KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND STABLE

Written by: Catherine Day Opening Credits

A cartoon title card reads:

LUNGE LINE STUDIOS PRESENTS: THE KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND STABLE

The title card fades out. An announcer's voice

ANNOUNCER

Last time we saw our pony pals, they were on a quest to restore the Water Trough of Youth.

During the announcer's monologue, footage of the horses plays. Footage: The horses fighting a monster with too many eyes.

ANNOUNCER

But then the tantalizing trough was revealed as a capsized cask!

Footage: The horses reach the center of a beautiful glade, but the trough is a leaky wooden tub.

ANNOUNCER

Now Sir Prancelot has set his sights on a far greater prize.

Footage: Sir Prancelot researching old tomes, stroking his chin with a hoof.

ANNOUNCER

Will our heroes be able to find the mysterious MacGuffin and win the day? Find out on this episode of

The logo for the series spins onto the screen, reading in big bubble letters:

ANNOUNCER

THE KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND STABLE!

Text at the bottom of the screen reads EPISODE 117: THE QUEST FOR THE HOLY PAIL.

EXT. KNIGHTS' CASTLE - DAY

Establishing shot.

INT. THE BATTLE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

LADY WHINNYVERE, a chestnut horse, and MORGAN LE HAY, a buckskin horse, are standing around a table. SIR PRANCELOT, a dappled grey horse, bursts into the room.

SIR PRANCELOT

He spreads a map out across the table, weighing it down with two horseshoes.

SIR PRANCELOT

Though the Pail may seem only a legend, I'm sure, this time, that the legend is true!

MORGAN LE HAY

You said that the last 116 times we went on a quest. At this point, we're basically living in a serialized adventure series.

LADY WHINNYVERE

I'm starting to think whatever divine force rules this universe is simply in it for the riches.

(Beat)

Speaking of riches: what does this "Holy Pail" even do?

MORGAN LE HAY

Perhaps it gives endless grain to the lucky foal who finds it?

SIR PRANCELOT

It confers god-like powers onto those who possess it!

MORGAN LE HAY

Meh. Grain is better.

LADY WHINNYVERE

I can't imagine that endless grain would have been good for my figure.

MORGAN LE HAY

What figure?

LADY WHINNYVERE

Oh, get off your high horse, Le Hay.

SIR PRANCELOT

Ladies, please, you both have wonderful haunches.

He strikes a heroic pose.

SIR PRANCELOT

Now, ready our armor! We are off to find the Holy Pail!

A graphic scene transition a la 1960s Batman finishes off the scene, complete with cheesy sound effects.

EXT. THE FOREST - DAY

The Knights, in questing armor, are trotting along a forest path. Besides the sound of the hoof beats, a clip-clopping noise can be heard. Sir Prancelot raises his hoof.

SIR PRANCELOT

Halt!

The Knights come to a stop. The clip-clopping noise continues.

SIR PRANCELOT

I cannot seem to figure out where that noise is coming from. We have stopped trotting, yet it continues.

LADY WHINNYVERE

You mean the noise that sounds like someone banging two coconut shells together to imitate hoof beats?

SIR PRANCELOT

Yes, exactly.

LADY WHINNYVERE

Morgan's been making that noise since we left the castle.

ZOOM OUT to reveal Morgan Le Hay banging two coconut shells together. She stops when they notice her.

MORGAN LE HAY

What? It says here in the script-

LADY WHINNYVERE

(Sighing, cutting her off)

Morgan's antics aside--Prancy, why have we stopped?

MORGAN LE HAY

Are we lost?

Sir Prancelot tosses his mane.

SIR PRANCELOT

We are not *lost*, I simply do not know what direction to continue in-

MORGAN LE HAY

We're lost. Why didn't we stop an hour ago when I said as much?

LADY WHINNYVERE

Stallions never ask for directions.

A rustling is heard from the bushes. A completely black donkey twice the size of any of the Knights emerges.

KNIGHT OF NEIGH

Who goes there?

SIR PRANCELOT

We three are the Knights of the Round Stable, and we seek the Holy Pail. Who are you?

KNIGHT OF NEIGH

We are the Knights Who Say Neigh! We are tasked with guarding this forest. You shall not pass!

MORGAN LE HAY

Isn't that someone else's line?

LADY WHINNYVERE

And who's "we?" I see only you.

SIR PRANCELOT

And you're a donkey, not a horse!

KNIGHT OF NEIGH

Neigh! Neigh! I was only given the script a few minutes ago, and it wasn't that well written to begin with.

SIR PRANCELOT

We mean you no harm, Knight of Neigh. We merely wish to continue on our quest. Will you stand aside?

KNIGHT OF NEIGH

I'll have to check the script...

He rifles through the script, looking for the correct page.

KNIGHT OF NEIGH

Ah, here we go.

LADY WHINNYVERE

Does it tell you to let us pass peacefully on our way?

KNIGHT OF NEIGH

No... it tells me to do this.

The Knight of Neigh breathes fire at the three adventurers.

LADY WHINNYVERE

Gallop!

She and Morgan Le Hay race back down the path, only to see Sir Prancelot isn't with them. They turn back.

SIR PRANCELOT

Ho, foul Knight! You shall not block our path!

He charges the Knight, brandishing his sword.

LADY WHINNYVERE

Prancy, what ARE you doing?

SIR PRANCELOT

Fear not, Whin! I shall slay this miserable creature.

He charges again, but the Knight blows fire into his path. His tail catches fire, and he yelps.

SIR PRANCELOT

My tail! My beautiful tail!

MORGAN LE HAY

Stop clop and roll, Prancelot! Stop clop and roll!

(To Lady Whinnyvere)

Isn't the Knight supposed to say "Neigh?" And where did the fire breathing come from?

Sir Prancelot continues to roll on the ground, though the fire has long been put out. The Knight laughs over him. Chaos reigns.

MORGAN LE HAY

To Hay with it.

She raises her hooves, and magic ripples through the air, putting out the remaining fire. Sir Prancelot gets up from the ground, tail still smoking.

LADY WHINNYVERE

Now that the horse play is over-

SIR PRANCELOT

But it's not!

MORGAN LE HAY

This is a cartoon, Prancelot.

LADY WHINNYVERE

AHEM. Excuse me, I'm a little hoarse. Knight of Neigh, where are your companions?

KNIGHT OF NEIGH

Alas, my companions were slain not long ago, by the perils of casting restrictions!

(Beat)

Also by monsters! Terrible monsters! For they too searched for the Holy Pail, but faced unimaginable terror. You will find the Holy Pail beyond these woods, but take care! No horse has searched for it and lived to tell the tale.

SIR PRANCELOT

Then we shall be the first. Forward, Knights of the Round Stable!

EXT. THE MOUNTAINS - LATER

The Knights are battle worn, armor steaming. But they have what they came for: the Holy Pail, a golden bucket glowing with light.

LADY WHINNYVERE

Well, Prancy, I suppose I owe you an apology. The Holy Pail IS real.

SIR PRANCELOT

Thank you, Whin. Of course, as the strongest and bravest member of our band-

LADY WHINNYVERE

I take that back.

(Pause)

Did this quest seem a bit... shorter than usual, to any of you?

MORGAN LE HAY

And did we seem to skip over the main climax?

SIR PRANCELOT

We are just getting better at this, that's all.

MORGAN LE HAY

Or maybe there was an arbitrary page limit that we-

A title card reading "THE END" interrupts the scene. End credits music plays.

ANNOUNCER

Thus concludes episode 117 of the Knight of the Round Stable. Tune in next week to see Episode 118: The Quest for the Reigns of Terror.

MORGAN LE HAY

Hey! We weren't finished here!

Screen fades to black.

END.



Art by Xander Stephen