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MY LITTLE PONY IV
"Simple Ways"
Episode 413
Written by: Josh Haber

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TEASER**1) EXT. TOWN HALL – AFTERNOON**

All the citizens of Ponyville gather around the fountain in Town Square. Everypony talks about how excited they are to find out which of them will win the drawing to be Pony of Ceremonies for this year's PONYVILLE DAYS FESTIVAL. PINKIE PIE explains how much she loves the lottery because it gives other ponies a chance to see how amazing it is being her. The ponies discuss their various ideas for the celebration. TWILIGHT would take the opportunity to teach everypony about the important role Ponyville played in the history of Equestria. FLUTTERSHY would create a petting zoo of all the animals in and around the town. APPLEJACK points out that whoever is selected, the Festival is sure to be a success.

A hush falls over the crowd as MAYOR exits Town Hall and walks up to a podium. A small bingo cage sits on a little table next to the podium. Mayor gives the cage a spin, reaches in and pulls out a name. Mayor looks down at the name and announces that the organizer of this year's Ponyville Days Festival is... "RARITY!" Everypony cheers. Twilight asks Rarity if she knows what she's going to do. Rarity pulls out a GIANT SCRAPBOOK stuffed with sketches, fabric swatches, etc. Rarity, "Oh, I have a few ideas." CUT TO... credits.

ACT ONE**2) INT. RARITY'S BOUTIQUE – LATER**

Rarity has invited all of her friends over for the unveiling of her Ponyville Days Festival theme. They arrive to find a small proscenium, complete with a red velvet curtain. Just as the other ponies are wondering where Rarity is, MUSIC starts, LIGHTS flash, the curtain opens and Rarity does a quick RUNWAY SHOW. She walks down a catwalk in her pony of ceremonies outfit, describing (in the third person) her plans, accompanied by QUICK CUTS to fashion designer sketches of: a silent cider auction and tasting, a Ponyville gala in Town Square, and of course a Ponyville themed fashion show. She gets to the end of the runway and announces her theme for the Ponyville Days Festival will be "Small Town Chic" as OPAL fires a pair of confetti cannons.

All the Ponies congratulate Rarity on her ideas and are really looking forward to the Festival. Rarity confesses that the real reason she hoped to be picked was that TRENDERHOOF is rumored to be coming. None of the other ponies know who that is and Rarity is shocked. She takes them over to a corner of the boutique and pulls back a curtain revealing her Trenderhoof SHRINE (think a pre-teen's wall dedicated to Justin Bieber, posters, clippings, books, etc.).

Trenderhoof, Rarity breathlessly explains, is the rock star, bad boy of travel writers who always has his hoof on the pulse of the next big thing. Before Las Pegasus became the Equestria travel destination, he wrote about it. Before the culinary revolution in Trottingham, he discovered it. He could put Ponyville on the map because he's practically a god and... "He's coming, he's coming, I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S COMING!" The other ponies all look at her. Rarity, "Sorry."

3) EXT. PONYVILLE STATION – DAY

Rarity waits nervously for the Friendship Express to arrive. She's a bit more done up than usual and asks Twilight several times if her dress looks okay. Twilight tries to assure her that she looks lovely, but as the train rolls in Rarity starts to babble incoherently. She's a giddy mess, growing more and more impatient as everyone EXCEPT Trenderhoof walks off the train until she finally screams "WHERE IS HE?!!!" Everyone at the station turns to look at her. "Sorry."

Finally, Trenderhoof walks off the train. He's like a cross between George Clooney and Anthony Bourdain. Rarity, suddenly terrified, can't even go up and talk to him until Twilight pushes her over. A tongue-tied Rarity does her best to welcome him to Ponyville. She refers to him as Mr.

Trenderhoof, but he tells her just to call him Trend and Rarity practically faints. Twilight apologizes and Trend tells her it's okay, he gets this a lot. Rarity comes to and practically trips over herself trying to impress him as she breathlessly leads him out of the station. Twilight looks on concerned.

4) EXT. PONYVILLE - DAY

Rarity takes Trend on a tour through the potential Festival locations in Ponyville, discussing her plans for the celebration. He recognizes some similarities to things he's written about. Rarity, "Exactly!" She explains how he's influenced her and her ideas for the Festival. "I'm going for something with the authenticity of a Horseland pop-up food fair but with the elegance of a Manehattan gala." Trend is flattered and self-deprecating. He touches her shoulder and tells her he thinks it's going to be one heck of a Festival. Rarity is just able to contain herself long enough for him to get out of earshot before FREAKING OUT about it to Fluttershy. "OMG! He touched me. HE TOUCHED ME!" Fluttershy is happy it's going well, but reminds her not to get carried away. She has a whole Festival to plan. "Right. Sorry."

5) EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES – LATER

The tour ends at Sweet Apple Acres where Trend is practically effusive. He loves the place, commenting on its authenticity. He puts a hoof on Rarity's shoulder, "Thank you for bringing me here. This farm is really something special." Rarity blushes. She is just as glad to have been able to share it with him. She admits that she had planned to transform the farm into an elegant country spa for the Festival, but she can see now how special it is "au natural." He looks into her eyes, she looks into his and swoons, but when she opens her eyes she sees he's looking somewhere else. "Who is that?" We follow Trend's gaze to see he's staring longingly at... APPLEJACK.

MUSIC swells and we do a quick SLOW-MO shot from Trend's perspective: PANNING around Applejack as she bucks a tree, apples falling, as she flips her hair back. A RECORD SCRATCH as the romantic music stops and Rarity steps in front of Trend. "Why are you staring at Applejack?" Trend continues to stare, wide-eyed, unable to look away—totally SMITTEN. "Applejack. That's the sweetest name I've ever heard."

Off Rarity's shocked expression...

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

6) EXT. BOUTIQUE – NEXT MORNING

Spike arrives at the Boutique. He knocks and finds the door open. He steps inside, calling to Rarity. He was supposed to come over and help with the festival preparations. Finally, he finds Rarity, sitting in front of her Trenderhoof shrine in tears. Spike asks what's wrong and Rarity insists there's nothing. Spike presses her and she finally whispers, "He doesn't like me." Spike can't hear her and leans in "What?" She whispers it again and again Spike can't hear. Finally, she FREAKS, "HE DOESN'T LIKE ME BECAUSE HE LIKES APPLEJACK EVEN THOUGH I'VE HAD A CRUSH ON HIM SINCE THE BEGINNING OF TIME AND IT'S NOT FAIR!" Spike falls backwards. Rarity, "Sorry." She wonders what kind of mixed up world are they living in where a pony like Trenderhoof falls for Applejack and not her. What does she have that Rarity doesn't? Spike definitely doesn't know. Rarity looks at him for a moment, thinking. Spike, "What?" CUT TO:

7) EXT. BOUTIQUE – MOMENTS LATER

Spike stands on a small stool while Rarity sews an outfit onto him. While Rarity pins up the fabric, inadvertently sticking Spike with the pins, Spike wonders if this is a good idea. Shouldn't they be going over the plans for the festival? Rarity sticks him with another pin.

8) EXT. PONYVILLE – LATER

Applejack hauls a load of apples into town, followed closely by a fawning Trenderhoof. He tells her how he's always been impressed by earth ponies. He admires their honesty and work ethic. He asks her questions while also trying to impress her like, "How many different kinds of apples have you tried? I've eaten hundreds: Green, golden delicious, fuji..." Applejack tries to humor him but he's clearly getting on her nerves. He brags how he once found a variety of apple that was thought to be extinct. It wasn't, but he wrote about it and now it is DEFINITELY extinct. He likes to find out of the way things from nowhere that nopony would ever see—like Ponyville—and try to make them interesting. "But enough about me..." He wants to know about Applejack. He asks her pseudo-deep questions like, "What do apples mean to you?" Finally, Applejack tells him she's glad he's interested in Ponyville, but she's kind of busy with her chores (she's been struggling with her heavy load of apples the whole time).

Just then, Rarity shows up dressed in her new outfit—her version of farm clothes (silken overalls covered in sequins and a big, lacey hat) and offers to help haul apples. Applejack is shocked. "Why?" Rarity, "Because I love to haul apples, silly." Confused, but glad for the help, Applejack tells her that the apples are for Mr. and Mrs. Cake who are making apple tarts for the Festival and shouldn't Rarity know that? "Oh, yes, of course," Rarity says, then makes a big show for Trend of picking up TWO APPLES from the overflowing wagon. As they head off, Applejack makes some sarcastic remark about how helpful both Rarity and Trend are. As they walk, Trend composes a spontaneous poem, "An ode to apple hauling," praising the simple ponies who carry apples. Rarity beams, thinking she's impressed him, until he gets to the end...

*...and these feelings I feel with such clarity,
for an apple-hauling pony named... Applejack.*

Applejack rolls her eyes while Rarity's expression drops.

9) EXT. FIELD – LATER

Rarity stands in the field with Spike trying to put on a PLOW HARNESS without getting dirty. Spike asks why they're trying to plow the fields instead of working on the Festival. Rarity tells him that Trend obviously has a thing for farm life, so she's going to show him that she can be just as much a farm hand as Applejack. Spike questions the wisdom, but reluctantly goes along. Even when she's smitten with someone else, Spike can't help but give in to Rarity's every whim. They finally get the harness on, but the plow is so heavy, Rarity can't even move it. Spike gets behind and tries to push, but even together they can't budge it.

Applejack walks up with Trend in tow. She asks what in the world Rarity is doing. "Why the chores, silly." Rarity maintains that she's come to lend a hand, but Applejack can't understand why. Farming isn't really her thing. Rarity, "You don't know everything about me, Applejack." Applejack shrugs, puts on a plow harness and takes off, criss-crossing the field several times while Trend stares mooning. "Isn't she amazing?" Off Rarity's expression dropping...

10) EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES - LATER

Trend gazes at Applejack applebucking, piles of apples falling with every kick. Rarity walks up, determined to do something farm-like that will get Trend's attention. Applejack warns Rarity to be careful, she could hurt herself if she doesn't get the bucking right. But while Applejack's bucking

is all about raw power, Rarity's approach is more like dressage—a dance that ends with the tiniest tap on the tree as a SINGLE APPLE falls. Not interested in showing up her friend, Applejack gives Rarity a lot of points for style and gets Trend to agree. Applejack excuses herself to do more chores inside.

Trend takes Rarity aside. He tells her there's something he's been meaning to ask her and it isn't easy and he's nervous and he hopes she'll listen and take him seriously. Rarity's eyes brighten, "Yes, yes, yes?" Trend looks deep into her eyes and asks if she thinks Applejack will be his date to the Festival. Rarity stares at him for a second, then finally snaps, "WHY DON'T YOU ASK HER YOURSELF?!!" With that, she storms off.

11) INT. BARN – MOMENTS LATER

Applejack wanders into the barn looking for her friend. She can hear Rarity sobbing in the corner and asks her to please come out. She feels terrible. She doesn't know why Trend seems so fixated on her. Maybe he just likes her because she isn't trying to impress him. Rarity should try to be more like her. "Oh, I've already thought of that." With that, Rarity steps out from the shadows. Applejack looks at her, surprised to see Rarity is dressed exactly like her. Rarity even talks with Applejack's southern drawl. "If this is what Trend likes, I can be more Applejacky the you."

Applejack tells Rarity that she doesn't think this is a good idea. Besides, what about the Festival? Has Rarity even worked on it or has she just spent all her time trying to impress Trend? What happened to Small Town Chic? Rarity tells her not to worry about it – it's not even going to be the theme any more. Since Trend seems to like life on the farm so much, Rarity's going to redo the whole Festival and it's going to be more country than the whole Apple family put together.

12) EXT. PONYVILLE – LATER

Applejack walks through town worried what Rarity's new Festival theme might be. She notices hay scattered through the streets (or at least the parts that aren't covered in mud). Farm animals roam free and Applejack has to jump out of the way of as a herd of pigs run by. Finally, she arrives at Rarity's boutique to find Spike sitting on a stool outside, wearing a straw hat, and playing the banjo (al la Deliverance).

13) INT. BOUTIQUE – CONTINUOUS

Inside, the other ponies also wait for Rarity to unveil her new theme. Opal in a red bandana, plays a tambourine drum-roll as the curtain, now just a sheet with patches, opens to reveal Rarity's new Pony of Ceremonies outfit: torn denim and a corn husk hat with a blacked out tooth and chewing on a piece of hay. She speaks with a horribly exaggerated, Hee-Haw-style southern accent as she tells her friends that the Festival's new theme is "Simple Ways!" The ponies all sit in stunned silence. Off Applejack's look of horror we...

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

14) INT. BOUTIQUE – RESUME

Applejack looks at Rarity and her exaggerated version of farm life and bursts out laughing. Rarity ask what's so funny and Applejack admits that it's impossible for her to take this new theme seriously. Rarity insists that she is indeed serious and if Applejack doesn't appreciate the Simple Ways theme then maybe she isn't really a country pony at all. Applejack is pretty sure she knows what country is and this isn't it. Rarity insists that they just have a difference of opinion and Applejack agrees. In her opinion, Rarity is being ridiculous. Rarity asks what's so ridiculous about

a farm themed festival and Applejack tells her nothing, but trying to be something you're not to impress a boy is ridiculous. Rarity claims not to know what she's talking about. Applejack resolves to show her.

15) EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES – BARN – DAY

A wooden stage has been set up in the barn where Rarity (still talking in an exaggerated southern accent) holds auditions for the Festival's Fashion show. She walks back and forth in front of some of the CUTIE MARK CRUSADERS critiquing them for not wearing enough make-up or frilly, poofy lace, etc. She sends them off to get more white trashy.

Rarity reads the next name on her list of contestants, "Golden Apple?" The curtain is pulled up to reveal, Applejack, sans-hat, her hair blown out in an exact copy of Rarity's usual style. She wears an elegant Rarity-inspired gown onto which a Rarified version of her own cutie mark (crystal apples) appears.

Rarity asks Applejack if she's trying to be funny. Applejack, speaking without a trace of her normal twang, tells her she doesn't know what Rarity is talking about. Rarity asks what her talent is and Applejack responds, "Why, my impeccable fashion sense, of course." Rarity tells her that's ridiculous to which Applejack responds, "What ever do you mean?" Rarity drops her accent as she explains that an evening gown would never be appropriate for her FILLY & FOAL pageant, "I mean, that is just the most exaggerated, unrealistic idea of what being fashionable is all about..." Rarity catches herself, realizing that she's falling right into Applejack's trap. Applejack says she's just come to audition for the show and Rarity, going back to her ridiculous accent, tells her to go right ahead.

Applejack starts to SING about her love of fashion and elegance while admitting to being useless on the farm, or anywhere else. Rarity joins in, singing about how down to earth she is and how the common folk are the best, despite not being able to tell a shirt from a vest, etc.

As the duet continues (in the vain of *Annie Get Your Gun's* "Anything You Can Do"), the two ponies keep acting out more and more exaggerated versions of each other. As the song builds to a climax, Rarity dances a jig in the mud with a chorus of pigs in straw hats, accompanying herself by blowing into a cider jug, while Applejack, decked out like Marilyn/Madonna, is lifted by Material Girl-style tuxedo wearing ponies in a Busby Berkeley-esque dance number.

Finally, the music comes to an abrupt stop as Trend appears, only now he too is dressed as a simple country pony. Apparently totally unaware that Applejack is dressed as a pony fashionista, Trend tells her that he has decided to settle down in Ponyville. He's tired of his exotic, exciting life. Being the most interesting Pony in Equestria is exhausting. He wants to live on a farm. Applejack hopes he isn't thinking of Sweet Apple Acres. Trend's expression drops as Applejack basically tells him that although he's a fine pony, she's just not that into him. Rarity looks at this new countrified version of Trend and is suddenly not so smitten. There's something unappealing about a pony that would change himself so much just to impress a girl.

With Applejack's help, Rarity realizes that she was doing the exact same thing. She looks around at her Hee Haw inspired Festival and realizes that she very nearly ruined the whole celebration. She wonders what to do and Applejack suggests that she go back to her original idea.

16) EXT. TOWN SQUARE - DAY

Everypony celebrates at the Ponyville Days Festival. In a quick MONTAGE we see the townsfolk enjoying the festivities: from an elegant cider tasting, to an apple bucking competition to fashion show highlighting the various styles of Ponyville. At the end of the fashion show, Rarity walks out (like a designer does at the end of a real fashion show) and the whole town applauds.

TAG

17) INT. BOUTIQUE - DAY

Rarity makes an entry in the Journal of Friendship, "Organizing the Ponyville Days Celebration was one of the hardest things I've ever done, but I learned an important lesson. Never get so caught up in what one pony thinks of you, that you risk letting down your friends who like you just the way you are."

FADE OUT.

END.