

COW HARBOR
a ten episode series by Ray Antonison



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Logline:

A small Long Island town serves reality for high schooler Poppy as she navigates her sexuality, self-love, her school's drug and rape culture, and queer youth like herself.

Genre:

Dark comedy

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Episode One: Greenlawn Pharmacy

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INT. GREENLAWN PHARMACY - DAY

A Plan B pill sits inside its plastic cage. Eyes with inexperienced eyeliner narrow, taking it in. The pill. The eyes. The pill.

POPPY (V.O.)

My future, trapped in a cold
plastic prison. My uterus,
depending on the next few hours of
this magical healing pill.

POPPY, 16, a chubby girl with playful attire (red braids tied with ribbon, pompom earrings) bites her lip. Grabs the container from the shelf.

TITLE CARD: greenlawn pharmacy, summer 2014

All the pharmacy lights go out except for her aisle - she walks with dignity to the register, her flip-flops a banger with every flip and flop.

At the register, an UPTIGHT LADY stares at Poppy as she holds a box of tampons. Fire lights up her eyes. Poppy watches, unamused.

The CASHIER takes the box, looks Poppy up and down.

CASHIER

Are you seventeen?

POPPY

I will be in two weeks. No one's
watching you.

CASHIER

I can't sell you Plan B until
you're seventeen.

POPPY

Oh, so more than seventy-two hours
from now?

CASHIER

Your mom can get it for you.

The bell jingles as Poppy dips out.

EXT. LIBRARY PLAYGROUND - SUNSET

Poppy sways left and right on a swing, her head down, crying quietly as the sky turns orange.

POPPY (V.O.)
Only twelve hours left.

A car slows down beside the playground fence. Poppy looks up, wipes her eyes hurriedly as the driver door opens.

DAN, 24, a handsome man possibly sculpted by gods, waves Poppy over.

DAN
I knew it was you! What're you
doing here?

INSERT: Freeze frame of Poppy and Dan in unflattering poses.

POPPY (V.O.)
It's important to know why I
immediately wanted to vomit.

INT. PEREZ VETERINARIAN CENTER - THREE MONTHS AGO

Poppy sits behind the computer, typing in data from a manila folder. She pauses, fixes her bun, and whispers to herself.

POPPY
Fred-rick. Doug-las. Twenty-four
pounds. Black. Spayed -

Dan enters, holding a kitten in his hand, nursing her with a bottle. Poppy's eyes light up. Dan gives her a sexy smirk.

POPPY (V.O.)
Daniel Perez, twenty-four.
Deadlifts two-sixty. Black-haired.
Uncircumcised, he told me -

DAN
Hey, Poppy. Did you meet Natalie?

POPPY
No, can I hold her?

Dan gently places Natalie the kitten into Poppy's hands; his

hand caresses her; goosebumps POP up on her skin. A breathy sigh. WIND CHIMES.

Poppy gazes at Natalie, feeding her.

POPPY
She's beautiful.

DAN
Yeah. She's coming home with me.

POPPY
Nice!

DAN
Maybe you can visit her, watch her grow, you know?

Poppy stares at him, gulping. Dan dazzles as Dan does.

INSERT: Frame of Poppy and Dan in unflattering poses.

POPPY (V.O.)
You ever meet someone you want to fuck so badly but you have to wait until it's legal and they're not dating that bitch anymore?

INSERT: Dan's phone background, Dan and a pretty blonde.

POPPY (V.O.)
For someone who claims to be hopelessly in love with Alina, he's been hitting on me ever since I got hired. And I'm just waiting to be seventeen every day to be with this man. Specifically him. God wants it. I want it.

CUT TO: Pink fantasy of Poppy and Dan making out on a beach, both in fifties attire -

POPPY (V.O.)
Anyway, that's Dan -

EXT. LIBRARY PLAYGROUND - SUNSET

Poppy and Dan sit in his car on the side of the road. Dan sips a Dunkin Donuts iced coffee.

POPPY

He didn't tell me until it had already been twenty-four hours. That's one day gone out of three!

DAN

Why didn't you tell me this morning?

POPPY

I thought I could get it. But you have to be seventeen.

DAN

Wait, you're -

POPPY

Two weeks, technically twelve days.

DAN

Shit. Here. I'll buy it for you, okay?

EXT. GREENLAWN PHARMACY PARKING LOT - LATER

Poppy sits in the passenger seat, feet up on the dashboard, listening to Neon Trees. She watches Dan through the window, holding the plastic container of Plan B. The cashier looks outside, notices her, waves, smiling broadly.

POPPY

Ugh.

She waves back. Sips Dan's coffee. Furtively picks up his wallet from the console - inside in a picture of Dan and Alina. She mimics vomit, shuffling through his cards.

POPPY

Ooh, a Gold member.

The bell jingles. Poppy sits forcefully -casual in her seat, changing the station to 80's classics. Dan gets in next to her, gives her the Plan B container. Poppy stares at it.

POPPY

Holy fuck. Even the packaging is
hard to cut through. What the fuck.
Do you have scissors?

DAN

Umm -

Dan shuffles through the console as Poppy tries to rip the plastic packaging, cutting her thumb.

POPPY

Oww!

DAN

Oh, baby! Here -

Poppy stares at him as he cuts open the packaging. She sticks out her tongue: a candy heart that says "KISS ME" sits on her tongue.

CUT TO: Poppy's tongue, Plan B on the tip. She swallows. Sips some more iced coffee. Dan starts clapping.

DAN

Yay! You're not pregnant anymore!
Wanna get tacos?

POPPY

Like - vagina-shaped food?

DAN

You get me.

POPPY (V.O.)

I want him to take my anal
virginity.

EXT. TACO TRUCK - NIGHT

Summertime night, roadside, by a brightly-colored motel, a laundromat, and a Foodington Market. Dan stands at the taco truck, ordering in Spanish. Poppy watches, on the phone.

POPPY

Dan bought it.

INT. MIMI'S ROOM - NIGHT

MIMI, 17, a petite girl in a room plastered with magazine pictures like decoupage, rests on her stomach, scrolling through Vine as she listens to Poppy.

MIMI

Wait - Hot Older Dan from Work Dan?
Or Senior STD Dan?

POPPY (O.S.)

Hot Older My Boss's Son Dan.

MIMI

Your boss's child bought you Plan
B.

POPPY (O.S.)

Yeah, I think so.

MIMI

Not like Sean would've.

CUT TO: Poppy watches Dan grab the Styrofoam containers.

POPPY

Talk later.

MIMI (O.S.)

Wait, did you break up with Sean
yet-?

POPPY

Well -

INT. SEAN'S ROOM - BEFORE ALL THIS

Sean sits on his bed in the most generic high school boy bedroom, sobbing into his hands. Poppy awkwardly sits beside him, patting his back. A broken condom sits on the floor by their feet, discarded.

CUT TO: Mimi's lips.

MIMI

Nice.

EXT. TACO TRUCK - NIGHT

Poppy smiles at Dan as he sits at the picnic table with her.

POPPY
Love you, bye -!

MIMI (O.S.)
Don't do anything ille-!

Poppy puts the phone down, accepts her tacos. Dan grins at her, uncaps a bottle of soda.

DAN
We'll have to share, they only had
one left -

POPPY
Oh - oh - sure.

Dan takes a swig, stares at Poppy.

DAN
Feel any different?

POPPY
Plan B makes your brain feel like
it left your body.

DAN
Like ecstasy.

POPPY
You get it.

DAN
Basically the same thing.

Poppy giggles into her taco.

POPPY
Thanks for everything today.
Seriously. I do not want to have
Sean's baby.

DAN

Of course. And we can do this all
the time, you know. Get tacos.
Especially twelve days from now.

Poppy grabs the soda and chugs. A lot.

INT. POPPY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

SUPER: three months later.

Poppy's room, bedecked in fairy lights, portraits of the
Mona Lisa and other dead people, such as Ben Franklin and
Malcolm X. Poppy reads a chemistry packet on her bed,
writing notes down; Dan pets Natalie in his lap, watching
her. They both take a sip of beer at the same time.

POPPY

I don't want to drink in college.

DAN

I drank in college.

POPPY

You were an alcoholic.

DAN

I was really good at drinking.

Poppy smiles to herself, shifts through papers. Puts them
away.

POPPY

I'm done.

DAN

Finally.

Dan stands up; Natalie drops to the floor, meowing. He pays
no mind, jumping onto Poppy's bed and pulling her into a
kiss. They mack heavily.

POPPY

I love this part.

DAN

I love you.

POPPY (V.O.)

He says that to me now.

On Poppy's desk, Dan's phone buzzes, and it lights up to show his background of himself and Alina.

SLOW CAR TIRES. Poppy leaps up, pushing Dan away, and checks out the window - a minivan sits in the driveway.

POPPY

Shit, my mom's home.

DAN

Shit!

Dan scoops up his jacket, grabs Natalie. Gives Poppy one more kiss.

DAN

See you Saturday, love.

Dan hurriedly slips into his shoes and scampers down the stairs. Poppy watches as her mother begins to enter her house - as the front door SQUEALS, Poppy rushes from her room to look out the back window - Dan's dark figure runs around the side of the house.

Relieved, Poppy darts back into her room and stashes the beer bottles away. Sprays perfume. Takes out her book and rests in bed. A SHUFFLING from outside; Poppy listens to her mother's heavy FOOTSTEPS on the stairs.

MOM (O.S.)

Poppy?

POPPY (V.O.)

Next week, he said, Alina would be away at college, and we could start having sex. I couldn't stop thinking about that. I can't stop thinking about him.

Poppy rests on her bed, looking up at the ceiling, smiling to herself, a fingers touching the hickey on her neck.

CREDITS

COW HARBOR
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Episode Two: Cow Harbor High School

INT. DAN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Poppy sits nervously on the edge of Dan's bed, swinging her pink-socked feet. He washes out a pan; she watches him.

POPPY (V.O.)

Men are ten times hotter when
forbidden. Men who cheat, men who
are much older. Men who are both.
Men who wash pans.

A SEXY, BRASSY SONG. Dan washes the dishes in slow-motion, beaming with a slutty smile like a sexy motherfucker. The suds run smoothly; his skin sparkles.

DAN

Just give me a minute.

The bathroom door snaps shut. The socks hit the floor. Poppy's eyes dart. She bites her lip. Opens the top desk drawer: condoms, tampons, recipes. The next drawer: notebooks, a bong, several snow globes. The next: neat folders and important documents.

CUT TO: Dan sitting on the toilet, grunting, playing a word game.

DAN

P - U - S - S - Y . . . F - O - O -
T - E - D -

Poppy's socks slide across the hardwood floor to Dan's dresser. Opens the underwear drawer, freezes; at the top is a framed photo of Dan and Alina. She stares at it. Grips the frame firmly. A slight crack runs up the glass.

She leaves the drawer shut, slides back to the bed. Sits down. Stares at her hands. The toilet FLUSHES; the sink RUNS as she cries. The door opens; Dan sits at Poppy's side. Dan holds her to his chest. She sniffs into his shirt.

POPPY (V.O.)

I am so afraid of losing him.

INT. MATH CLASS - MORNING

A tired, makeup-free Poppy wilts at her desk, doodling dicks and tits in her notebook. A girl sits at the desk next to

her, a girl with straight hair, great makeup, glam queen:
MARGOT. Her crop top shows off her toned body and boobs.

MARGOT

Hey Poppy, why weren't you at
Homecoming last night?

POPPY

What? Oh, cause I was getting dick.

TITLE CARD: cow harbor high school, fall 2014

INT. COW HARBOR HALLWAYS - DAY

Poppy opens up her long locker, earbuds in, bopping to
Little Mix. Takes out a bottle of Xanax, swallows one. She
watches two straight teens kiss against lockers, smirking.

POPPY (V.O.)

My senior year has had one perk so
far: no boring high school straight
boy sex. No, sir. I skipped that
shit stage. I went right to the
major league.

INT. STOCKBROKER OFFICE SPACE - DAY

A large quantity of men stand and shout into their phones in
a bustling, beeping stock office.

VARIOUS MEN

Stocks! Stocks! Stocks!

POPPY (V.O.)

Daniel works at a stock . . .
place. Not sure what he does there.

In a separate room, Daniel clicks on a computer, updating
the company logo. DAN'S BOSS leans over his shoulder.

DAN'S BOSS

It screams: money.

POPPY (V.O.)

Lots of graphics and company
videos, I think.

INT. MATH CLASS - MORNING

Poppy smiles at Margot, who rolls her eyes.

MARGOT

You're something else.

POPPY

Thanks, babe.

Margot giggles, hides a smile behind her hand; Poppy blushes vividly; Margot's hair shimmers in slow motion; Poppy bites her lip; Margot's sweet eyes shine.

POPPY (V.O.)

I had another dream about her last night.

Margot flips her hair, leans over her notebook. A LACROSSE PLAYER sits at her side; she laughs and touches his arm. Poppy looks back at her notebook, furiously draws flowers.

INT. GIRLS' LOCKER ROOM - LATER

Poppy sits alone on a bench, tying her shoes. Girls chatter elsewhere. Her phone buzzes.

INSERT: A text on Poppy's phone from Dan: "Hey cutie💕💕"

Poppy smiles into her knee.

EXT. OUTDOOR FIELDS - LATER

In their sweatshirts and leggings, the girls' cross country team jogs in a group of five: Poppy, Mimi, ERIN, ALICE, and ISHA. Their ponytails all swing in unison.

ALICE

Poppy's dating a twenty-five-year-old.

MIMI

Umm, he's twenty-four.

ERIN

That's hot.

ISHA

Is that even legal?

The girls run past the boys' soccer team; Isha, Mimi, and Erin get distracted.

POPPY

Yes, it's legal.

ALICE

He better not be -

POPPY

He's not. I can look out for myself.

A soccer player, BRANDON, runs up to the group of girls, jogs alongside them.

BRANDON

Hey, Isha.

ISHA

Bye, Brandon.

BRANDON

Wait -

ALICE

Brandon, I will poke holes in all your condoms, I swear to all fuck!

BRANDON

Fuck you, Alice.

COACH (O.S.)

Brandon! Get back here!

ALICE

Run back to daddy, now.

Brandon points at Isha.

BRANDON

I won't give up on you, girl.

He jogs away. The girls laugh.

ALICE

Ugh. I apologize.

ISHA

It's okay. He tried to dance on me
at Homecoming.

ERIN

And Gillian. And me and Sam and
Jess. And Miss Werther.

POPPY

Well, Miss Werther is hot.

The runners pass the girls' soccer field. Poppy's eyes lock
on Margot, leading the stretches.

MARGOT

One!

SOCCER TEAM

Two!

MARGOT

Three!

SOCCER TEAM

Four!

The other girls are still in conversation.

ISHA

It's not your fault he became such
a creep.

ALICE

Yeah, but that creep is my twin!

ERIN

Disown him.

ISHA

Disembowel him.

The girls laugh, panting more.

INT. POPPY'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Poppy rests on her bed, shorts and sports bra on, books on her bed. She stares at a math worksheet. Her phone chimes.

INSERT: Text from Dan: "Okay, I'll get you at twelve then."

Poppy types a response and throws her phone down. A chime.

INSERT: A messaging app notification from Margot: "Hey, what the fuck is the formula? I can't read my handwri. . ."

Poppy giggles and takes a picture of her notebook. Sends it. Rolls over, groans into her comforter, giggles shrilly.

EXT. SUBURBAN STREETS - DAY

Poppy runs in her bright athletic wear on a generic street, passing a blue house. A green house. A two-car garage house. A gated house. A house with fountains. A mansion. The houses get more and more extravagant.

She turns off into the driveway of a paint-chipped, barely gardened summerhouse. Up to her front door, entering.

INT. BATHROOM - LATER

Poppy rests in a bathtub, her feet up on the edge as she paints her toes red. She accidentally knocks the nail polish bottle into the water; it swirls like period water around her waist. She hisses to herself.

POPPY

Fuck!

MOM (O.S.)

Language!

INT. DAN'S CAR - LATER

Dan slows down in front of a red light. Irish jig music plays on the radio; Poppy and Dan are bopping it out. They smile at each other; Dan gives Poppy a swift kiss.

DAN

How's Sean taking it? That you're fucking an older guy?

POPPY

Umm. . . .

EXT. POPPY'S FRONT YARD - NIGHT

Poppy stands at her bedroom window, illuminated.

TITLE CARD: last night

Sean is throwing rose petals all over the front yard. Poppy slides open the window, leans out.

POPPY

Just stop it, Sean.

SEAN

Poppy! I am not drunk this time!

POPPY

If my mother gets home she'll call the police.

SEAN

I'm sorry, are flowers illegal? Is my love illegal, Poppy?

Poppy sighs, shuts her window. From outside, the MUFFLED CROON and GUITAR STRUMS of a butthurt boy.

Sean is adamantly swaying in a ring of petals, singing.

SEAN

Poppy, you make my heart so sloppy;
getting hurt like a pansy; your
face makes me so antsy -

INT. DAN'S CAR - BACK AGAIN

Poppy shrugs.

POPPY

He's coping.

DAN

His loss.

Poppy beams. Dan puts a hand on her thigh and drives off.

INT. PEREZ VETERINARIAN CENTER - ROOM - LATER

Poppy and a GERBIL'S MOTHER are on their hands and knees, crawling around on the floor.

GERBIL'S MOTHER
Cynthia! Fuck!

POPPY
Damn, she's good.

Poppy's cheek presses into the tile floor; she spies a tiny tail hanging out from under a table. Lunges, snatches a gerbil up in her two hands, cradling the rodent.

POPPY
Gotcha! Oww!

Poppy drops the gerbil into its carrier cage and runs her bloodied finger under the faucet.

GERBIL'S MOTHER
Cynthia! What did I tell you about biting people? I'm sorry! Sorry!

POPPY
No worries! Gerbils are lithe but yet powerful creatures.

DR. PEREZ, 50, a handsome daddy, enters, letting out a dramatic gasp.

DR. PEREZ
Oh no! Poppy!

POPPY
I'm fine.

She puts on a band-aid.

DR. PEREZ
Sorry for keeping you waiting! I'll be ready for your gerbil in five minutes!

GERBIL'S MOTHER

Thank you, doctor!

Dr. Perez exits. The gerbil's mother wiggles her eyebrows at Poppy.

GERBIL'S MOTHER

Is he -?

POPPY

Engaged.

GERBIL'S MOTHER

Fuck.

The gerbil eats a seed with its tiny hands.

INT. DAN'S APARTMENT - LATER

Poppy and Dan sit on his bed, facing each other, legs wrapped around each other. They eat steak and potatoes off the same plate.

POPPY

Did you ever read Lord of the Flies?

DAN

Nah.

POPPY

Damn.

DAN

Got a test coming up?

POPPY

Tomorrow.

DAN

Those were the days.

POPPY

Yeah, it must've hard for you to read between all those lines of coke.

Dan stares at her. She giggles.

POPPY

Kidding!

He is stony. She looks down at the potatoes, silenced.

INT. POPPY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Poppy scrolls through an online blog network under the hashtag "#gaygirl". She stops, gasps.

POPPY

No way.

It's a picture of Margot kissing another girl: "#gaygirl" "#lesbianindisguise" "#lgbtteen". Poppy squeals.

INT. MATH CLASS - MORNING

Poppy, in beautifully color-coordinated makeup, stares at Margot as she slides into the seat next to her. Margot smiles at Poppy; Poppy tries to bare her teeth.

MARGOT

Hey, Pop.

POPPY

Heeeeyyy. . . .

POPPY (V.O.)

I need this girl in my life
forever.

INT. ENGLISH CLASS - LATER

Poppy bends over her looseleaf as she answers a question on the blackboard: "What underlying themes play into the destruction of tribe? Use at least six examples."

Poppy begins to scribble.

POPPY (V.O.)

Despite lacking societal pressures
and hinged expectations from
elders, the boys on the island
destroy themselves through an
ordinary source of trouble:
jealousy.

INT. COW HARBOR HALLWAYS - DAY

Poppy watches a high school couple kiss against some lockers; she pops a Xanax.

POPPY (V.O.)
 Hands craved the conch. Voices
 fought to be heard. Power was based
 on masculinity, pride.

INT. STOCKBROKER OFFICE SPACE - DAY

Dan, at his computer, texts Alina a dick pic on his phone, then sends the same one to Poppy.

POPPY (V.O.)
 Jack is jealous of Ralph, Ralph is
 jealous of Jack, to the point where
 they try to steal the boys away
 from the other.

Alina replies with a cleavage shot. Poppy replies with "the fuck? i'm in class".

EXT. OUTDOOR FIELDS - DAY

Mimi and Poppy run together past the soccer field; Margot waves at Poppy; Poppy accidentally runs into Mimi.

POPPY (V.O.)
 Both feel entitled to the position.
 Both believe they have earned their
 climb to power. That they are in
 the right.

INT. COW HARBOR CAFETERIA - DAY

Sean watches as Poppy smiles at a HIGH SCHOOL BOY, eating sandwiches and copying math homework. Sean throws his barely eaten lunch in the trash and leaves.

POPPY (V.O.)
 It doesn't matter if someone earned
 it, if they truly deserve it: they
 believe they are entitled to it,
 and will do anything to claim their
 property.

INT. POPPY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Dan and Poppy make out heavily on Poppy's bed; Natalie the kitten watches from the chair.

POPPY (V.O.)

But in the end, neither of them
deserved it: they merely wanted it.

Dan's phone lights up with an "I miss you" text from Alina, revealing the picture of her on his lock screen.

CREDITS.

FIN.