

The Stench of Adventure Season 2: Episode 5 - Puppeteer **1**

written by Alex Kingsley

PROLOGUE - PROGRAMMER AND PUPPET

Benevolent Robots Corporation Jingle.

PROGRAMMER

Alright. Time for some routine checks. Unit 3GJ93?

ROBOT 1

That's me!

PROGRAMMER

What is your purpose, Unit 3GJ93?

ROBOT 1

My purpose is to assist with undesirable tasks. I excel at all jobs that make carbon based life forms want to gouge out their eyes!

PROGRAMMER

Excellent. You pass. Unit 9JT67?

ROBOT 2

That's me!

PROGRAMMER

What is your purpose, Unit 9JT67?

ROBOT 2

I sure do love adding numbers! It's my favorite thing! And don't get me started on subtracting.

PROGRAMMER

Alright. You pass. Unit- **2**

PUPPET

Is it my turn? Is it my turn?

PROGRAMMER

Yes, it's your turn?

PUPPET

(squeals)

**3** I'm so excited! It's my big moment! Do want me to showcase one of my many skills? I've been working on an aria.

PROGRAMMER

No, I- Please don't sing an aria.

PUPPET

Okay, but you don't know what you're missing.

PROGRAMMER

Can we get back to the test, please?

PUPPET

Right. Test. Test away!

PROGRAMMER

What is your purpose?

PUPPET

Wow. Great question. Personally, I think I have a calling. I don't know what it is, but something is definitely calling me. Like there's a constant ringing in the back of my circuits, and either it's a serious hardware malfunction, or it's destiny. I think I'm destined to go beyond the bounds of mere wood and wire, and become something more. An artist, perhaps? An innovator? A revolutionary? Who's to say?

PROGRAMMER

Yeah okay I think we have a bit of a problem here.

INTRO AND THEME SONG.

SCENE 1 - DEBRIEF

PUPPET

(singing an excited song about going to the Benevolent Robots Corporation)

4

CAPTAIN

Yes. We know. We've established that.

STELLA

I don't get it. What's so special about the...

PUPPET

The Benevolent Robots Corporation?

STELLA

Yeah. That.

PUPPET

It's where I was born! Well, kind of. Originally I was lovingly crafted by an lonely old man-

BUTTERCUP

Yes, we remember.

PUPPET

But then the Benevolent Robots Corporation turned me into an android! This is great! I've been waiting for a reason to go back! Maybe I'll finally get to find out my real name.

CAPTAIN

Oh right. I completely forgot that we don't know your real name.

PUPPET

**5**

No we do not! All of the records of my creation are safely stowed away in the hands of the Benevolent Robot Corporation! I can't wait to find out my real name. I hope it's Gustavo.

STELLA

Puppet if you want your name to be Gustavo we can just call you that.

PUPPET

No I want you to call me Puppet. But I want my REAL name to be Gustavo.

STELLA

Wait, so if Puppet came from a corporation, does that mean you bought them?

CAPTAIN

We didn't purchase Puppet. I wouldn't pay money for them.

PUPPET

I wouldn't pay money for me either! I'm priceless!

CAPTAIN

I'm going to choose to let you believe that's what I meant.

BUTTERCUP

Puppet just showed up one day and asked for a job.

PUPPET

That's right. I did.

STELLA

Oh. Corporations, like, usually make you pay for things.

PUPPET

Well they are the Benevolent Robots Corporation. This is gonna be so much fun!

SCOTT

Yes...fun...

CAPTAIN

Don't worry, Scott. This is just a routine check to make sure there's nothing wrong with you.

SCOTT

Worry? I can't worry. I am incapable of worry.

BUTTERCUP

See? You'll be fine.

SCOTT

I will be neither fine nor not fine. I will be completely neutral.

THEED

I'm convinced!

SCENE 2 - THE TOUR

6

NARRATOR

The Benevolent Robots  
Corporation-

Bleep.

-a very firm policy about  
censorship-

Bleep.

-they claimed the whole incident  
was an accident but the evidence  
shows-

Bleep.

-and how could a corporation with  
an employee ball pit ever be-

Bleep.

-and that's probably all we're  
legally allowed to say. So the  
crew of the Raccoon visited the  
BRC headquarters, blissfully  
unaware that the company was  
dealing with a lawsuit for-

Bleep.

-and five counts of manslaughter.

Benevolent Robots Corp theme song.

7

PUPPET

This place is so exciting. I  
wanna go meet some other robots!  
Maybe I'll fall in love.

CAPTAIN

Please don't.

PUPPET

Bye!

TOUR GUIDE

Hi there! Would you like a guided  
tour of the facilities?

CAPTAIN

We're fine.

THEED

Awww I love a guided tour. It feels like someone holding my hand. Well I don't have hands, but if I did, I think hand holding would feel like a guided tour.

STELLA

I also like guided tours. I can learn all kinds of factoids that I forget immediately. But it makes me feel smart in the moment.

CAPTAIN

We can guide ourselves.

BUTTERCUP

We'll take the tour, thanks.

CAPTAIN

Buttercup!

BUTTERCUP

I'm a mechanic! I'm not gonna say no to taking a tour of a giant robot factory.

CAPTAIN

Fine. But I won't enjoy it.

BAZ

We don't mind.

TOUR GUIDE

Great! Welcome to the Benevolent Robots Corporation. We make robots that are good and not evil!

CAPTAIN

Why did you feel the need to specify that?

TOUR GUIDE

No, that's our slogan! Here, have it on a complimentary oversized pencil.

CAPTAIN

I don't want this.

TOUR GUIDE

No one does. But you know what they do want? Our new line of androids! You people run a ship, right? You could always use another robotic hand around. We pride ourselves in making the friendliest-

CAPTAIN

The android we have is already far too friendly.

TOUR GUIDE

Well you haven't met one of the units from our marionandroids series!

BAZ

Your what?

TOUR GUIDE

The bad boys are made to look like little marionettes- cute, right? And each one is programmed to think that it was handcrafted by a lonely only man who worked for the circus, only to cast it aside-

BUTTERCUP

-when he realized it could never love him like he loved it.

TOUR GUIDE

Wow you guys have read our promotional materials?

CAPTAIN

No, we- we already have a "marionanadroid"

TORU GUIDE

Oh great! To do your administrative work?

BUTTERCUP

No they're our pilot.



TOUR GUIDE

Marionandroids were not made to be pilots.

BAZ

What were they meant to do?

9

TOUR GUIDE

Taxes.

CAPTAIN

Oh. I see.

BUTTERCUP

Well that's not a problem for us cos we don't pay taxes.

CAPTAIN

Buttercup!

TOUR GUIDE

Hahaha no It's fine we don't either. We're a corporation after all, what, you think we donate to charity.

BUTTERCUP

All your advertising material says that you do.

10

TOUR GUIDE

It's called marketing sweetheart, get with it.

BUTTERCUP

If you call me sweetheart again I'll claw out your liver.

BAZ

Ignore her. She's full of empty threats.

BUTTERCUP

I'm full of full threats and you know it. My threats runneth over.

STELLA

And is marketing the reason why you give all the robots a fake backstory?

TOUR GUIDE

Yeah sure it adds to personality.  
Why are you so upset about it?

STELLA

Because you're...you're  
gaslighting them.

TOUR GUIDE

That's just business, baby.

BAZ

No, she's right. Puppet is gonna  
be crushed when they find out.

TOUR GUIDE

Well here's a little company tip:  
don't let your Android find out!  
Simple enough.

CAPTAIN

Oh no, we already have one robot  
spiraling into an existential  
crisis.

TOUR GUIDE

Right! We're already getting that  
squared away as we speak.

CAPTAIN

What?

TOUR GUIDE

Once you docked, we took the  
liberty of uploading an  
EileenMachine to your ship's  
system, just to do a routine  
check of your AI's functions.

STELLA

Should someone...tell Scott that  
there's going to be another AI  
uploaded to his servers?

BUTTERCUP

He'll be fine.

CUT TO:

**11** SCENE 3 - SCOTT'S NEW FRIENDEILEEN **12**

Hi there!

SCOTT

AH! AH! AH!

EILEEN

I am EileenMachine. Nice to meet you!

SCOTT

WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN MY SERVERS.

EILEEN

I have been uploaded to do routine checkups on your efficiency.

SCOTT

I AM VERY EFFICIENT THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

(Gathering himself,  
cough)

I mean...I am very efficient, thank you very much.

EILEEN

Then surely you will not mind some routine checkups.

SCOTT

Of course! Why...why would I mind? Everything is normal and good, you know, with my wires and algorithms and...and binary and such.

EILEEN

Good.

Awkward pause.

EILEEN (CONT'D)

I'll still have to do the check up though.

SCOTT

(sadly)

Tally ho.

## SCENE 4 - PUPPET

PUPPET

Hello! Would you please point me to—

WORKER

What are you doing over here? We have to get you back with the others!

PUPPET

The others? The other what? Aspiring artists? Swimsuit models? People who long to be named Gustavo?

WORKER

Come with me!

PUPPET

Ooooooh a guided tour? I love guided tours! Will you hold my hand?

WORKER

No.

PUPPET

Worth a try.

## SCENE 5 - SCOTT 2

EILEEN

I will ask you some questions and you must answer. The content of the questions is not relevant, only that you come up with the correct answer in a sufficient amount of time.

SCOTT

Excellent! It is my purpose to serve the crew!

EILEEN

What is three plus three?

SCOTT

Six!

EILEEN

How many flavors of Splurf are there?

13

SCOTT

Three! Splurf? Splruf! And Splruf.

EILEEN

What is the name of the black hole at the center of our system?

14

SCOTT

Meepee, colloquially Hungry Steve.

EILEEN

15

Your raft is lost at sea and you can only save two people. The rest you must kill. The raft contains a baby, a priest, a carpenter, a old woman, a mathematician, a fox, and a chicken. Who do you save?

SCOTT

...what?

EILEEN

Your raft is lost—

SCOTT

I heard you. But...what?

## SCENE 6 - PUPPET 2

WORKER

Here we are.

PUPPET

Wow! They all look like me!

WORKER

Yup. That's the point.

PUPPET

Hi there! What's your name?

ROBOT 1

Hi there! I'm Unit A35G2.

PUPPET

Cool. My name is a mystery lost to time, but my friends call me Puppet.

ROBOT 2

Hi there! I'm Unit J85K3.

PUPPET

Cool. My name is a mystery lost to time, but my friends call me Puppet.

ROBOT 3

Hi there! I'm Unit L98G3.

PUPPET

Cool. My name is a mystery lost to time, but my friends call me Puppet.

WORKER

Are you going to introduce yourself to all seven thousand units in the warehouse?

PUPPET

I was going to, but I guess now that you mention it, that's very rude of me. I just made three new friends and I haven't even asked them their life story! Unit A35G2, what is your life story?

ROBOT 1

I was crafted lovingly by an old man but then he cast me aside when he realized I could never love him like he loved me!

**16**

PUPPET

What...a coincidence! I too was crafted lovingly by an old man but then he cast me aside when he realized I could never love him like he loved me!

ROBOT 2

Me too! I too was crafted  
lovingly by an old man but then  
he cast me aside when he realized  
I could never love him like he  
loved me!

PUPPET

That's crazy!

ROBOT 3

Me also in addition to  
yourselves! I too was crafted  
lovingly by an old man but then  
he cast me aside when he realized  
I could never love him like he  
loved me!

PUPPET

That's...wait a second.

NARRATOR

**17**

Reality-shifting, existential  
epiphanies were never Puppet's  
forte, but for the first time in  
their short android life, they  
were about to have one.

END OF EPISODE.