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MY LITTLE PONY III

"Spa Day"

Episode 312

Written by

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TEASER

EXT. LIBRARY - DAY

All of the ponies are about to head out on a trip. SPIKE waves good-bye and TWILIGHT SPARKLE checks with him one last time before they go.

1 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
You're absolutely sure you can do this?

2 SPIKE
Of course. Wouldn't have agreed to it if I couldn't. Piece of cake. Speaking of cake, I've got a little something I need to attend to.

Spike licks his lips as he peers into a bag that is now filled with jewels.

3 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Yes, like, keeping an eye on a house full of critters.

4 SPIKE
Uh, yeah, That was totally what I was talking about.
(then, shooing her away)
Relax. Go do your thing in the Crystal Empire. Spike's got it all under control.

Twilight goes to join RARITY, PINKIE PIE, RAINBOW DASH, APPLEJACK AND FLUTTERSHY while Spike throws the bag of jewels over his shoulder and confidently walks off.

5 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Well gang, Spike says he can handle the petsitting gig so I guess we're all set.

6 RARITY
Ah, at long last. The Crystal Empire. How I've longed for this trip. Let me just make one last check to be sure I have everything I'll need.
(re: items, one-by-one)
Mane moisturizer, check. Hoof ointment and crack concealer, check.

(MORE)

RARITY (CONT'D)

Maximum-tan baby oil slash body
wash slash luggage polish slash eye-
liner, check. Sunglasses, check.

7 APPLEJACK

Good gracious, Rarity. We'll only
be there one night.

8 RARITY

Oh yes, thanks for reminding me.
(pulls out a second pair
of sunglasses)
Nighttime sunglasses, check.

9 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

Remember, Rarity, Cadence needs us
to do a great job welcoming the
head of the Equestria Games when
she visits, so we really need to
keep our focus.

10 RARITY

Yes, of course. I realize. I'm
just making sure I've brought all
the bare essentials.

11 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

I know we'd all love this to be a
pleasure trip, but we're on an
important mission to help Cadence
bring the Equestria Games to the
Crystal Empire.

12 RARITY

Oh but can't we please stay just
one short little extra day? That
way we can do our sensational job
for Princess Cadence and then treat
ourselves to plenty of well
deserved rest and relaxation.

13 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

I'm afraid we can't. We need to be
back as quickly as possible for
Spike's sake.

14 RARITY

Oh pish, he'll be fine.

We hear the SOUNDS OF CHAOS coming from within the LIBRARY
nearby. The ponies react.

15 RARITY (CONT'D)
(covering)
Sounds like they're enjoying some
good natured roughhousing.

The sounds of chaos get LOUDER and THUMPIER.

16 FLUTTERSHY
Gosh, sounds like maybe we
shouldn't go at all.

17 RARITY
What? No! Princess Cadence needs
us! Fine, one day it is.
(off their hesitation)
Run along now everyone. Off to the
Crystal Empire we go. Onward.
Vamoose. Skeedaddle.

Uneasily, the other ponies obligingly run along. Rarity
attempts to lift her luggage and bring up the rear.

18 RARITY (CONT'D)
(struggling, can't budge)
Rrr! Oooof!
(then, calling after)
Um, er... a little help, please?

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF TEASER

MAIN TITLE

ACT I

INT. TRAIN CAR - LATER

The ponies are all seated together in the car, practicing
their welcome song as the train speeds along and coming to
the big finish...

19 PONIES
(singing, holding note)
... *hos-pi-tal-i-teeeeeeee!*

On Twilight's signal they all stop in unison. A beat.

20 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Okay. Sounds like our welcome
committee song is in good shape.

21 ALL THE PONIES
Whew!

22 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
But we should run it once more just
to be safe.

23 PONIES
<GROANING AND COMPLAINING WALLA>

24 RAINBOW DASH
Seriously?

25 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Remember, Cadence said the Head of
Games is a real strict, critical,
nitpicky sourpuss. We've got no
margin for error here.

26 APPLEJACK
But we've run the song like eight
times already.

27 RAINBOW DASH
We're plenty ready, Twi. We'll
nail this bad boy.

28 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Okay fine. But we still haven't
run the dance moves. We should do
that at least once.

29 APPLEJACK
In a train car??

30 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
We'll just walk it through once.
Real low key.

The ponies all stand. They begin to run the dance moves
silently and slowly, counting the beat very deliberately.

Suddenly, the rain SLAMS to a stop.

31 PONIES
<YELLING WALLA>

All the ponies go tumbling. A TRAIN CONDUCTOR sticks his
head in, barely reacting to the PONIES SPRAWLED EVERYWHERE.

32 TRAIN CONDUCTOR
Crystal Empire, ladies. Watch your
step leaving the train.

33 RAINBOW DASH
(shaking it off)
Probably shoulda watched our step
while we were still on it, too.

EXT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE TRAIN STATION - MOMENTS LATER

The ponies disembark, some still helping Rarity with her multiple bags.

34 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Maybe we can find someplace to
squeeze in a couple more run
throughs before we meet up with -

REVEAL PRINCESS CADENCE walking toward them, delighted.

35 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
(startled, uneasy)
- Princess Cadence! We were going
to meet up with you at the palace.
You didn't have to come all the way
out to see us here.

36 PRINCESS CADENCE
It's the least I could do, with you
coming out all this way to help me.

37 ALL THE PONIES
It's fine. / Glad to do it. / So
happy to help. / etc.

38 PRINCESS CADENCE
You're all so sweet. Winning the
games for the Crystal Empire is so
important to me and the kingdom.
We've all been through a lot, what
with me just taking over as ruler
and the kingdom coming out of a
1000 year curse and all.

39 PINKIE PIE
Yeah, 1000 year curses are rough.

40 RAINBOW DASH
We're gonna do all we can to help
you win this thing, aren't we,
girls?

41 PONIES
<EXCITED AGREEMENT WALLA>

42 PRINCESS CADENCE

Well, today's the big day. The Head of Games, Ms. Peachbottom, arrives in just a few hours for her tour of the kingdom, so I hope the welcoming committee is ready.

43 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

Well, we still have a few more -

44 RAINBOW DASH

(cutting her off)

Ready as we'll ever be, Princess.

45 PRINCESS CADENCE

Oh good. So glad to hear it.

46 RAINBOW DASH

(sotto to Twilight)

We'll be fine. No use getting her all worried over nothing.

47 PRINCESS CADENCE

Now all that's left to do is for me to get my traditional Crystal Empire headdress done in our customary ceremonial style. Come along with me while I get it done. It'll be fun.

INT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE SPA - LATER

CLOSE ON Rarity, totally enthralled.

48 RARITY

<GASPING>

WIDEN TO REVEAL Princess Cadence leads the ponies into a huge open space filled with ponies getting spa treatments of every sort: facials, hair treatments, mud baths... everything the stylish pony would need to relax and beautify.

49 PRINCESS CADENCE

Go ahead and try whatever you like. It's all complimentary for the Welcome Committee.

The ponies all happily walk off, except for Rarity, who continues on with Cadence in a daze.

50 RARITY
Oh heavens, this is spectacular.
Please everypony stand back. I
need air.

51 PRINCESS CADENCE
Yes. Pretty nice here, isn't it.

She leads them over to a Crystal Pony - VIOLET - in front of
a SALON CHAIR.

52 PRINCESS CADENCE (CONT'D)
Hi Violet.
(then, to Rarity)
She's my usual. Always does my
mane just how I like it.

53 RARITY
Oh. But has she ever done it up in
a ceremonial headdress before?

54 PRINCESS CADENCE
Actually, no. But she'll be
following detailed instructions.
I'm sure it'll be fine.

Violet holds up the instruction book with confidence.

55 RARITY
Oh is that so. Oh, um. Oh well,
okay, it's just that. Well
nevermind.

56 VIOLET
What - is there a problem?

57 RARITY
No, you'll be fine, I'm sure.
You'll do fine. These instructions
seem perfectly... well... adequate.

58 PRINCESS CADENCE
You have some experience doing
headdresses, Rarity?

59 RARITY
Well, I don't want to brag. It
wouldn't be polite.

60 PRINCESS CADENCE
It's not bragging if you're just
telling me what you've done. Tell
me all about it.

Meanwhile, a CRYSTAL PONY MESSENGER enters and -
deferentially not wishing to interrupt - WHISPERS something
to Violet, through...

61 RARITY
I could count on my hooves the
number of times I've done it... if
I had eighteen hooves.
(then, helpfully)
Have a seat, Violet. This could
take a while.

62 VIOLET
(gravely)
Excuse me, Princess. There's a
messenger with some news I think
you'll wish to hear.

Princess Cadence and Rarity react.

Meanwhile, elsewhere in the spa...

ANGLE ON the other ponies getting their tour.

63 CRYSTAL PONY
Okay. So this here is called a
"mud bath", which relaxes the body
and rejuvenates your coat. Now I
realize it strikes some as strange
to climb into mud, but if you'll
just give it a chance I'm sure -

Pinkie Pie takes a RUNNING SWAN DIVE into it.

64 PINKIE PIE
Whoo-hoo!

She goes under... the breeches like a whale... then jumps
around, up and down, spattering mud everywhere.

65 CRYSTAL PONY
That's... not quite what I had in
mind, but...

Pinkie then floats placidly on her back.

66 PINKIE PIE
Aah... so relaxing...

She proceeds to placidly BURBLE DOWN through the surface of
the mud and out of sight.

67 RAINBOW DASH

Go ahead and hop in, Twilight. You could sure use a little relaxation.

68 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

Yeah, I suppose I've been wound a little uptight about this welcoming committee thing.

(climbing in)

Aah. Ooh, that's nice.

69 RAINBOW DASH

There you go. See? Nothing to worry about.

70 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

(tensions melting away)

Wow. I can't believe I've never tried this before. This is amazing.

71 FLUTTERSHY

Isn't it?

72 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

Wow, I feel so relaxed in here it's like nothing could ever bother me.

Cadence walks over, calm but with urgency.

73 PRINCESS CADENCE

Listen, everypony, there's been a change in plans. Turns out the Head of Games caught the early train and will be showing up ahead of schedule.

74 ALL THE PONIES

<ANXIOUS WALLA>

75 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

(blissing out)

No worries. It's all good.

76 PRINCESS CADENCE

She'll be arriving at the train station any minute.

77 ALL THE PONIES

<INCREASINGLY AGITATED WALLA>

78 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

Cool. Hope she enjoys her visit.

79 PRINCESS CADENCE
I'm still only half done here, so I
need you to go meet her there right
away and get the welcoming
committee stuff started. I'll be
there before you're done. You'll
be great. I know it.

80 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Yep, we'll be great all right.
Easy peasy.

81 APPLEJACK
Come on out, Twilight. We gotta
hurry.

She gets out, they dry the mud off of her... and the effect
of it seems to suddenly wear off.

82 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Okay. Now I'm stressed.

Off the worried expressions of everypony, we...

SLAM TO BLACK.

END OF ACT I

ACT II

INT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE SPA - MOMENTS LATER

Twilight turns to Cadence, her worry shifting to resolve, as
the other ponies look on.

83 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
We can do this, Cadence. We won't
let you down.

84 PRINCESS CADENCE
I know you will. Now you remember
how to recognize Ms. Peachbottom at
the station?

85 APPLEJACK
She'll be the one with the flower
print luggage.

86 PRINCESS CADENCE

Right. Now, she's not expecting you so make sure to introduce yourselves right away to get things off on the right hoof and make her feel at home.

87 RAINBOW DASH

Consider it done.

88 PRINCESS CADENCE

Thanks again for coming through like this. You all are the best.

(then)

And if I can't meet you back at the palace in time, just launch into your welcome routine. I'll be there before you're done.

89 RAINBOW DASH

Roger that. Let's move.

The ponies exit and Princess Cadence returns to her seat.

90 PRINCESS CADENCE

Violet, I hate to do this to you, but we're going to have to hurry up and finish.

91 VIOLET

(re: instructions)

I'm going as fast as I can, Princess, but it says here that the chemicals have to set first. They're not ready to apply till they turn blue.

92 RARITY

You mean like this?

She uses her magic to pull out a HAIRPIN and dips it in to the liquid, causing a STEAMY REACTION and, presto, the liquid is now blue.

93 RARITY (CONT'D)

The copper in the hairpin speeds the chemical process.

(playing it off)

A little trick of the trade you pick up.

94 PRINCESS CADENCE
Violet, maybe given the situation
we should have Rarity take over on
this one.
(then)
Do you mind, Rarity?

95 RARITY
Oh, I don't know. I don't want to
step on any hooves...

96 VIOLET
Oh, it's no both-

97 RARITY
Great.
(gently bumping Violet out
of the way)
Nothing personal, Violet. You got
things off to a fabulous start, but
now we're just going to kick it up
a notch to super-extra-fabulous...

Rarity's already in the groove, working fluidly and quickly.

98 RARITY (CONT'D)
... and at lightning speed, too.

99 PRINCESS CADENCE
Now we're talking.

As Princess Cadence watches Rarity working busily in the
mirror, she relaxes and smiles.

EXT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE TRAIN STATION - A LITTLE LATER

The ponies look on as a PONY with FLOWER PRINT LUGGAGE steps
off of a train.

100 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
There she is. Okay everypony,
let's do this.

101 FLUTTERSHY
So we're supposed to just walk
right up and introduce ourselves?
Didn't you say she's like a big
meanie or something. What if she's
mean to us?

102 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
That's a risk we're just gonna have
to take.

They all walk off. Fluttershy hangs back.

103 FLUTTERSHY
(fretting)
Oooooooh... don't be a meanie...
please don't a meanie...

104 APPLEJACK
(pushing her along)
Deep breaths, girl. Deep breaths.

ANGLE ON the ponies approaching the VIP, who's walking along with her flower print luggage. Fluttershy and Applejack bring up the rear, Fluttershy STILL BEING PUSHED ALONG but now BREATHING DEEPLY.

105 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
(tentatively)
Excuse me, ma'am?

She spins around, confrontational.

106 GAMES VIP
Yes? What is it?

107 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Er, um, well... I know you're not expecting us but we're here to personally welcome you to the Crystal Empire.

108 GAMES VIP
(still unsmiling)
The whole lot of you came to do that?

109 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Er, um, well... yes.

A beat... then she suddenly breaks into a huge grin.

110 GAMES VIP
Well, goshdarntootin! Ain't that the cat's meow! Y'all didn't need to do that. Why I hardly expected anything like this.

The ponies all smile at one another, stunned and relieved.

111 APPLEJACK
The Princess wouldn't have had it any other way.

112 GAMES VIP
The Princess? Princess Cadence?

113 RAINBOW DASH
None other.

114 GAMES VIP
Well tie me up and throw me down,
this just keeps gettin' better 'n
better!

115 FLUTTERSHY
Can we help you with your bags?

116 GAMES VIP
Don't mind if ya do!

They all head off together like a bunch of old friends.

117 PINKIE PIE
Our first stop is the palace where
we've got a big welcome thing
planned for you.

118 GAMES VIP
The palace?! Are you kiddin'? Hot
diggity dog!

The ponies all smile. This'll be a breeze!

INT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE SPA - SAME TIME

Rarity still works on Cadence, stringing crystals into her corn-rowed mane with brisk and controlled intensity, while Violet continues to assist.

119 PRINCESS CADENCE
How are we doing? Almost done?

120 RARITY
Absolutely. Now we just need to do
the finishing rinse for that extra-
super-fabulous sheen.

Rarity turns her around and puts her head backwards into a shampoo sink.

121 PRINCESS CADENCE
Okay, but I just want to make sure
I get back to the palace before the
welcome committee finishes, like I
promised.

122 RARITY
Never you fear.
(to Violet)
Now dump that blue liquid into the
green liquid. Hurry up now.

123 VIOLET
I'm going as fast as I can.

124 RARITY
That's nice, but the Princess has
places to be. You'll have to be a
little faster.

125 VIOLET
Okay but -

126 RARITY
Kick it in gear, honey!

Flustered, Violet pours the YELLOW LIQUID into the GREEN
LIQUID by mistake.

Rarity, oblivious, works it deep into Cadence's mane.

127 RARITY (CONT'D)
There you go, Princess. Now we'll
just weave in these crystals and -

Suddenly Cadence's hair POOFS OUT into an IMPOSSIBLY LARGE
AND UNRULY FRIZZY DISASTER.

128 RARITY/VIOLET
<SCREAMS>

129 PRINCESS CADENCE
What's the matter?

130 RARITY
(desperate)
It's okay. It's not so bad.

Princess Cadence snaps her head up and looks in the mirror.

131 RARITY/VIOLET
Don't look!

132 PRINCESS CADENCE
<SCREAMS>

INT. CRYSTAL PALACE - SITTING ROOM - A LITTLE LATER

The ponies place a wide array of SNACKS before the GAMES VIP as she sits on a plush sofa in a sumptuous palace room.

133 GAMES VIP

Oh my, these candies are to die for! What are they made with?

134 APPLEJACK

Sugar crystals.

135 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

(well rehearsed)

Just one of the many ways the Crystal Empire makes visitors feel welcome.

136 FLUTTERSHY

(well rehearsed)

It's the kind of welcome athletes from all over could expect should the Crystal Empire be fortunate to be selected to host the next Equestria Games.

Twilight BLOWS on a PITCH PIPE, and they launch into their elaborate MUSICAL-STYLE SONG AND DANCE ROUTINE.

137 PONIES

(starting off slow)

We realize the Crystal Empire is a sight to see / With crystal spires and crystal domes, impressive you'll agree / But amidst all the spectacle something impresses equally...

Dramatic pause. Then... high energy!

138 PONIES (CONT'D)

... it's our Crystal Empire hospitality!

Big fast-paced show tune time! With plenty of associated props and physical business!

139 RAINBOW DASH

The Crystal Empire welcomes you.

140 APPLEJACK

Please have a crystal seat.

141 FLUTTERSHY
Please accept this crystal fan.

142 PINKIE PIE
We're expecting crystal heat.

143 PONIES
*And we beg to say / your crystal
stay / would hardly be complete -*

144 PINKIE PIE
*- without your very own crystal
parakeet.*

She places LIVE CRYSTAL PARAKEET on the VIP's shoulder.

145 PARAKEET
<tweeting in tune>

146 PONIES
*Please soak your hooves in crystal
salts for the long long way you've
come -*

147 PINKIE PIE
*- while I sit here with a crystal
harp and play a soothing strum.*

148 APPLEJACK
*And may this crystal cushion
prevent an aching in your bum.*

149 PONIES
*And we're quite sure now you'll
start to feel the glee / of our our
Crystal Empire hospitality.*

Then, taking it all back down a notch...

150 PONIES (CONT'D)
*This crystal welcome we offer you /
is from deep within our hearts. /
When loves ones are so far away /
it's hard to be apart. / But when
you stay / our crystal way / we
hope one thing's crystal clear...*

... and then kicking it way way back up!

151 PONIES (CONT'D)
*That there's nothing quite as dear!
/ Or makes you want to cheer!
(MORE)*

PONIES (CONT'D)
*/ Like basking with us here / in
our Cry-stal Em-pire hos-pi-tal-i-
teeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee!*

Big finish!

VIP puts down her snacks to burst into WILD EXUBERANT
applause.

152 GAMES VIP
<HEARTY CHEERING AND WHISTLING>

The winded ponies are blown away by the response.

153 GAMES VIP (CONT'D)
I tell ya, I have travelled far and
wide, but I have never, ever been
welcomed anyplace in the fashion
that y'all have done here today.

154 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
That's fantastic. We're so glad to
hear that!

155 FLUTTERSHY
Oh my gosh, are we ever! Princess
Cadence warned us you'd be big
meanie, but you're not that way at
all!

156 GAMES VIP
The Princess thinks I'm a meanie?

Twilight jumps between them.

157 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
(thinking fast)
What Fluttershy means is that
Cadence thinks you're very
forthright... that you meanie what
you say-ie. I'm sure that's what
she meant-ie.

158 GAMES VIP
Honestly, I'm surprised she knows
anything about me at all.

159 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Don't be silly! Of course she
does! She's been looking forward
to your visit for weeks. In fact,
she's dying to see you.

160 GAMES VIP
Oh goodie! Is she here?

161 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Uhhhhh...

162 APPLEJACK
(sotto)
Where the heck is she anyway?
Wasn't she supposed to be here by
now.

163 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
(sotto)
You keep things under control here.
I'll go find out what's going on.
(then, to VIP)
Would you excuse me a moment?

Twilight bolts out the door. A beat.

164 GAMES VIP
Tell you what, I get stir crazy
when I'm cooped up too long.
Whaddaya say we go on out and get
some fresh air and sunshine?

165 APPLEJACK
Sounds fun, but, uh we should
probably stick around so Twilight
can find us when she get back.

166 PINKIE PIE
How about a tour of the palace?

167 GAMES VIP
Suits me. C'mon, welcoming
committee, let's get a move on!

She jumps up excitedly. The other ponies follow her toward
the door, not entirely sure what to do...

168 APPLEJACK
(sotto)
What're we gonna do? We can't give
a tour... we've only been here once
before.

169 RAINBOW DASH
Relax. I think she just wants to
be shown a good time.

170 PINKIE PIE
My specialty. I got this.

INT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE SPA - LATER

Twilight enters. Rarity ZIPS over, intercepting her.

171 RARITY
What are you doing here?

172 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
We finished the welcome committee
song and just wanted to introduce
the Games VIP to -

173 RARITY
No! Princess Cadence isn't ready!
Something's gone horribly terribly
wrong!

174 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I need to speak to the Princess.

175 RARITY
You can't. She's in the middle of
delicate conditioning rise that
must go perfectly if there's to be
any hope for her hair!

176 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Come on. How bad could it be?

177 RARITY
Imagine her mane turned into a
porcupine.

178 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Oh.

179 RARITY
With split ends. Please, we'll
bring her back from the brink of
tragedy but you've got to buy us
time, there's no other way!

INT. CRYSTAL PALACE - MAIN ROTUNDA - MOMENTS LATER

Pinkie Pie's in the midst of leading the other ponies and the
VIP in a full-on tour of the palace.

180 PINKIE PIE
So you see this here... this um...
this is the um... big round room.
It's known for it's roundness. And
bigness. Did I mention that it's
round?

181 GAMES VIP
I think they call it a rotunda.

182 PINKIE PIE
Psht! Whatever. Round is round,
am I right?

183 APPLEJACK
(sotto)
Easy, Pinkie. Let's play this
safe. We got her in a good mood,
so let's not do anything to ruin
that.

184 GAMES VIP
You know, I love this sort of
architecture. I studied up on it
before travelling here. I detect a
neo-gothic inspiration in the
design... would you say that up
there is a modified flying
buttress?

Pinkie goes blank.

185 PINKIE PIE
(then, thinking fast)
Hey! Look at me!
(making ridiculous faces)
Booga mooga wooga...

Applejack shakes her head in dismay.

Meanwhile, Rainbow Dash sees Twilight entering.

186 APPLEJACK
And not a moment too soon.
(approaching Twilight)
Where's Cadence? Please tell me
she's right behind you.

187 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Wish I could. What's going here?

188 FLUTTERSHY
The lady wanted a tour of the
castle, so...

189 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
But we don't know anything about
the castle!

190 APPLEJACK
That's what I said, but Pinkie said
she had it covered.

ANGLE ON Pinkie still making faces and noises while the Games
VIP watches.

191 PINKIE PIE
Boingie boingie boingie...

192 GAMES VIP
Can't we go outside for a spell?
I'm all cooped up. I'm gettin'
stir crazy.

ANGLE BACK ON Twilight and the other ponies.

193 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
We've gotta make this tour more
interesting for her.
(then)
I'll see if Shining Armor can come
help. Can't one of you other
ponies take over in the meantime?

194 RAINBOW DASH
I got this.

195 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Okay, but just promise me one thing
- promise me you'll be here in the
palace when I get back.

196 RAINBOW DASH
Of course. Anything for my
favorite worry wart.

197 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Thanks. I don't think I could
handle one other thing getting out
of control.

198 RAINBOW DASH
It's all in my capable hooves.

Twilight smiles and exits. Dash turns to the task at hand.

199 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Okay. Um. Okay. You see this
over here? This here is what they
call an arm-oy-er.

200 GAMES VIP
You mean an armoire?

201 RAINBOW DASH
That's... kinda what I said. You
know what this tour needs? More
action. Let's walk!

The Games VIP gives Dash a skeptical look. Dash tries to disguise her unease with a raffish smile.

EXT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE STADIUM - A SHORT WHILE LATER

A bunch of CRYSTAL PONIES IN MATCHING TANK TOPS AND SHORTS stand around on a TRACK AND FIELD STYLE RACE TRACK trying to stay limber and lose while waiting to begin a trial run. Meanwhile, SHINING ARMOR speaks with Twilight.

202 SHINING ARMOR
Look Twilight, I'd love to help but
it's my job to get our teams in
competitive shape for the Equestria
Games no matter where they're
played, be it here in the Crystal
Empire or someplace else.

203 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
But -

204 SHINING ARMOR
Just a second.

Shining Armor fires a starting gun in the air [ALT: blows a coach's whistle] and the CRYSTAL PONY RUNNERS take off running down the track in their lanes... then REVEAL that the "hurdles" they're approaching are actually fences as in an equestrian steeplechase, complete with HEDGES and little MOATS they need to clear, etc... however they continue to run the race in manner that resembles human track-and-field competitors, through...

205 SHINING ARMOR (CONT'D)
(shouting instructions)
Come on, gang - are we gonna gallop
or are we gonna trot? Let's move!
(then, to Twilight)
I'm really sorry, but I gotta stay
here and finish leading practice.

206 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
But Shining Armor, you don't understand - all we were supposed to do is come here and run a welcoming committee, which we worked super-hard to get right, but the person came early, Cadence got her hair ruined, we've got to keep finding ways to keep a VIP happy, so now we've got to give tours of a place that we know next-to-nothing about without ruining it all!

Twilight pauses to catch her breath. Shining Armor smiles reassuringly.

207 SHINING ARMOR
You'll do fine, Twilight. Relax. You're worrying too much.

208 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
You think so? That's what Rainbow Dash keeps saying...

209 SHINING ARMOR
Take a look on the bright side, after all that's happened so far, how could anything else possibly go wrong, huh?

Twilight considers this.

210 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Yeah, I suppose you're right...

EXT. CRYSTAL PALACE - SAME TIME

The Games VIP BURST out of the building into the sunshine, with the other ponies giving chase.

211 GAMES VIP
I'm getting stir crazy!

212 RAINBOW DASH
Come back!!

SLAM TO BLACK.

END OF ACT II

ACT III

INT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE LIBRARY - SOON AFTER

Twilight rushes up to the CRYSTAL PONY LIBRARIAN.

213 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Hi, I don't know if you can help me
but I'm kind of in a hurry.

214 LIBRARIAN
(earnest)
Oh, what kind of help do you need?
If you need help slowing down, I
suppose I could help...

215 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Where can I find books about the
Crystal Palace? I need help
putting together an interesting
tour.

216 LIBRARIAN
You want to put together an
interesting tour of Crystal Palace
books? Ooh, I'd go on one of
those!

217 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
No. I need help finding books
about the Crystal Palace.

218 LIBRARIAN
(getting it)
Oh! So you want me to give you a
tour of Crystal Palace books.

219 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
(thinking)
Well... in a way, I guess...

220 LIBRARIAN
(confused again)
So you can then give a tour of the
books yourself?

221 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
No!

222 LIBRARIAN
(impatient)
You know, you're not making any
sense at all.

223 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
(flummoxed)
I - you - well - I - this -
(then, with a chuckle)
Oh forget it. Look at me getting
all worked up again, just like
Rainbow Dash always says. They
don't need a book for the tour.
I'm sure they're doing just fine...

CUT TO:

EXT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE STADIUM - SAME TIME

CLOSE ON Crystal Pony in track uniform rearing up onto it's hind legs.

224 CRYSTAL PONY
<TERRIFIED WHINNY>

WIDEN TO REVEAL Games VIP leaping by.

225 GAMES VIP
Ah! Feels so good to stretch the
old legs! Yee-hah!

The Games VIP continues running exuberantly along the steeplechase-style racetrack at full tilt.

ANGLE ON Shining Armor and the ponies looking on in horror.

226 SHINING ARMOR
Make it stop!

227 RAINBOW DASH
I tried!

228 SHINING ARMOR
What does she think she's doing?

229 RAINBOW DASH
She gets stir crazy after she's all
cooped up.

230 SHINING ARMOR
You serious?

231 RAINBOW DASH
That's what she says!
(then)
She came to check out the Crystal
Empire to host the Equestria Games.
(MORE)

RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)

Maybe she's testing out the facilities.

232 SHINING ARMOR

But that doesn't make any sense.

233 RAINBOW DASH

Dude, it's the best I got.

ANGLE ON the Crystal Ponies leaping out of the way as the Games VIP comes running by like mad, FROTHING at the mouth...

INT. CRYSTAL PALACE - MAIN ROTUNDA - A LITTLE LATER

Twilight wanders around the deserted palace, searching for someone. Anyone.

234 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

(voice echoing)

Hello? Anypony? Hello?

(then)

Okay. Not here. No big deal, I'm sure. Probably just went out to enjoy a little stroll.

(then, whistling)

There. I'm whistling. Because everything's fine. Just fine.

Twilight saunters toward the exit, WHISTLING.

EXT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE STADIUM - A LITTLE LATER

The Games VIP takes a big running leap as she approaches one of the hurdles... a really really high leap.

ANGLE ON Shining Armor and Rainbow Dash CRANING to watch her ARC HIGH OVERHEAD.

ANGLE BACK ON the Games VIP landing far off and running straight through a WOODEN STADIUM WALL - CRASH! - and, without missing a stride, keeps right on running out into the open beyond.

ANGLE BACK ON the stunned Rainbow Dash and Shining Armor.

235 RAINBOW DASH

Yuh oh.

EXT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE - A LITTLE LATER

HIGH OVERHEAD SHOT of the Games VIP running across the Crystal Empire LIKE A WILD MUSTANG ACROSS THE PRAIRIE.

ANGLE ON Rainbow Dash and Fluttershy FLYING HARD to keep up.

236 FLUTTERSHY
(shouting in the wind)
Where's she going in such a hurry?

237 RAINBOW DASH
(shouting in the wind)
Got no clue, but enough already.
Time to corral her.

Fluttershy nods and they accelerate.

They try to round her up from the right and she veers left.

They try to round her up from the left and she veers right.

It's not working. Rainbow Dash and Fluttershy regroup in the sky.

238 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
(shouting in the wind)
This time you go left and I go
right.

EXT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE - NEARBY - SAME TIME

Twilight walks along jauntily, STILL WHISTLING.

Then, as if out of nowhere, Fluttershy ZOOMS by.

239 FLUTTERSHY
Hi, Twilight.

As fast as she appeared, she's gone. Twilight reacts.

240 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
What the - ?

EXT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE - NEARBY - SAME TIME

Rainbow Dash is gaining ground. So is Fluttershy.

241 RAINBOW DASH
Closer, closer, I think we got
her...

Suddenly the Games VIP stops, on a runner's high.

242 GAMES VIP
Hoo-wee! That felt good!

Rainbow Dash FLIES THROUGH FRAME, unable to stop.

243 RAINBOW DASH
YAAAAAAH...

244 GAMES VIP
Nothing like a great run to shake
the cobwebs off these old bones.

Sound of Rainbow Dash "SLAMMING ON THE BRAKES" O.S. as the Games VIP walks in slow circles to cool down.

Rainbow Dash and Fluttershy both return to frame, and they're joined by Shining Armor and the other ponies arriving from the opposite direction.

245 SHINING ARMOR
(winded, to Games VIP)
Are you all right? We were
worried.

246 GAMES VIP
Everything's great. Couldn't be
better.

247 RAINBOW DASH
Then could you please explain what
the heck that was all about?

248 GAMES VIP
Oh, I just love to travel and see
new places. Was in one spot so
long I felt like seeing as much of
this place as I could in as little
time as possible. Such a beautiful
spot you got here, too, I must say.
Gorgeous gorgeous place.

249 SHINING ARMOR
Why... thank you so much.

Twilight finally catches up to them.

250 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
What's going on??

251 RAINBOW DASH

(smug)

From the looks of it, just locking up the games for the Crystal Empire is all. Ain't no thang.

252 SHINING ARMOR

I'm afraid we have not yet had the pleasure. I'm Shining Armor.

253 GAMES VIP

(flabbergasted)

The prince? My oh my, I never met me a prince before!

254 SHINING ARMOR

I'm surprised. I'd think in your line of work you'd meet princes all the time.

255 GAMES VIP

Hardly. Royalty never shows much interest in meetin' ordinary horseshoe makers like me. Though I sure do love to travel whenever I get me some time off. To empires all over. Still, never met me a prince though.

A long long beat.

256 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

You are Ms. Peachbottom. From the Equestria Games.

(then)

Aren't you?

257 GAMES VIP

Ms. Peach-whatie-what? Who's that?

Twilight and Rainbow Dash look at one another, panicked.

258 TWILIGHT SPARKLE/RAINBOW DASH

We got the wrong pony!!!

INT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE TRAIN STATION - SOON AFTER

The ponies burst into to the building.

259 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

There's got to be a another pony with flower print luggage around here somewhere.

They scan the room.

260 APPLEJACK
Except that there isn't.

261 FLUTTERSHY
She must have gotten tired of
waiting.

262 PINKIE PIE
Ooh, look - cinnamon buns.

ANGLE ON Pinkie Pie making a purchase from a VENDOR.
Meanwhile...

263 RAINBOW DASH
Okay, here's what we do: we split
the empire up into five sectors.

264 FLUTTERSHY
Each of us search a sector.

265 APPLEJACK
From top to bottom.

266 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
We've got to find Ms. Peachbottom
before Cadence finds out what a
mess we've made of things.

267 RAINBOW DASH
We meet back here in an hour.
(then)
You got that, Pinkie?

268 PINKIE PIE
(eating)
Sectors. Search. Hour. Top.
Bottom. Yeperdoodle.

269 RAINBOW DASH
Let's roll.

They all ZIP out in opposite directions.

PAN UP to a WALL CLOCK. It shows an hour passing.

PAN BACK DOWN. The ponies all simultaneously reconvene,
ZIPPING back into frame.

270 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Nothing.

271 FLUTTERSHY
Nada.

272 RAINBOW DASH
Zero.

273 APPLEJACK
Zilch.

ANGLE ON Pinkie Pie holding a Thesaurus.

274 PINKIE PIE
Nada.
(then)
Wait - you already said that one...

275 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Did everpony check *every part* of
their sector?

276 PONIES
<AFFIRMATIVE WALLA>

277 PINKIE PIE
Well, except for the spa.
(buying a cinnamon bun)
But what's the point of checking
there? That's where Cadence is.
If the Peachbottom lady's there,
well, then game over. Right?

The ponies all look at each other, then SULK and walk off
glumly to face their fate.

INT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE SPA - A LITTLE LATER

The ponies slowly peek inside. One one side of the room,
then see Cadence under a towel with Rarity and Violet working
on her. On the other side, they see a pony under a towel
next to some flower print luggage, with a different Crystal
Pony working on her.

278 RAINBOW DASH
We're in luck! They're both
getting treatments on opposite
sides of the spa. I don't think
either of them knows yet the other
one's here.

ANGLE ON Rarity spotting her friends.

279 RARITY
You're just in time for the
wonderful news! Look! Princess
Cadence, better than new!

Rarity unveils Cadence with her mane in a traditional
headdress. She looks terrific.

Meanwhile, on the opposite end of the spa...

280 MS. PEACHBOTTOM
(sitting bolt upright)
Princess Cadence? Here?

281 RARITY
What a fabulous impression she'll
make on Ms. Peachbottom!

282 MS. PEACHBOTTOM
(striding over angrily)
That ship's already sailed,
sweetheart.

283 PRINCESS CADENCE
Ms. Peachbottom? Here?

ANGLE ON the ponies looking on in despair.

284 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Hoo boy...

285 MS. PEACHBOTTOM
I'll have you know this is by far
the worst welcome I've had in all
my years of visiting empires to
host the Equestria Games.

286 PRINCESS CADENCE
I can't believe it. What - what
was wrong with your welcome?

287 MS. PEACHBOTTOM
There wasn't one! I waited and
waited at the train station for
someone to greet me. No one came.
So finally I carried my luggage,
all the way here, by myself, to
relax after my long long trip and,
lo and behold, here you are.

288 RARITY
We can explain.

289 MS. PEACHBOTTOM
No need. Goodbye.

Then, as she turns to get her luggage and head for the exit,
where the other ponies still are.

290 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Please hear us out. Don't blame
the Princess. It's all our fault.

291 MS. PEACHBOTTOM
Out of my way!

EXT. SPA - MOMENTS LATER

Ms. Peachbottom STOMPS with her luggage, trying to ignore the
other ponies nervously following after her. Then...

292 RAINBOW DASH
But -

293 MS. PEACHBOTTOM
(turning on them)
Listen, ladies! Every empire wants
to host the Equestria Games.
Everyone! And why wouldn't they?
So I have to go through the big
phoney baloney song and dance about
how great their kingdoms are,
though of course I'm never getting
the real inside scoop. Do you have
any idea what a drag that can be?

294 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Yes, but -

295 MS. PEACHBOTTOM
And yet, even though it's a huge
bore and the bane of my existence,
at least they have the decency to
try!

296 RAINBOW DASH
Yes, but -

297 MS. PEACHBOTTOM
But nothing! Good day!

298 TOURIST (O.S.)
Excuse me, ma'am. Love your
luggage.

Ms. Peachbottom turns to see the TOURIST (i.e., the pony formerly mistaken to be the GAMES VIP), who stands their jovially with the same flower print luggage.

299 MS. PEACHBOTTOM
Why thank you, I -

300 TOURIST
And you're gonna love your visit to the Crystal Empire, you can bet your horse's patootie. I'm here from out of town and just out of the blue this place offered me the warmest, funnest, most fabulous reception I've ever had, courtesy of these fine ponies right there behind ya. If they're lookin' after you already, then by golly, you'll love it here for sure.

A beat.

301 MS. PEACHBOTTOM
Wait, you've never been here before in your life? And never knew anypony here?

302 TOURIST
Not before today. No, ma'am.

303 MS. PEACHBOTTOM
And you already love it here?

304 TOURIST
More than anyplace I've ever been. And I been places, believe you me.

A beat.

305 MS. PEACHBOTTOM
Hmm. This may be the first ever unvarnished, unrehearsed, and unbiased appraisal I've ever heard of a potential host empire of the Equestria Games... which can only mean one thing...

CUT TO:

EXT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE - LATER

Princess Cadence stands next to Ms. Peachbottom addressing a THRONG OF CRYSTAL PONIES from a stage.

306 PRINCESS CADENCE
Congratulations, Crystal Ponies...
the next hosts of the Equestria
Games.

Princess Cadence lifts Ms. Peachbottom's hoof triumphantly in the air and the CROWD CHEERS.

ON TWILIGHT and the PONYVILLE PONIES looking very relieved.

INT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE TRAIN STATION - LATER

A train pulls in and the ponies get ready to board.

307 RAINBOW DASH
See how well that all worked out.
Told you, nothing to worry about.

308 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
We had a few strokes of luck there,
you gotta admit.

309 RAINBOW DASH
Yeah, sometimes luck breaks your
way, sometimes it doesn't.

Just then, a cart piled high with luggage topples a few feet in front of them. The ponies react, then shrug off the strange occurrence as they board the train. *

INT. TRAIN CAR - A FEW MINUTES LATER

The ponies are in their seats. Applejack reacts to a <GROWLING SOUND>.

310 APPLEJACK
You all hear that?

The other ponies listen for a beat. Nothing.

311 FLUTTERSHY
I sure am happy for Princess
Cadence and the Crystal Empire, but
I'm also sure happy to see our
critters again. I miss them so.

312 APPLEJACK
I wonder how Spike's doing looking
after them.

313 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I'm sure they're fine.

WIDEN TO REVEAL SPIKE, the SIDEKICKS, and the CUTIE MARK
CRUSADERS hiding in various parts of the train car.

SLAM TO BLACK.

END.