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MY LITTLE PONY

"Bridle Gossip"

EP010

Outline by
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TEASER

The sun is shining and the sky is clear in Ponyville as TWILIGHT enters the center of town. But despite the loveliness of the day, the streets are completely deserted. The shops are all closed up. There is no pony around, and yet, Twilight gets the strange feeling she's being watched. Suddenly Twilight hears a familiar whisper coming from the Sugarcube Sweet Shoppe. It's PINKIE PIE telling her to hurry up and get inside. Confused, Twilight listens to her friend. When Twilight gets inside the shop, she sees that all her friends—APPLEJACK, her sister APPLESEED, RAINBOW DASH, FLUTTERSHY, and RARITY—are also hiding in the shop. But they aren't just hiding. They're peeking outside, spying on someone. Twilight looks out the window just as a figure, covered in a dark cloak, walks ominously into Ponyville. Her friends claim that the creature in question is creepy, sinister, and downright mysterious. And as if on cue, the outsider turns her head towards the Sweet Shoppe, flashing her evil eyes!

ACT I

The hood of the mysterious figure falls from her head and Twilight sees that it's just a zebra! She's read about them in lots of books. They're not scary. They're just striped! But then the ponies launch into all they've heard about SHAMAN. Shaman is a wicked enchantress who lives in the Everfree Forest, where only the creepiest of creepy things live! There, she speaks a weird language and mixes up strange brews out of the weird plants that grow there. Then once a month she comes into Ponyville and lurks near the stores, which the shop owners must close to keep safe! She then digs in the ground and takes stuff back to her evil lair! Twilight listens but doesn't see how any of this can be perceived as bad. There must be logical explanations for everything she does. Maybe they should try and find out the facts about Shaman instead of jumping to conclusions.

Suddenly, Applejack realizes that her little sister isn't in there anymore. They search about and notice that the door is ajar. Appleseed couldn't have followed Shaman? Could she?

Thinking that Twilight could be right and intrigued by these tales all the ponies have told, Appleseed sneaked out of the shop to see Shaman with her own eyes. First Shaman goes from shop to shop, giving them an evil glare—just like the girls said! Next Shaman digs around a bit in the ground taking things she finds—just like the girls said! Finally, Shaman heads back out of town, towards the Everfree Forest. Thinking this is a cool, big-pony adventure, Appleseed follows in her shadow, trying to see if she's as bad as every pony says.

Just beyond the entrance of the forest, the mysterious zebra notices her petite pursuer. Shaman ominously calls out, "Beware, beware you pony folk! Those leaves of blue are not a joke!" In the nick of time, the ponies arrive! Applejack hears these words and is sure that the evil enchantress is putting a curse on her sister. They sweep into the rescue, knocking Appleseed away from Shaman and her wicked curse. But now the ponies (except Appleseed) are all standing right in the middle of a strange blue plant. "Beware! Beware!" calls Shaman as she fades into the forest. For Applejack, Pinkie Pie, Rarity, Rainbow Dash, and Fluttershy, this just confirms how creepy Shaman and the Everfree Forest both are. But Twilight is still skeptical. There is simply no such thing as curses!

The next morning, Twilight wakes up, still a bit tired from the adventures the day before and muttering about how silly all the ponies were about Shaman and her "curse." As she stands up, she catches a glimpse of herself in the mirror. Her half-lidded eyes are surely playing tricks on her. Twilight rushes to the mirror, her eyes now wide open, and she sees

that her horn is...DROOPY!? Could it be? Could Shaman have actually cursed her?

ACT II

In the Tree of Knowing Library, Twilight and Spike are busily flipping through books. There must be a logical reason for her horn deflating. A sickness or something. As she goes through book after book, among them is one with a weird cover entitled, "Super Naturals." Twilight dismisses this strange-looking book—and it's goofy title—immediately.

Suddenly Pinkie Pie comes bursting into the library. She's trying to tell Twilight something, but Twilight can't understand a word. She looks at her friend and sees that her tongue is crazy-long, swollen, blue and covered in polka dots and hanging out of her mouth, keeping her from being able to talk! Then Rainbow Dash comes flying in--- or *crashing* in is more like it!! It seems she's almost completely lost control of her wings, flying upside down, going left instead of right, down instead of up! Rainbow shouts that what Pinkie is trying to say is that when Shaman said those weird words in the Everfree Forest, she was putting a curse on them! Twilight tries to tell them this is ridiculous when the rest of the ponies come in, each with their own strange affliction. The usually perfectly coiffed Rarity is now covered in long, unruly llama hair. Appleseed comes in telling the girls that she's okay, but riding on her back is a pint-sized Applejack, measuring as big as a grasshopper. And Fluttershy...well actually, Fluttershy looks just fine. When the girls ask if anything happened to her, Fluttershy will only answer their questions with nods and head shakes. The ponies demand to know what's wrong. Fluttershy finally says, "I don't want to talk about it." But instead of her usual delicate voice, she sounds like Barry White!

The ponies beg for Twilight to just use her magic to fix them. Magic! Of course! Why didn't Twilight think of that? But when Twilight tries to concentrate, her unicorn horn won't glow. She can't do magic! Or...propose the ponies, maybe Shaman **STOLE** Twilight's magic!

The ponies are desperate for a cure but can't agree on what to do next. In the midst of their discussion, they notice that, once again, Appleseed has disappeared! and so has Applejack! After a quick inspection of the bottom of their hooves for a tiny squished AJ, they take off in pursuit.

Up ahead, Appleseed feeling more and more guilty that she caused all this by following Shaman in the first place, enters the forest a second time, determined to find a solution to the problem she fears she caused. Suddenly a tiny voice yells in her ear to head back home right now! But Appleseed points out that SHE'S the big sister now and drops the tiny Applejack off on a high (well, high for somepony only a few inches tall) tree branch, continuing towards Shaman's hut.

It is not long before the other ponies arrive looking for the Apple sisters. Applejack reunites with her friends quickly. As the rest of the ponies run towards Shaman's hut, Applejack hitches a ride on Rainbow Dash. The two try to catch up with the other ponies, but Rainbow's flying is totally out of control. They fly off the wrong way, getting separated from their friends.

Twilight, Pinkie Pie, Rarity, and Fluttershy arrive at Shaman's spooky old hut. The ponies peek in, spying through the windows and see that the room is decorated with scary tribal masks. They watch as Shaman puts ingredients into a pot of boiling water over a fire. As she does, she speaks in a foreign tongue. It sounds eerie and foreboding. Pinkie Pie, Rarity, and Fluttershy are positive that Shaman chanting an evil spell and brewing up a magic evil

potion! But always logical Twilight points out that Shaman could merely be preparing soup. But then, Shaman dips her hoof in and states that it's, "The perfect temperature for ponies. Now where is Appleseed?" Hearing this, it dawns on Twilight that all the rumors are true. Shaman is an evil enchantress! She did curse them! And now Shaman is going to make...Appleseed Soup!

AAAAAHHHHHH! The four ponies yell in horror. Just then, an upside down Rainbow Dash comes flying in with Applejack on her chin, steering her with a bridle. The two scream past the other ponies and crash right through Shaman's door and into her hut.

ACT III

Shaman is shocked at this strange disturbance. Upside down Rainbow Dash continues to fly uncontrollably about the room, crashing this way and that, destroying things. Applejack holds on for dear life, as if she's on a bucking bronco. The rest of the ponies storm in yelling at Shaman. "You made me look ridiculous!" says Rarity. "You made me sound ridiculous!" rumbles Fluttershy. "Pbbbbbt pbbbbbt pbbbbbt pbbbbbt!" spits Pinkie Pie. "And you stole my magic!" cries Twilight. "For evil!" she adds.

Rainbow Dash then crashes to the ground, spilling Shaman's caldron as she does. Shaman cries out that the ponies ruined everything! The ponies are fuming that they have been cursed and that Shaman was brewing up Appleseed soup. It looks like there's going to be a show down when...Appleseed comes in carrying herbs and plants in a saddlebag. "I got all the things you asked for, Shaman." But then she sees the unusual scene before her. "What in Ponyville is going on?"

When Twilight launches in to tell Shaman everything they suspect, Shaman and Appleseed just laugh. There was never any curse. The words Shaman spoke in the forest, "Beware, beware you pony folk! Those leaves of blue are not a joke!" were a warning. She was trying to tell Appleseed to stay away from the Poison Joak, a plant with a bad sense of humor making a mockery of your worst fears.

But what about the caldron and the chanting and all of Shaman's creepy décor? Shaman explains that she is from a far away land and that is the language they speak there. And it wasn't chanting. It was just an old nursery rhyme. And her tribal masks may look unusual, but in her land they mean "Welcome" and "Happiness." But they heard Shaman say that the Appleseed Soup was the perfect temperature for ponies! Shaman corrects them, stating that she never said it was Appleseed Soup. It's actually an herbal bubble bath remedy to cure the ponies' Poison Joak. And it wasn't Appleseed that was going in the pot, but the ingredients she was gathering.

Twilight asks where Shaman found this supposed "natural remedy?" Shaman shows her the "Super Naturals" book that Twilight had repeatedly dismissed. Twilight admits that she disregarded it because the title was weird and the cover looked so bizarre. Shaman opens the book and Twilight sees that the full title is "Super Naturals: Natural Remedies and Cure-Alls." She then flips to Poison Joak. It's the exact plant that they stumbled through. And listed below is the remedy: "Never Fear, All Will Clear" Herbal Bubble Bath. Twilight realizes that there was a logical answer available the whole time if she'd only bothered to look deeper. Shaman shares with Twilight an ancient proverb from her native land: *never judge a book by its cover*.

All the ponies apologize for their silly behavior and for not only listening to, but spreading,

rumors about Shaman. Shaman kindly agrees to make a new batch of bubble bath, but one important ingredient only grows in Ponyville, and whenever she tries to buy some the shops are always closed. Twilight tells Shaman that she thinks they can help.

The ponies accompany Shaman into Ponyville. But upon seeing the ponies with their unusual maladies while in the company of the “evil enchantress,” the Ponyvillians fear the girls have all been cursed! They begin to flee indoors and immediately start closing up the shops. Twilight approaches the flower shop that carries the ingredient and knocks on the door. Opening the door just a sliver, the pony shop owner peeks out. Twilight gives her a look and says, “We need to talk.”

Cut to all the ponies relaxing in a wonderful herbal bubble bath, looking and sounding like their old selves again. As Shaman pours more Never Fear, All Will Clear into the bath, the ponies thank her for her help, her knowledge, and her wise words. And for becoming their new friend.

THE END.