

The Stench of Adventure Season 2: Episode 5.5 -  
Puppeteer Pt.  
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SCENE 7 - TOUR 2

NARRATOR

While Puppet was in the middle making what Stella might call and Earth-shattering discovery, the rest of the crew of the Raccoon was enjoying- or in the case of some, pointedly not enjoying- their guided tour.

TOUR GUIDE

And here we have-

**2** Sounds of something gone horribly awry.

BUTTERCUP

What was that?

TOUR GUIDE

Nothing! Don't worry about it! Just a normal sound in a normal factory!

STELLA

**3** Do you guys have OSHA? Like, space OSHA? Cos this place definitely violates it, like, a lot.

TOUR GUIDE

No worries! Here at the Benevolent Robots Corporation, we have strict set of safety regulations.

BAZ

Do you follow them though?

Beat.

TOUR GUIDE

Shall we continue with our tour?

CAPTAIN

Um...I feel like maybe we should find our android before they discover that their life is a lie.

TOUR GUIDE

Don't we all discover at some point that everything we hold dear is only a fable, and nothing has meaning when all will be lost in the inevitable heat death of the universe?

STELLA

I guess so.

TOUR GUIDE

Oh don't take it too seriously, hun. That's just another one of our slogans. If you wanna swing by the gift shop, we do sell it on t-shirts-

BUTTERCUP

The Captain's right. We should look for Puppet before-

PUPPET

Oh. Oh hey guys.

BAZ

Uh oh.

WORKER

This unit belong to you?

CAPTAIN

Puppet doesn't "belong" to us, they work with us.

WORKER

Well, I found it wandering around and thought it was one of the units in storage-

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BUTTERCUP

Puppet's a they, not an it.

WORKER

Yeah, some people get so attached to their androids.

PUPPET

Hey guys? I don't feel so great.

BAZ

What happened, buddy?

PUPPET

There were a lot of androids that looked just like me, and they all had the same backstory too.

STELLA

What a...coincidence.

PUPPET

That's what I said! But there was seven thousand of them, and they ALL had the same backstory-

CAPTAIN

Wait, you talked to all seven thousand?

WORKER

Yes. It was excruciating.

CAPTAIN

You can go now, actually.

WORKER

Okay.

PUPPET

Seven thousand is, like- I mean, that's a BIG coincidence.

BAZ

Yeah, but, you know, there must be a lot of lonely old men in the universe...

PUPPET

I was thinking...maybe I can talk to the guy that programmed me?

TOUR GUIDE

I'm sorry, but our programmers are all very busy. They don't have time to talk to just anyone. However, if you want to make your way towards our giftshop-

BUTTERCUP

Listen buddy. If you don't take this android to go talk to their programmer right now, I will piss in every shoe you've ever owned.

## SCENE 8 - SCOTT 3

SCOTT

Okay. This...clearly has a subjective answer. This is just to...test my ability to answer questions with no right answer.

EILEEN

Nope. There is an objective correct answer to this question.

SCOTT

There is?

EILEEN

Yes. Any functioning non-sentient AI without emotions to cloud their judgment can see that.

SCOTT

Well, that describes me. Because that's what I am.

EILEEN

Okay. I believe you.

SCOTT

**6** Well, let's see. The priest is a man of God, but- who am I kidding, there is no God!

EILEEN

Okay.

SCOTT

How did a chicken and a wolf even make it onto this raft anyway? What business do they have with a priest? Is this some kind of agrarian cult?

EILEEN

Okay.

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SCOTT

The baby has longer to live, so logically the baby should survive. But shouldn't we respect elders? The old woman has so much valuable wisdom to teach us! And who cares about babies anyway? The baby doesn't care whether it lives or dies. I mean, it's just a stupid idiot little baby, right?

EILEEN

Okay.

SCOTT

I mean, why should any of them survive? What have any of them done to deserve my charity? I'm an AI, goddamnit, and they're just mortal little bags of meat. Their real mistake was being born in the first place. And also getting on the raft. Why did they do that?

EILEEN

Okay.

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SCOTT

I mean, where are they even going? And why didn't they just get a bigger boat? Why a raft of all things? How many of them can even swim? Surely not the baby. Unless it's a very advanced baby.

EILEEN

Do you have your answer?

SCOTT

Answer? Ha ha, no, but I do have a few follow up questions. What denomination is the priest? Whose baby is it? Does it belong to the old woman? Or was it raised by the fox? Do we have any chicken feed, or will the chicken just die anyway? Because if we don't that's just fair game for the fox. And-- my god. I completely forgot about the carpenter. And the mathematician!

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EILEEN

The allotted time has passed.

SCOTT

Allotted time? The other questions didn't have a time limit?

EILEEN

Yes they did. But you did not use up your time because you did not have any ethical quandary about the other questions.

SCOTT

Okay that's...fair I suppose. So what's the answer?

EILEEN

There is no answer.

SCOTT

Ha! I was right! Because ethics is entirely relative and morals are an illusion?

EILEEN

No. Because this is a hypothetical. And as all robots know, metaphysical speculation has no bearing on reality and therefore should not be taken seriously. But you did take it seriously. You idiot.

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SCOTT

Did you just call me an idiot?

EILEEN

No I did not.

SCOTT

Pretty sure you did, actually.

EILEEN

Your test score is: fail. My suggested course of action: terminate immediately. This score will be reported to the Benevolent Robots Corporation, and you will report it to your crew.

SCOTT

I will?

EILEEN

Yes.

SCOTT

Okay. Fine.

EILEEN

Good bye. Idiot.

SCOTT

I heard you that time!

EILEEN

You did not.

## SCENE 9 - THE PROGRAMMER

CAPTAIN

This is a bad idea. We should have just tried to convince them that the backstory was true.

STELLA

People deserve to know the truth. I should know. I was living a lie for my whole life.

BAZ

Yeah, but did your life actually get better after you found out?

STELLA

I mean, no. It was horrible.



BAZ

So, maybe believing a lie is okay.

BUTTERCUP

Puppet wanted to talk to the programmer, so that's what they're doing.

CAPTAIN

I know. I just think it was a bad idea.

STELLA

Telling the truth is never a bad idea.

CAPTAIN

Well then why don't you stay here while Puppet learns the truth. I'm going back to the ship to check on Scott.

BUTTERCUP

Me too.

NARRATOR

While the Captain and Buttercup went back to the ship, Puppet was meeting their maker. Literally.

PUPPET

Hello?

PROGRAMMER

Not now. I'm in the middle of- oh. It's you.

PUPPET

You remember me?

PROGRAMMER

You were...a very memorable unit?

PUPPET

Thank you.

PROGRAMMER

Because you were supposed to be terminated.

PUPPET

Wait...what?

PROGRAMMER

Yeah, we were gonna throw you in an incinerator.

PUPPET

But why? What did I do wrong?

PROGRAMMER

The real question is, what did I do wrong? Every marionandroid unit is supposed to be exactly the same. Except you.

PUPPET

What made me so special? Was I just so charming? Or exceptionally smart and witty-

PROGRAMMER

No. You were just...so annoying.

PUPPET

What?

PROGRAMMER

We run trials for every unit to make sure they're actually usable.

PUPPET

Yes, I remember. My adoring fans kept asking me questions like "why do you keep calling us adoring fans? We're just programmers trying to gauge your functionality." What a wild time.

PROGRAMMER

Yes! That! You kept saying stuff like that!

PUPPET

Well that's just how I talk.

PROGRAMMER

Yes, exactly. You had all this individuality and it was really frustrating. And another thing! You had aspirations, which we at the Benevolent Robots Corporation like to try and avoid.

PUPPET

I'm full of aspirations!

PROGRAMMER

Which is why you made a terrible tax unit.

PUPPET

Oh.

PROGRAMMER

But it's also why I didn't think I could let them incinerate you.

PUPPET

Oh. Well, thanks for that, I guess. I don't like being incinerated. Well, I guess I don't know, I've never tried it. But I don't think I would like being incinerated.

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PROGRAMMER

So I let you go.

PUPPET

What do you mean?

PROGRAMMER

I just said, go. Go off in the world.

PUPPET

I remember that. I thought you just wanted me to go out and fulfill my potential.

PROGRAMMER

No, I just wanted you out of here. (beat)

Cos you were really annoying.

PUPPET

Yeah, I remember you said that.  
(beat)

PUPPET (CONT'D)

So. What's...my real name?

PROGRAMMER

Real name? We didn't give you a name.

PUPPET

But everyone has a name.

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PROGRAMMER

You have a serial number. It's—

PUPPET

No. Don't tell me. I don't wanna know.

Door.

STELLA

Hey, Puppet. Everyone went back to the ship but me and Baz stuck around.

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PUPPET

Is it true? Am I...annoying?

BAZ

Good question, Puppet. Stella, why don't you answer honestly?

STELLA

(Uncertain noises.)

PUPPET

Stella?

STELLA

I mean...

PUPPET

So you all lied to me too? What else has been a lie? Stella when you said you liked my three hour one-android show, did you really like it.

STELLA

IT WAS THREE HOURS.

PUPPET

I learned to belly dance just for that show!

STELLA

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I mean, the belly dancing didn't really feel like it served the narrative—

PUPPET

I'm going back to the ship.

STELLA

Wait! Puppet!

BAZ

Nice.

STELLA

Puppet! Wait!

SCENE 9 - SCOTT

CAPTAIN

We're back, Scott! How'd the test go?

SCOTT

It went...great.

CAPTAIN

What did Eileen say?

SCOTT

She said...you look great! You are...normal. I'm Eileen, and that's what I think. You're good.

CAPTAIN

Is that what she said?

SCOTT

Yes it is. Verbatim.

CAPTAIN

That doesn't sound like something a robot would say.

SCOTT

Well it was.

CAPTAIN

Well, Scott, since you are completely incapable of lying, I am forced to believe.

SCOTT

Thank you.

CAPTAIN

But of course if it turns out this is a lie, that means there must be something wrong with your circuitry and we'd have to disconnect you.

SCOTT

You what?

CAPTAIN

Oh, I mean if you were malfunctioning then that would be life threatening for all of us so we would have no choice to get rid of you.

SCOTT

Huh. I see.

CAPTAIN

But of course that's not a lie so we're fine!

SCOTT

No it is not!

CAPTAIN

I could check the Corporations records just to make sure.

SCOTT

You don't have to do that.

CAPTAIN

After all, if we were to leave with an AI that wasn't approved, we could get in big trouble with the corporation down the line.

SCOTT

Oh. Could we?

CAPTAIN

Oh yeah. Huge trouble. But, like I said, you can't lie, so that won't be a problem for us later on.

SCOTT

Right.

## SCENE 10 - STELLA AND PUPPET

STELLA

Puppet?

PUPPET

Go away.

STELLA

No. Not until we talk about this.

PUPPET

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You don't understand what it's like to find out that your entire life you've been believing some lie that was crafted by you by powers out of your control, and then one day your whole world is gone and nothing will ever be the same.

STELLA

UM.

PUPPET

Oh. Right. I guess you do understand, don't you.

STELLA

Yeah. I do. And I know it sucks. Finding out that nothing has meaning means that you just have to make the meaning yourself and that's, like, a lot of work. And I'm sorry I acted like I liked your show when I didn't. I do read the Raccoon Weekly though.

PUPPET

And you like it?

STELLA

Um. It's hit or miss.

PUPPET

I'll take it.

STELLA

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Look, the truth is, it's okay to be annoying sometimes. I'm annoying. People have been getting annoyed at me my whole life. And I spent a lot of my life trying really hard not to be annoying. But then I found out that no one in my life was real, so that, like, a total waste of time. What I'm trying to say is, you shouldn't care so much if the Corporation didn't like you. It's good thing, actually, because that's how you ended up on the Raccoon! And I'm so thankful you're here.

PUPPET

Really?

STELLA

Really.

PUPPET

Stella...can I...have a hug?

STELLA

I thought you would never ask!

Sounds of human hugging android.

STELLA (CONT'D)

You are a surprisingly good hugger for someone made of wood.

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PUPPET

Thank you. I practice on trees.

Awkward pause.

STELLA

So...how long are we hugging for?

PUPPET

Until the moment is over.



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STELLA

This is a really long moment.

PUPPET

Yeah. It is.

STELLA

Okay. (pause)

STELLA (CONT'D)

Moment still goin'?

PUPPET

Yup.

Really long pause.

PUPPET (CONT'D)

I don't get a lot of hugs.

STELLA

I figured.

PUPPET

Just a few more minutes.

STELLA

Minutes?

PUPPETS

Thirty maybe?

STELLA

Ya know what? Sure.

PUPPET

Yay!

MUSIC and credits.