't.

NARRATOR

She would.

Sound of door opening.

STELLA

Whoa.

NARRATOR

Stella had never seen a spaceship before. She had imagined many times what one might look like, and read many science fiction books about them, despite her father's protestations. Even though she'd imagined what a spaceship would look like again and again, she'd never expected one to look so--

STELLA

Nasty.



14

BAZ

I know. Welcome to the Starship Raccoon. Isn't it beautiful?

STELLA

It seems...unsanitary. Why are there so many flies? And what's that smell?

BAZ

The stench of adventure.

15

STELLA

What's that stuff dripping down the walls?

BAZ

Adventure.

STELLA

How did the walls get so rusty?

BAZ

A-

STELLA

Please don't say adventure. **16**

BAZ

It's an old ship. He's been through a lot, okay?

STELLA

He?

BAZ

17

Yeah, everyone's always naming ships after women. It's objectifying, if you ask me. Why don't we objectify men for a change?

STELLA

That doesn't make any sense.

BAZ

I have to...check up on some things. Wait here, okay?

STELLA

Sure.

NARRATOR

Stella stood in the empty atrium, alone again, studying the corroding metal surrounding her and wondering if it would be thick enough to shield her from the icy void on the other side, which is really not something one wants to question when they board a spaceship.

Rumbling.

STELLA

Is that...is that supposed to happen? Are we leaving? Are we taking off?

Rumbling stops.

STELLA (CONT'D)

Right. Great. Cool.

NARRATOR

The same janitor from before came in and began mopping the floor.

STELLA

Hey. Hey wait a second.

GERALD

Hm?

STELLA

You're the same janitor from before.

GERALD

Oh. Am I?

STELLA

What are you doing here?

GERALD

Mopping.

STELLA

Well, yeah, but like, what, do you just show up mopping everywhere?

GERALD
("I guess" noise)

STELLA
Wait...are you real? Are you in
my head or something?

GERALD
I don't think so.

STELLA
How do I know?

GERALD
If I wasn't real then the floors
wouldn't get clean.

STELLA
Good point.

GERALD
You're gonna have to leave while
I mop the floor.

STELLA
I can't. Baz told me to wait
here.

GERALD
Okay. I'll come back later.

Sound of door opening and closing.

BAZ
Okay! The coast is clear!

STELLA
Why does the coast have to be
clear?

BAZ
No reason. I'm just letting you
know that it is. C'mon! I'll show
you to my room!

Sound of footsteps on metal.

BAZ (CONT'D)
So this is the main hallway--

Bell jingle. Cat meows.

BAZ (CONT'D)

Shit!

STELLA

Awww, a kitty!

BUTTERCUP

Awww, a bitch!

19

STELLA

Ah! Your cat talks!

BUTTERCUP

Your human talks.

BAZ

She was an experiment.

BUTTERCUP

That explains it.

STELLA

(simultaneous)

That explains it.

STELLA (CONT'D)

Oh. You were talking about me.

BUTTERCUP

Doesn't explain what you're doing back on the ship.

BAZ

I'm training her.

BUTTERCUP

Captain didn't say anything about you training the newbie.

BAZ

Well you can hardly expect me to throw her into it without giving her a few--

BUTTERCUP

Yes, you can. Captain was very clear about the fact that you are not welcome aboard this ship.

BAZ

There was room for interpretation.

BUTTERCUP

I believe their exact words were,
"If I see your face aboard my
ship one more time, no force of
nature will be able to quell my
fury."

BAZ

See? That's pretty vague.

STELLA

Wait...did you get fired?

BUTTERCUP

Fired is putting it delicately.

BAZ

C'mon, Buttercup!

STELLA

Wait, your name is Buttercup?

BUTTERCUP

And?

STELLA

You have to admit that's kind of
cute.

BUTTERCUP

I don't have to admit anything.

BAZ

You're...you're not actually
supposed to call cats cute. It's
considered offensive.

STELLA

Oh. Sorry. I just can't help it.
You're just too adorable.

BUTTERCUP

Do these claws look adorable to
you?

STELLA

Yes, actually. You have cute
wittle toe beanies.

BUTTERCUP

I swear to god bitch I will bite
your toes when you fall asleep
and you will never know rest.

STELLA

Can I pet your little earsies?

Buttercup hisses.

BAZ

She'll learn.

STELLA

I will! I'm a very fast learner.
And I've always wanted to travel
places. You know I lived in the
same place my whole life? I mean,
obviously, because I lived in a
simulation, but even in the
simulation I lived in the same
place my whole life. So getting a
chance to be a space explorer is
like-- WOW!

BUTTERCUP

...a what?

STELLA

A space explorer. That's
what...isn't that what you guys
do? Explore...space?

BUTTERCUP

Baz! What did you tell this poor
woman?

BAZ

I said nothing that wasn't true!

BUTTERCUP

Baz.

BAZ

I said only a few things that
weren't true.

STELLA

Wait, so if you guys aren't
explorers, what do you do?

BAZ

Um...

STELLA

What is this ship?

BUTTERCUP

Tell her, Baz.

BAZ

Ummm...

STELLA

And why did you need me to come here?

BAZ

Well, it's a funny story, really. You'll laugh.

BUTTERCUP

You won't.

STELLA

Just tell me.

BAZ

Fine.

END OF EPISODE.