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MY LITTLE PONY

Season II

"When Push Comes to Shove"
(alt title TBD)

Episode 219

Outline by
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TEASER

Lunchtime! FLUTTERSHY lovingly feeds her many, many PETS. Particularly featured are all of her different BUNNIES gratefully chowing down on their prepackaged RABBIT PELLETS—all except ANGEL, who abjectly refuses to touch his food. Fluttershy thoughtfully offers “Mr. Picky Pants” his choice of fresh carrots, lettuce, apples, etc. instead, but Angel continues to stubbornly balk at everything. Exasperated, Fluttershy asks him what he *will* eat. Angel eagerly whips out a cookbook and points to a picture of a fancy-looking, elaborate, gourmet vegetarian feast! Fluttershy is taken aback. She’s not sure she can make that for him. But Angel adamantly won’t eat anything else and Fluttershy doesn’t want the poor little bunny to starve, so she relents. Fluttershy could just say no, but... she’s Fluttershy. She has a hard time speaking up and putting her hoof down. She meekly tells Angel that she doesn’t have all the ingredients to make that recipe and tries one more time to entice him to settle for a nice nummy carrot like a good bunny. In response, Angel launches into a melodramatic suffering act in mime. Fluttershy gives in. Angel does a happy dance.

ACT I

Fluttershy arrives at the FARMER’S MARKET on Mane Street in downtown Ponyville where she can buy the ingredients she needs to make Angel’s special meal. While in line at one of the booths, OTHER PONIES keep cutting in front of Fluttershy who is far too timid to do anything about it. At this rate, she’s never going to get to the front of the line!

From nearby, RARITY and PINKIE PIE witness all this and tell Fluttershy she can’t keep letting herself be treated like a doormat. Fluttershy stammers self-consciously that she doesn’t know what they’re talking about. To demonstrate, Pinkie pushes ahead of Fluttershy, who without hesitation steps back and meekly tells Pinkie to go right ahead. See? *That!* Pinkie and Rarity only want what’s best for their friend. She’s got to stop being such a pushover. Just as Fluttershy is reaching for an ingredient she needs to buy, ANOTHER PONY swoops in and takes it! Fluttershy mumbles that it’s okay, she doesn’t mind. But Rarity and Pinkie use this opportunity to show Fluttershy how to be more assertive. Rarity steps in and charms the other pony into doing the right thing and acting fairly by giving Rarity back the ingredient that Fluttershy really did have dibs on first. See, that wasn’t so hard.

Fluttershy goes to buy another ingredient, and when that SALESPONY tells her a price that’s much more than it cost last week, Fluttershy doesn’t want to argue and is about to just pay it anyway, when Pinkie pops in and comically haggles the price down to what it really should be by using the old “duck season/wabbit season” bit to confuse the vendor into insisting on the fair price!

Having each demonstrated for Fluttershy how she should handle herself, Rarity and Pinkie encourage her to give it a try. Fluttershy spies the very last CHERRY in the entire

Farmer's Market: Angel's recipe calls for a cherry on top, so Fluttershy approaches the VENDOR. Unfortunately, she opens by revealing how very badly she needs that cherry, so the vendor immediately raises the price. Fluttershy tries to charm the vendor Rarity's way, but the surly guy won't budge. She tries to play Pinkie's haggling game, but ends up confusing herself and instead of talking the guy down, ends up raising the price even more! Pinkie and Rarity intervene: This guy isn't being nice by giving her a hard time, so Fluttershy should refuse to give him her business and walk away. But because Angel really wants that recipe and won't eat it unless it's just right, to her friends' chagrin Fluttershy agrees to buy the cherry from that vendor... only to have it snatched up by ANOTHER CUSTOMER right from under her nose! Fluttershy deflates. Rarity and Pinkie try to encourage her, saying it was a good try, but Fluttershy is disappointed in herself. Later back at her house, Fluttershy is just finishing making the complex gourmet meal for Angel. She serves it to him, apologizing for the lack of cherry on top. Angel refuses to eat it. Cut outside as it comes flying out the window! Fluttershy runs out the door to catch it and trips over the threshold, landing in a mud puddle right outside her door. Angel hops out the door and literally walks all over her. Fluttershy realizes she really *is* a doormat! This gets her fired up to finally make a change. She resolves to never be a pushover again!

ACT II

Fluttershy arrives at the entrance to a HEDGE MAZE. She consults the FLYER she's holding: it's an advertisement for a self-help guru, an imposing minotaur named IRON WILL, whose motivational seminar on assertiveness is being held at the center of this labyrinth. Yup, this is the right place. She's the first one here. But as soon as Fluttershy starts making her way in toward the center of the hedge maze, a slew of OTHER PONIES race ahead of her, bump into her, and otherwise push their way in front of her, so that even though she should have been first, Fluttershy ends up all the way in the back of the audience. She has to peek up over the crowd to see.

Iron Will steps out on stage and gives his motivational spiel, headset microphone and many catchy catch-phrases at the ready. He's smooth and confident, but also very loud, blunt, and extremely assertive in an in-your-face, 80s professional wrestler kind of way. Think Tony Robbins mixed with Hulk Hogan or Mr. T. ("I pity the foal!") So confident is he in his confidence-building workshop that if you're not an 100% satisfied customer, you pay nothing. Guaranteed! To demonstrate that his techniques will work for anypony no matter how shy, he requests a volunteer from the audience. All hands shoot up... except Fluttershy's. It's precisely because of this that Iron Will chooses her! Following Iron Will's pointing, the entire audience turns as one and looks at Fluttershy, cowering in the back of the crowd. Iron Will says she's the perfect example to prove his program works: If it'll work for her, it'll work for anypony! Fluttershy gulps as we cut away... The next day, Fluttershy is ready to try out some of Iron Will's assertiveness techniques. Before she goes out in public to stand up for herself for the first time, she nervously repeats Iron Will's signature mantra (TBD), and repeats other motivational catchy catch-phrases of his right before tackling each individual situation. Lo and behold, his methods

actually work! Fluttershy is absolutely amazed that by using Iron Will's assertiveness techniques, she is finally able to get her GARDENER to stop overwatering her petunias. Then walking into town, she is able to get two passing PONY-DRAWN CARTS to stop chatting and move out of her way. Once in town, Fluttershy gets in line at the SWEET SHOPPE, and when a PONY butts in front of her, Fluttershy verbally lets him have it! She's so effective that *everypony* in the line steps aside and lets her go all the way to the front... revealing Pinkie Pie behind the counter all happy and proud of Fluttershy! Rarity is too. They knew she had it in her.

More self-assured than ever, Fluttershy steps out of the Sweet Shoppe and hails a CAB to take her back home... but SOMEPONY snatches it from her. She dives into it anyway and sends her competitor sailing out the other side! Fluttershy is super-psyched at how well Iron Will's assertiveness techniques work. She's empowered now! She's standing up for herself and putting her hoof down! She's taking the reins of her life and not letting anypony walk all over her anymore! Cue MONTAGE: Over the next several days, as Fluttershy keeps using Iron Will's motivational methods successfully, her self-confidence soars. But as she becomes more comfortable standing up for herself, she starts crossing the line pushing *other* ponies around and acting downright mean! Fluttershy has run-ins with assorted secondary characters like BIG MAC, GRANNY SMITH, THE CRUSADERS and CHEERILEE, SNIPS & SNAILS, ZECORA, CARROT & CUP CAKE and their babies, PADDY & POUND. Fluttershy gets more and more aggressive over smaller and smaller offenses.

As the montage ends, Rarity and Pinkie Pie happen to witness Fluttershy flying off the handle at somepony over nothing and try to intervene, but Fluttershy flies off the handle at them! They try to reason with her that she's gone too far, but Fluttershy thinks they are just trying to go back to pushing her around! Well, she's not anypony's doormat anymore! She lays into them, until she goes too far and actually hurts Rarity and Pinkie's feelings. Their eyes start to well up with tears, and only then, as her friends run away from her, does Fluttershy realize what she's become: a *monster*!

ACT III

Fluttershy has decided that she must hole herself up in her house to protect the rest of ponykind! She can't be allowed out into the world! Who knows what damage she'll do! She's restrained herself in her house like a werewolf or Dr. Jekyll/Mr. Hyde unable to control her monstrous, out-of-control, dual nature. Fluttershy resolves that she must remain secluded in her home forever, for the good of everypony else! Rarity and Pinkie show up and tentatively knock at Fluttershy's door. They've forgiven her and have been worried. Where has she been? They try to coax her out of her house, but Fluttershy refuses to subject the world to the horror that is her untamed assertiveness! Fluttershy calls through the door that she's never coming out! She's a menace to society! Rarity and Pinkie should stay away and save themselves from her! Rarity and Pinkie continue to plead with her, but to no avail.

Just then, Iron Will himself shows up on Fluttershy's front walk. He's here to collect her payment for his seminar. He knows his techniques were a rousing success: he's been hearing all over Ponyville about how assertive Fluttershy has become thanks to him. Pinkie and Rarity try to talk to him, but he doesn't break his stride, so they walk-and-talk. As he stomps down the path, Pinkie and Rarity walk backwards and try to sway him. They don't think Iron Will deserves to be paid for what he did to poor Fluttershy. First Rarity then Pinkie try to use their own personal assertiveness techniques (demonstrated earlier, in Act I) to stand up to Iron Will and get him to go away and leave their friend alone, but try as they might, they are no match for the iron will of Iron Will. He will not be dissuaded!

Iron Will reaches Fluttershy's door and pounds on it like a madman, demanding her overdue payment. Fluttershy answers the door timidly. He yells in her face, blowing her hair back, demanding she pay him his money. Fluttershy quietly says, "Um... no." Iron Will is shocked. No? Nobody says no to Iron Will! He explodes in anger and gets all up in her grill, yelling his "My way or the highway" catch phrases at her. But Fluttershy politely stands her ground and calmly points out that Iron Will had promised 100% satisfaction guaranteed, or you pay nothing... and she's not satisfied. So without apology and without ever raising her voice above her normal old quiet manner, Fluttershy simply refuses. No big fuss. Just matter-of-fact. And what do you know? Her new personal technique of firm politeness actually works! Iron Will is at a loss. He doesn't know what to do: No one has ever just quietly said no to him before! He hems and haws then awkwardly leaves. Rarity and Pinkie are amazed and proud of their friend for standing up for herself—and she didn't even have to change who she is to do it. Fluttershy apologizes to Pinkie and Rarity for having taken the whole assertiveness thing too far before. All is well.

As Fluttershy narrates a LETTER to Princess Celestia recapping how she's learned that you can stand up for yourself without being unpleasant or mean, we PAN past all of her BUNNIES happily eating their prepackaged RABBIT PELLETS. The PAN ends on Angel, refusing to eat his food again! Like before, he tries to get Fluttershy to make him something else, but this time she politely and firmly (like a good mom), without even raising her voice, repeatedly tells him no and sticks to it. After his pouting and posturing gets him nowhere, Angel finally gingerly sniffs his rabbit food, then sneaks a little nibble at it, then heartily digs in. Fluttershy smiles.

THE END