

PS-51

PILOT

Written by

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SHOW OPEN:

EXT. DESERT - DAY

A beautiful expanse of pristine desert valley. But as we get closer to it, we see hints of an iridescent distortion in the shape of a huge BUBBLE.

MUSIC UP as we fly into the bubble to reveal an IDYLIC SMALL TOWN. We hear a six year old boy's voice.

LUCA (V.O.)

Welcome to Newtopia. It's near a place called 'Area-51'.

The town is perfect at first glance, but everything is just a little bit off. Some doors are strangely shaped. Some signs have illegible symbols. Store fronts sell clothes with holes for eleven arms. We slow down to pass an adorable pet dog, but once we come around the other side, we see that the dog has a second head that looks a bit like Jell-O.

LUCA (V.O.)

Yeah, I know. It's pretty strange-looking, mostly because aliens landed here like a bunch of years ago. But that's our secret, ok?

We continue through the homes, the lab, the city office, passing adult HUMANS and fantastic adult ALIENS.

LUCA (V.O.)

The town is hidden from the rest of the world cause apparently

(parental voice)

"the world isn't ready for 'em yet."

(regular kid voice)

Beats me why. The aliens are super nice. And their kids go to school with us!

We then fly across a playground and focus on one cute curly-haired boy, LUCA (6) running, kicking a fuzzy soccer-ball. Only the soccer ball is actually an CHILD ALIEN, with seven eyes, three upside-down ears and his mouth above it all. It smiles and teleports itself between Luca's legs to the goal. Luca and the alien laugh. We hear a SCHOOL BELL and Luca and the alien run/roll inside...

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

We continue flying through the school, past the cafeteria and science labs and through the halls. We see kids mixed along strange colorful, cute ALIENS of various sizes, all running to get to class. Luca approaches a door that has a handwritten sign reading 'Photo Day!', yanks it open and enters.

INT. CLASSROOM 2A - CONTINUOUS

Luca and the soccer-ball alien jump into place among the other kids and young aliens just in time for the photo.

LUCA (V.O.)
That's me, Luca. I'm in school here. Second grade. A few human kids and lots of alien kids.

The ALIEN TEACHER snaps a picture and we see it full screen.

LUCA (V.O.)
Oh, the school's name? That's easy. PS-51.

Above the menagerie of posing alien and human kids reads a sign: "Welcome to 2nd Grade at PS-51!"

END SHOW OPEN**INT. CLASSROOM 2A - CONTINUOUS**

After the picture, the aliens and kids move toward their desks. Luca leans over and whispers to the red-haired and very smart-looking REAGAN (5)...

LUCA
Regan, there's trouble outside.

REAGAN
(not really listening)
Ok.

LUCA
The bubble is down.

REAGAN
(shocked, loud)
WHAT??!!

Everyone turns to look at her including the teacher who gives her an evil eye.

Actually, it's their alien teaching assistant JEMMIFER (spelling correct) and she has one big eye on her stalk of a head and seven smaller eyes on her knees. Her voice is understandable but sounds kinda like popcorn popping mixed with a trumpet.

JEMMIFER
Pay attention please.

Reagan smiles to cover, then as Jemmifer continues to talk in the background...

REAGAN
(whispering)
What?

LUCA
(whispering)
The bubble. It's not working. Anyone driving by can see the entire town. Oh my gosh, even airplanes can see us!

REAGAN
Our parents will fix it.

LUCA
They don't know! They're all in some big meeting. All except the teachers of course.

REAGAN
Then we gotta tell the teachers.

She starts to raise her hand but Luca pulls it down.

LUCA
No, we have to fix it.

REAGAN
Why do we need to fix it?

LUCA
We broke it!

Reagan raises an eyebrow.

LUCA
Ok, I broke it.

A nearby alien student, BAZZ, raises his pink polka-dotted tentacle to get the teacher's attention. Jemmifer sighs.

BAZZ
Can I go to the bathroom please?

JEMMIFER
Go ahead.

Bazz SNEEZES, IMPLODES and then a half second later,
EXPLODES right back into place, his face content.

BAZZ
Thank you.

A nearby impossibly cute Asian-American student, HALEY (5)
laughs a bit. She SIGNS (sign language) as she speaks.

HALEY
I wish I could do that.

Bazz looks at her.

BAZZ
I wish I didn't have to go to the
bathroom two-hundred thirty seven
times a day.

Haley signs a laugh.

Back to the whispered conversation...

REAGAN
How'd it happen?

LUCA
You know that new alien kid
Xiythan, the one with three noses?
I was calling to him to get him to
see if my belly button smells like
marshmallows and he tripped over
the plug for the radio.

REAGAN
But I think that alien floats
mostly. How did he trip...

LUCA
Doesn't matter.

CUT TO:

EXT. SCHOOL PLAYGROUND - FLASHBACK 1 - CONTINUOUS

We now INTERCUT the classroom conversation with single shot
flashbacks of the events that just took place outside.

The action is on the edge of the playground that butts up against a large sci-fi looking generator thingy. A three-nosed alien, XIYTHAN, is basically upside-down but turns when Luca calls him and falls up (which is down to us) and knocks a nearby electrical plug out of a socket.

LUCA (V.O.)

Jordan asked Thurber to grab the radio plug but Thurber misunderstood and instead grabbed Kozzy's tuna sandwich...

With the alien kid mid-fall, JORDAN (4), African-American with curly pig-tails, motions for a purple alien with coke-bottle eyeglasses, THURBER, to grab the plug.

Instead, he pulls a sandwich right out of the flippers of a third alien, KOZZY. Kozzy's eyes go wide.

CUT TO:

INT. CLASSROOM 2A - CONTINUOUS

Thurber looks at Luca and Reagan and shrugs "what are you gonna do?"

LUCA

And that freaked out Kozzy so, you know how she can change shape whenever she wants?

Reagan nods.

LUCA

Well, she was so scared she shaped-shifted into a toaster.

CUT TO:

EXT. SCHOOL PLAYGROUND - FLASHBACK 2 - CONTINUOUS

With a flash of purple and green light, Kozzy becomes a 60's era toaster. A really nice one. It sparkles.

CUT TO:

INT. CLASSROOM 2A - CONTINUOUS

Kozzy leans in to whisper.

KOZZY

Probably 'cause I was wishing the sandwich was toasted.

REAGAN
(matter-of-fact)
Sure.

LUCA
Doesn't matter. What does matter
is when Kozzy was the toaster, she
did a 'biccup!'

REAGAN
'Biccup?' What's that?

ALL
It's a burp and a hiccup at the
same time. It made Kozzy short-
circuit!

CUT TO:

EXT. SCHOOL PLAYGROUND - FLASHBACK 3 - CONTINUOUS

Kozzy as the toaster 'BICCUPS' and sends out what looks like curly bits of lightning for a few feet around her. Some hit the nearby generator, causing it to EXPLODE, SIZZLE and TURN OFF.

LUCA (V.O.)
And we were standing next to the
energy source for the bubble! And
it busted!

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT - CONTINUOUS

In an expanse of the empty desert, a huge energy bubble from the opening FLICKERS COMPLETELY ON (more visible than before), then WINKS OFF and now Newtown is completely visible.

CUT TO:

INT. CLASSROOM 2A - CONTINUOUS

Back to the classroom discussion...

KOZZY
(dreamy)
I also wish it had pickles.

Reagan nods but Luca won't be pulled off topic.

LUCA

Reagan, we need to do something to get the bubble back up again.

REAGAN

I'm not sure it was really your fault. Sounded like an accident.

LUCA

But my mom and dad could *think* it was my fault and I do not want to get stuck with bathroom cleanup duty again. Alien poop... ick, ick, ickity-ick. Besides, what matters most is that we can't let Newtopia be discovered by the outside world. And we can fix it faster than anyone. If I have your help.

REAGAN

I'm happy to help.

LUCA

Great!

A quick beat, then...

LUCA/REAGAN

(simultaneously)

So what's your plan?!

Oops.

LUCA

Blurg.

REAGAN

Oooo-kay.

The teaching assistant catches them talking. She shoots over a splat of orange silly-putty that hits both Reagan and Luca's face - her home planet's equivalent of saying "shhh!"

JEMMIFER

Excuse me, are you two paying attention?

They try to wipe the silly-putty away only to have it disappear instantly.

LUCA

We are!

JEMMIFER

Good, because I was just talking about how important the bubble that goes over our town is. It protects us, keeps us invisible to the outside world and
 (addressing entire class)
 therefore...

The kid and aliens all recite in unison (except for Reagan and Luca who are just staring wide-eyed).

ALL

"The bubble must never pop."

JEMMIFER

That's right. The bubble must never pop.

Luca and Reagan shrink in their seats.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. LUNCHROOM - LATER

A few human kids and alien kids play crazy alien versions of 'paddy-cake, 'avocado' and other hand-slapping games. Reagan, Jordan and Haley huddle at the edge of one table with some aliens and very strange looking food on their plates.

LUCA

So that's the problem guys.

SZQOEJGOUK (pronounced "Sguigee-goock") is an red alien whose upper body is a near perfect mirror of its lower body. He moves his limbs around a lot.

SZQOEJGOUK

I know! The generator is upside-down!

It turns to Haley.

SZQOEJGOUK

In fact, you're upside down.

SzQoejgouk looks around frantically.

SZQOEJGOUK

O-M-G, you're *all* upside-down!

Haley whispers something in SzQoejgouk's ear, which seems strangely close the ground.

SZQOEJGOUK

Oh.

SzQoejgouk then stands on his hands, flipping head over tail.

SZQOEJGOUK

Sorry. Turns out I was upside-down.

He then flips away. Back to the problem at hand...

LUCA

So what are we going to do to fix the bubble generator?

NAGOL, a short greenish-blue alien that is basically made of just 13 eyes and 20 tentacles, slithers up.

NAGOL

I got it!

LUCA

Yeah?

NAGOL

Totally. We teleport a vulupafant here from my home planet!

WHITE FLASH:

Their imagination: A chihuahua-sized three-legged pink and blue polka-dotted elephant-shaped pet called a VULUPAFANT materializes next to Nagol. It smiles. Nagol smiles. But that's it.

WHITE FLASH:

A long pause.

JORDAN

And then what?

NAGOL

We ask it how to fix the bubble generator.

WHITE FLASH:

The vulupafant smiles and blinks but is otherwise completely unhelpful. It POPS out of existence, disappearing.

WHITE FLASH:

They kids and alien kids all SIGH.

REAGAN

I think we need to find a way to
fix it ourselves.

WILL

Um... how about this for an idea?
It's just trying to make a big
bubble, right? So we get all the
soap in town and dump it into the
generator.

WHITE FLASH:

Their imagination: The kids and alien kids run around and
collecting and then dumping bars of soap, dish detergent,
even sponges into the top of the generator. It gurgles.

WHITE FLASH:

WILL

It could work.

HALEY

(signing)
It could explode.

WHITE FLASH:

Their imagination: The generator starts to EXPAND, and
bubbles start shooting from every opening. The kids and
alien kids run away, but get covered in bubbles. They slip
and slide everywhere, which is especially weird for the
aliens that have flippers or tentacles instead of feet.

WHITE FLASH:

JORDAN

Yep. Alien bubbles are very
different from earth bubbles.

The kids and alien kids all nod up and down in agreement.
All except for one alien who turns his head in circles to
show agreement.

Reagan thinks hard.

REAGAN

Well, who's the alien that has the
energy that created the bubble?

LUCA

I think Mr. Nahtyix. I think the energy is stored in his elbows somehow.

REAGAN

Right, so... maybe his son Xiythan has the same thing?

LUCA

So what you're saying is that the alien that accidentally caused the bubble to turn off might be able to help us get it back on?

Reagan smiles 'maybe?' Jordan whispers to WILL (7), with blonde trimmed hair and a pretty good athletic build for his age. He nods and darts away.

JORDAN

I sent Will to find Xiythan.

Will returns almost as fast as he left.

WILL

Found 'em.

But Will's alone.

LUCA

Great. Where is he?

WILL

Cool your jets, he's coming.

PULL BACK to reveal a SUPERNUMARY alien next to Will, with jets for feet making him hover above the ground. The jets turn off and he lands comfortably.

HALEY

(signing)

It was an expression.

Suddenly, XIYTHAN floats speedily into view. He trips over an imaginary object, tumbles through the group, knocks over a few objects, aliens and kids, and lands on a bush with a THUD.

WILL

He's here.

Xityhan stands and shakes off the leaves the way a dog shakes off water, but in reverse.

XIYTHAN
Hi guys. What's up?

LUCA
We accidentally short-circuited the
bubble generator.

XIYTHAN
Cool!

Luca takes a step towards Xiythan.

LUCA
No, not cool! This is energy from
you and your dad's planet.

Xiythan takes a step back.

XIYTHAN
You think this is our fault?

LUCA
I'm just saying it's not working.

XIYTHAN
But you looked at me while saying
there was a problem. Where I'm
from, that means you think I'm
wrong.

*** This is a potential place for a short song (maybe 30
seconds), sung primarily by Reagan, about how we hear and
see things differently when we come from different
backgrounds. But that doesn't mean we are *automatically*
'against' each other.

REAGAN
Let me help. Xiythan, we're not
saying anything is your fault.

JORDAN
Yeah, you didn't turn off the
bubble.

XIYTHAN
(cooler)
Oh, ok.

REAGAN
It's just since your planet created
the technology for it, we thought
you could help get it back on.

THURBER

Yeah, it requires a kind of energy that only aliens from your planet have.

LOGAN

In your elbows, right?

XIYTHAN

Not for me. For me, it's in my nose.

Everyone is speechless.

XIYTHAN

The left one.

HALEY

Ew.

XIYTHAN

I can actually only sneeze out the energy.

LUCA

Ok, whatever works.

They all turn to the sleeping generator. There's a tube up the side with markings every few inches. It's empty.

JORDAN

My mom explained this to me. That's where the energy needs to go.

They look back at Xiythan.

LUCA

Can you sneeze now, you know, into it?

Luca points to the opening at the top.

XIYTHAN

Oh no. I only really sneeze when I'm allergic to something.

REAGAN

Ok, what are you allergic to?

XIYTHAN

Nothing really.

They all look disappointed.

XIYTHAN
 Except the color yellow. Totally
 allergic to...

Beebveeb tumbles away very quickly and almost as quickly
 tumbles back (but from the opposite side of frame) with a
 fuzzy yellow alien with floaty feathers and no eyes.

XIYTHAN
 (super allergic)
 ...ah...ah...

LUCA/REAGAN
 Into the generator!

Everyone dashes out of the lunchroom, with the kids carrying
 Xiythan above their heads.

EXT. PLAYGROUND - CONTINUOUS

They run up to a fence at the edge of the playground. On
 the other side is the generator, looking very dormant.

They quickly do a circus routine with one alien standing on
 top of a kid, who is on another alien, etc. It's
 particularly weird since some aliens don't have legs or
 shoulders.

WILL
 This'll never work. Not in a
 million years!

But the alien-kid tower gets Xiythan up there and he does a
 monster SNEEZE that FILLS UP the tube with blue sparkly
 energy.

The generator immediately LIGHTS UP and HUMS. Above them,
 the bubble re-forms up into the air.

EXT. DESERT - CONTINUOUS

The bubble continues to grow from the sides up, finally
 closing at the top. The town disappears, leaving just empty
 desert in it's place.

EXT. PLAYGROUND - CONTINUOUS

The kids are surprised. Will most of all.

WILL
 Wow, that worked.

The generator starts to power down again. They look up to
 see the bubble wavering.

WILL
Maybe not.

Reagan and Luca think, they look to each other.

REAGAN
I know!

LUCA
A biccup!

They both grab Kozzy and squeeze him. He BICCUPS and the generator spins right back up again. The bubble is restored.

Luca and Xiythan high-five each other.

LUCA
Woohoo!

Xiythan tries to celebrate as well, but his "woohoo" sounds more like the sound of squished grapes.

Jordan puts an arm around Bazz, but he explodes out of existence. Jordan looks around. Bass implodes on the other side of Jordan. She smiles and they hug again, he with his twenty tentacles.

Kozzy shapes-shifts into a spatula. Will GIGGLES at this.

Luca, Reagan and the aliens join the other kids and aliens in various weird alien games as the CAMERA DOLLIES UP AND BACK, revealing the entire playground, then the school, the street and town.

LUCA (V.O.)
Yep, it was a pretty good day in class 2-A. Alien kids and us human kids worked together to solve a big problem, even through a misunderstanding. The energy force-field bubble-thingy got turned back on...

EXT. DESERT - SUNSET

It's a beautiful painted sky over the pristine desert landscape.

LUCA (V.O.)
...and the bubble that keeps our town a secret was back up.

Suddenly... CRASH!

The SIZZLE EFFECT blinks the bubble off, revealing the town again.

LUCA (O.S.)
Uhhhhhhhhh... oops again!

THE END.