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MY LITTLE PONY

"Bridle Gossip"

EP009

Story by

Amy Keating Rogers

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TEASER

SC. 1 - EXT. PONYVILLE - DAY

The sun is shining bright on this beautiful day in Ponyville. On TWILIGHT as she walks into town with SPIKE on her back.

1 TWILIGHT
Wow! What a gorgeous day!

2 SPIKE
Rainbow Dash must have gotten up early for once and cleared all the clouds away.

3 TWILIGHT
I bet all of Ponyville is going to be out, enjoying the sunshine.

But when they get into town, nobody's there. In fact, she sees some shop owners quickly closing their doors, their shutters, and putting up their "CLOSED" signs.

4 TWILIGHT (CONT'D)
What? Where is everypony?

5 SPIKE
Is it some sort of pony holiday?

6 TWILIGHT
Not that I know of.

Spike breaths out a little fire and smells it.

7 SPIKE
Does my breath stink?

8 TWILIGHT
No more than usual.

9 SPIKE
Is it...ZOMBIES???

Twilight looks back at him.

10 TWILIGHT
Not very likely.

Spike leans in to her.

11 SPIKE
Not likely, but possible?

Just then they hear a loud whisper calling for them.

12 VOICE
(in a loud whisper)
Psst! Twilight! Spike! C'mere!

Twilight and Spike look around trying to find the voice.

13 VOICE (CONT'D)
Come here! HURRY!!!!

Pan over to the Sweet Shoppe. PINKIE PIE is peeking out.

14 PINKIE PIE
HURRY! Before she gets you!

SC. 2 - <u>INT. SUGARCUBE SWEET SHOPPE - CONTINUOUS</u>

Twilight and Spike hurry inside. All the lights are out. Pinkie shines a flashlight (around her neck) on Spike and Twilight.

15 SPIKE
Who? The zombie pony?

Pinkie turns the light on herself and looks spooky..

16 PINKIE PIE
There's a zombie pony?

17 TWILIGHT
Spike! There are no zombie ponies!
Pinkie, what are you doing here
alone in the dark?

18 PINKIE PIE
I'm not alone in the dark.

From the shadows APPLEJACK, APPLE BLOOM, RAINBOW DASH, FLUTTERSHY, and RARITY emerge.

19 TWILIGHT
Okay, then what are you *all* doing
here in the dark?

20 APPLEJACK
We're hidin' from *her*!

Applejack pulls back the curtain a bit with her mouth to reveal a four-legged FIGURE in a dark, hooded clock walking through town.

Twilight looks just as the figure turns and looks their direction. MUSIC STING!

Spike and all the ponies, except Twilight, draw back in horror.

21 PONIES/SPIKE
HUH!

CUT TO:

MY LITTLE PONY TITLE SEQUENCE

TRANSITION TO:

ACT I

SC. 3 - INT. SUGARCUBE SWEET SHOPPE - CONTINUOUS

Back on the ponies and Spike reacting. Twilight looks doubtful.

22 APPLE BLOOM
Did ya see her, Twilight? Did ya see...Zecora?

23 APPLEJACK
Apple Bloom! I tol' ya never to say that name!

24 TWILIGHT
Well, I saw her glance this way...

25 PINKIE PIE
Glance *evilly* this way...

26 TWILIGHT
And the bunch of you flip out for no good reason.

27 APPLEJACK
No good reason? You call protectin' your kin no good reason?

Applejack gestures to her little sister.

28 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
Why as soon as my sis saw *Zecora* ridin' into town, she started sha-a-a-akin' in her little horse shoes!

Applejack uses a hoof to shake Apple Bloom.

29 APPLE BLOOM
Di-i-iid no-o-ot!

30 APPLEJACK
So I swept her up and brought her here...

Applejack shovels Apple Bloom onto her back, scooping under her with her head.

31 APPLE BLOOM
Ugh! I walked here myself!

32 APPLEJACK
For safe-keeping!

Apple Bloom jumps down off of Applejack.

33 APPLE BLOOM
Applejack! I'm not a baby! I can take care of myself!

34 APPLEJACK
Not from that creepy Zecora!

35 FLUTTERSHY
She's mysterious!

36 RAINBOW DASH
Sinister!

37 PINKIE PIE
And Spoooooky!

Twilight looks out the window again. The figure's hood falls off, revealing that she is a ZEBRA. The other ponies GASP!

38 PONIES/SPIKE
HUH!

39 TWILIGHT
Will you cut that out?!

40 RARITY
Just look at those stripes! So garish!

41 TWILIGHT
She's a zebra!

42 PONIES/SPIKE
A WHAT?!

43 TWILIGHT
A zebra. And her stripes aren't a fashion choice, Rarity. They're what she was born with.

44 APPLEJACK
Born where? I've never seen a pony like that in these parts 'cept her!

45 TWILIGHT
Well, she's probably not from here. And she's not a pony. My books say that zebras come from a far away land. But I've never seen her in Ponyville. Where does she live?

46 APPLEJACK
That's just it. She lives in...the Everfree Forest!

The sound of THUNDER. Twilight looks over and Spike has stumbled into some pots and pans.

47 TWILIGHT
Spike!

48 SPIKE
Sorry.

49 APPLEJACK
The Everfree Forest just isn't natural. The plants grow...

50 FLUTTERSHY
The animals care for themselves...

51 RAINBOW DASH
And the clouds move...

Truck in dramatically on their faces...

52 APPLEJACK/FLUTTERSHY/RAINBOW DASH
All on their own!

Rarity faints.

53 RARITY
Ooooooohhhh!!!

54 PINKIE PIE
And that wicked enchantress Zecora lives there doing her evil...stuff. She's so evil, I even wrote a song about her.

Rainbow Dash rolls her eyes.

55 RAINBOW DASH
Here we go...

56 PINKIE PIE
(singing)
"She's an evil enchantress...and she does evil dances...and if you look deep in her eyes, she will put you in trances. Then what will she do? She'll mix up an evil brew. Then she'll gobble you up in big tasty stew. So...watch out!"

Everyone stares at Pinkie Pie.

57 TWILIGHT
Wow. Catchy.

58 PINKIE PIE
It's a work in progress.

59 TWILIGHT
This is all just a lot of gossip and rumors! Now tell me , what have you actually *seen* Zecora do?

60 RAINBOW DASH
Well...once a month, *she comes into Ponyville*.

Twilight plays along, mockingly. As if she were watching a tennis match, Apple Seed's little head turns from side to side as she watches the following exchange..

61 TWILIGHT
Ooh!

Rarity pops up. She was faking.

62 RARITY
Then she *lurks by the stores*.

63 TWILIGHT
Oh my!

64 FLUTTERSHY
And then she *digs at the ground*!

65 TWILIGHT
Good gracious!
(back to herself)
Okay, I'm sorry, but how is any of this bad? *Maybe* she comes into town to visit?

This explanation peaks Apple Bloom's interest. She pipes in.

66 APPLE BLOOM
Yeah! Maybe she's just tryin' to be neighborly.

67 TWILIGHT
And *maybe* she's not lurking by the stores. Maybe she going to them, lurk-free, to do some shopping?

68 APPLE BLOOM
Yeah! Everypony likes to shop! You know what I think---

69 APPLEJACK
Apple Bloom! Hush and let the big ponies talk!

Apple Bloom looks discouraged and retreats towards the door.

70 APPLE BLOOM
(to herself)
I *am* a big pony!

Back with the other ponies.

71 RAINBOW DASH
What about digging at the ground? You gotta admit *that's* weird.

72 FLUTTERSHY
What if she's digging for innocent creatures?

73 PINKIE PIE
(singing)
To mix in her brew. And gobble 'em up in big tasty stew!

74 TWILIGHT
I'm sure there's an explanation for everything Zecora does and if *ANYPONY* here was actually *BRAVE* enough to approach her, she would find out the truth!

As the ponies continue to argue, Apple Bloom moves away.

75 APPLE BLOOM
(to herself)
Well *I'm* brave enough! I'm going to find out myself!

Apple Bloom sneaks out the door and heads into...

SC. 4 - <u>EXT. PONYVILLE SQUARE - CONTINUOUS</u>

Apple Bloom stays in the shadows and watches as Zecora goes from shop to shop. Apple Bloom does fast little sneaks closer and closer. Zecora turns around and almost catches her, but Apple Bloom quickly hides behind a cart.

Zecora continues, digging at the ground, kicking things up. Apple Bloom stretches her head out to see this. Zecora looks up and Apple Bloom darts back in, taking a deep inhale.

76 APPLE BLOOM
HUH!

Zecora finishes and starts to head out of town. Apple Bloom exhales and slowly CREEEEEPS out following her as quietly as possible. She does big, over-exaggerated steps as she tries to be sneaky following Zecora out of town.

SC. 5 - <u>INT. SUGARCUBE SWEET SHOPPE - CONTINUOUS</u>

The ponies are still arguing about Zecora.

77 TWILIGHT
You ponies are being ridiculous.

78 PINKIE PIE
Well, I heard that Zecora eats hay!

79 TWILIGHT
Pinkie! I eat hay! *You* eat hay!

80 PINKIE PIE
Yeah, but I heard it's the *evil* way she eats hay!

Suddenly...

81 APPLEJACK
HEY!!! Where's Apple Bloom!

All the ponies look around. They see that the door is ajar.

82 FLUTTERSHY
The door's open!

83 RARITY
She went outside!

84 RAINBOW DASH
And Zecora's still out there!

Applejack's eyes fill with fear.

85 APPLEJACK
That silly lil' filly! I told her to stay put!

The ponies rush out to find Apple Bloom. Twilight is last.

86 TWILIGHT
Spike! You stay here in case Apple Bloom comes back!

Cut to Spike still in the midst of the pots and pans. He has a cast iron pot stuck on over his head. He sits up straight and salutes.

87 SPIKE
Will do!

SC. 6 - <u>EXT. EVERFREE FOREST</u>

Zecora walks confidently into the forest. Apple Bloom is following behind nervously, at a safe distance.

She pauses at the entrance and looks up at it's looming creepiness.

88 APPLE BLOOM
<Gulp!>

Mustering all her courage, Apple Bloom steps into the forest as if she's crossing into a booby trap. Her hoof touches the ground and she's fine.

89 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
Phew!

Zecora walks past a strange blue plant. Apple Bloom follows just as the ponies arrive at the edge of the forest.

90 APPLEJACK
Apple Bloom! You get back here right now!

Hearing this, Zecora turns around. She sees Apple Bloom and ominously calls out...

91 ZECORA
Beware, beware you pony folk! Those leaves of blue are not a joke!

Hearing this, AJ gets her dander up. She pulls ahead of the rest and stops in front of her sister, right in the middle of the blue plant.

92 APPLEJACK
You keep your creepy mumbo jumbo to yerself, y'here?

The other ponies join her, each protective of Apple Bloom.

93 PONIES
Yeah, was that supposed to scare us? / It was a curse, I just know it! / How dare you...you...you wicked old zebra! / You won't make Apple Bloom into a stew!

Her skepticism slowed her down, Twilight is the last join them in the patch of blue plant.

94 TWILIGHT
Oh brother.

Zecora stands a safe distance and says in a forboding tone...

95 ZECORA
Beware! Beware!

An eerie fog envelopes Zecora. When it clears, she's gone. The ponies all look at each other, creeped out.

96 RAINBOW DASH
(calling out)
Yeah, back at you, Zecora! You and your lame curse are the ones who better beware!

Applejack turns to Apple Bloom.

97 APPLEJACK
And you! Why couldn't you just listen to your big sister?

98 APPLE BLOOM
I...I...

99 APPLEJACK
Who knows what kind of nasty curse Zecora coulda just put on you!

100 PINKIE PIE
Just like in my song! Evil enchantress! With the dances! And the trances!

101 TWILIGHT
You guys, there's no such thing as curses.

102 RAINBOW DASH
Well that's interesting to hear coming from Miss Magic Pants herself.

Rainbow flies up to Twilight an taps her horn.

103 TWILIGHT
My magic, REAL MAGIC, comes from within. It's a skill you are born with. Curses are artificial, FAKE magic. It's conjured with potions and incantations--- all smoke and mirrors meant to scare, but curses have no *real* power. They're just an old pony tale!

The rest of the ponies walk out of the blue plant and Applejack turns harshly to Twilight.

104 APPLEJACK
Just you wait, Twilight. You're going to learn that some pony tales really are true!

FADE OUT.

SC. 7 - INT. TWILIGHT'S BEDROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

We truck in slow on Twilight as she tosses and turns. She's having a nightmare. We hear the voices in her dream.

105 PINKIE PIE (V.O.)
(singing)
"She's an evil enchantress...and she does evil dances...

106 ZECORA (V.O.)
Beware... beware...

107 PINKIE PIE (V.O.)
and if you look deep in her eyes, she will put you in trances.

108 PONIES (V.O.)
Yeah, was that supposed to scare us? / It was a curse, I just know it!

109 PINKIE PIE (V.O.)
Then what will she do?

110 APPLEJACK (V.O.)
Just you wait, Twilight. Some pony tales really are true!

111 PINKIE PIE
Then she'll gobble you up in big tasty stew. So...watch out!"

112 TWILIGHT
Nnnnnhhh...

She flips over quickly and buries her head under her pillow.

<u>INT. TWILIGHT'S BEDROOM - THE NEXT DAY</u>

Close on Twilight's eyes as she wakes up, opening her eyes.

113 TWILIGHT
Uh. What a dream. Curses schmurses.

Twilight gets up. She walks up to the mirror. She has a BAD case of bed head with her mane all poofed up.

114 TWILIGHT (CONT'D)
Woah. Heh. Maybe Zecora cursed my hair! Heh heh.

She shakes her head to get her mane in order. But when it settles down, we see that Twilight's horn is DROOPY AND COVERED in POLKA DOTS! Slam truck oh Twilight's horrified face as she stares at her horn cross eyed!

115 TWILIGHT (CONT'D)
<Gasp!> Or she cursed my horn!!!

END ACT I

ACT II

SC. 8 - INT. TREE OF KNOWING LIBRARY

Twilight, with her droopy horn, is surrounded by books on the floor, on stands, on the table. She walks from one to the other, searching for an answer.

116 TWILIGHT
No, no, no, no! None of these books have a cure!

She SLAMS a book shut and puts her chin on it.

117 TWILIGHT (CONT'D)
Ugh! There has to be a real reason for this.

She looks up at her droopy horn, making her eyes cross. She bats at, it's quite floppy.

118 TWILIGHT (CONT'D)
An illness...an allergy...

Angle on Spike, who's been standing there the whole time, holding a book.

119 SPIKE
A curse!

120 TWILIGHT
I said a REAL reason. Something that points to something *real.*

Spike hands her the book he has. It reads “Super Naturals.”

121 SPIKE
How ‘bout this one?

122 TWILIGHT
“Super Naturals”!? Spike, the word “supernatural” refers to things like ghosts and spirits and zombies--- which are as *make believe* as curses. This book is just a bunch of hooey.

She pushes the book aside.

123 SPIKE
But what if you’re wrong, Twilight? What if this really is a...

Pinkie comes bursting in...

124 PINKIE PIE
AH PTHUURSE!

125 SPIKE
A purse? How could it be a purse?

Twilight and Spike look at Pinkie. Her tongue is swollen, blue, covered in polka dots and hanging outside her mouth.

126 TWILIGHT
Pinkie! What happened?

127 PINKIE PIE
THI THWAS THACORA! PTHE PTHUT PTHA PTHURSE PTHON PTHUS!

Pinkie’s talking is causing lots of spitting on Spike.

128 SPIKE
Hey! Say it, don’t spray it Pinkie!

THUD! THUD! Something is pounding on the door. Then BAM! The floor flies open with force! Rainbow comes flying--or crashing--in UPSIDE DOWN and struggling to right herself. She flies this way and that, bonking into walls, crashing into tables, knocking books over.

129 RAINBOW DASH
She's saying that -ow!- Zecora has -oof!- she slapped us all with a -youch!- curse!

130 RARITY (O.S.)
I'm afraid I have to agree.

Swish pan to Rarity covered in long, unruly, dread-lock like llama hair. Fluttershy and Apple Bloom (who look fine) stand next to her. She blows her hair momentarily out of her face with a...

131 RARITY (CONT'D)
Pfffft!!

132 TWILIGHT/SPIKE
AAAHHH!

Spike hides behind Twilight.

133 TINY, SQUEAKY, HIGH PITCHED VOICE
I HATE TO SAY I TOLD YA SO, TWILIGHT, BUT I TOLD YA SO!

Shot of Twilight, Pinkie, Rarity, Fluttershy, and Spike all bending in to look at a teeny tiny Applejack on the back of her sister.

134 TWILIGHT/SPIKE
<Gasp!>

135 APPLEJACK
IT'S A CURSE I TELLS YA!

Twilight looks at Fluttershy.

136 TWILIGHT
But, Fluttershy, seems just fine.

Rarity, unable to see through her hair, faces the exact wrong way. Looking at a wall with her backside towards Fluttershy.

137 RARITY
Yes! There doesn't seem to be *a thing* wrong with her!

But Fluttershy looks timidly away, not meeting their eyes.

138 TWILIGHT
Fluttershy? Are you okay?

She shakes her head, "No."

139 TWILIGHT (CONT'D)
Is there something wrong with you?

Fluttershy nods "yes."

140 TWILIGHT (CONT'D)
Would you care to tell us.

She shakes her head, "No."

141 TWILIGHT (CONT'D)
Sooooo... you're not going to tell us.

She nods "yes."

142 TWILIGHT (CONT'D)
Yes you're not, or yes you will---

Applejack leaps off Apple Bloom and onto a table, getting in Fluttershy's face.

143 APPLEJACK
GOOD GRAVY GIRL! WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?

Looooooong beat. Fluttershy looks down with shame.

144 FLUTTERSHY
(in a deep Barry White voice)
I don't want to talk about it.

Thud! Rainbow crashes to the ground and all the ponies are speechless. Suddenly, Spike bursts out laughing.

145 SPIKE
Baaaahahahaha! This is HILARIOUS! Look at all you! We got...

The camera cuts from pony to pony as Spike gives them a nickname.

146 SPIKE (CONT'D)
Hairity! Rainbow CRASH! Spitty Pie! Apple Teeny! Flutter-guy! And...

He looks at Twilight and her droopy horn. She looks furious.

147 SPIKE (CONT'D)
Uh... I got nothin'. "Twilight Sparkle"? I mean, seriously, I can't even work with that.

148 TWILIGHT
Ha ha ha. This is NO JOKE, Spike! Now start looking for more books so I can find a cure!

149 SPIKE
Groooooaan.

Rainbow struggles to take off again, but since her wings are under her, she's having a hard time getting off the ground.

150 RAINBOW DASH
I think we'll find the cure to this curse at Zecora's place!

151 TWILIGHT
IT'S NOT A CURSE!

152 APPLEJACK
I AGREE WITH DASH! WE'LL GO TO ZECORA'S AND FORCE HER TO REMOVE THIS HEX!!!

153 TWILIGHT
IT'S NOT A HEX EITHER!

As the ponies continue to disagree, Apple Bloom stands apart, at the door, looking more and more guilty.

154 PONIES
<Twilight arguing with the rest>

155 APPLE BLOOM
(to herself)
This is all my fault. If I hadn't followed Zecora in the first place, none of this would have happened. I just gotta fix this!

Turns to go out the door, but this time, Applejack spies her.

156 APPLEJACK
(to herself)
Now where does she think she's goin' this time?

The tiny Applejack gallops across the table and jumps, catching Apple Bloom by the tail as she exits.

Back on the arguing ponies. Rainbow is still struggling to get off the floor. She only makes it inches off.

157 RAINBOW DASH
I don't care what you say, Twilight! It's time to pony up and confront Zecora! C'mon, girls! Are you with me?

158 PINKIE PIE
Pbbbi Pppbam!

159 RARITY
And I as well!

160 FLUTTERSHY
I don't know. Seems awfully dangerous.

161 RAINBOW DASH
How 'bout you, Applejack? Applejack?

The ponies look and see that Applejack is gone!

162 PINKIE PIE
PPPHBE'S PPBONE!!!

163 RARITY
Aaaah! Somepony stepped on her!

All the ponies look on the bottom of their hooves.

164 TWILIGHT
Or sat on her?

They look under their rears.

165 RAINBOW DASH
Rarity's hair!

Pinkie swivels Rarity around to face her as if she were a desk chair. She sticks her head completely into Rarity's long hair and starts moving it around.

166 RARITY
Pinkie! What're you doing? Really! Ever hear of 'personal space'?

Pinkie pops her head back out, shaking it 'no'.

167 PINKIE PIE
PPPHBOPE.

168 TWILIGHT
Apple Bloom is gone too!

169 RAINBOW DASH
I bet they went after Zecora!

170 TWILIGHT
Well we better go find them. Come on, girls! Let's go!

Twilight goes first. As Rarity goes, she trips on her hair once, twice, three times.

171 RARITY
Whoopsie! Oh dear! Ugh! This is so unseemly!

Rarity finally goes. Pinkie and Fluttershy start heading out when...

172 RAINBOW DASH
Hey! A little help here!

173 FLUTTERSHY
Oopsie! Sorry!

Fluttershy and Pinkie lift Rainbow so that her wings can start flying. She flies towards the door, banging into it again.

174 RAINBOW DASH
Ow!

She readjusts and flies through. The other two follow.

175 FLUTTERSHY
Uh, Spike? Are you coming?

Spike is hunched over a piece of parchment.

176 SPIKE
Nope. Gotta stay here and look for a cure.

She leaves and Spike raises up a quill and scribbles something down.

177 SPIKE (CONT'D)
"Twilight Dripple"?

He scribbles it out.

178 SPIKE (CONT'D)
Nope. (a beat) "Twilight Flopple!"

He scribbles that down.

SC. 9 - EXT. EVERFREE FOREST

Apple Bloom gallops into the forest. Meanwhile, Applejack has climbed up to her head and gets close to her ear.

179 APPLEJACK
STOP RIGHT THERE!!!

Apple Bloom stops. She shift her eyes to look on her head.

180 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
TURN AROUND RIGHT NOW, MISSY!!

Apple Bloom considers this, then gets a smug look on her face.

181 APPLE BLOOM
NO!

182 APPLEJACK
NO?! YOU CAN'T IGNORE A DIRECT ORDER FROM YOUR BIG SISTER!

Apple Bloom uses her head to flip AJ in the air, catches her delicately in her mouth (by the scruff of her neck) and places her on an outstretched branch.

183 APPLE BLOOM
<Giggle> Sorry, Applejack, but I'M the big sister now!

Apple Bloom triumphantly trots deeper into the forest, leaving AJ.

184 APPLEJACK
APPLE BLOOM! YOU COME BACK HERE RIGHT THIS INSTANT! I'M GONNA TELL BIG APPLE ON YOU!

Apple Bloom disappears. AJ looks around her. She's high up for such a tiny pony, and trapped.

185 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
Aaaaw pony feathers!

CUT TO:

EXT. EVERFREE FOREST

Just then Twilight, Fluttershy, Pinkie, and Rarity run in.

186 TWILIGHT
C'mon, girls! We've got to get to Zecora's! Hurry!

Rarity trips over her long hair. It's already gathering a few leaves and twigs.

187 RARITY
Oof! Easier said than done, Twilight.

The four ponies disappear into the forest. Suddenly...

188 RAINBOW DASH (V.O.)
Hey! Wait for me!

She flies after them upside down, twisting and turning, all over the place. She flies through bramble bushes, breaks branches before finally WHAM! crashing into a thick tree trunk! She sticks to it spread eagle, then slides down O/S. We hear her break branches on the way down. Crack! Crack! Crack!

189 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Oof! Ow! Ugh! Ouch!

We catch up to her at the bottom, upside down in a pile of broken branches.

190 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Groooooooaaaannn.... Hunh?

Applejack appears suddenly from one of Rainbow's nostrils!

191 APPLEJACK
RAINBOW! THANK CELESTIA! THERE'S NO TIME TO LOSE!

Applejack crawls out and climbs onto Rainbow's chin. As she speaks, she fashions some twigs or bark into a sort of bridle.

192 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
OOOF! I NEED TO GIT TO ZECORA'S, PRONTO! GIDDYUP, PONY!

She shoves the bridle in rainbow's mouth like a bit.

193 RAINBOW DASH
(insulted)
Ex-*cuuuuse* me???

Applejack doesn't care and "spurs" her with her hoof.

194 APPLEJACK
YEE HAW!

This surprises Rainbow and she flies off with a start. Out of control she turns the wrong direction.

195 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
NO! RAINBOW DASH! THE OTHER WAY!

CUT TO:

EXT. ZECORA'S HUT

Slow truck out from Zecora's hut. It can best be described as an overgrown thicket. Roots of trees and long branches intertwine to form a odd shaped abode. Long leafy vines are draped over it, almost like curtains. The ponies rise up from a nearby thicket. While the other ponies look wide-eyed at the hut, Rarity rises up facing the wrong way again and is distracted by her hair which now has lots of leaves and sticks stuck in it.

196 RARITY
Ugh! I look *HORRIBLE*!

Pinkie turns her around again and lifts the hair that covers her face.

197 PINKIE PIE
Pbbhat pbhace phbootth *PBTHORIBBLE!*

198 RARITY
Oh my, that place *does* look horrible.

They sneak up to the window and peer in. Inside they see that the room is decorated with eerie, tribal masks.

Rarity puts her face close to Twilight's, peering ominously from under her hair.

199 RARITY (CONT'D)
Nice decorations. If you like CREEPY!

Zecora appears in the room. They quickly duck below the window.

200 PONIES
<gasp!>

They cautiously peek back over and watch as Zecora pours powders and herbs into a big caldron of boiling water. As she does, she chants...

201 ZECORA
Ukuti, Ukuti,Wa mnazi, Wa mnazi
Ukipata Upepo, Watete, Watete,
Watetemeka..

202 PINKIE PIE
Pbi pblole pbby pbong! Pbi pblole
pbby pbong!

203 RARITY
She stole your song?

204 TWILIGHT
Oh Pinkie it doesn't sound anything
like your song.

205 PINKIE PIE
Pbluh huh!

Pinkie looks desperately at Fluttershy.

206 FLUTTERSHY
<sigh.>

Fluttershy reluctantly sings in her low voice. Pinkie bops up and down sillily beside her, adding showy accents when appropriate.

207 FLUTTERSHY (CONT'D)
*"She's an evil enchantress...and
she does evil dances...and if you
look deep in her eyes, she will put
you in trances. Then what will she
do? She'll mix up an evil brew.
Then she'll gobble you up in big
tasty stew. So...watch out!"*

208 RARITY
You saw all those terrible things!
Now do you believe us, Twilight?

Twilight is really torn here.

209 TWILIGHT
Scary looking masks, confusing incantations and a great, big, bubbling cauldron. Hmmm. Everything *is* pointing to Zecora being...bad.

Her friends all lean in and nod eagerly. They got her!

210 TWILIGHT (CONT'D)
Ooooooor...What if Zecora is just making soup?

The all sink. They've lost her.

Inside, Zecora carefully laps up a little water with her tongue.

211 ZECORA
Mmmmm. The perfect temperature for ponies I presume! Now, where is that little Apple Bloom?

Truck and zoom on Twilight as her eyes grow wide.

212 TWILIGHT
Ooooor...what if SHE'S MAKING Apple Bloom SOUP!!!

213 TWILIGHT/RARITY/FLUTTERSHY/PINKIE
AAAAH!/AAAAH!/AWWWWWW!/PBBBBTTH!!!

214 RAINBOW DASH/APPLEJACK (O.S.)
AAAAAAAAHHHHHH!!!

From Applejack's POV, we see her steering Rainbow from her upside down chin with a bridle.

215 APPLEJACK
I'M COMIN' FER YA, APPLE BLOOM!

The two fly past the other ponies and CRASH through Zecora's door and into her hut!

END ACT II

ACT III

SC. 10 - <u>INT. ZECORA'S HOME - CONTINUOUS</u>

Zecora stands in shock as Rainbow flies uncontrollably around the room.

216 ZECORA
(in Swahili)
WHAT IN THE WORLD?!

On Applejack, trying to control Rainbow as they crash about the room. It looks like she's riding a bucking bronco.

217 APPLEJACK
WHOA THERE! EASY, RAINBOW CRASH!

Zecora watches as her house gets smashed up.

218 ZECORA
(in Swahili)
WHAT ARE YOU DOING! MY HOUSE!!
STOP! STOP!

Twilight comes storming in with the rest of the ponies, just as furious, following right behind.

219 TWILIGHT
What've you done with Apple
Bloom??!

Zecora is too overwhelmed to even answer.

220 ZECORA
(in Swahili)
NO! NO! STOP!

As Rainbow continues to crash about, Applejack takes her lasso and ropes Zecora's ear. She jumps from Rainbow's chin to Zecora's head. There, she pulls her mane, stomps on her head and wrassles her ear.

Pull out. It has no affect on Zacora whatsoever. Rainbow Dash is still flying out of control, destroying things behind her.

Zecora, angry and still ignoring the fight on her head, turns to Twilight. They face off on either side of the cauldron.

221 ZECORA (CONT'D)
WHAT IS THIS YOU DO?!

Before Twilight can answer, Rainbow crashes into the caldron, spilling the liquid everywhere.

222 ZECORA (CONT'D)
PONIES, NO!!! YOU KNOW NOT WHAT YOU
DO! YOU'VE GONE AND SPILLED MY
PRECIOUS BREW!

She kneels on the puddle on the ground, her work ruined! Twilight looms above her triumphantly.

223 TWILIGHT
We're on to you, Zecora! I didn't want to believe that you cursed us, but the evidence is overwhelming!

The other ponies surround her with their accusations.

224 RARITY
You made me look ridiculous!

225 FLUTTERSHY
You made me sound ridiculous!

226 PINKIE PIE
Pbbbt pbbbt pbbbt pbbbt pbbbbbbbbt!

227 TWILIGHT
You ruined my horn!

228 ZECORA
How dare you! You destroy my home, destroy my work, than rudely accuse me of being a jerk!

The ponies pose like they're going to charge Zecora.

229 RAINBOW DASH
You put this curse on us, now your gonna un-curse us!

Zecora counters, ready for the attack. @

231 ZECORA (ALT) @
It is unwise to venture down this
road. Your actions will make my @
anger explode. @

233 TWILIGHT
Where's. Apple. Bloom.

Just then, Apple Bloom enters carrying herbs in a saddlebag.

234 APPLE BLOOM
Zecora? I think I found all the things you asked for.

But then she looks up to see this very strange scene.

235 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
What in Ponyville is going on here?

AJ stops her attack.

236 APPLEJACK
APPLE BLOOM! YOU'RE OKAY!

237 APPLE BLOOM
Well, of course I'm okay. Why wouldn't I be?

Twilight jumps before Apple Bloom as if to protect her from Zecora

238 TWILIGHT
Because Zecora is an evil enchantress who cursed us and was going to cook you up into soup!

Zecora and Apple Bloom look at each other.

239 ZECORA & APPLE BLOOM
<Laughing>

240 APPLE BLOOM
Oh, Twilight! Did those silly fillies fin'ly git in your head? You know there's no such thing as a curse!

Twilight gestures to her friends.

241 TWILIGHT
Apple Bloom, sweetie, you can't stand there and tell me this isn't a curse?

Apple Bloom gestures in kind.

242 APPLE BLOOM
This isn't a curse!

243 ZECORA
If you will remember back, the words I spoke were quite exact...

FLASHBACK to the scene in the Everfree Forest. Zecora is warning Apple Bloom, who stands near the blue plant.

244 ZECORA (CONT'D)
Beware, beware you pony folk! Those leaves of blue are not a joke!

Back in Zecora's house.

245 APPLE BLOOM
It was a warning. About that blue plant. It's called 'Poison Joak'

246 ZECORA
That plant is much like Poison Oak. But its results are like a joke.

Still on Zecora's head.

247 APPLEJACK
WHAT THE HAY DOES THAT MEAN?

248 ZECORA
It means this plant does not breed wrath. Instead this plant just wants a laugh.

249 APPLEJACK
WILL SOMEPONY PLEASE TALK NORMAL?

FLASHBACK to where Applejack and the other ponies rushed into the forest and right into the middle of the Poison Joak.

250 TWILIGHT
I think she's saying that when we ran in to 'save' Apple Bloom, we ran into the Poison Joak. All our problems are little jokes it played on us.

Back in Zecora's house.

251 APPLEJACK
LITTLE JOKES?! VERY FUNNY!!

252 RAINBOW DASH
Okay, fine. But what about the caldron?

253 FLUTTERSHY
And the chanting?

254 RARITY
And the creepy décor?

255 ZECORA
Treasures of the native land where I am from.

On the masks.

256 ZECORA (CONT'D)
This one speaks "Hello," and this "Welcome."

Rarity looks at a third mask which has long vines covering its face exactly like the hair covering hers.

257 RARITY
Not welcoming at all, if you ask me.

258 ZECORA
The words I "chanted" were from olden times, something you call a nursery rhyme.

259 TWILIGHT
(confused)
But the cauldron... the Apple Bloom Soup?

*** If Zecora's 'joke' below does not communicate when recorded, we will go from Twilight's line above directly to Apple Bloom's line about 'the pot of water' and add the additional dialogue at the end.***

260 ZECORA
It was you who spoke those words, not I. Though I'd love a little taste of Pinkie Pie.

Pinkie Pie's grow wide.

261 PINKIE PIE
Pbbbut?

262 ZECORA
Just a joke, just for a laugh. That water was really a bubble bath.

263 PINKIE PIE
(relieved)
Pbbbbew!

264 APPLE BLOOM
Yeah! Lookee here, Twilight,

Apple Bloom points out a book sitting on the table. It's on the page for Poison Joak. Twilight walks over and looks at the book with interest.

265 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
That pot of water tweren't fer me. It was for all these herbal ingredients! The cure for Poison Joak is a simple ol' natural remedy. You jus' gotta take a bubble bath.

266 TWILIGHT
But I tried to find a cure in all my books and couldn't find anything! What book has this "natural remedy?"

Zecora closes the book that was open to Poison Joak. It's the "Super Naturals" book that Twilight had shunned.

267 ZECORA
Here is the book, you see! Sad that you lack it in your library.

Twilight is shocked and embarrassed.

268 TWILIGHT
Actually, I do have this book. But I didn't look inside because the title was so...weird.

Zecora opens the book to the inside cover page.

269 TWILIGHT (CONT'D)
(reading)
Super Naturals: Natural Remedies and Cure-Alls that are simply super..

Twilight looks apologetically at Zecora.

270 TWILIGHT (CONT'D)
I-I-I'm so sorry Zecora. I had the answer the whole time if only I'd bothered to look inside.

271 ZECORA
Maybe next time you will take a second look and not judge the cover of the book.

272 TWILIGHT
Zecora, would you be kind enough to mix up another batch of the herbal bath?

273 ZECORA
Mix it up, I certainly will. Yet I am missing an herb from Ponyville.

274 APPLE BLOOM
But whenever Zecora comes to town, all the shops are *mysteriously* closed.

Twilight gets a knowing look in her eye.

275 TWILIGHT
Oh. Well, I think we can help you with that.

SC. 11 - EXT. PONYVILLE SQUARE - DAY

The ponies are going about their business when suddenly they see Zecora and with the six “cursed” ponies entering town. ROSE, LILY, and DAISY look at each other in horror.

276 DAISY
Look, Rose! How awful!

277 ROSE
The wicked enchantress has cursed them all!

278 LILY
The horror! The horror!

279 DAISY
Everypony, get inside! She’s coming!

280 ROSE
Run, ponies! RUN!!!

Daisy, Rose, and Lily run into a flower shop and bar the door. The rest of the ponies run into their shops, turn their signs to CLOSED, close the shutters, lock the doors.

Zecora leads them to THE DAISY CHAIN flower shop.

Twilight steps up to the door and KNOCKS. Daisy fearfully cracks open the door.

281 TWILIGHT
Daisy, we need to talk.

SC. 12 - INT. THE LA-TI-DA SPA - LATER

Rarity and Fluttershy relaxing in their herbal bath looking and sounding like themselves again. Twilight steps in with her horn still droopy and submerges her head. Pinkie Pie runs in with her large tongue trailing behind, leaps up and does a 'cannonball' into the bath, splashing the others. When both Twilight and Pinkie come back up they are back to normal. We don't see Applejack. Zecora and Apple Bloom walk in and Rainbow flies in with a couple of buckets strapped to their backs. They pour more of the herbal mix in. Rainbow relaxes back into the tub. As all this action happens, we hear...

282 TWILIGHT (V.O.)
Dear Princess Celestia, My friends and I all learned an important lesson this week: never judge a book by its cover. Someone may look unusual or funny or scary. But you have to look past that and learn who they are inside. Real friends don't care what your "cover" is, it's the contents of a person that count. And a good friend, like a good book, is something that will last forever. Your faithful student, Twilight Sparkle.

A SPA PONY comes up to Zecora.

283 SPA PONY
Miss Zecora, I would love to get your recipe for this bath! It's simply luxurious!

Zecora smiles and she and the Spa Pony walk off.

284 APPLE BLOOM
Applejack! Hey, where's Applejack?

All the ponies look around, fearing they sat on her.

Applejack emerges from under the water.

285 APPLEJACK
I'm right here, *little* sis! I'm not tiny anymore, remember?

286 RARITY
Oh, I have never felt so lovely in all my life!

287 PINKIE PIE
Oh my gosh! I never realized how horrible it is not to be able to talk! I mean, I love talking so when I couldn't talk and my tongue was all...

She hangs out her tongue.

288 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
Aaaahhhhhh! It was the worst! Don't you agree, Fluttershy?

Fluttershy very quietly and in her normal voice.

289 FLUTTERSHY
Yes.

290 PINKIE PIE
Exactly! Yes! But I mean yes in a million languages! Sí! Oui! Ja!

291 RAINBOW DASH
Ugh! Too bad curses don't exist cause I'd love to whip one up to keep Pinkie quiet.

292 PINKIE PIE
Hey!

Pinkie makes a pouty face. Rainbow nudges her and she smiles.

293 PONIES
<Laughing>

FADE OUT.

THE END.