

ChaaaaaaaaEpisode Seven: My New Life Begins... TODAY!!!

“Ninety...SEVEN!...Ninety.....eIGHT!.....NINETY...nnnnniinnEEE!!”

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They were neighbors.

“ONE HUNDRED!!!!!!”

Nancey starred up into the ceiling. She’d be awake since about the mid 40s. She’d given up on sleep in the early 60s and got invested in the late 80s....And the thing is, it’s not even like the walls were thin, Lucy was just, that, LOUD.

...Guess I should just peel myself outta bed now...

CLING-ING-ING!

...Shit...I’ll pick ‘em up later...

FSHWWWSSSSSHHHHHH! “Uhhng.” Nancey sat in the tub hoping the cold water would wash her headache away. “Thumpin’ man jeeez.”

“IITTTSSSS MMYYYY

PEERRRFFECCTTTTT DAAAAYYYYYY

AWAY!!”

Between finishing her shower, brushing her teeth, drying her hair, getting dressed, and putting on deodorant, Nancey musta heard that song at least a dozen times. She’d already forgotten when the original version sounded like. **TMPI TMPI TMPI** Trudging through her apartment accompanied by a sea of vacant stares, she stopped at her front door. **THUDI** She dropped her head onto the last thing that protected her from herself before placing the next best thing on her head.

“Yeah yeah yeah! I’m gonna go crazy today just watch me watch me!...Or I guess I’ll tell ya.” She could hear Lucy talkin’ to *someone* on the phone through the door.

“I know you will just keep us in the loop, try not to get in TOO much trouble Lucy”

“Even if it’s only a little bit, don’t let that power go to your head, there’s some degree of responsibility you hold now alright.”

“Yeah ya better not become a fuckin’ pig, ya hear me!”

“Yeah yeah yeah I won’t I won’t, but look Ms.Nancey is supposed to come get me, so I’ll call y’all later or something alright.”

“**SIGH.**” Nancey equipped a smirk. **KER-CHAKI**

“Oh, Ms.Nancey!” Lucy hit a stiff salute. “Sheriff Lucy ready to raise hell ma’am!”

“Alright alright, at ease soldier. I don’t want you to get too ahead of yourself, but I can promise that there will be no battle, bloodshed, or bayonettes today, or probably any other day.

“Oh...B-but what’s first? I’ll take on whatever we do with everything I’ve got! And then some!”

“Ok ok just follow me kid.”

“Yes Ma’am!”

TMPI TMPI TMPI

TMPI TMPI TMPI

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JING-A-LING!

WHOOSHI

TMPI

“Rotted Tooth Diner, fear no longer, the bright red firecracker...L U C Y, IS HERE!” The Rotted Tooth Diner, just like the rest of town was ripped straight out’ve another time period. It flexed the classic checkerboard aesthetic. Stools lined the marble countertop. The seats in the booths were ripped enough to show use, but not enough to look unattended to. If trucks came through Sugar Stop, they’d definitely stop here for a cup a’ Joe.

“Aww hallo, are you the young lady I’ve heard so much about.”

“Yeaaaaa. :)”

And if they didn’t want Joe, they’d want Kelly, a delightful fluffy woman leaned over the counter. “Let’s start off on a good note hun, what can I get ‘cha?”

WHOOSHI! Lucy flipped onto a barstool and was DE-lighted that it could spin all the way around. “Let me get an extra tall cup of the dark stuff.” Lucy pretended to take a drag of a cigarette.

“Ha ha ha, yer adorable.”

“Mornin’ Kells.” Nancey coolly sat at the bar. “Lemme get the usual.”

“I see the young lady is already taking after you Nan. Be gentle with her will ya? I can still see the gold in her eyes.” Kelly poured both girls pitch black coffee.

“Hey Kels, I need a refill!”

“Be there in a sec hun! You two ladies holler for me when you know when you want, alright?”

“Soooo...! After breakfast we’re gonna get shit crackin’ right? Get right into the knitty-gritty?”

Nancey leaned in “Kid we’re already knee deep in the nitty-gritty. Well maybe for you waist deep, yer a little short.”

“Whaddaya mean?”

CREAK! Nancey spun Lucy’s seat around. “How bout you just take a look outside.”

SPLASHHH-FLUSSHHHH!

MARCH-INGI /GEARS!

A ravine of muted colors meandered through town. Dusty browns, burnt greys, hollow tans. Pickaxes, helmets, buckets, even some animals were swept up by the ravine.

“Now, look kid. These are some of the nicest people around...but they’re also the proudest and the most self-sufficient. Unless the sky itself catches fire, they won’t ask for anything. BUT! That’s also because nothing happens here. Sugar Stop is a very well oiled machine.”

“Like nothing, *ever?*”

“Look, when you rolled into town, just yesterday, I was catchin’ Zs. And between me, you and the heat, it wasn’t the first time and will not be the last.”

“I-I mean it’d be kinda fucked up if I wanted bad things to happen or people to be in danger or anything but...Ms.Nancey how do you feel about it?”

The elder sheriff threw her hands up and a smirk was etched on. “I hit the damn lottery!” She wrapped her arm around Lucy. “You gotta think, the miners break their backs, people in offices burn their corneas and ruin their posture. People go to school for YEARS & YEARS & YEARS and sometimes they can’t even get a job...But me, me and you Lu, we’re sittin’ on a gold mine. Benefits, pension, housing, free grub, shit, not even the lottery is this generous!”

“...I mean yeah that’s cool and stuff...I’ve never had benefits before...but... ionknow man...” Both Lucy and Nancey reached for their mugs.

SIPI“Ahhh.”

SIPI SPLOOSHI“AGARKLEEKUH! That shit taste like shit! Fuckin’ rust run off! There’s no way you actually drink that.”

“Don’t worry kid, the taste grows on ya.”

“Maaan.” **TMPI** Lucy leaped off her seat.

“Where ya headed kid?”

Back to her superior Lucy stared hard at the rushing waters before her. She even saw Ms.Kim washing by. “I believe you and all, but I wanna see for myself.”

“Hey knock yourself out.”

“Will do.”

JING-A-LING!
SPLASH!

Search 1

Work and Play

♪♪ All your mining needs and More! ♪♪

♪♪ Sweets N' More... ♪♪

♪♪ General Store! ♪♪

The t-shirts with outdated memes and trivial knick-knacks really gave the establishment the feel of a humble ma-and-pa shop. **BOING!** A large tuft of curly black hair bounced through the aisles. It did stop just for a moment at a shirt that read “*My Sweetie went to Sweet Sands and got me this Sweet T*” The new sheriff flipped onto the scene, landing next to a mannequin in flower-printed overalls. “My name is Lucy Veronica Lovebeat! I’ve come from a faraway land to offer Sugar Stop my services! Ma’am, are you in any need of deeds or service!?”

“Oh my, well aren’t you just so full of energy!” The older woman behind the counter had a nametag that read, Ada. “Well maybe if you could make me 10 years younger! Hehehe.”

“Uh, nah don’t think so, but do you need me to do anything or anything you need help with?”

“I appreciate the offer young lady, but I force my husband Racso to do all my dirty work. But would you like some lemonade for all your hard work?”

“I haven’t done anyth-.” **BANG!**

“ADAAAAA!”

A thin man about Ada’s age burst through the door. **CRASH! BOOM! SMASH!** Knocking over displays and mannequins, he collapsed into Lucy’s arms. “WHAT’S WRONG?! WHAT’S GOING ON!?”

Shaking violently his lips quivered as he said.

“I really gotta poop.”

Search 2

Soda Sea & LoveWay

SIZZAP!

“EERRRRRGYYEAARRGAH!”

“PFFTTT! HAHAAH!”

A man laughed at Lucy just a handful of feet away in the soda sea. “I’m sorry little lady the day you arrived me and some of the fellas put together a bet on how soon you dip your finger into that water. And it looks like I was right, so this old man’s getting some money!”

“Y’all get that bored?”

“My fault little lady, we dinosaurs don’t mean nothin’ by it. It’s just funny how curious you young people get.”

“Yeah yeah whatever, but do you guys need help with anything or, can I do something orrr?”

The man threw his shoulders up. “Sheesh Unless you can find me a wife I’m doing alright sheriff!”

“Nico quit bugging the sheriff!”

“Oh, hey Ms.Kim, look I got my uniform and stuff. I’m ready to help. Ya need summ?”

Kim slowly waded through the water towards a flexing Lucy. “The fact that this jackass is my only headache, I think you’re doing a good job, kid. I got it from here.”

“O-Okayy...”

Search 3

Rock Candy Mine

MUNCHI CRUNCHI

Cheeks to crystals Lucy joined the miners for lunch. One of the older ladies gave her half a sandwich. Nice “So what made ya wanna come to this ole smudge on the map kid?”

“That guy Walter hired me. So I thought I’d start here.”

“I getcha kid I getcha. But let me ask you something, kid. I got a question.”

“If it’s about the Goddess, *next question.*”

“No no no, somethin’ else little lady. I was watching the tv and I saw, right, in the Root of Entertainment, some people yer age were marching for er...er... to be called letters or somethin’. I didn’t get it. Can you explain that to me?”

“Oh! Oh! I heard about that.” Another miner butt in. “The uh uh LGTVA, right? Something like that. Whatever the hell that means.”

“Look look, from what I seen, it just sounds like a fancy way of saying you’re a fruit cup.”

“Hahaha!!”

“Good one good one!”

“Pfttt hahaha!”

“Man kids nowadays am I right?”

“I just don’t get these kids, who wants to come home after a long day of work and see another man!? It just don’t make no damn sense to me!”

“Shit, or another woman, now what happens if both of us are on our periods at the same time?”

“Yeah I don’t get it. When did liking women go out of style?”

Lucy stood up.

“I’m not...I’m not hungry anymore...”

Search 4

All Work and No Play

SCHOOOM!

A lone vehicle sped along the Love-Way. The intense heat made the asphalt sway back and forth. A phone wrapped in green floated just in front of the driver’s face. **TAPI TAPI**

This damn app is busted! Come on, fuck is wrong with this thing!? If I drive out that far into the desert I’m not gonna make it back to the resort in time! C’mon! I knew I shouldn’t have taken this order! I’m not gonna risk my job for a damn smoothie!

THUDI! She slammed her head down on the steering wheel. Just in front of the speedometer, the picture of a young girl stared back at her.

I know I know J, you want me to tighten up. You shouldn’t even be seeing your big sis like this. It’s just...Man is it damn hard sometimes.

She buried her face in her hands. The same green that held her phone in the air, also held the steering wheel still.

But I don’t got time to be belly achin” I’ll just pull into this mining town and try to figure somethin’ out.

VRROOOOM!

(Fucking car stopping noise what does that sound like)

The woman waltzed into town followed by a floating smoothie. **CHFI CHFI CHFI** *This place looks like a damn sundown town, this order might be a setup.* The delivery woman stopped

just in front of Walter's statue. *Yeah he looks like he'd call me a sl-***PUARI!** An odd shadow loomed over the delivery girl. Someone looked down at her from atop the bank.

"Excuse me, are ya lost? You don't look like yer from around here?"

Welp, this is how it starts.

PUARI CHFI! "I'm the sheriff, so if you need anything, I'm your gal."

The delivery woman leaned in. "You look just like that damn Goddess, shit, too much like her. What are you her kid or somethin'?"

"I'm Lu-"

"What're you playin' dress up? Mommy teahin' you a lesson?"

"Man fuck off, I got this job on my own."

"You silver spoons all say the same thing. You can keep that bootstrap shit to yourself, don't wanna hear it."

"Yo I can take this badge off, watch ya mouth talkin' to me like that."

"Yeah and get sued by all the best lawyers money can buy, right? If ya wanna pretend to be in the workforce, walk two hours in the desert that way and give Hilda Do this smoothie for me aight? Make yerself fuckin' useful." **FWOOSHI CHFI CHFI CHFI** She tossed Lucy the smoothie and headed back towards her car.

FWOOSHI

The drink cut through the air past her. "Hey!" **SCHWOOM!** A green symbol appeared on the cup stopping it inches from splashing on. "My car!? You tried to throw that shit onto my car!?"

"Not tried." **FWOOSHI PUARI SPLASH!**

"YOU LITTLE FUCKING SHIT! I'M GONNA FUCK YOU UP!"

Lucy threw her uniform on the ground. "It's whatever you wanna do! I'm with it!"

BAH-DA-DA-DING! BAH-DA-DA-DING! BAH-DA-DA-DING!

The delivery woman looked at her phone. "Hrrng! You little bitch, you lucky I got work! If I ever see you again, it's up! And that's on everything!"

"Yeah aight, turn your windshield wipers on and get the fuck outta here! I'm always with the shits! I'm one of them ones! Pull back up and see what happens!"

"Just you watch I'm gone see you again!"

THUDI

BAH-DA-DA-DING! BAH-DA-DA-DING! BAH-DA-DA-DING!

**Final Search
Home?**

Throughout the rest of the day Lucy perused Sugar Stop, and...ain't shit happened. She spun back to the Sea and General Store a few times over. Wandered the desert, perched atop Walter's statue, picked at some of the chipping wood on top of the buildings. Of all her *adventures* the only standouts was a cactus kinda shaped like a butt. And just out of town there was a hill that had some, some kinda image burnt into the sand. It looked like a skull almost.

BUT.

Just like the US of A the work day ended at five P.M.

SPLASHHH-FLUSHHHH!
MARCH-INGI /GEARSI

Lucy stood firm in the center of town as the waves crashed around her. She hadn't noticed before, but the waters were filled with cogs. Looking down, her red had already been stained.

JING-A-LING!

"Yo! Long time no see kid." Nancey called out, as she left the diner

"Oh Ms.Nancey you were right. Nothing happened like all day. But I'm not gonna give up just yet! You get the tutorial and then the boss fight!"

Nancey wrapped her arm around Lucy. "I gotcha kid I gotcha. But how about this? Usually after the miners call it a day, I watch the sunset from atop the water tower. And I had Kelly make you some fries, so do you care to join me?"

"Oh for real? Hell yeah! Heeheehee! I gotta tell Ms.Kelly I said thanks."

KER-CHAK! CHF! CHF! CHF! "Oh my...I think my eyesight must be failing me...One...two Nanceys!?! HARHARHAR! Lucy you're blending in already! How was it? How'd you like your first day as sheriff?"

"It was...quiet."

"HARHARHAR! Well, most days are. I'll have you know, I built this machine to run like no other!"

"Hey Walt, I'm gonna take her up top for our last watch alright?"

"Yup sounds good to me. I'll catch sheriff one and two later alright. HAHAHA!"

CHF! CHF! CHF!

CHK-CHKI Drawing her revolver, **SPLA-SPLATT!!!** Nancey formed a staircase up to the water tower. **STEPI STEPI STEPI STEPI STEPI STEPI** Shoulder to shoulder Lucy and Nancey overlooked the amber burnt town. The neverending dunes of sand slowly dribbled into darkness alongside the subtle descent of the sun.

“Yup, We only gotta sit up here for another hour or so then we’ll pack it up and do it all again tomorrow. Oh, the diner stays open pretty late into the night if you get hungry kid.”

“...Do it all again tomorrow...”

“100!”

“Just follow me kid.”

“What can I get ya?”

“I really gotta poop.”

“Can find me a wife.”

HARI HARI HARI

CHK-CHKI

SPLA-SPLATT!!!

“80!”

“Just follow me kid.”

“What can I get ya?”

“I really gotta poop.”

“Can find me a wife.”

HARI HARI HARI

CHK-CHKI

SPLA-SPLATT!!!

“50.”

“Just follow me kid.”

“What can I get ya?”

“I really gotta poop.”

“Can find me a wife.”

HARI HARI HARI

CHK-CHKI
SPLA-SPLATT!!!

“30.”

“Just follow me kid.”

“What can I get ya?”

“I really gotta poop.”

“Can find me a wife.”

HARI HARI HARI

CHK-CHKI

SPLA-SPLATT!!!

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“10.”

‘HARI HARI HARI’

‘HARI HARI HARI’

‘HARI HARI HARI’

SPLASHHHH!!!

“Just follow me kid.”

“Just follow me kid.”

“Just follow me kid.”

“Just follow me kid.”

“Just follow me kid.”

“Yo kid, how old are you?”

“Uh, twenty.”

Nancey threw her arm around Lucy. “That’s old enough, c’mon kid.”

CHFI CHFI CHFI
CHFI CHFI CHFI

“Woah no way, they're gonna let me in?”

“If someone calls the authorities, who’s gonna show up? Either way, I think yer seasoned enough. **KER-CHAKI** Nancey pushed the door open toooooo.....

The Sweet Nectar

“Hey Nancey!”

“Howdy Nick.”

“Uhoh here’s the sheriff.”

“All rounds on this guy over here aight!”

“Nancey!”

“Howdy Teresa.”

Just like the diner this place was plucked outta time, a standoff could take place at any moment, shit or even the classic bar fight. Every few moments the **CLINK!** of another drink pierced the air.

TMPI TMP! The bartender waltzed over, the frills of her dress bounced with each step. “Now I see, both big and little sheriff.” **SQUEEZE!** She pinched Lucy's cheek. “One of you is much more adorable than the other.”

“Yeah yeah yeah she’s seltzer and I’m the hard shit. Lemme get the usual and get her the toothache.”

“Will do Ms.Sheriff ♥”

“So uh, what’d you bring me here for?”

“To do what everyone else is doing.”

CLINK! The bartender returned, dropping three drinks in front of Nancey and one in front of Lucy. “Drink yerselvs silly. ♥”

“Th-thanks.”

“Preciate it.” Nancey ran her finger across the counter. Life. Death. And the mundane inbetween.” **GULP!** She swallowed life. “C’mon kid you babysittin’? Take a swig already.”

“...” Lucy looked down at her drink. It was a big ass glass filled to the brim with a brown liquid. The glass itself was decorated with blue WalteR-ock around the rim and a slice of gummy

cactus. **GULPI "GRAKTI"** Lucy clutched her chest. "This tastes like shit, everything you like tastes like shit!"

"Ahhhhahahaha! Look kid, it's a slow waltz into the bitterness of adulthood."

"That doesn't make me any more excited to keep living. You don't really like this, do you Ms.Nancey?"

"Wellll I'll be honest kid. I can tell that you've been bummed lately. We haven't taken out any bandit camps or fought any gang leaders or anything crazy like that. Those days are far in Decalore's past. I've noticed you haven't had a perfect day in some time."

"So you brought me here to drink the nastiest shit in the world?"

"While, yes, it could be interpreted that way. I like the perspective of, I've brought you to an environment in which your peers are plenty." Nancey pointed at the saloon's patrons.

"Ms.Kim wanted to be a vet, Nico a musician, even Kelly from the diner told me that she wanted to be a wedding planner back in the day."

"They're still alive, it doesn't have to be **wanted to**. They can still go out, you know, and go do that stuff."

"I mean yeah, they can, but you know, they're older now. And...If we're being realistic kid, how many people actually achieve their dreams?" (I fucking hate this line.)

"I'm not takin' that answer. You see people all the time, twice as old as me, like, publishing books and runnin' marathons, that kinda stuff everyday. And what about you Ms.Nancey? Yer talkin' like you're 102 years old, but you're younger than them here...And I don't care, I refuse to think of you, or anyone here as just **most people**. Fuck that!"

"Well kid..." **GULPI** She swallowed the in between. "My dreams were too big so they rusted in the rain much sooner than the rest. But. Hnhnhn, Look at this, don't laugh too hard at me alright?...I used to want to..."

"Make movies."

"Make movies."

"H-Huh, y-you u-uh, you knew kid how'd you know?"

"I've been listening to you speak. And I don't care how far-fetched you think they are or were, I **refuse** to laugh at you."

"I-er uh...Y-You're encrusted in gold kid. A silver gun among a rusted armory." Nancey pulled the brim of her hat over her eyes.

"What Ms.Nancey, you're like thirty-six or something like that right?"

"Thirty-one, thirty-one."

"But, just like them, it's not over for you yet, have you ever written a script or gone to an audition or anything like that?"

"This, t-this this gunslinger's stories line the inside of her mind."

"Shit! Okay. I mean, it's kinda late right now, but I'm sure we can get like a notebook or something to write some of your ideas down!" **TMPI** Having leapt out of her seat, Lucy tugged

at Nancey's sleeve. "C'mon c'mon! It could be coool! Maybe we could act out some of the scenes too! Shit, we ask old man Walter, he might hop in! Hahaha!"

"I-I...appreciate kid, but...this horse is long overdue for the glue factory. Nobody would want to see me on the big screen anyway...."

"Ms.Nancey."

FWOOOOSH!

The heat from Lucy's eyes ignited her senior's skin.

"I do. And even if you don't, I believe in you."

"Look, I'm a lost cause kid...I'll happily float along these brown waters." ***GULP!*** Nancey finished death. "Don't let this ruin our fun, I'm gonna order a second round of drinks, now you better catch up, don't let me leave you too far behind. Finish that first one kid."

".....Um...I'm cool...I'll pass on this one..."

TMP! TMP! TMP! TMP! TMP! TMP! TMP!

"I'll see you tomorrow Ms. Nancey. See ya in the morning, okay."

"Ehhhhh kid, leaving so soon? Just know if you feel down again, you know where to find me..."

CLINK!