

Sylvan's World

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SYLVAN'S WORLD

Pilot Episode - "Invasion"

TEASER

EXT. SPACECRAFT

A spacecraft zips through space.

Earth revolves in silence around the sun.

INT. SPACECRAFT - CONTROL ROOM - DAY

Classical MUSIC plays.

LEM, a tall, skinny, brown squirrel, sits at a computer monitor. His one-piece, cream-colored uniform shows stains and a few patched tears.

He has a tiny plug in his ear. One paw keeps time with the music. The other paw taps keys on the computer.

Lem is jiggled roughly from behind. He pops the plug from his ear. The music instantly stops.

CAPTAIN MOLL, a large, massively muscled, female squirrel with ivy-green fur and glowing yellow eyes, frowns at Lem's earplugs. Her tight, orange uniform bulges as she moves.

CAPTAIN MOLL

Hurry up! Make a course change.
We're heading to Earth to pick up
some new specimens.

Lem's eyes widen.

LEM

But, Captain, I thought we weren't
going to take any more animals. The
Parliamentary Council expressly --

CAPTAIN MOLL

Shut up, you little mole. Commander
Zephyr just gave me my orders. I
don't question him, and you don't
question me, got it?

Lead Commander ZEPHYR, a handsome, robust, golden squirrel with dark green eyes and a very fluffy tail, struts into the room through a sliding door.

His immaculately white uniform, plastered with badges, accents his perfect form. He peers first at Lem's frown and then at Captain Moll.

ZEPHYR
Trouble, Captain Moll?

Captain Moll trots across the room.

CAPTAIN MOLL
Nothing I can't handle, Sir. This little --

LEM
The name is Lem.

CAPTAIN MOLL
Lem has a problem with our change of course --

Zephyr shakes his head as he stares at Lem.

ZEPHYR
You don't want to go to Earth? I hear it's fascinating. Primitive, of course. Amazing that anyone from our Sciuridae lineage even managed to survive.

LEM
But specimens, Sir?

CAPTAIN MOLL
Shut up, you rodent! We have a job to do. Where's your patriotism?

Zephyr waves Lem's worries away.

ZEPHYR
Don't fret. You can collect some of your precious plant samples if you like. Not my thing, but if it makes you happy.

Zephyr strolls over to his throne-like chair and sits. He nods to Captain Moll. Captain Moll tips her head and struts over to the computer console and points.

CAPTAIN MOLL
Set the course for Earth! And --

Captain Moll bends down. Her muscled arm flexes close to Lem's face, and she whispers.

CAPTAIN MOLL (CONT'D)

No more trashy music, you hear?
Keep your mind on your work, or
I'll tear your precious little
plants to pieces.

Captain Moll kicks Lem under the console. She struts back to her captain's chair, twirls it toward her, and sits.

Lem, with hunched shoulders, punches the controls on the console. He sneaks one side-long glance at his earplug and swipes it into his pocket.

On the wall-sized screen, Earth looms directly ahead.

END TEASER

ACT ONE

EXT. WEST WOODS - NORTHERN BOUNDARY - EVENING

A young and lithe SYLVAN Gray Squirrel scampers up a large oak tree and peers over a wild, grassy field, which stands as a boundary between two great woodlands.

The West Wood's massive, dark oaks and gnarly pines stand in stark contrast to the silvery maples and shimmering cottonwoods in the East Woods.

Her long, dark skirt and light, cotton blouse ripple in a gentle breeze.

A pack of massive, bristling COYOTES slinks across the field. They head right for Sylvan's woods.

SYLVAN
Omnivorous beasts!

Sylvan races back down the tree. She heaves deep breaths as she scurries through the woods. She glances back over her shoulder several times, her eyes wide with worry.

She runs right smack into Lead Commander ZEPHYR. Solid as a rock, Zephyr merely tilts his head and blinks as Sylvan bounces off him.

Sylvan falls backward. Stars revolve around her head. Her eyes sparkle as she shakes off her confusion and stares at Zephyr with her mouth open. Wobbly, she gets to her paws.

Zephyr stands tall with his broad shoulders squared and flourishes one paw in an elaborate bow.

ZEPHYR
Hello, I am Lead Commander Zephyr
from the planet Vox. Could you
direct me to some kind animals for
a little rest and refreshment?

Zephyr's wide smile displays his sparkling incisors. Sylvan nods her head in vigorous assent.

SYLVAN
My tree's not far from here. You
can come home with me. I'll
introduce you to everyone.

ZEPHYR
How charming! Please, lead the way.

Sylvan skips along at Zephyr's side. She tosses shy glances at his magnificent form with every stride. Zephyr marches ahead with stately grace, appraises the woods, and grins.

ZEPHYR (CONT'D)

Earth is truly magnificent, but of course, Vox is better. I don't suppose you know much about the universe, do you?

SYLVAN

Not me, but my pa used to say that stars are a light in the darkness and a promise of hope in our troubled world... He died protecting me.

Sylvan stares at the ground and sighs.

SYLVAN (CONT'D)

I sure miss him.

ZEPHYR

He must have been very wise. I may be able to help your troubled world. Would you like that?

Sylvan nods with tiny, vigorous shakes. Her paws wave in exasperation.

SYLVAN

You don't know what we go through with the East Woods Critters. Why, they're nothing but a bunch of --

Zephyr waves her words away with a dismissive paw.

ZEPHYR

Savages, undoubtedly. Never fear. With my help, we'll make a better world for everyone!

Sylvan stops at a huge maple tree and points to a large entrance hole high up on the trunk. She sighs at a memory.

INT. SYLVAN'S TREE - LIVING ROOM - DAY - FLASHBACK

Sylvan's large, ruffled family sprawls across the living room as they chomp on massive sandwiches, chips, and cookies and slurp drinks.

EXT. WEST WOODS - NORTHERN BOUNDARY - EVENING - END FLASHBACK

Sylvan shakes her head and blinks up at Zephyr.

SYLVAN

I hope you don't mind large
families. Mine extends through the
whole of the West Woods.

Sylvan takes a deep breath and ascends the tree while Zephyr
follows with a dangerous gleam in his eyes.

ZEPHYR

Nothing pleases me more.