

COVERAGE PRACTICE

TITLE: *BoJack Horseman* "Time's Arrow"
LOCALE: Hollywoo
WRITER(S): Kate Purdy
PERIOD: Modern day 2000's
FORM: Script
GENRE: Animated half hour sitcom
BUDGET: N/A
PAGES: 40
DRAFT DATE: 11/30/2016
COVERAGE DATE: 07/13/2023
PREPARED BY: Alex Block

LOGLINE: As Bojack drives her to a nursing home, Beatrice Horseman relives her core memories and hardships.

SYNOPSIS:

In her early life, Beatrice is bullied at school and comes down with scarlet fever. Now, we jump to Beatrice's debutante party, which she does not enjoy. Her father attempts to fix Beatrice up with Corbin Creamerman for business purposes, but they fail to hit it off. At the party, Beatrice runs into Butterscotch Horseman. Beatrice flakes off from her own party to sleep with Butterscotch.

Two weeks later, Butterscotch is gone, and Beatrice goes on another date with Corbin. Just when things start to work out for her, Beatrice discovers she's pregnant. She and Butterscotch decide to marry and move to California.

The marriage is a complete shit show that both Beatrice and Butterscotch blame on BoJack. Butterscotch has an affair with the maid, Henrietta, and knocks her up. Having the child could ruin Henrietta's life; thus, Beatrice begs her not to make the same mistake as her. Beatrice hands Henrietta's baby, Hollyhock, to the adoption agency.

Present day: Bojack and Beatrice make it to the nursing home. Suddenly, Beatrice recognizes Bojack, and he paints her a nice false picture of the nursing home.

COMMENTS

OVERALL

It's an interesting side episode that explains the life of Beatrice and why she is a bitch. It's an original fall-from-grace story with no real happy ending for Beatrice. The characters are unique and stand out from each other with different personalities. It also uses an experimental structure to play with our sense of time; however, the use of time undermines the episode's title.

STORY

This is a biography episode of a secondary character. For this, the role of the protagonist shifts from BoJack to Beatrice. It's more of a spin-off episode that exists for background lore.

Given that it's a biography setup, there's not a clear goal that drives the plot. The acts are divided by Beatrice's life moments. Act 1 showcases Beatrice's early life and how she and Butterscotch came together. Act 2 focuses on the crappy Marriage between Beatrice and Butterscotch, which leads to Butterscotch's affair with Henrietta. Act 3 comes full circle, where Henrietta's pregnancy represents the younger Beatrice's pregnancy. Beatrice helps Henrietta with her ordeal by doing what she wishes she did with BoJack years ago.

Acts 1, 2, and 3, are the A plot. The teaser and tag take the B plot between Bojack and Beatrice in the present. In the beginning, Beatrice mistreats Bojack because she doesn't see him. In the end, Beatrice finally sees Bojack and gives him the opportunity he always wanted to treat her rotten. Bojack instead shows

her kindness, and the two finally share a nice moment between mother and son.

The teaser passes the spotlight from BoJack to Beatrice as the main character. It starts with BoJack's POV and abruptly shifts to Beatrice's dementia state of mind. The dialog before the shift works to paint Beatrice's POV so audiences understand the reality shifts.

CHARACTERS

Bojack works as a connecting device between the usual episodes and this special episode. He's rightfully bitter and mad at his mom.

Beatrice

She is the protagonist of this episode. She's a very different person between the different periods of her life. As a child, she's painted as very innocent, brought on by the bullies' and her dad's treatment of her. In her twenties, Beatrice is a strong, educated, independent woman trapped by her social status. Despite being smart, her anger towards her father leads her to make bad choices, allowing her to fall in with Butterscotch. As a wife, Beatrice is more hateful and bitter, with no hopes for the future. Her coldness makes her the only one who can help Henrietta.

Joseph

He is Beatrice's father with very misogynist ideals. He clearly wants what he thinks is best for Beatrice but doesn't express it the right way. He's a much better parent than Beatrice and Butterscotch since he does what's right for Beatrice; he nurses her back to health, he tries to keep Honey away from her, and he tries to set her up with a man who can provide for her.

His attitude does not make him parent of the year as he lacks sympathy for Beatrice, as summarized by his can-do spirit when he burns Beatrice's doll in front of her. His misogynist ideas buttheads with Beatrice's intelligence and independence, thus driving a wedge between the two characters. It pushes Beatrice away from the good life he sets up for her and helps lead to her downfall.

Butterscotch

A delusional writer who thinks he's got the next great American novel, and anyone who thinks differently is shit. His ego blinds him from being the father and husband his family needs him to be. He treats everyone like crap, so they treat him like crap, which fuels his "I'm the victim/hero" ego. He brings other women into his delusions, painting himself as misunderstood to seduce women. His attitude digs his own grave and leads to his crappy life with Beatrice. His unchanging ideals lead him to repeat history and grant Beatrice the opportunity to save Henrietta from him.

Henrietta

She is the young family maid and mistress of Butterscotch. Her character reflects Beatrice's younger self when Butterscotch seduced her and got pregnant. She essentially falls into the same dilemma, and with Beatrice's hindsight, Beatrice saves her from sharing in her fate.

THEME

This is backed with themes such as always use a condom, make sure you're ready to have a family, and sometimes giving up the baby is the best option for both parties.

The themes are very controversial, with talks about abortion, adoption, and a shotgun wedding.

TONE

The tone is serious, with room for comedy.

MARKETABILITY

The jokes of this animated sitcom are very witty and clever. Its controversial nature and storytelling style belong on a streaming network like Hulu, which is trying to brand itself as an animated network hub.

TITLE

The name, "Time's Arrow," works to describe the episode, but only because Beatrice explains what it means in the teaser. It means time is always moving forward. The episode focuses on the progression of time in Beatrice's life. Ironically, she spends most of the time regretting keeping BoJack rather than making the most of it. The title emphasizes that irony. That said, there's something about that title that doesn't fit right with the episode.

Time's Arrow is about the progression of time, but the episode is about Beatrice reliving moments of her life. Time is almost nonexistent for her because moments exist at the same time. Time also jumps around with quick flashes to the present and past. So, time is not really marching forward, as Beatrice describes; time is a disorganized mess in this episode. Thus, Time's Arrow may not be the best title for the episode.

CONCLUSION

This episode has a working story and characters despite being different from previous episodes. It has the

controversial themes and witty comedy of a *BoJack* episode. The way it plays with time makes audiences think, but it also fights against the episode title.

CRITERIA	YOU BET !	YES	KINDA- SORTA	NOT SO MUCH	N/A
Strong PREMISE?		X			
Is the material ORIGINAL?		X			
Is the script COMMERCIAL? (mainstream or indie)			X		
Is the PROTAGONIST dimensional, well-developed?		X			
Does the story have a clear ANTAGONIST or ANTAGONIST FORCE?			X		
Are the SECONDARY CHARACTERS well developed and believable?		X			
Is the STORYLINE believable and effective?		X			
Does the FOCUS remain clearly on the protagonist and not get lost in secondary character's subplots?	X				
Are the STAKES high? If the protagonist fails in his or her quest, are the consequences of failure dire?			X		
Does the story have a strong STRUCTURE, 3-Act or other?	X				
Do the first ten pages set the TONE for the rest of the story?	X				
Does the script have solid PACING?		X			
Does each scene move the story forward?		X			
Does the CONFLICT rise effectively?		X			
Does the DIALOGUE sound natural?		X			
Does the DIALOGUE contain sufficient		X			

subtext?					
Does the writer's STYLE reflect the professionalism quality and ability?		X			
Is the writing tight and punchy, with a minimum of bloat?		X			
Length appropriate for genre?		X			
Format/Mechanics/Spelling/Grammar?		X			
Is the TITLE a grabber? Does it reflect the material's genre or tone?			X		

RECOMMEND, CONSIDER, OR PASS

SCRIPT: Consider

WRITER: Consider

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