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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 **welcoming** thing in the Crystal Empire. Spike's got it all under control.

*
*

She suddenly hear the SOUNDS OF CHAOS coming from within the LIBRARY nearby. She pauses, eyebrow raised in concern.

*
*

5 RAINBOW DASH
Hurry up, Twilight, we can't miss our train.

*
*
*

Twilight quickly joins her friends as they make their way toward the train station.

*
*

6 APPLEJACK
This is gonna be a real treat. Princess Cadence said she's never seen the Crystal Ponies so excited.

*
*
*
*

7 RAINBOW DASH
Duh. Of course they're excited. They're up for the Equestria Games. It's only the biggest sporting event in all of Equestria.

*
*
*
*
*

8 RARITY
Didn't Cloudsdale host the
Equestria Games one year?

9 RAINBOW DASH
No. Cloudsdale *should've* hosted the
games one year.
(then, somber)
I'll never forget when we got the
bad news.

EXT. CLOUDSDALE - FLASHBACK

A pre-school age Rainbow Dash clutches a pennant with a
Cloudsale logo on it. Her whole body is clenched, in
anticipation for the big announcement.

10 VOICE (O.S.)
The Equestria Games go to... the
city of Phillydelphia.

Little Rainbow Dash hurls her pennant to the ground.

11 RAINBOW DASH
WHAT?!
(then, to the heavens)
NOOOOO!!

EXT. TRAIN STATION - THE PRESENT

Rainbow Dash has a determined look on her face.

12 RAINBOW DASH
These Crystal Ponies lost 1000
years to an evil king's curse.
They've had enough bad news. No way
we're letting them experience the
pain of losing out on these games.

13 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Exactly. Princess Cadence is
counting on us to do our part to
convince the Head of the Games to
choose the Crystal Empire and we
are not going to let her down, are
we?

Pinkie Pie suddenly screams to the heavens.

14 PINKIE PIKE
NOOOOOO!!!!

She stops, realizing everyone is staring at her.

15 PINKIE PIKE (CONT'D)
(oblivious)
What? I was just answering
Twilight's question.

END TEASER

MAIN TITLE

ACT I

INT. TRAIN CAR - LATER

The ponies are all seated together in the car, practicing
their cheerleader style welcome chant.

16 PONIES
(chant's big finish)
*W-E-L-C-O-M-E, that's the way we
spell Howdy! Ungh!*

The all strike a pose and hold it for a beat. Then...

17 PINKIE PIE
Okay, everypony. Great job. Sounds
like we're ready.

18 PONIES
<CONGRATULATING EACH OTHER WALLA>

19 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
One more time. From the top.

20 PONIES (EXCEPT RD)
<GROANING AND COMPLAINING WALLA>

21 APPLEJACK
But we've run this like twelve
times already. I think we've got
it.

22 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Cadence said the Head of Games
really puts folks through the
ringer on her visits. There is no
margin for error here. And this
time we need to practice the steps.

23 APPLEJACK
On a train car?

24 RAINBOW DASH

You heard the pony. On your feet.

The ponies begin a chant accompanied with the pony equivalent of cheerleader moves.

25 PONIES

2-4-6-8 name a place that's really--

Then train suddenly SLAMS to a stop.

26 PONIES (CONT'D)

<YELLING WALLA>

All the ponies go tumbling. (NOTE: This should not play as extreme. No ponies hitting their heads.) A TRAIN CONDUCTOR sticks his head in, barely reacting to the PONIES SPRAWLED EVERYWHERE.

27 TRAIN CONDUCTOR

Crystal Empire, ladies. Watch your step leaving the train.

28 APPLEJACK

(shaking it off)

Probably shoulda watched our step while we were still on it, too.

EXT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE TRAIN STATION - A LITTLE LATER

The ponies exit the train station with their bags, ASTONISHED to see the Crystal Empire spread out before them, GLEAMING like never before.

29 PINKIE PIE

Wow. The Crystal Empire looks crystalier than ever.

ANGLE ON VARIOUS CRYSTAL PONIES, each excitedly doing different things to make the place shine: polishing street signs, sweeping streets, squeegee-ing windows (and pretty much anything else in sight, since it's all made of crystal).

30 APPLEJACK

They must have everypony in the Empire out sprucing it up.

Everywhere they look there's some other Crystal Pony working to make the Empire shine especially bright.

31 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

This must be why we were asked us to handle the welcome committee routine. All the Crystal Ponies are busy with preparation that could only be done here.

32 RAINBOW DASH

And it's probably also because we'll be awesome at it.

33 APPLEJACK

Princess Cadence was right. These ponies do look pretty darn excited.

Rainbow Dash smiles and puts a hoof around one of the smiling Crystal Ponies.

34 RAINBOW DASH

Yep. I remember that feeling.

EXT. CLOUDSDALE - FLASHBACK

Little Rainbow Dash, holding her Cloudsdale pennant, does an excited jig with lots of fist pumps.

EXT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE - THE PRESENT

Rainbow Dash shakes her head at the memory.

35 RAINBOW DASH

But not as much as I remember the crushing wave of disappointment that came when things didn't work out.

The Crystal Pony's smile turns into a frown.

36 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)

That right there. That is the face I do not want to see.

The other Ponyville Ponies nod in agreement. The Crystal Pony does look pretty pathetic.

INT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE SPA - LATER

PRINCESS CADENCE greets our ponies with hugs.

37 PRINCESS CADENCE

There are my girls!

Meanwhile, Rarity is totally enthralled by the 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.

38 RARITY

Oh my, this is spectacular. Please everypony stand back. I need air.

39 PRINCESS CADENCE

Yes. Pretty nice here, isn't it.
(then)

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

(pointing)

That over there is a mud bath,
which relaxes the body and
rejuvenates your coat. Now I
realize it can be kind of 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.

40 PINKIE PIE

Whoo-hoo!

She goes under... the breeches like a whale... then jumps around, up and down, splattering mud everywhere. Then, floating placidly on her back...

41 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)

Aah... so relaxing...

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

42 APPLEJACK

Wow Cadence, it's so great you're
able to find some personal time
here on your kingdom's big day.

43 PRINCESS CADENCE

Oh, goodness no, I'm not here for a
relaxing spa treatment.

(then, wistful)

Though I sure could use one at the
moment. I'm more than a little
stressed out about all this.

(then)

I'm here for my ceremonial
headdress.

Rarity's interest has been piqued.

44 RARITY
Ceremonial headdress?

45 PRINCESS CADENCE
When meeting with important guests,
it was tradition for Rulers of the
Crystal Empire to weave crystals
into their manes in a very specific
way. The Head of the Games is know
for doing her homework. She'll
certainly be expecting my look to
reflect the importance of her
visit.

A MESSENGER approaches.

46 MESSENGER
Princess. If I may have a word. I
have two pieces of news for you.
First, your mane-stylist has the
flu and won't be able to make it
for fear of you catching it, too.

47 PRINCESS CADENCE
Oh no, I hope she's better soon.
(then)
Do any of the other stylists here
know how to do the traditional
royal ceremonial headdress?

48 CRYSTAL PONY STYLISTS
<UNCERTAINTY WALLA>

Princess Cadence looks disappointed.

49 PRINCESS CADENCE
Oh... Well... I suppose it's just a
small detail.

50 RAINBOW DASH
Whoa. Whoa. Whoa. You're trying to
land the Equestria Games. There's
no such thing as a small detail.

Princess Cadence's look of disappointment turns to one of
genuine concern.

51 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
(softly to Rainbow Dash)
Did you not hear her when she said
she was already stressed out.

★

52 RARITY ★
I suppose I could give it a shot. ★

Princess Cadence brightens. ★

53 PRINCESS CADENCE ★
Oh, Rarity, you would do that for ★
me? ★

54 RAINBOW DASH ★
Way to step up, Rare. ★

55 PRINCESS CADENCE ★
Fortunately, I have all the precise ★
instructions right here. ★

Cadence retrieves a piece of paper from the salon station. ★
Princess Cadence UNFURLS the piece of paper REVEALING an ★
exceedingly long and complex document. ★

56 RARITY ★
Oh my... ★

57 PRINCESS CADENCE ★
(sensing her trepidation) ★
You sure you're up to this? ★

58 RARITY ★
Working on the hair of royalty on ★
such an auspicious occasion is the ★
opportunity of a lifetime. ★
(then, firmly) ★
I'll give it everything I've got. ★
(then) ★
Besides, the Head of Games isn't ★
expected for several hours. I'll ★
have plenty of time to figure out ★
exactly how to do this. ★

She begins scanning the extremely detailed directions. ★

59 PRINCESS CADENCE ★
Oh Rarity, that's wonderful! ★
(then, to messenger) ★
You said you had a second bit of ★
news? ★

60 MESSENGER ★
Yes, quite. The Head of the ★
Equestria Games will be arriving on ★
the next train. ★

Every pony reacts with alarm.

61 PRINCESS CADENCE

What?! That's fifteen minutes from
now. You couldn't tell me that
news first??

The messenger blushes. Oops.

EXT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE - LATER

The ponies are all on their way back to the train station.

62 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

Okay, we'll be fine. Everypony
just be on the lookout for the pony
with the flower print luggage.

63 FLUTTERSHY

Ooh, I love flower print.
(then, re: interruption)
Sorry. Go on.

64 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

We bring the Head of the Games back
to the castle, put on our big
welcome committee how-do-you-do,
and then Cadence meets us there
with her hair looking perfect and
we're done.

65 PINKIE PIE

Easy peasy, puddin' in the freezy.
(then)
Mmm, pudding.

66 RAINBOW DASH

There's just one more thing we have
to remember.

67 PINKIE PIE

Put the pudding out to thaw before
you eat it or you'll crack a tooth?

68 RAINBOW DASH

I'll just ignore that.
(then)
We need to remember that the Head
of Games arriving early is probably
part of a plan to psyche us out.

69 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

What do you mean?

70 RAINBOW DASH

You said yourself she's got a rep
for putting ponies trying to land
the Games through the ringer. This
is probably just an attempt to
catch us off guard so she can see
how we handle pressure. Probably
a big piece of how she decides if a
kingdom has what it takes to host
something as massive and important
as the Equestria Games.

71 FLUTTERSHY

Oh no... we're gonna blow it...

72 RAINBOW DASH

Not if we always stay one step
ahead and don't fall for any of her
mind games. Anything she throws at
us, we just need to remember she's
testing us and roll with it.

The other ponies nod in understanding.

EXT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE TRAIN STATION - A LITTLE LATER

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

73 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

There she is.

ANGLE ON the ponies approaching the GAMES 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.

74 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)

(tentatively)

Excuse me, ma'am?

She spins around, confrontational.

75 GAMES VIP

(sharp)

Yes? What is it?

76 FLUTTERSHY

("we're doomed!")

Oh no...

77 RAINBOW DASH
(sotto)
Be cool.

*
*
*

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

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

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

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

81 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.

*

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

83 GAMES VIP
The Princess? Princess Cadence?

84 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
None other.

*

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

86 FLUTTERSHY
Can we help you with your bags?

87 GAMES VIP
Don't mind if ya do!

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

88 PINKIE PIE

Our first stop is the **castle** where
we've got a big welcome thing
planned for you.

*

89 GAMES VIP

The **castle**?! Are you kiddin'? Hot
diggity dog!

*

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

90 RAINBOW DASH

(sotto to Twi)

See that? Just gotta roll with it
until the Princess gets there and
we'll be just fine.

*

*

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*

INT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE SPA - SAME TIME

Rarity, **SWEATING PROFUSELY**, labors intently over Cadence, who
still relaxes serenely (her mane unseen).

*

*

91 PRINCESS CADENCE

How's it going so far?

*

92 RARITY

(fretting)

Oh, I'm so sorry. It's just all so
complicated. I can fix it... I
think...

*

*

*

*

Princess Cadence snaps her head up and looks in the mirror.
Her mane is a **CRAZY JUMBLE OF CRYSTALS AND HAIR**.

*

*

Princess Cadence's eyes go wide as we...

*

SLAM TO BLACK.

*

END OF ACT I

*

INT. CRYSTAL PALACE - SITTING ROOM - A LITTLE LATER

*

The ponies enter with the Games VIP.

*

93 GAMES VIP

My golly, the Crystal Castle! Why
I've seen pictures but I never
expected to see it from the inside
with my very own eyes!

*

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*

*

94 FLUTTERSHY
(to Dash)
Oh my gosh, she's so nice!

95 RAINBOW DASH
(sotto)
You're letting her lull you into a
false sense of confidence. Watch
that. It's all part of the game.

ANGLE ON Twilight leading the Games VIP to a sofa.

96 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Please have a seat, won't you?

97 GAMES VIP
Oh my, I'm so excited, I don't know
if I can but I'll try. Thank you
kindly.

ANGLE BACK ON Dash and Fluttershy.

98 RAINBOW DASH
(sotto)
Did you see that? You see what she
did there?

99 FLUTTERSHY
Looked to me like she thanked
Twilight and then sat down.

100 RAINBOW DASH
Well, sure... to the untrained eye.

ANGLE BACK ON Twilight as she and all the other ponies gather
in formation for their presentation to the VIP.

101 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
First, on behalf of the entire
Crystal Empire, we'd like to thank
you for this opportunity to
introduce you to this wonderful
kingdom.

102 GAMES VIP
Why the pleasure is all mine.

103 APPLEJACK
Now we know folks from all over...

104 RAINBOW DASH
... be they athletes...

105 PINKIE PIE
... or regular folks...

106 FLUTTERSHY
... are likely to come visit her
looking for a wonderful welcoming
experience.

107 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
And since we're not even from here
ourselves, who better than us to
let you know just how welcoming a
place this can be?

They begin a synchronized and rhythmic stomping of hooves
like the simple beginning to a stepping routine, through...

108 PONIES
(chanting)
2-4-6-8 NAME A PLACE THAT'S REALLY
GREAT / 1-2-3-4 AND KEEPS YOU
COMING BACK FOR MORE/ 2-7-9-3 THE
PLACE WE'D ALL MOST RATHER BE / 4-3-
2-1 THE CRYSTAL EMPIRE, THAT'S THE
ONE.

109 RAINBOW DASH
Break it down!

The stepping routine breaks into a an elaborate STOMPING
INTERLUDE.

Then...

110 PONIES
C-R-Y-S-T-A-L, GIMME THAT CRYSTAL
EMPIRE YELL.

111 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
SAY YO!

112 PONIES
YO!

113 APPLEJACK
SAY YO!

114 PONIES
YO!

They ramp up to the big finish...

115 PONIES (CONT'D) *
W-E-L-C-O-M-E, THAT'S THE WAY WE *
SAY HOWDY. UNGH! *

... and done! *

VIP bursts into WILD EXUBERANT applause. *

116 GAMES VIP *
<HEARTY CHEERING AND WHISTLING> *

The winded ponies are blown away by the response. *

117 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. *

118 TWILIGHT SPARKLE *
That's fantastic. Princess Cadence *
would be so glad to hear that! *

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

120 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. *

121 GAMES VIP *
Oh goodie! Is she here? *

122 TWILIGHT SPARKLE *
Uhhhhh... *

123 APPLEJACK *
Where the heck is she anyway? *
Wasn't she supposed to be here by *
now. *

124 GAMES VIP *
Oh that's alright. So what else *
can we all do to welcome me? Say, *
how 'bout a tour of the castle? *

125 RAINBOW DASH *
Absolutely. *

Twi pulls her aside. *

126 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Dash - we don't know anything about
this castle. We've hardly ever
even been here before.

*
*
*
*

127 RAINBOW DASH
It's just another test. We gotta
roll with it, remember?

*
*
*

128 PINKIE PIE
(bouncing up and down)
Ooh, let me give the tour. I'll do
it. Let me, let me!

*
*
*
*

129 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Fine. You all start giving her the
tour and I'll go see what's keeping
Cadence.

*
*
*
*

INT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE SPA - LATER

Twilight enters. Rarity ZIPS over, intercepting her.

130 RARITY
What are you doing here?

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

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

133 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I need to speak to the Princess.

134 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!

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

136 RARITY
Imagine her mane turned into a
porcupine.

137 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

Oh.

138 RARITY

With split ends. Please, I'll
bring her back from the brink of
tragedy but you've got to buy me
some 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.

139 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?

140 GAMES VIP

I think they call it a rotunda.

141 PINKIE PIE

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

142 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.

143 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.

144 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.

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

146 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
There's a bit of a problem with her
headdress. How's it going here?

*
*
*

ANGLE ON Pinkie still making faces with the VIP watching.

147 PINKIE PIE
Boingie boingie boingie...

148 GAMES VIP
Lookie here, I've about had it with
all this standin' around. I been
sitting on a train, sitting in that
room, standing here--

*
*
*
*
*

ANGLE BACK ON Twilight and the other ponies.

*

149 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
She's getting bored and we have to
buy Rarity some more time. There's
got to be a way to make this tour
more interesting.
(then, an idea)
I'll see if Shining Armor can come
help.
(then)
Can't one of you other ponies take
over in the meantime?

*
*
*
*
*
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*
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*
*

150 RAINBOW DASH
I got this.

*
*

Rainbow Dash crosses to the Games VIP.

*

151 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Wanna stretch your legs, huh?
Well, whatever you need, I'm sure
we can provide. Let's just make our
way to the castle's gymnasium. Our
tour will now be headed...

*
*
*
*
*
*

Dash scans the various hallways extending from the rotunda.

*

152 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
... this way.
(leading them all out)
(MORE)

*
*
*

RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)

And we're walking... and we're
walking...

Twilight frowns and exits as Dash turns to the task at hand.

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.

153 SHINING ARMOR

I'd love to help you, little sis,
believe me. But I really don't
think I'm your guy.

154 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

But Shining Armor, you don't
understand - I left the other
ponies behind giving her the worst
castle tour ever.

155 SHINING ARMOR

You think I'd do any better?

156 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

You live there, don't you?

157 SHINING ARMOR

(shrugs)

To be honest, I don't know what any
of that stuff is, either. Cadence
just brings in furniture and says
"what do you think" and I say
"nice" and that's about it.

(then)

Just a sec.

Shining Armor 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...

158 SHINING ARMOR (CONT'D)

(shouting instructions)

Come on, gang - are we gonna gallop
or are we gonna trot? Let's move!

(then, to Twilight)

(MORE)

SHINING ARMOR (CONT'D)

You worry too much. I'm sure
everything's fine with the--

He stops short as we WIDEN TO REVEAL a Crystal Pony in track
uniform rearing up onto it's hind legs.

159 CRYSTAL PONY
<TERRIFIED WHINNY>

160 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Uh oh.

REVEAL Games VIP leaping by.

161 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. Meanwhile,
Rainbow Dash races over to join Twilight.

162 SHINING ARMOR
What the - ?

163 RAINBOW DASH
Turns out the Crystal Castle
doesn't have a gymnasium. I
figured it had everything.

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

164 SHINING ARMOR
Make it stop!

165 RAINBOW DASH
Wait. That's the Head of the
Games. You gotta give her a
minute. Let her do her thing.

166 SHINING ARMOR
What?! No! I don't care who she is.
She can't do this to my athletes.

167 RAINBOW DASH
She's probably just testing them,
too. Seeing how they handle crazy
situations.

168 SHINING ARMOR
Why would she do that?

Rainbow Dash considers this for a moment.

169 RAINBOW DASH

I have no idea.

(then)

But that's why she's in charge of
choosing who gets the games and
we're not.

CRASH! The Games VIP WREAKS MORE HAVOC, jumping a fence and
knocking it over.

170 GAMES VIP

Yee-HAH!

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.

171 RAINBOW DASH

Yeah. Okay. We need to stop her.

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.

172 FLUTTERSHY

(shouting in the wind)

Where's she going in such a hurry?

173 RAINBOW DASH

(shouting in the wind)

Got no clue, but enough already.
Time to corral that pony.

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.

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

Rainbow Dash is gaining ground. So is Fluttershy.

175 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Closer, closer, I think we got
her...

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

176 GAMES VIP
Hoo-wee! That felt good!

Rainbow Dash FLIES THROUGH FRAME, unable to stop.

177 RAINBOW DASH
YAAAAAAH...

178 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.

179 GAMES VIP (CONT'D)
Hey there, Speedy. You're almost
as fast as I am.

180 RAINBOW DASH
(gasping)
Thanks.

181 GAMES VIP
These wide open spaces y'all got
here remind me of home. This is
great!

182 RAINBOW DASH
(still gasping)
Oh, so you're... enjoying you're
visit... oh I'm so... glad.

Shining Armor and some of the other ponies catch up and
arrive on the scene, through...

183 GAMES VIP
Oh, good golly yes. I just love to
travel and see new places.
(MORE)

192 GAMES VIP *
Head of the what now? *

Twilight and Rainbow Dash look at one another, panicked. *

193 TWILIGHT SPARKLE/RAINBOW DASH *
We got the wrong pony!!! *

Pinkie Pie cries to the heavens again. *

194 PINKIE PIE *
NOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO! *

They all look at her. *

195 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D) *
I mean yes! WE GOT THE WRONG PONY! *

They all exchange looks of panic. *

SLAM TO BLACK. *

END OF ACT II *

ACT III *

EXT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE - MOMENTS LATER *

Rainbow Dash and Fluttershy fly at top speed toward the train station. *

196 RAINBOW DASH *
So all this time I've been thinking *
we were being put through the *
ringer but we really just had the *
wrong pony?! How could this *
happen?! *

197 FLUTTERSHY *
It's okay. Sometimes ponies make *
mistakes. *

198 RAINBOW DASH *
Mistakes that could cost an entire *
kingdom the chance to host the *
biggest athletic event of a *
lifetime? *

199 FLUTTERSHY *
Well... I suppose some mistakes are *
bigger than others... *

Dash scowls and accelerates through the kingdom. Fluttershy struggles to keep up.

*
*

INT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE TRAIN STATION - SOON AFTER

Twilight, Pinkie Pie and Applejack burst in and look around frantically.

200 APPLEJACK
Oh please still be here. Oh please
please please.

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

Meanwhile, Dash and Fluttershy, who have already been flying around the terminal searching, ZIP back to join them.

202 RAINBOW DASH
Except that there isn't.

203 FLUTTERSHY
She must have gotten tired of
waiting.

204 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Oh no, this is awful.

205 APPLEJACK
Horrendous.

206 PINKIE PIE
I know.
(then)
Ooh, look - cinnamon buns.

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

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

208 FLUTTERSHY
Each of us search a sector.

209 APPLEJACK
From top to bottom.

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

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

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

213 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.

214 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Nothing.

215 FLUTTERSHY
Nada.

216 RAINBOW DASH
Zero.

217 APPLEJACK
Zilch.

ANGLE ON Pinkie Pie holding a Thesaurus.

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

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

220 PONIES
<AFFIRMATIVE WALLA>

221 PINKIE PIE
Well, except for the spa.
(buying a cinnamon bun)
(MORE)

PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)

But what's the point of checking
there? That's where Cadence is.
If the Head of Games is 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,
they see Cadence under a towel with Rarity 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.

222 RAINBOW DASH

We're in luck! I don't think either
of them knows yet the other one's
here.

ANGLE ON Rarity spotting her friends.

223 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...

224 HEAD OF GAMES

(sitting bolt upright)
Princess Cadence? Here?

225 RARITY

What a fabulous impression she'll
make on the Head of the Games.

226 HEAD OF GAMES

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

227 PRINCESS CADENCE

The Head of the Games. Here?

228 PINKIE PIE

Oh goodie. Let's go, girls!

Pinkie Pie breaks into the welcome chant.

229 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D) *
(chanting) *
2-4-6-8 NAME A PLACE THAT'S REALLY *
GREAT *

None of the other ponies join in, as the real Head of Games is clearly hating every syllable. Pinkie keeps exuberantly pressing on. *

230 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D) *
(chanting) *
1-2-3-4 AND KEEPS YOU COMING BACK *
FOR MORE *

Pinkie is now catching on that this ain't going over so good. *

231 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D) *
(chant trailing off) *
2-7-9-3 THE PLACE WE'D ALL MOST *
RATHER... *

She gives up. *

ANGLE ON the furious Head of Games as the other ponies look on in despair.

232 HEAD OF GAMES
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.

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

234 HEAD OF GAMES
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.

235 RARITY
We can explain.

236 HEAD OF GAMES
(in a lather)
Listen, ladies! Every empire wants
to host the Equestria Games.
Everyone! And why wouldn't they?
(MORE)

HEAD OF GAMES (CONT'D)

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?

237 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

Yes, but -

238 HEAD OF GAMES

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

239 RAINBOW DASH

Yes, but -

240 HEAD OF GAMES

But nothing! Good day!

The Head of Games grabs her luggage to STORM OUT.

241 TOURIST (O.S.)

Excuse me, ma'am. You have my
luggage.

242 HEAD OF GAMES

Why of all the nerve! This is my
luggage!

Reveal that the TOURIST is the Wild Mustang that the ponies
mistook as the Games VIP earlier.

243 TOURIST

(pointing)

No it's not. Your luggage is over
there.

Sure enough, there's an IDENTICAL SET OF FLOWER PRINT LUGGAGE
nearby.

244 RAINBOW DASH

Oh man, this just keeps getting
worse and worse! You're here, too?

245 TOURIST

Think how badly you'd need a
hooficure if you just ran as much
as me.

ANGLE ON the Princess.

246 PRINCESS CADENCE
What is going on??

*
*

A contrite Rainbow Dash approaches, followed by the others.

*

247 RAINBOW DASH
Princess, we got those two ponies
mixed up at the train station, gave
our welcome to wrong pony, left the
right one waiting at the station,
and completely ruined everything.

*
*
*
*
*
*

Princess Cadence stares.

*

A long long uncomfortable beat, then...

*

248 PINKIE PIE
(offering one)
Cinnamon bun?

*
*
*

249 RAINBOW DASH
When I was a little filly I wanted
so badly for Ponyville to win the
Equestria Games but it didn't
happen. So I thought I could make
up for that disappointment by
helping the Crystal Empire win the
chance to host the games, but it
looks like I ruined your chances
instead.

*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*

250 TOURIST (O.S.)
Not so fast, Speedy.

*
*

They all look to see the Head of Games and the Tourist
approaching together.

*
*

251 RAINBOW DASH
Oh no. More bad news. What did I
mess up now?

*
*
*

252 HEAD OF GAMES
Less than you think.

*
*

253 RAINBOW DASH
Huh?

*
*

254 HEAD OF GAMES

(re: Tourist)

I just finished hearing about how this pony came to visit this town with no advance warning and, not knowing a single pony here, was just treated to the warmest, funnest, most fabulous reception she ever had.

255 TOURIST

Darn tootin'.

256 HEAD OF GAMES

Courtesy of these fine ponies right here. Which, in my expert opinion, amounts to 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.

257 PINKIE PIE

NOOOOOO!

258 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

Hush, Pinkie! Honestly!
(then, to Head of Games)
You were saying?

259 HEAD OF GAMES

(annoyed, clearing throat)
Yes, well, I was about to say -

CUT TO:

EXT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE - LATER

Princess Cadence stands next to the Head of Games addressing a THRONG OF CRYSTAL PONIES from a stage.

260 PRINCESS CADENCE

Congratulations, Crystal Ponies...
the next hosts of the Equestria Games!

Princess Cadence lifts the Head of Games hoof triumphantly in the air and the CROWD CHEERS.

ON RAINBOW DASH and the PONYVILLE PONIES looking very relieved. Dash sees some YOUNG CRYSTAL PONIES nearby waving their PENNANTS and cheering.

261 YOUNG CRYSTAL PONIES
YAAAAAAAAY!

262 RAINBOW DASH
(grinning ear to ear)
We did it. We brought the games
and happiness to a kingdom that was
cursed for 1000 years. Feels good,
doesn't it?

263 PINKIE PIE
Yeah. Except Ponyville's still
never had the games at all.

264 RAINBOW DASH
(grin frozen on face)
I'm trying not to think about that.

INT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE TRAIN STATION - LATER

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

265 RAINBOW DASH
You know it feels good to help
others get something you always
wanted but never had. Almost as
good as getting it yourself.
Almost.

266 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
We'll still be able to come back
here and watch the games when
they're played.

267 RAINBOW DASH
Yeah. You're right. That'll rock.

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 board the train car.

268 RAINBOW DASH
Only I'm not sure we'd be able to
bring Spike and the critters. We'd
probably have to leave them on
their own back in Ponyville again.

269 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

Good thing Spike's getting so much
experience watching them on this
trip. I wonder how it's going.

270 FLUTTERSHY

Aw, I bet they're doing great.

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

271 APPLEJACK

You all hear that?

The other ponies listen for a beat. Nothing.

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

SLAM TO BLACK.

END.