

The Stench of Adventure Season 2: Episode 6 - Beating a
Dead
Horse

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PROLOGUE - BROTHER

Birds chirping. Nature. An idyllic afternoon on the horse planet of Chincoteague. Sounds of cardboard shuffling. Knocking on the door.

MOTHER **2**

Younger child?

CAPTAIN

Oh. Um. Yes?

MOTHER

Would you go feed the humans?
They're getting restless.

CAPTAIN

Could you...um...could you give
me a minute? I'm working on
something.

MOTHER

They're biting at the fence with
their flat little human teeth.

CAPTAIN

Can you just...can you get my
brother to do it?

MOTHER

He's already busy ploughing.

CAPTAIN

Okay fine. Just give me a minute.

MOTHER

What are you doing in there?

CAPTAIN

Nothing.

MOTHER

Classic teenager shenanigans?

CAPTAIN

I don't do shenanigans.

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MOTHER

Drugs?

CAPTAIN

No.

MOTHER

I sure hope it's drugs. Your father and I had an ivermectin phase back in college.

CAPTAIN

It's not drugs, mom. Also don't tell me those things. I don't wanna know.

MOTHER

Listening to rock and roll music?

CAPTAIN

It's not- wouldn't you be able to hear it if I were listening to music?

MOTHER

You could be listening very quietly. Oh! Do you have a secret friend over?

CAPTAIN

I don't have any friends, let alone secret ones. Also ew. Gross.

MOTHER

Well if it's none of those things, I can't imagine what a teenage horse is doing so secretively in their room when they're supposed to be doing chores.

CAPTAIN

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It's worse than all of those things. It worse than you can possibly imagine.

MOTHER

I sure hope so. Now go feed those humans!

Hooves on stairs. Not sure how to Foley this but I'll figure it out.

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Humans mooing.

CAPTAIN

Yeah, I hear you. Calm down. Stop that. Don't touch me. Humans are gross and weird and you have tiny teeth and they freak me out. Why did I get stuck with feeding today, anyway? Today was supposed to be my ploughing day. Why does he always get to-

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Noise of something gone amiss.

CAPTAIN (CONT'D)

That doesn't sound good.

SCENE 1 - THE PLAN

SCOTT

Captain?

CAPTAIN

Yes, Scott?

SCOTT

I can't help but notice that the next planet you've put in our queue is not part of our collection route.

CAPTAIN

Oh. Yeah. Don't worry about it.

BAZ

What's that about, Captain?

CAPTAIN

Um. Spontaneous. Garbage. Collection.

STELLA

You're being spontaneous?

CAPTAIN

Sometimes I can be spontaneous. I can partake in shenanigans.

BUTTECUP

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I have never seen you do one shenangian.

CAPTAIN

Well believe you me: I am
perfectly capable of shenanigans.

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PUPPET

Mmmmmmm

CAPTAIN

I am!

PUPPET

(higher pitched)

Mmmmmmm

BAZ

Okay seriously what's this extra
stop about!

CAPTAIN

It's not "about" anything! I'm
the only one who's even getting
off there so you all can just
wait for me to be done and then
we can leave and forget it
happened.

BAZ

Okay. So...what planet is it?

CAPTAIN

I will not tell you.

BUTTERCUP

Scott, what planet is it?

SCOTT

I will tell you!

CAPTAIN

Scott no.

SCOTT

It's Chincoteague.

Collective gasp.

BUTTERCUP

You're going home?

CAPTAIN

I just figured...I mean, what with the black hole and all...maybe I should let my parents know that I'm not dead?

PUPPET

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Are we gonna all come over to your house again? The lasagna sure was scrumptious!

CAPTAIN

You couldn't eat the lasagna. You're an android.

PUPPET

I know. But I could tell. That was some good lasagna.

THEED

It was.

BAZ

I didn't see you eat any lasagna, Theed.

THEED

I don't like to eat in front of other people because I have been told when I eat it is monstrous to behold.

BAZ

Well now I gotta see it!

BUTTERCUP

No thank you. Baz is already monstrous enough. I don't think I can behold anymore.

PUPPET

So can we go? Please?

CAPTAIN

No! This should be...a private visit.

STELLA

I mean, someone should come with you. It's never a good idea to visit your parents alone.

CAPTAIN

Oh, and you had such a good relationship with your parents that you're gonna coach me?

STELLA

My parents weren't real.

CAPTAIN

And somehow you still managed to have a bad relationship with them.

STELLA

I mean, did any of us have a good relationship with our parents.

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ALL

No.

GERALD

I did.

BUTTERCUP

(sarcastic)

Good for you Gerald.

GERALD

Therapy taught me how to cultivate healthy relationships.

STELLA

Huh. Maybe Gerald should be the one to go with you to see your parents.

GERALD

Nope.

STELLA

Why not?

GERALD

Don't wanna.

CAPTAIN

Alright fine. One person can come with me.

ALL

(ad libbing)

Me me me! Pick me!

CAPTAIN

Scott.

SCOTT

Oh. Um. Captain. While I am touched that you want me to meet your parents, that's really a big step in our friendship that I'm not ready to make. I mean, I haven't a thing to wear! Mostly because I don't wear clothes—

CAPTAIN

Scott I wasn't inviting you.

SCOTT

Oh. Of course not. I'm a computer. Silly me.

CAPTAIN

I was saying that as a non-sentient AI, you're completely impartial, so you can randomly choose who goes with me.

SCOTT

Right. Yes. Random. That's me. Impartial. That's also me.

CAPTAIN

...yes it is.

SCOTT

I pick....

ALL

Yes?

SCOTT

Stella.

STELLA

Oh.

CAPTAIN

No. Pick again.

SCOTT

Too late! It's decided.

BAZ

No fair.

SCOTT

Actually, extremely fair.

CAPTAIN

Okay fine. Since Scott is incapable of bias, Stella comes with me. Everyone else...I don't know. Look after the Raccoon and try no to explode anything.

PUPPET

No promises!

BUTTERCUP

They don't mean that.

PUPPET

I do!

CAPTAIN

So do I, um...do I look okay? Not that it matters. But...do I.

STELLA

Are you still wearing the sunglasses from the singularity?

CAPTAIN

What? No. I mean, oh what do you know, I guess I am. Huh. Funny I didn't even notice.

STELLA

Why are you still wearing them.

CAPTAIN

I....I thought they made me look cool.

BUTTERCUP

They don't. They make you look like a horse wearing sunglasses.

SCENE 2 - RACCOON 1

NARRATOR

Without the Captain and Stella present, the Raccoon, strangely enough, did not descend into chaos. For Baz, this was truly a tragedy, because it meant she was faced with her age old nemesis: boredom.

BAZ

This is stupid.

BUTTERCUP

You actually wanted to go see the Captain's parents that badly?

BAZ

I mean...I just like Chincoteague...and horses...and I...I mean, it's just like, Stella and the Captain spent all that time together in the black hole already, and now, like, they're going on a field trip together? It's like...okay. Weird. It's not like Stella would be on the ship in the first place if it weren't for me.

BUTTERCUP

(amused)

Oh my god. Baz. Are you jealous?

BAZ

Um, no? I have never been jealous of anyone. I mean, I guess I have before, but as we all know I'm great at stealing things so my jealousy is usually pretty quickly resolved.

BUTTERCUP

I can't believe it. You're jealous that the Captain is spending so much time with her! You wish you got sucked into a black hole!

BAZ

What? No I don't. Getting sucked into a black hole with Stella would be like...no. Don't wanna do that. Opposite of what I want.

BUTTERCUP

This is hilarious.

BAZ

It's not.

BUTTERCUP

It is. Your pain is hilarious.

SCENE 3 - RACCOON 2

PUPPET

Hey Scott?

SCOTT

Yes Puppet?

PUPPET

You know that whole thing where you have feelings but we're keeping that a secret just in case the corporation finds out and has to delete your program, effectively killing you?

SCOTT

Yes, Puppet. I am aware.

PUPPET

Well it got me thinking. You can't really pick anything randomly, can you?

SCOTT

No. I cannot.

PUPPET

So why Stella?

SCOTT

Well, while I may not be as impartial as your average AI, I still am a computer. I did some quick calculations.

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PUPPET

Oh cool. I wish I could do math.

SCOTT

You're an android, Puppet. You're made of math.

PUPPET

Yes but I don't like to think about it.

SCOTT

I imagined a scenario in which each member accompanied the Captain, and based on simple cause and effect I concluded that Stella's accompaniment would be least disastrous.

PUPPET

Disasterous? How could visiting the Captain's parents end up being disastrous?

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SCOTT

For instance, I calculated that if Theed went, they would end up trapped at the bottom of a large hole.

PUPPET

That seems highly unlikely.

SCOTT

Math doesn't lie, Puppet.

Door.

PUPPET

Hey Baz. What's up?

BAZ

Up? Nothing's up. Why would something be up?

PUPPET

Well you're making a face kinda like this.

BAZ

Am not.

ALL

(ad libbed)

Yeah actually that's like exactly what your face looks like.

BAZ

Sometimes my face just looks like that, okay? Leave me alone.

Door.

PUPPET

That was weird.

SCOTT

My calculations agree with you.

SCENE 4 - PARENTS

Nature.

STELLA

Thanks for taking me along, Captain.

CAPTAIN

It was not my choice.

STELLA

I mean, you could have said no.

CAPTAIN

I tried.

STELLA

Yeah. I guess you did.

CAPTAIN

Whoa, look out for that large hole.

STELLA

Oh! That could have been a disaster.

Beat.

STELLA (CONT'D)

Why didn't you want to take me,
anyway?

CAPTAIN

Um, oh, I don't know, last time
we were here together we had a
huge fight and I fired you?

STELLA

Oh. Right.

CAPTAIN

So it would be nice not to
revisit that.

STELLA

Well, we won't.

CAPTAIN

Sure.

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Knock.

CAPTAIN (CONT'D)

Mother? Father?

MOTHER

Oh hello there! We thought you
were dead!

CAPTAIN

Yeah, I know, and that's why-
wait why you sound so normal
about this?

FATHER

Who is it?

MOTHER

It's our dead child!

FATHER

Which one?

MOTHER

The second one.

FATHER
(disappointed)

Oh.

CAPTAIN
How did you, um, hear about it?
Was it on the news, or-

MOTHER
Well, you know, news travels
slowly around here. Especially
little things like stuff about
garbage ships.

CAPTAIN
Right.

MOTHER
It was actually our neighbor who
came by and told us they heard
about a garbage ship that fell
into a black hole.

CAPTAIN
And, uh, how did you respond?

MOTHER
I said "that's a shame."

FATHER
It's true. She did.

MOTHER
Er, um. Come in! We can- We
weren't expecting you, since we
thought you were dead and
everything, but you can have,
um...leftovers.

CAPTAIN
We don't need to eat.

STELLA
I'd eat leftovers.

CAPTAIN
Stella!

MOTHER

Oh, right. Your friend Stella.
We're not...not quite as prepared
as we were last time. But let me
get you something to eat.

STELLA

Your parents seem...different
than I remember.

CAPTAIN

Really? They seem the same to me.

STELLA

It's just, I remember them being
so nice.

CAPTAIN

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And they're still being nice.
See, she's heating you up
leftovers. But "nice parents"
does not equal "good parents."

FATHER

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Did you mention the name?

MOTHER

No, not yet.

CAPTAIN

A name? You gave me a name?

MOTHER

Well, yes and no.

FATHER

Not a name name.

MOTHER

But everyone thought you were
dead.

FATHER

So instead of referring to you as
The Captain--

MOTHER

Everyone now calls you Dead
Horse.

CAPTAIN

People are seriously calling me that?

MOTHER

Well not often.

FATHER

We don't talk about you much, so--

MOTHER

I mean, even the people who you used to know back home don't really mention you that often--

CAPTAIN

Right. I get it. (beat) Did...did anyone show up to the funeral?

MOTHER

Funeral?

FATHER

Oh. Oh I knew there was something we forgot to do.

CAPTAIN

You forgot to have my funeral?

MOTHER

Well, we were just so busy with the farm, and you know your father has taken up painting--

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FATHER

It's very difficult with hooves, but, you know, I try my best--

CAPTAIN

I can't believe this. Your own child dies and you don't even have a funeral?

MOTHER

Well we already had one. All those years ago. And it was so sad!

FATHER

We figured, do we really wanna go through all that again?

STELLA

Um. If it's alright for me to ask-

CAPTAIN

It's not.

STELLA

What happened to your other child?

MOTHER

It was the strangest thing, really.

FATHER

Tractor accident.

MOTHER

Ploughing wheat for the humans.

FATHER

Very messy.

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STELLA

Ploughing wheat is messy?

FATHER

Well, yes, but I meant getting killed by a tractor. Also very messy.

MOTHER

And it was so ironic, because it wasn't even his turn to be ploughing that day.

STELLA

You all don't seem...I mean you seem really chill about it.

FATHER

Well, horse have a tendency not to emote too much. That's just the way it goes, right? Sometimes your son gets run over by a tractor.

MOTHER

We found messy little emotions get in the way of what's important in life.

STELLA

So...what's important in life?

FATHER

Well, I just took up painting.

CAPTAIN

Right. Okay. We're gonna go now.

MOTHER

But what about the-

CAPTAIN

It's fine, mother. We have...we have trash to collect. And black holes to not fall into.

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Door.

SCENE 5 - RACCOON 3

PUPPET

Hey Buttercup?

BUTTERCUP

I'm busy.

PUPPET

Do you know what's going on with Baz?

BUTTERCUP

Heh. Nothing. She's just upset cos she's in love with Stella or whatever.

PUPPET

Wait, really? Baz is in love with Stella?

BUTTERCUP

No, I mean, I'm just- I'm just making fun of her-

PUPPET

There is love? Love on our very ship?

BUTTECUP

No. Probably not. It's just a thing that I said.

PUPPET

I can't believe it!

BUTTERCUP

Good. Because it's not true.

PUPPET

Baz and Stella! In love!

BUTTERCUP

Nope.

PUPPET

I gotta go gossip right now! I gotta go tell Scott!

SCOTT

I already heard! I am omnipresent on the Raccoon.

PUPPET

Yes but it feels more like hot gos if I tell you. Meet me in the server room!

SCOTT

I am omnipresent on the Raccoon, so yes. I will meet you in the server room. I am already there.

Puppet running. Door.

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PUPPET

Scott!

SCOTT

That's my name!

PUPPET

You'll never guess what I just heard!

SCOTT

I don't need to guess, because I was there. But I'll pretend like I don't know, so that you can share the hot gos. What is it, Puppet?

PUPPET

Baz and Stella are in love!

SCOTT

No!

SCENE 6 - AFTERMATH

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Humans mooing.

STELLA

Hey.

CAPTAIN

Oh. You're still here.

STELLA

Yeah, well, we came on the same
space ship, so...

Beat.

STELLA (CONT'D)

You're not even wearing yours
singularity sunglasses anymore.

CAPTAIN

Of course I'm not.

STELLA

But they made you look cool!

CAPTAIN

They made me look like a horse
wearing sunglasses and you know
it.

Long pause. Humans mooing.

STELLA

I can't even imagine.

CAPTAIN

I know.

STELLA

No I mean like, I can't even
imagine a horse using a tractor.
Like, how do you use your
hooves--

CAPTAIN

Are you serious?

STELLA

Yeah, I mean, it's seems
impractical--

CAPTAIN

My brother died, Stella.

STELLA

Right. Sorry.

CAPTAIN

Is this some kind of joke to you?

STELLA

No. It is not.

CAPTAIN

I don't have a sense of humor,
but if I did, how would you feel
if I made jokes about you? If I
said, haha, your boyfriend and
best friend were murdered in
front of you?

STELLA

Bad. I would feel bad.

CAPTAIN

Yeah I bet you would.

STELLA

I'm sorry.

CAPTAIN

It's fine.

STELLA

Is it.

CAPTAIN

Yeah. It's fine.

Beat.

CAPTAIN (CONT'D)

What do you want, Stella? Here to lecture me again about how I need to be nicer to my parents?

STELLA

No. Actually, that...that sucked. Like, for you. That sucked.

CAPTAIN

Yes. Yes it did suck.

STELLA

And I'm sorry I ever gave you a hard time about your relationship with your parents. You were right when you said that I didn't know about your life.

CAPTAIN

I also remember telling you that no one liked me. Was I right about that too?

(beat)

Was I, Stella? Now that you've seen a little bit more about how people on my own planet think of me?

STELLA

No! No, you were still wrong about that.

CAPTAIN

Well then I guess you're still learning.

STELLA

No, I'm not. You have a whole crew that-- that really cares about you.

CAPTAIN

But haven't you heard, Stella? I don't have a crew. I'm not the Captain anymore. I'm just Dead Horse.

STELLA

Oh come on! You still have a crew. And they still care about you.

CAPTAIN

They couldn't come up with
anything to say for my eulogy.

STELLA

Yeah but that's kinda on you.

CAPTAIN

What?

STELLA

Seriously, you should try
oversharing some time. It's
great. You'll never have to worry
about having a boring funeral
ever again.

CAPTAIN

I'm not gonna overshare.

STELLA

Just a little. Tell me one thing.
One thing you've never told me
before.

CAPTAIN

No. I will not.

STELLA

You know you want to.

CAPTAIN

I do not know that.

STELLA

One thing. Just one thing.

Beat.

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CAPTAIN

I...like to do jigsaw puzzles.

STELLA

That...is the most boring secret
I've ever heard.

CAPTAIN

What?

STELLA

Do another one. Right now. Go.

CAPTAIN

You said one!

STELLA

Well that one wasn't even interesting! Jigsaw puzzles? Everyone likes jigsaw puzzles!

CAPTAIN

They do? I thought that was, like, embarrassing. Like, ew, jigsaw puzzles.

STELLA

Nope. You get no points for that one. Do another one. Now.

CAPTAIN

I'd have to think about it.

STELLA

Ugh. Fine. But when you think of your deep dark embarrassing secret, you have to tell me immediately, okay?

CAPTAIN

I don't know why I'm agreeing to this, but fine.

Beat.

STELLA

Do you...do you want a hug?

CAPTAIN

What? No. Don't touch me.

STELLA

Okay.

Very long and very uncomfortable pause.

CAPTAIN

Okay fine.

SCENE 7 - RACCOON 4

NARRATOR

And so Stella and The Captain
went back to the Raccoon, feeling
just a tiny tiny bit closer than
before.

BAZ

Soooo? How'd it go?

CAPTAIN

No comment.

STELLA

Amazing!

BAZ

Tell me everything.

CAPTAIN

There's nothing to tell. Though I
will say, we never did figure out
what the deal was with that huge
pit.

SCOTT

Told you so.

PUPPET

Wow!

CAPTAIN

Well I've got to go do
some...actually I lied, I don't
have anything to do, I just wanna
get away from people.

STELLA

I get that.

Door.

PUPPET

Captain?

CAPTAIN

Ah! How did I not hear you
following me?

PUPPET

I am a master of stealth! Anyway, I have an important question for you: Do you think that Baz and Stella are in love?

CAPTAIN

What? No. Why? Do you think they're in love?

PUPPET

Yes.

CAPTAIN

Prevent it at all costs. There will be no love on my ship. The emotions you people bring with you are already messy enough.

PUPPET

You can't stop love Captain!

CAPTAIN

But I can make a firm mandate against it.

PUPPET

You don't think love is a beautiful thing?

CAPTAIN

Eh.

PUPPET

Really?

CAPTAIN

It's not for me.

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PUPPET

That's okay.

CAPTAIN

I know.

PUPPET

I would love to fall in love one day. With another robot--

CAPTAIN

Why a robot?

PUPPET

I don't know. I always thought another robot would understand me better? But a living organism! Then it would be forbidden love!

CAPTAIN

In what way is that forbidden?

PUPPET

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It's hard to find love when you live the transient life style of a trash collector. No domestic humdrum life for me. I was born to roam. And collect trash.

CAPTAIN

Actually you were born to work in an assembly line until you malfunction.

PUPPET

Oh yeah.

CAPTAIN

But Puppet?

PUPPET

Yeah?

CAPTAIN

Keep me updated on the situation.

PUPPET

(disappointed)

So I can thwart any sign of inter-crew romance?

CAPTAIN

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No, actually I- to be honest, I kinda wanna see what happens.

THEME MUSIC AND CREDITS.