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MY LITTLE PONY IV
"Three's a Crowd"
Episode 412
Written by: Ed Valentine

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ACT I**TEASER:****1) EXT. PONYVILLE – DAY - ESTABLISHING****2) INT. PONYVILLE – TWILIGHT'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS**

Ponyville Mail is here! Three quick beats in rapid succession. First Twilight gets a letter: Princess Cadance is soon arriving for a surprise overnight visit! Twilight is finally going to have some real bonding time with her new sister-in-law. She's so excited.

Then Fluttershy arrives, even more excited at the mail *she's* received: a letter announcing that Fluttershy won a trip to the banks of the River Ponyssippi, where she'll get to view the once-yearly hatching of the adorable (and rare) pony-dragonfly!

Finally, Pinkie Pie arrives, most excited of all. Beside herself, in fact – kind of berserk! She's just received mail too – *Amazing mail! Stupendous mail! The most incredible mail anyone's ever received in all or recorded pony history!* What is it? Well, it's – it's – it's a NEWSPAPER CIRCULAR ADVERTISING A ONE DAY SALE ON USED PATIO FURNITURE!!! See, Pinkie Pie doesn't get a lot of mail, usually, so this is a banner day. *"A CIRCULAR! And it's FREE! How could this day get any better? WHOO-HOOO!"* She literally flips while the other ponies shake their heads and... we go to Main Titles.

END TEASER.**3) EXT. PONYVILLE – STATION – NEXT DAY**

Twilight and the rest of the Mane 6 are all at the Ponyville Station to bid goodbye to Fluttershy for her big trip. Pinkie Pie, of course, is exaggeratedly, comically upset that Fluttershy is going, but Twilight reminds her that it is only for one night, for pony's sake. In truth, though, everybody's overreacting: Rainbow Dash hates saying goodbye. Rarity has given Fluttershy a specially-knitted wrap in case she gets cold, Applejack's packed a huge picnic basket of goodies, and Spike has written a long speech of appreciation about all that Fluttershy means to him.

In the midst of it all, Twilight is the only one who keeps her head, offering an appropriately simple *"Well, have fun - guess I'll see you tomorrow!"* as Fluttershy boards the train. Twilight has other things on her mind – Cadance's visit, for one! Twilight is super excited for Cadance to come to Ponyville, and she's really looking forward to bonding time with her new sister-in-law who should be arriving via train at any moment! The train whistle toots, and Spike and the ponies frantically wave goodbye (Pinkie Pie: *"Fluttershy, I'll never forget yooooooooou!!!!"*). Then Twilight turns all business-like to the rest of the Mane 6, saying she's gonna need their help, now that Fluttershy's off safely. Before Cadance arrives, Twilight wants their advice on the checklist of things that she has planned for Cadance's brief overnight to Ponyville - among them, a garden party, a spa treatment, a girls' evening together eating popcorn and reading magazines....

Rainbow Dash thinks that Twilight's plans are all maybe a little... I don't know... tame? But Twilight explains that she wants things to be perfect for Cadance, because the last

few times they've been together haven't been exactly relaxing chances for them to bond. Cadance was replaced by a changeling at her wedding, the Crystal Empire was being attacked and they had to defend it, they were trying to land the Equestria Games for the Crystal Empire and everything went haywire... so come hoofprints or high water, this time is going to be different!

Suddenly there's a TOOOOOT! and a squeal of wheels. Cadance's train is arriving! With a great fanfare of pomp and circumstance, Princess Cadance steps off the incoming train. Twilight greets her, tripping over herself to get everything absolutely perfect. Okay, Twilight may not be at all relaxed – but she's clearly glad Cadance is visiting and she promises Cadance that they're going to have a supremely relaxing weekend – and they're not going to have not have to save the world for a change.

For her part, Cadance says just wants to get to know her new sister-in-law, now that she's come into her own and become a tall, graceful grown-up pony – then cut to Twilight, so nervous that she's tripped over herself in a goofy pratfall while trying to carry off all of Cadance's bags. Spike gives a luggage assist as Twilight starts to show Cadance her whole long schedule for the overnight visit. Cadance laughs: who knew relaxing was such work? But it all sounds perfect to her, and then the sister-in-laws go off together for the first of the events: a spa date! As they go, Twilight zips back to beg her friends to make sure that nothing – but *nothing!* – ruins her time with Cadance! This visit is really important to her. The other ponies promise, then Twilight and Cadance are really gone.

As they trot off, Pinkie Pie says *"That's so great, two sisters-in-law bonding – and nothing can possibly ruin their weekend together."* Just then, there's a whirring sound – and there's a purple blur above them in the sky! The ponies are all confused: what can that be? Whatever it is, it's heading straight for them! They duck out of the way. And then the thing lands, causing a crater. The ponies lean in to see what it is... and find... *DISCORD!* The ponies react in dismay and horror.

But Discord reminds them that he's changed! (*"I've been reformed by the good heart of lovely little Fluttershy, remember?"*) At the moment, as well, he's not just reformed: Discord is also gigantically, epically, self-pityingly ILL! He's covered with blue spots and can't seem to stop sneezing and wheezing.

Having tangled with Discord before, the Ponies are suspicious. If he's sick, why has he come here, then, instead of... y'know, staying home and lounging in bed and getting over this weird illness? Discord sniffs and tells them that when he came down with the blue-spot disease, he came to Ponyville looking for the one pony who understands him: Fluttershy! He's absolutely certain that she'll know what to do for him and how to heal him. He needs Fluttershy! He needs attention! He needs some TLC! He needs... *"You need to chill!"* says Rainbow Dash. *"Fluttershy won't be back till tomorrow."* Discord isn't dismayed and lights on a new solution: it's simple, really – in Fluttershy's absence, the other ponies will just have to take care of him and nurse him back to health!

This causes a variety of different reactions: Rainbow Dash is having none of it: *"Uh, no can do! I'm outta here!"* - and she flies off into the sky. Pinkie Pie effusively takes on Discord as her own personal pet: *"Ooooooh, this'll be so much fun! I'll give you cuddles and read you stories and tell you all about me! Let's start at the beginning. Well, I was born on a Tuesday – or was it a Wednesday? Anyway..."* - which of course instantly drives Discord bananas. He thanks her profusely but says that Rarity and Applejack

have already been nice enough to volunteer as his own personal nursemaids! (“We *have?*” ask a surprised and put-off Rarity and Applejack.) Discord graciously “consents” to stay and be pampered by those two.

Rarity balks, but Applejack requests a private word with her. “*We just gotta take care of him,*” sotto an honest Applejack. “*It’s what Fluttershy would want us to do!*” “*Oh, can’t we just ask Twilight to do it?*” asks Rarity - but Applejack says that they already promised to make sure nothing would ruin Twilight’s day with Cadance. If they want to be good friends to Twilight, they have to take Discord on themselves.

Rarity notes slightly begrudgingly to Discord that they’ll help him out just because Twilight is otherwise occupied with Princess Cadance... which causes an odd reaction in Discord. He’s instantly super interested that not one, but *TWO* Princesses are in Ponyville for the night. Then he sneezes loudly, suddenly and disgustingly on Rarity and Applejack - and instantly these two ponies come down with the same blue spot disease that Discord has! “*Oh, what a shame!*” says Discord, “*I got you sick too? You’ll just have to find someone to take care of me - but who? WHO?*”

4) INT. - PONYVILLE SPA – SOON AFTER

It’s bonding time for the two sisters-in-law: wrapped in towels and turbans, cucumbers on their eyes, they’re getting their hooves buffed and their manes done. They’re relaxing and having a great time together. There are other, older ponies around, all sipping lemonade and chilling out. Twilight is just about to have another lemonade when.... *Discord crashes their spa date!* (Literally, he crashes in through a wall, causing chaos.) Off Twilight’s mortified face we END ACT I

ACT II

5) INT. PONYVILLE SPA – A MOMENT LATER

Twilight remains dumbfounded as Discord suddenly sneezes on a few of the ladies at the spa and they come down with the blue spot disease as well. When they see what’s happening, Cadance and Twilight together cast a spell: a health bubble about themselves for protection so they don’t catch the illness themselves!

Discord explains in a stuffy-nosed, dramatically pathetic voice that he’s sick (“*Um,*” says Twilight, “*I kinda figured that out already...*”) - and then Discord asks if Twilight minds if he stays with them for a little while - just till he gets better! Of course, Twilight does mind and tries to tell him it’s a bad time to stay - but he wheedles and pleads... This is what Fluttershy would do, isn’t it? Isn’t helping what friends do for friends?

Twilight gulps, swallows and says, “*Uh, that is what friends do, and friendship is sort of my thing, after all..*”. so, she agrees to put him up so he won’t be all alone when he’s sick. Discord is thrilled, as he sneezes on yet another hapless pony, who develops blue spots. Spa day ruined, Twilight and Cadance leave. As they go, Twilight promises Cadance that she’s going to get back to the giant list of girl bonding activities just as soon as she gets Discord settled in for a nap: “*It’ll be fine, you’ll see, this won’t take long...*”

6) INT - TWILIGHT'S HOUSE - LATER

...but they find back at Twilight's house that Discord is a terrible patient! When Twilight asks him if she can get him anything, Discord says, yes he would like a little something to make him comfortable: (**SONG: "Just a Little Glass of Water, If You Please?"**) But of course the demands of an ailing *dragonequus* don't stop at just a little glass of water - they become more and more wild and extravagant as he sings!, Soon he runs the two of them ragged with his increasingly absurd demands.

As Discord finishes singing, Twilight is pushed to her breaking point and asks, "*Isn't there any way to cure you?*" - and Discord admits that there is one: there is a magic flower that grows in a land at the edge of Equestria. And if Twilight could only get some petals from that flower, she could make a lovely tea with them and make a curing elixir.

Twilight is annoyed - if she goes to get the flower, it'll eat up her day with Cadance, but by this point, she will do *anything* to get Discord better - and get rid of him! So she promises Cadance that they'll make it a quick trip to get the flower, and then get back in time for a relaxing dinner, and the relaxing reading of magazines over popcorn...

Now if Discord will just tell them how to get to the place where the flower grows and tell them exactly what they are looking for, they will be on their way. Discord starts to give directions and a description of the flower, but then declares that it would be much easier for him to just guide them there and show it to them. "In your condition?" Twilight asks. Discord admits that he is in a weakened state so they'll need to make "arrangements".

7) EXT. SKY – SOON AFTER

Discord, now on a cot that is being magically carried by Cadance and Twilight as they fly over Equestria, points to the ground below and informs the princesses that they are "almost there".

8) EXT. EDGE OF EQUESTRIA – LATER

It is a beautiful and lush landscape filled with every kind of flower imaginable. An impatient Twilight asks Discord to point out which one is the cure for what ails him. But just as soon as she asks, Discord launches into a sneezing fit. Unable to speak, he has to pantomime what kind of flower Cadance and Twilight should be looking for. The two finally decipher what Discord is trying to communicate. They look around and spot the enormous flower at the top of a nearby hill. Discord stays put as Cadance and Twilight head for the top of the hill.

9) EXT. HILL – A MOMENT LATER

Twilight and Cadance reach the top of the hill and use their magic to pluck the enormous flower out of the ground. But no sooner have they done so then a strange worm/lizard like creature (see Tatzlwurm for reference) emerges from the hole left behind. Twilight and Cadance exchange a concerned look and then ROAR! The worm attacks. We go OUT on Cadance and Twilight aghast - and about to be eaten!

ACT III

8) EXT. EDGE OF EQUESTRIA – HILL – CONTINUOUS

Open on Twilight and Cadance as before, in peril of the Tatzlwurm. *"Well,"* Twilight says, apologizing to Cadance, *"looks like we're not getting a relaxing time together after all. Sorry!"* *"It's all in a days' work,"* sighs Cadance.

Twilight and Cadance use their magic to fight off the crazy beast. Trying to just fly away from it proves difficult, as it is capable of jumping extremely high into the air.

At one point, Twilight is in danger and Cadance saves her – then Twilight saves Cadance! In the end, they manage to get the Tatzlwurm to burrow back into the ground and make their escape.

9) EXT. EDGE OF EQUESTRIA – SOON AFTER

Princess Cadance and Princess Twilight are exhausted, but pleased that they at least escaped with the flower whose petals will cure Discord. They reach the place where they left him behind only to find...

... Discord is totally *fine*! He's blue-spot free, and busting a move (Tom Cruise in *Risky Business* / *Ferris Bueller* style)!!!

"You've been faking?!" Twilight shouts. Discord's face falls. *"Uh.... I've been healed! It's a miracle???"* And he does a magic gesture and covers himself with blue spots and starts sneezing again.

But it's too late - Twilight says he's busted. Discord confesses to her: okay, okay, he was faking this illness all along, (Twilight undoes the health bubble around herself and Cadance: *"I knew it!"* she says.) He magic'd an illness on Rarity and Applejack because he wanted to have the most attention from Twilight and Cadance, the most important ponies in Ponyville. *"But why did you fake being sick in the first place?"* asks Cadance. Discord explains that he meant no harm – he just wanted a little bit of attention! This friendship thing is new for him - how will he ever know if his friends are really friends, if they won't go to the ends of the earth for him?

Twilight explains, in her Twilight-y way, how that's not friendship is about! Sure, true friends will do anything and everything for each other - but sometimes friendship is about the simple things, and the simple times you spend together. Which is all she was trying to do with Cadance and didn't get a chance to do! *"All I wanted was some bonding time with my sister-in-law. And you ruined it, Discord! AARRGH!"*

But Discord, no longer feigning illness, points out that *aaaaaaaaaaaaactually*, Twilight and Cadance really did have bonding time together, in the end. And maybe they had a better time than garden parties and popcorn night might provide! Cadance has to admit that he's kinda right – she and Twilight really did get to spend some pretty serious quality time together, and this adventure certainly brought them together in a big way!

Twilight agrees, too – and thinks that they really did have a great time together, and in some ways adversity bonded them better than any of those relaxing things she planned ever could have. Discord is thrilled: *"FANTASTIC!"* *See, it all worked out. Well, guess I'm off the hook..."* Suddenly...

ROAR! The Tatzlwurm bursts out of the ground near Discord. “Oh no – you didn’t wake the Tatzlwurm, did you?” Discord cries – *“I’m – I’m – ACHOOOO! – ALLERGIC!”* And he sneezes right onto Twilight...

11) INT. - TWILIGHT’S HOUSE – LATER

Later, we see Twilight, isick in bed, trying to dictate her journal to Spike! She’s being taken care of by Fluttershy. Discord keeps interrupting her – they both caught a *new* disease, whose symptoms are: green spots... and talking backwards! (Which makes the journal dictating a most difficult proposition.) Discord and Twilight are really ill this time, with nobody faking. Twilight is really snuffly and feeling put upon, but Discord is thriving in the attention and, of course, the chaos he caused.

THE END.