

"Absent-sea Ballot"
A Here Be Dragons Election Day Mini-Sode

by

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Black Lace and Laser Beams
Productions

PROLOGUE

INT. Harper's Room, U.S.S. Rusalka - NIGHT

Peace. Quiet. The soft sounds of the submarine. And then, shattering the silence... The intercom.

SCARLETT
Good morning ladies!

HARPER
(moans) No, god... WHY?

SCARLETT
This is your commander speaking. I want everyone to please report to Ops, IMMEDIATELY, for a crew meeting. Double-stat! Thank you.

Harper groans and rolls over in bed.

HARPER
Mmm... Five more minutes.

SCARLETT
I said, IMMEDIATELY. That means NOW. And that means YOU, HARPER.

FADE TO:

SCENE ONE

INT. Ops, U.S.S. Rusalka - NIGHT

The crew has gathered, somewhat sleepily, wrapped in pajamas and blankets, and sit together around the consoles.

SCARLETT
Thank you all for joining me so promptly. Now that we're all met-

ATLAS
What happened? Who's in trouble this time?

SCARLETT
I-... What? Why do you automatically assume somebody's in trouble?

HARPER
You woke us up at four in the morning.

SCARLETT

Well-... I assumed at least one of you
would be up-

PIP

You used your "Captain Voice."

SCARLETT

What? I don't have a captain voi-

ATLAS

Somebody's ALWAYS in trouble.

SCARLETT

Guilty conscience, doctor?

ATLAS

I said somebody's always in trouble, I
never said it was me. Honestly I don't
know why you make me come to these
anymore, it's always the Twins.

PIP

Hey!

SCARLETT

Nobody's in trouble!

HARPER

Oh god, are we sinking?!

SCARLETT

No!

PIP

Is it Keera again?!

SCARLETT

No, GOD, no!

ATLAS

Oh lord, we've run out of coffee!

SCARLETT

IT'S ELECTION SEASON.

beat.

HARPER

What?

SCARLETT

It's election season. We're filing out our absentee ballots.

ATLAS

I'm going back to bed.

SCARLETT

No you're not! This is a group activity! We are bonding, damnit. We're doing our civic duty!

HARPER

It's four in the morning!

SCARLETT

Democracy doesn't sleep, Harper, and neither do we. Pick up a pen.

PIP

We couldn't have done this during our morning meeting?

HARPER

Yeah, AT SEVEN?! You know... THREE HOURS FROM NOW?!

SCARLETT

Nope, we have OTHER things to discuss at morning meeting. Like, where all our spoons have gone, and WHY OUR ONE GOOD SHOWER IS FULL OF FISH EGGS.

HARPER

(looking at Pip) Oh...

PIP

(looking at Harper) Crap.

SCARLETT

Yeah! So put on your red, white and blues, girls. It's time to be the change!

Scarlett drops an ENORMOUS stack of absentee ballots on to the table.

SCARLETT

And I've prepared an in-depth briefing on each of the candidates, so if you have any questions, please don't

hesitate to ask.

Scarlett looks around expectantly, but is met only with a stunned silence.

SCARLETT

Seriously? None of you have questions? Come on! I have a powerpoint and a fun little soundtrack and everything! I make clever puns about all the candidates! No... nobody?

HARPER

Is that-

SCARLETT

A ballot from every state. Yes.

ATLAS

HOW?!

SCARLETT

It was my one condition to accepting the job from Killian -- that he provide us with a means to vote in every election.

ATLAS

THAT was your condition?!

SCARLETT

Of course! I wasn't going to waste it on something ridiculous.

ATLAS

Four ballots. From every state.

SCARLETT

Yup! Go on! There's enough for everyone.

ATLAS

You know that's illegal, right?

SCARLETT

We're not filling them all out! It's in case... I mean it's for... I just... um...

ATLAS

... Scarlet do you-... do you not know

where we're from?

SCARLETT
It never came up in conversation!

ATLAS
Oh my god!

SCARLETT
Oh, I'm sorry, do YOU know where everyone's from?

PIP
Why four? Don't you know where you live?

SCARLETT
I like to be prepared!

HARPER
Yeah, sorry I-... I can't do this.

SCARLETT
Sure you can! See, it's easy, you just pick the ballot from your state, and fill out the little bubbles-

HARPER
No, I mean I really can't. I'm not registered.

SCARLETT
WHAT?!

HARPER
I'm not registered to vote. Anymore. I had to un-register.

SCARLETT
What? why?

HARPER
I-... it's... complicated.

SCARLETT
Harper-

HARPER
Personal safety reasons. There was someone I- ...I had to stay off the grid for a while... So I un-registered

and it just... never really came up.

PIP

Harper-

HARPER

It's fine. I don't wanna talk about it.

SCARLETT

You know a lot of state have a voter confidentiality program in place for situations like... for anyone who, for whatever reason, doesn't want to be found.

HARPER

What?

SCARLETT

It's called an ACP. Address Confidentiality Program. You designate an address of a PO box, and once you have mail sent there, you can be registered to vote and they'll forward all your actual voting materials straight to you. Sometimes they'll even let you register under the address of a shelter.

HARPER

No worries there. I have binders full of addresses. Plenty of places I've called home. I've... done the whole travel thing before.

SCARLETT

Well, you don't have to, if you don't want to. I don't want to push-

HARPER

No, I-... That's... that's okay. Kal-Um. I have an ex-... a... friend... she'd probably be okay with me putting down her address.

SCARLETT

Yes! One more in the name of democracy! Atlas, that just leaves you and me.

ATLAS

Oh? And what makes you assume that?

SCARLETT

Well Pip's like, 12, so she can't vote.

PIP

I'm 19.

SCARLETT

YOU'RE 19 AND YOU'RE NOT REGISTERED TO VOTE?!

She slaps a piece of paper down on the table.

SCARLETT

Fill this out, right now.

PIP

Okay... Um... It's asking for my party? What do I do?

SCARLETT

Tell you a secret kid, party doesn't matter. I mean-... it DOES. But you vote for whichever person best aligns with your morals and personal viewpoint, and the kinds of changes you want to see in the world. Just-here, (she pulls up a screen) look at the power point.

PIP

Okay... Isn't it a little late to be registering?

SCARLETT

You're still okay if you live in-... where are you from?

PIP

I mean... TECHNICALLY D.C.

SCARLETT

You're fine. Register. Atlas!

ATLAS

Oh I definitely can't vote.

HARPER

Because you're a convicted felon?

ATLAS

What? No!

PIP

Really?

ATLAS

Yes!

HARPER

But you and Killian give off such a Bonnie and Clyde vibe!

ATLAS

I'm not a convicted felon!

SCARLETT

Well then you HAVE to vote!

ATLAS

I'm not from this country!

SCARLETT

YOU HAVE A CIVIC- NOPE! No, I take that back! You stay away from my ballots! Harper. Pip. Pens at the ready! Voting commences NOW.

HARPER

But-

SCARLETT

GO! GO! GO!

We hear them filling out their ballots. After a moment, Scarlett leans back in her chair, satisfied. She's a little teary-eyed.

SCARLETT

There! See? Doesn't that feel AMAZING?!

ATLAS

Adrienne are you-... are you crying?

SCARLETT

No! Shut up! I'm just... I just-... One person. One voice. That's all it takes. You just changed the world.

PIP

So... we're like superheroes?

SCARLETT

Better. You're civically active.

PIP

Oh, Atlas says I'm not allowed to be civically active until I pass her course...

ATLAS

That's sexually-... Nevermind.

HARPER

Hey... Scarlett?

SCARLETT

Yes, Harper?

HARPER

So... How do we send these?

beat.

SCARLETT

Damnit! ... Okay! Okay... Does anybody have a bottle?

FADE OUT.

JORDAN

Thank you for joining us for this special "Get Out The Vote" episode of Here Be Dragons. In this special minisode, Harper Bennet and Natalya Atlas were played by Jordan Cobb, Pippa Campbell was played by Cristina Riegel, and Commander Adrienne Scarlett was played by Ellie Gossage. For more information on voter registration, Election Day, and the Address Confidentiality Program, please take a look at our show notes! Here Be Dragons season one will resume soon, with Episode Eleven - The Prophet. Happy Mid-Terms! Until our currents converge again...

END.