

First draft for "Followup to: Rose Quartz Ate Pink Diamond!"

Hello Everyone, BlackfootFerret here!

One year ago, I released "Rose Quartz Ate Pink Diamond", one of my most powerful theories to date. It linked several ideas together to reveal my take on the story of Pink Diamond, and the possible destiny of Steven himself.

It was a controversial video. So I'm here to clarify things by correcting mistakes and clearing up details. I'll also show how the core theory has help up over the past year, and make a few updates based on the new information.

The real theory, revealed in a twist at the end, would read: "Pink Diamond gifted her powers to Rose Quartz to personally found the Crystal Gems and save The Earth, shattering herself in the process." But that's a very long title, and doesn't fit well on a thumbnail. So I shortened it to the deceptively simple "Rose Quartz Ate Pink Diamond", for reasons I'll cover at the end of this video.

So let's start with the fun part! Here are all the mistakes I made in the video:

Many people pointed out that I used a screenshot from Cartoon Universe at a time their channel title had been hacked. I did NOT do this on purpose.

After binge-watching the show and gathering my ideas, I was in a rush to finish my research by the time answers were rumored to come out on Jan 30th. When bomb was leaked early I went into panic mode, fearing the answers would arrive before I could finish the video, and cut a few corners.

I didn't know much about the established Steven Universe channels yet, and grabbed a few screenshots of interesting titles. Including "Top 10 Unsolved Theories in Steven Universe!" which is the part of the screen I was looking at instead of the channel title, and wasn't even aware the name change has been a hostile hack until others told me about.

I want to apology to Cartoon Universe for this slipup, and have become a Patreon sponsor of theirs as a way to make up for it.

My next error was citing the wrong Seasons numbers for Steven Universe episodes. This is because, for reasons known only to the ghost of Steven Jobs, Apple's iTunes archive features an entirely different season numbering system than the official canon. For example, according to Apple, "Gem Heist/The Zoo" is the first episode of Season Six. A season that doesn't yet exist. Even better, Gem Heist is actually in the middle of Season Four. But since I watched the show on iTunes, I had no idea of this weird alternate corporate reality until I'd finished the video.

This is weird, but it's actually a good thing, because that means Lapis and Peridot move into the barn in Season Three, just like how The Richingtons move next door in Season Three of the Little Butler cartoon, just how Amethyst said they would in the episode "Maximum Capacity". Little Butler is a meta reference to Steven Universe itself, and Greg's tale of a Cat named Money appearing only in the pilot episode links Money to Cookie Cat. And Steven's Cookie Cat song links the story of the ice cream feline to Pink Diamond. When you link it all together, that makes Pink Diamond a member of the Crystal Gem family.

The episodes "Tiger Millionaire" and "Tiger Philanthropist" also deal with Steven being a pink cat with a lot of money, who ends up giving it away in the end.

My next mistake was occasionally calling both Jasper and Ruby by the pronoun "He" in the middle of fast sentences. I'm well aware that all gems are female, this was a complete gaff on my part. Again, I was in a bit of a panic to finish and cut some corners.

Now let's talk about a theory of mine that might be in jeopardy: The truth about Lion.

My original theory stated Rose Quartz created Lion in the same way Pearl creates her Holo Pearls, by projecting a piece of herself, then severing it from the whole to become its own, independent, mirror-flipped entity.

That's why Pearl couldn't reform herself after Holo Pearl poofed her in "Steven the Swordfighter", the evil Anti-Pearl she'd created counted as a form of herself, preventing Our Pearl from reforming. This ghostly anti-Pearl with a diamond on her chest attacked Steven and tried to retrieve Pearl's gem, so that IT might become the real Pearl instead. It was only after Steven poofed the Holo Pearl that our Pearl was able to, instantly, reform.

I theorized that Lion might be an inverted projection of Rose, created by her to provide some guidance to Steven while she was gone, binding this construct to help Steven in the same way the Holo Pearls were compelled to follow Pearl's rules as combat training targets. But after Lars was resurrected by The Power of Pinkness, and had magical warp zone hair just like Lion did, people said Lion must have been a regular earth lion that Rose brought back from the dead in the same fashion.

While I admit my theory is shakier than before, and I may have to rework it or discard it based on future information, I'm not ready to throw in the towel just yet.

Yes, Lion and Lars have a similar origin, but they're also different. Lion keeps eating those gem hybrid crystal scorpions, while Lars no longer seems to need to eat at all. Lion has amazing powers to warp space and blast things, while the only power we've seen Lars use so far is being able to bypass gem sensors. Lion also has a hidden keen intelligence far beyond that of an earth lion, and strangely specific knowledge that only Rose would know: Like where the Secret Training base was, and that Nora's tape had to be returned to Pink Diamond's ship because

Steven was born a boy. Pearl says Rose never had a Lion, although Rose kept secrets, even from Pearl.

Lars does seem to be a lot smarter after his upgrade from bored donut shop employee to Renowned Space Pirate, although whether the Power of Pinkness gave him this, or just gave him the confidence to do what he was always capable of, remains to be seen.

And now for some clarifications to the original theory: Why did I start the video with Jasper?

The goal was to show that Steven's Mom has an impossible Power Level for a gem of her type. Bismuth claimed that Rose Quartz began life as a perfectly normal quartz soldier, and Big Jasper has the highest recorded naturally-occurring power level of any known Quartz, which is why Peridot calls her "The Ultimate Quartz", not just "The Ultimate Jasper". The only way Rose Quartz could even stand a chance against Jasper, let alone massively surpass her in power, would be if Steven's Mom received a power boost in some unnatural way.

The importance of Power Level to the story is emphasized in "Garnet's Universe", where Garnet's friend who is definitely not Slippery Toad constantly tracks Garnet's power level gain as she trains.

Here's an example of the Power Level Argument from Undertale: Sans the Skeleton is several orders of magnitude stronger than Asgore, the King of All Monsters. If Sans was a monster, he would definitely be their King instead. But Sans isn't a monster, because the only explanation for his impossibly high power level is that he has a Human Soul. Sans also has darkness in his soul, which monsters aren't supposed to have.

So why would Big Jasper's power level be relevant to a Rose Quartz gem? Because jaspers, amethysts, and roses are all members of the Quartz family, and all originated from Earth. While there are differences between each variety, there are also similarities, which is why both Big Jasper and Our Amethyst can do the Burning Wheel attack. The Zoo shows us that other than color, normal amethyst and jasper gems are almost identical, right down to their six-sided gems. Big Jasper's secret is that, looking at her non-standard nose gem, she's actually an off-color mutant that got larger rather than smaller. But most Jaspers are very similar to Amethysts.

Do we have any proof that regular rose quartz gems are also similar to amethysts and jaspers? A major missing piece of information is that we currently don't have any normal rose gems to compare with Steven's Mom, and have yet to discover the Rose Kindergarten, although it must be out there, somewhere. I think Pearl's friend Mystery Girl might be a regular Rose Quartz gem disguised as a human, but if you want to see what happened to most rose gems, just look at the Zoo.

Thousands, upon thousands of rose quartz gems are poofed and bubbled here, what Yellow and Blue Diamond believe to be the last of their kind other than Steven. And here we can invoke the Power Level argument again, because the Diamonds were able to defeat all of these hordes of rose quartz gems.. And yet were impossibly defeated themselves by Steven's Mom!

The inverted pyramid mural shows a gem that could only be Rose Quartz facing off against what could very well be a fusion of Three Diamonds. Rose faces them down, holding the power of a four-sided diamond in her hands, and forced them to retreat from the Earth, succeeding where all the rest of her gem cut failed.

There is something truly special about Steven's Mom. And this becomes all the more impossible to ignore, because, somehow, this completely ordinary yet very smart gem acquired a power unique from all the rest of gemkind: her ability to heal.

Eyeball the Ruby twice claims that Steven's Mom is the only known gem in the universe with the power to heal: Once by deduction in "Bubbled", and then flat out saying it on the witness stand in "The Trial". Healing is not an innate power of rose quartz gems, only Steven's Mom can do it.

Garnet has shown us, by three times gifting her Future Vision power to Steven with a kiss, that one gem can voluntarily grant their power to another for a limited time, before it returns back to its original gem. I have to wonder what would happen if the original gem was destroyed before the gift wore off.. Would that power stay with its new host, because it had nowhere to return to?

Now consider that Healing is a unique power in the gem universe. A unique power could have only come from a unique gem. And there are only four unique gems in the universe that we are aware of: The Four Diamonds, White, Yellow, Blue and Pink.

If Rose was not born with the power to heal, she must have received it as a gift. And the only possible gem who could have gifted this unique power to her is Pink Diamond herself, supposedly the very gem Rose shattered.

Speaking of gifts, let's go back to The Answer for a moment, and how Rose, an ordinary quartz soldier, with only Pearl at her side, single-handedly attacked Blue Diamond and her entire court up in the sky arena. This attack seems like madness.. How could Rose and Pearl survive, let alone win this conflict? Yet both of them confidently dive in, and get themselves out again, with the only lasting change being inspiring Ruby to fuse with Sapphire to form Garnet.

Rose was flushed deeply pink during this battle, and shows a Super Saiyan power level in battle. Yet when Garnet meets up with Rose and Pearl later on, Rose is back to her usual white and pink color scheme. Rose was carrying the gift of Pink Diamond's power in the arena, but it had faded by the time Garnet saw Rose again later.

This is backed up by the flashback in Gemcation, which shows Garnet and friends preparing to fight the twisted titan silhouette of who could only be Pink Diamond. Pink hasn't been shattered yet in this flashback, which must be happening after The Answer because Garnet, a unique forbidden fusion, is there. Which means Pink was still intact during the events of The Answer. If Rose was holding Pink's power then, it could only have been by a gift from Pink.

The Trial also shows us that collusion between Rose Quartz and Pink Diamond had been happening for some time. Rose was clearly identified as herself on that fateful day, a known rebel for hundreds of years, and yet when she approached Pink Diamond's palanquin, nobody in Pink's court tried to stop her, and Pink herself voluntarily left the safety of her vehicle to meet personally with Rose. Pink's pearl had already been sent away, and although several Sapphires were present, none of them saw what was about to happen. Because at the very moment Rose struck Pink, someone used The Power to Change the Future to turn it into something the Sapphires could have never seen beforehand. The same power that blinded Our Sapphire the day of The Answer, when she became part of Garnet for the first time.

But Rose didn't shatter Pink. The Trial shows Rose brandishing her famous sword on the day she supposedly stabbed Pink, the very blade Bismuth claimed could cut any form, but would never harm the core gem under any circumstances. A blade forged to Rose's exact specifications, over Bismuth's own reluctance.

Blue Diamond believed Rose used a sword to shatter Pink, but we know this is impossible. Something else was responsible.

And in The Trial, Blue Zircon drops a bombshell: That one the Diamonds themselves must be behind Pink's shattering.

It's interesting to watch how Blue and Yellow Diamond interact about Pink.

Blue was very close to Pink Diamond, and even thousands of years later, she still mourns her loss. And her wound won't heal, because even thousands of years later, Blue still doesn't know what happened to Pink, or why, and in the Trial she'll willing to do anything to uncover this vital information she has to know to heal and move on.

Yellow puts on a brave face, pretending that she doesn't care, and advises to put aside emotions as well, a double meaning in her song "What's the Use of Feeling.. Blue?" Yet even Yellow can't hide that she misses Pink, breaking down for a moment at the end of the song as Blue tries to comfort her instead.

Yellow does know something about Pink's Shattering. She seems momentarily surprised when Steven confesses to the crime, which neither he nor Rose actually did. And Yellow has no interest in finding the truth, trying to expedite The Trial and having Steven quickly executed to

silence him. Yellow even poofs the Zircon lawyers arguing both sides of the case, Blue Zircon reluctantly because her only crime was doing her job too well.. And her own Green Zircon with rage because she failed to keep the truth hidden. An outburst that leads to Blue herself confronting Yellow, yelling at her to stop!

Yellow is doing everything she can to prevent Blue from learning the Truth that Blue desperately needs to know in order to heal. And yet.. Yellow still cares for Blue, and seems to be doing these terrible things not to hurt her.. But to prevent her from finding a Truth that would hurt her even more.

Blue has been almost insane with grief for since Pink's shattering. What would happen to Blue if she ever learned that her closest diamond, Pink, was actually conspiring against The Great Diamond Authority, and funding Rose's Rebellion with her own power? If Blue was sad before, such painful knowledge might drive her to madness, possibly even shattering herself as well. Something that Yellow, who loves Blue, could never allow to happen.

White Diamond was always the force of raw intellect in The Authority. And I believe she was the one who first saw through Pink's deceptions in sponsoring Rose's Rebellion. White maybe have convinced her own closest diamond, Yellow, that Pink needed to be kicked out of the Great Diamond Authority. And neither dared tell Blue, fearing that Blue would side with Pink in the rebellion.

White's decisions may have played a role in pushing Pink to take such extreme actions. But even here, I don't think White was the one truly behind Pink's shattering. And Jungle Moon supports the idea that Pink shattered herself, when Stevonnie dreams of tiny off-color Pink punches herself in the mirror.

I want to take a moment to revisit one of my favorite details from the show that was brilliantly hidden in plain sight for years: The Six Gems on the Gem Door.

The idea first hit me while watching "Story for Steven", where young Greg visits the Gem Temple back before Steven's house was built.

Up until this episode, we've always seen only the bottom half of the door because the camera never looked up to reveal the top. And we'd gotten so used to this view that it was tempting not to even look at the gem door anymore, because it seemed like a background detail.

But the first view of the top comes during a quick camera pan, where the top flashes for only an instant. Revealing, for the first time, the huge Sixth gem on the gem door. Or what I like to call "The One Gem".

Over the rest of the series, we're slowly given better and better looks at the entire gem door.. Until the entire door is finally revealed clearly for the first time in "Know Your Fusion".

Whenever Steven Universe or any show releases details like this in a long, slow burn, it's worth noting. This was done on purpose, which means the detail is important.

And the giant One Gem also follows the same pattern as the others below, in that the inner shape of each gem has lines connecting each of its points to the outside. Amethyst has six sides, Rose has 5, Ruby has 4, Sapphire has 3, Pearl's strange gem seems to have 2 differently shaded areas, and The One Gem has a single link, for the number 1.

My read on this door is that it's symbolically saying that The One Gem is actually inside Rose's 5-sided gem. That the awesome power of the true original founder of the Crystal Gems lives on inside the very gem Steven has.

Lion 4 goes into this in more detail, when Lion seems compelled to cough up the key to Pink Diamond's ship. A key that has a miniature version of The One Gem on its hilt. Like Steven said, the Answer was in him the whole time! BONK.

Then an unhappy Lion takes Steven to the ruins of Pink Diamond's ship, where a second gem door awaits, with its own One Gem at the top. With a white and pink color scheme that resembles Rose Quartz, Cookie Cat, and Pink Diamond.

And then there's my favorite shot of Lion 4, where, as Steven stops to look at Nora's tape, which could have only been returned to Pink Diamond's ship by Lion, the camera shot pictures his head in a halo, right between the giant legs of Pink Diamond's ship. I can't look at this scene without thinking Steven is the child of a Space Goddess. Which stacks with my other theories, that Pink Diamond is Steven's grandmother.

Garnet revealed in Three Gems and Baby that Steven himself is a fusion. My theory is that Steven isn't just a fusion of two beings, but three, because Greg, Rose, and the energy of Pink Diamond are all part of his fusion.

This is why Steven keeps crying tears that he swears aren't his at the sight of Blue Diamond's misery. Blue routinely shatters gems, it's unlikely Rose would be so emotional at seeing Blue like this. But Pink was very close to Blue, and hurting Blue this deeply was never part of her plans.

All things considered, a year later, I'm more certain than ever of my core theory, that Pink Diamond's power and part of her mind reside within Rose's gem, and Steven. Which explains why Steven is able to do so many impossible things.

But with all of that being said, I do have a major update to the theory.

The Diamonds do not innately possess the same powers as the gems in their court. This is why Blue Diamond had to summon Sapphire to read the future, this tiny gem could do something that Blue Diamond could not.

But Pink Diamond DID possess powers from lesser gems. Sapphires are the ones with the ability to float, something no jasper or amethyst quartz has been able to do. But Rose Quartz could float, along with her huge portfolio of other amazing powers.

If my theory is correct, Rose used both a Sapphire's power to see the future and Pink Diamond's power to Change the Future when she attacked Blue Diamond's court. She was able to see who Garnet could be in the future, and staged the entire seemingly pointless raid to give fate the nudge it needed to convince Ruby and Sapphire to fuse, and become someone she knew would be a powerful ally in the future.

When Pink Diamond granted Rose her power, the powers of other lesser gems came along with it, as if they were already part of Pink's being. The question is, how did Pink get these powers?

Originally, I thought she must have stolen them. But this is the change I have to make to the original theory, because I no longer think Pink Diamond was a gem vampire at all.

What happened to her was, if possible, even worse.

In Jungle Moon Stevonnie relieved an early memory of Pink Diamond's, at a time she was Stevonnie's size, with Yellow Diamond looming over her like Titan. The Earth's moonbase also had a small chair in it, better fitting of Pink's original size. The Roundtable and other Steven theorists were right, Pink was an off-color Diamond. And when Pink acts like a clueless spoiled child, Yellow spits the name "Pink" at her like an insult. Right before Pink punches her own reflection in the mirror.

Pink was not originally formed with the standard four-sided diamond gem that White, Yellow and Blue have, but had a five-sided gem that looks more like a traditional jeweler's diamond.

But somewhere between Jungle Moon and the flashback in Gemcation, something happened to not only Pink, but her diamond gem as well. Because the flashback shows a twisted Titan of the traditional Diamond size grinning down and Garnet and friends. And in her belly is a traditional four-sided diamond gem.

Gems don't grow over time like humans do. Something happened to Pink that massively boosted her power level, and the size of her form. And it couldn't have happened just by draining power or having power gifted to her, because none of that would fundamentally change the shape of Pink's own gem.

Changed it to the exact shape of a regular diamond.

Here's my theory.

Off-color Pink was an embarrassment to the other three diamonds, and especially White Diamond, who valued purity and conformity over all else. Yellow views her in her original form as useless, nothing but a distraction, an injury added to insult.

But the Diamonds couldn't get rid of Pink, she was too important. So they tried to do something else.

They tried to FIX Pink Diamond.

Do you remember the episode "Keeping It Together", where Garnet and Steven revisit the Prime Kindergarten, and are attacked by broken shards of Crystal Gems that were forced to fuse together at the gem level as punishment for their rebellion?

I thought Cat Fingers was horrifying, but nothing prepared me for seeing the Hand Cluster, where four screaming gems try to form their own bodies, but are sucked back in and forced to become part of a single, mangled whole.

This is what happens when you force gems who don't want to be together to fuse on the gem level.

And this is how White Diamond and the others planned to "fix" Pink Diamond. They poofed her, took her gem into the lab, and operated on her diamond, forcing other sacrificed gems merge with Pink's gem until she did, at least, look like a regular Diamond.

Pink never asked for these powers. They were forced onto her unwillingly by her diamond sisters who did not accept her the way she was. And while the new Titanic Pink Diamond may have looked good to the troops of Homeworld, Pink must have felt horror and pain every moment of her life from then on from the mangling of her gem. And the pain of the many gems who were forced to give everything they had, and become part of her forever.

The Great Diamond Authority treated everyone horribly, even their own.

And this is what set the seeds of Rose's Rebellion, and why Pink was willing to give so much and take so great a risk in a desperate attempt to change the status quo.

Before I continue, because there's no way I can go back after going this far, I need to make something absolutely clear, so that my words, and possibly the message of the show itself, are not misunderstood.

The Great Diamond Authority is NOT EVIL.

Yes, they've done terrible things. Destroyed planets. Wiped out organic life wherever they could find it. Demanded that gems forget their own desires and act like soulless cogs in a massive machine that destroys lives. And shattered countless numbers of their own kind for the crime of being born differently.

But each and every time, the Diamonds thought they were making these choices for the greater good. That with what they knew, and were able to feel, each of these draconian measures were necessary for gemkind, whose fate they were responsible for, to continue.

And this is the true horror of the world of Steven Universe. Because The Great Diamond Authority itself is broken.

Each of the four diamonds is part of a greater whole, and represent a different aspect of that being. That's why each diamond has a ship shaped like part of a giant mech, only achieving their full power when combining, Voltron-style, into one unit.

White Diamond, who seems to be the oldest and most powerful, is the raw force of intellect in the Authority. You can think of her as The Architect from the Matrix, an utterly logical being as removed from the rest of the world as possible, valuing straight lines and uncompromising scientific calculation. White Diamond is the Head of the Authority.

On the other side, you have Pink Diamond, the youngest and, in the eyes of the others at least, the least powerful Diamond. She has the lowest spot in the Era 1 hierarchy, but has a very important position. Pink isn't just the legs of the Authority, but it's HEART, if you look at the design of the human Zoo from afar. Pink is the force of compassion and healing, and in Matrix terms she would be The Oracle. A being every bit as powerful as the Architect, who instead spends her time among the people, trying to understand them, and feel what they feel.

The theme of The Mind arguing with The Heart echos through Steven Universe. This is why Pearl and Amethyst argue so much, they also represent the Mind and the Heart, and are as different as two beings can be. Yet when they do manage to put aside their difference and fuse they form Opal, a fusion much more powerful than Garnet.

And this is why The Great Diamond Authority is broken. Because once Pink Diamond left The Authority, and was shattered, the Authority became, both figuratively and literally, a Heartless Organization.

When Lapis left the Earth and returned to the Heavens, she sent a warning back to Steven that now in Era 2 things were much worse on Homeworld than before. With only Three Diamonds in the Authority, White Diamond's power is unchecked, and everything is done her way.

Want to stop a world full of rebellious gems? Fire off Corruption Song and turn them all into monsters. Want to turn captured rebels into a weapon you can use? Shatter them all and smash their remains into a planet-devouring Cluster. Gem life is superior to organic life, therefore organic life should be destroyed to make way for gems. Gems were made to serve the Authority, the Authority is pure and perfect, and if any gems dare to question the Authority, they must be defective, and must be destroyed.

It's all very logical, and efficient. And utterly, completely heartless. But White Diamond can't see that, because the Era 2 Authority literally does not have a heart.

On the grand level, Steven Universe is less of a war, and more of an argument between family members. The Liberal Crystal Gems, founded by Pink Diamond, want to teach The Authority to learn and adapt, to change their draconian ways so that everyone is welcome in Space, and can be themselves. While the Ultra Conservative Era 2 Authority, consisting of White, Yellow and Blue, demands conformity and wants to keep things the way there are.

And yet, for being so smart, there is so much that White Diamond doesn't know.

The Authority thinks fusion is an abomination that disturbs the natural order of which gems are strongest. Yet the Crystal Gems show time and again that allowing anyone to fuse with whoever they want creates powerful bonds that magnify the strength of their individuals many fold. A power that can easily turn the tide of battle.

The Authority thinks purity and perfection are the only virtues, and any gem that isn't perfect is worthless. Yet even mutated and unusual gems have their places in the world. The Authority turns a blind eye to Big Jasper's off-color status because her strength is useful to them. And Padparadscha Sapphire's rare gift to see into the past might be the only way to learn important knowledge that would otherwise be lost.

The Authority thinks emotion is weak, and fear is more important for maintaining order than love. Yet Rose's Rebellion was built upon the principle of freedom and love, and this is the power that turned so many gems to turn against Homeworld and keep fighting, even when facing terrible odds. Compassion held Rose's army together and strengthened it, and eventually not even the Diamonds themselves could stand up to this power. Imagine how strong Homeworld would be if all gems fought for it because they wanted to, rather than being compelled to?

The Authority thinks that organic life is weak, and worthless, deserving only to be harvested to make gems. Yet Lars of the Stars shows that a single human infused with gem energy can be a

force to be reckoned with, and vex even the greatest of Homeworld's fleets. Homeworld would not need Sun Incinerators and planet-destroying Clusters unless they were fighting a foe in space that was truly terrifying. Imagine what Homeworld could accomplish if they had more human/gem hybrids like Lars working for them rather than against them, an army of Nephilim that could vex the enemy instead?

Homeworld could be so much stronger, and life on it so much more livable, if the Authority would only listen to Rose and Pink, and be willing to change.

One thing is certain though. There's no getting rid of the Great Diamond Authority.

We've seen charming little Aquamarine take down the giant fusion Alexandrite with a one blast, defeating every Crystal Gem except Steven with a single shot. If Homeworld ever does discover that Steven is back on Earth, and comes in full force, you can expect them to bring an army of Aquamarines. And Topazes. And every gem type you've ever heard of. Steven may have evaded the Diamonds a few times now, but he's never had to actually face one in a fight. And even if the legend isn't true that only a Diamond can shatter a Diamond, it's very unlikely that Steven's friends could even get close to one, should Homeworld pull all the stops and attack in full force.

Steven will need every friend he can find just to stay alive in the trials to come, and buy enough time to grow strong enough to fulfill his destiny.

And even if it were somehow possible for the Crystal Gems to shatter the other three Diamonds, it could prove to be a terrible mistake.

We still don't know exactly how the gem seed injectors work. It could be that only a Diamond can make the seeds that grow into other gems, and if you destroyed the Diamonds you would doom all of gemkind to eventually die out! Then their enemy in space would steadily advance as Homeworld weakened, until humanity would be alone to face a terror that not even the Gems Empire could handle. A fight that Earth would lose.

They might be difficult to live with, but the gems depend on the Diamonds, and the Diamonds are here to stay.

But while removing The Great Diamond Authority isn't an option.. It might still be possible to heal it.

That's why I believe the Endgame for Steven Universe, or at least a major chapter in its story, is for Steven to heal Pink Diamond, and restore her to her rightful place in the Authority.

Ever since her shattering, Pink Diamond's mind has been doing one thing: Learning.

Learning from Rose and her adventures, then from Steven and his. Every success, every failure, every moral and hard-won life lesson. Not matter how big or small the adventure was, Pink was there, with Rose, with Steven, taking the journey with them. Learning what it was like to be a regular gem. And learning what it was like to be human. Knowledge that no other Diamond has.

Pink did not know what love was, until she came to Earth. And saw the love in Rose Quartz. As the song says, she wanted to learn how to love, like her.

If Steven restores her to life, it would save not only the Earth, but all of Space as well. Horrors like the Corruption Song, Shattering, and Clusters would be things of the past.

And the new, enlightened and reformed Four-Diamond Era 3 Authority would be stronger than ever, and able to face the true terrors of space with resources it never had before, as these four living creatures once again get in their mech suits, and combine to form the Ultimate Power.

But to do all this, Steven must return Pink Diamond's energy to her gem.

Which means Steven has to unfuse, and never again reform the way he was before.

Which means Steven has to poof.

Is there a way to save Steven?

Maybe.

There's still a lot we still don't know about human/gem hybrids, or the gemless energy-based children some gems seem able to create.

And in order to even get to the point where Steven can make this sacrifice to save his universe, a lot has to happen.

Steven must locate Pink Diamond's broken gem, and unearth all the secrets of the past that not even his guardians know.

Steven must grow stronger than even his own mother, who would have healed Pink Diamond if she could, but never had the power.

And to live long enough to achieve these goals, Steven must fight or evade the ever-increasing threats from Homeworld. And the Three Diamonds that want revenge on him for their shattered sister, never realizing that if they destroy Steven, they destroy Pink Diamond for good.

And at the end of it all, Steven must make the final decision.

I don't think it's exaggerating to all, to say that in terms of cartoons, the story of Steven Universe could be the greatest story ever told.

Art is best when it's powered by conviction.

The Artist sees a way the world could be better, and creates a work so that the audience may also see what they see.

What is the goal?

The same reason a theorist might, hypothetically, create an epic theory video that deliberately makes a bad first impression, and only reveals the truth in a twist at the end.

To change people's minds.

Thank you all, for listening to the whole story, and keeping an open mind.

Goodnight everyone.

Final Jam: "Heaven for Everyone" - originally by Queen, symphonic version by The Vienna Symphonic Orchestra Project

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-_Hg27XTFXk