

TV SERIES:

PLUNDER COVE

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Episode 1: "The Merry-Go-Round Broke Down"

Teaser

Fade in.

Ext. - Empty weed-covered lot - Day

A small, rust-colored sedan bounces over an access road. The car, spotted with pink patches of body filler, stops near metal poles supporting a worn billboard featuring a giant image, mock postcard style, of a screaming mom, dad, kids, and a pirate, all strapped into a wooden rollercoaster plummeting beneath "PLUNDER COVE MEANS FAMILY FUN."

ELLIOT MARKER, age 17, and his nine-year-old sister, LILLY MARKER, exit sedan. ELLIOT, solid and tall, is a little too serious for his age. LILLY is high-energy, no patience, wild hair and untied shoes. They gather stuff from the car -- backpack shaped like a stuffed horse for LILLY, an old hockey stick for ELLIOT -- and walk toward a chain link fence at the edge of the lot. ELLIOT stops and points at a pretty green snake sunning itself. Gently, he uses the hockey stick to nudge the snake into the grass.

ELLIOT

Watch your step. The biggest part of staying safe is just keeping your eyes open.

LILLY

What's the other part?

ELLIOT

Dumb luck.

Reaching fence, ELLIOT uses the hockey stick to pry a loose part of the chain link away from a post.

LILLY

How come we never use the main gate?

ELLIOT

We've got a special family pass.

LILLY

Our family pass looks a lot like a hockey stick.

ELLIOT pulls fence back a little wider. LILLYly slips through. ELLIOT follows then jams hockey stick into fence so they can get out again later. This is not the first time they've done this.

ELLIOT
Race?

LILLY nods.
Go!

Ext.-Behind Plunder Cove -Day

Brother and sister dash between the chain link fence and a tall, wooden wall which casts their trail in shadow. They're sprinting toward a patch of sunlight where the wall ends and Plunder Cove Amusement Park begins. ELLIOT clearly holds back so LILLY stays in the lead. From ELLIOT's perspective, the head on LILLY's horsey backpack looks like it's laughing at - maybe taunting - him. Together, they burst around the corner of the wooden wall and stop in a small patch of dead grass behind a raucous whirling carnival ride. ELLIOT and LILLY are inside.

And spotted by a park employee.

Park guy
Hey! You kids! You don't belong back there!

ELLIOT (over his shoulder)
Sorry! She needs the facilities!

Park guy (points in opposite direction)
That way!

ELLIOT gives a thank-you wave to the park guy. Takes LILLY by the hand and leads her toward restrooms.

LILLY (yanks her hand away)
Why do you always say *I* need to use the bathroom?

ELLIOT
Cause no matter what, you always have to pee.

LILLY (primly)
Mom says hydration is the most important part of good health.

ELLIOT (gives her side-eye)
Mom thinks wine in a box is a food group. Meet me in the gift shop when you're done. Then we'll head to the merry-go-round.

LILLY (she's been through this exchange before)
It's a *carousel*. An *antique* one.

ELLIOT
And you are a *damoiselle*. A little freak one.

LILLY
That's not nice.

ELLIOT (mocking, rolls eyes)
The *damoiselle* can ride the *carousel* as long as she'd like... Or at least for the rest of the afternoon.

LILLY considers ELLIOT for a moment than launches herself at her brother and wraps him in a big hug.

LILLY
Today you are an excellent big brother.

ELLIOT
Today?

LILLY (pretends to think about it)
Fine. Most days.

ELLIOT (charmed but not showing it)
Go. I don't want pee on my shoe.

LILLY releases ELLIOT, turns, and jogs toward the restroom. ELLIOT pauses to check out the scrappy amusement park which is less like Disney World and more like a tired, travelling carnival. Sun-bleached, frayed flags snap in the wind. Rides, half full, whip around old tracks. The kid running the Mr. Softee booth has no customers so he makes a giant cone for himself. In the distance, a marching band begins "The Merry-Go-Round Broke Down" (aka The Looney Tunes Cartoon theme).

END TEASER