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MY LITTLE PONY IV
"Trade Ya!"
Episode 418
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TEASER**1) EXT. OUTSIDE THE RAINBOW FALLS ARENA**

The Rainbow Falls Arena isn't just home to the Equestria Games trials; it is also the location of the Equestrian Antiquities Exchange, a daylong event in which ponies gather to trade all sorts of valuable items.

The MANE SIX and SPIKE arrive. Applejack pulls a cart filled with various objects, including boxes of books. The others are eager to be here with TWILIGHT, who is on official princess business. PINKIE and the others make a big deal about it, but Twilight plays it down. Having a princess at the Exchange is just a formality. It's not really that big a thing. She's sure the other ponies at the Exchange won't even notice she's there.

2) EXT. INSIDE THE ENTRANCE TO THE RAINBOW FALLS ARENA

The massive arena floor is covered with dozens and dozens of tents, stands, and stalls – and ponies busy trading all sorts of items. But as Twilight leads her friends inside the arena, everything stops! Then a BUZZ grows. Everypony there is excited to see the princess! There's even a big welcome banner with her picture on it! "Could be wrong, but I think they noticed," APPLEJACK informs Twilight.

ACT ONE**3) EXT. INSIDE THE RAINBOW FALLS ARENA – RESUME**

As the Mane Six walk into the arena, the ponies they pass point excitedly at Twilight. Twi wasn't expecting all this. I mean, sure, she says, a princess needs to be here to provide a ruling should there be a dispute over whether a trade was fair. But since the rule is that a trade is considered fair if both ponies end up with something they want, there's never been a dispute. So it's not like Twilight expects to have to do anything. So really, she insists, there's no reason to treat her as anything special – she's just another pony here with her friends. But judging by the young ponies who ask for her autograph, it's not clear she's convinced anypony of that.

The rest of the MANE SIX look around excitedly. Each of them has come to the Exchange with an important goal for the day. SPIKE plans on trading a stack of his old Power Ponies comics for a rare variant cover Power Ponies comic. (NOTE: Through the remainder of the episode we'll see Spike haggling with a comic book dealer in his comic book stall.) RARITY and APPLEJACK discover they are both on the hunt for VINTAGE STUFF. Bonding over their shared love of vintage things, they vow that if one of them finds something super valuable that she just has to have, they'll pool their trade stashes so she can get it. Because that's what friends do!

FLUTTERSHY has brought a "bear whistle" that she no longer wants so that she can trade it for an exotic bird whistle. She blows the small whistle and it makes a terrifying bear growl sound. RAINBOW DASH has brought her most valuable possession! RD is desperate to trade for a one-of-a-kind, first edition of Daring Do's first novel. There's only one copy in existence and the pony who has it is at the Exchange! This is RD's one and only chance to get it, and she's not going to let it get away no matter what! RD is so passionate about how much she needs that book, Fluttershy volunteers to help her before going to the animal whistle stall. To Fluttershy, a friend is more important than any thing – even an exotic bird whistle!

As those four ponies head off, PINKIE PIE is left with Twilight and Spike. She's surprised to find Twilight not heading for her Royal Box Seat in the arena, but instead setting up a trading booth of her own? Huh? Pinkie thought Twi was here to do her Princess duty. "Well, I am, but the princess never actually does anything here," says Twilight. "And I do have these books I want to get rid of..." Twilight has brought a ton of old tomes that she wants to unload to create space at home (Her new status as a Princess means Celestia has been sending her lots of new reading material).

4) EXT. ARENA/DARING DO COLLECTOR'S BOOTH – LATER

With Fluttershy's help, Rainbow Dash finally finds the booth of the pony who has the first edition Daring Do. And he hasn't traded it yet! Whew!

RD proudly presents her most valuable possession to trade: a lucky PIN her friends gave her for her birthday. Of course, says RD, she doesn't need luck any more since she's so awesome. But she still considers it very valuable because of how much it meant to her when her friends gave it to her. So she's SHOCKED that the Daring Do collector doesn't find it valuable at all! To him, it's just a slightly rusted old pin. No way he's trading his first edition for that!

RD's heart sinks, until the collector tells her that there IS something he sees that he's willing to trade for. RD leaps up and sees the collector point across the Exchange to the antique fair's ANCIENT BEAST STALL. In front of which is a very tame looking ORTHROS (a two-headed dog with a serpent's tail.) He doesn't have anything the current owner of the Orthros wants, but if RD can get the Orthros, he'll trade her the book for it. RD grabs Fluttershy. She doesn't know how, but somehow, they're gonna get that Orthros!

5) EXT. ANOTHER PART OF THE ARENA – DAY

In front of another set of stalls, AJ and Rarity – who had split up to look at different booths – now excitedly rush towards other. AJ and Rarity both announce at the same time: "I've found a super valuable vintage item that I just have to have! And the vendor has agreed to give it to me for all our stuff!"

6) EXT. THE ANCIENT BEAST DEALER'S STALL – DAY

RD and FS race to the Ancient Beast dealer. Will he trade Rainbow Dash's pin for a massive Orthros? Of course not! But he is willing trade the Orthros for a Discord-shaped Lamp.

ZIP PAN TO: the Lamp stand. "Will you trade a Discord-shaped lamp for my pin?" asks RD. No way. But the lamp dealer is willing to trade a Discord lamp for an antique chicken. "Wait, what the heck's an antique chicken?" asks RD. Before she gets an answer...

ZIP PAN TO THE ANTIQUE CHICKEN STAND: Where RD faces shelves lined with statues of chickens. She takes a deep breath, then asks: "Will you trade an antique chicken for a pin so I can trade it for a lamp and then trade that for a Orthros so I can get my book?" RD in asks desperation. The answer is... no. But the chicken stand pony will trade an antique chicken statue for a Crystal Chalice...

ZIP PAN TO the CRYSTAL CHALICE STAND: "OK, Crystal Chalice stand guy, I know this sounds crazy, but we need what you have to trade for a chicken to trade for a magic lamp to trade for a Orthros. What are you willing to trade for? I'm guessing its gotta be some crazy thing in some stand way across the arena. So lay it on me!"

Actually, says the Pony running the Crystal Chalice stand, what he really has been looking for but can't find is... a slightly rusted old pin. Who—hoo! RD's got one of those! RD and Fluttershy celebrate as they make the trade. Now that they've got a Chalice, this is gonna be easy! All they have to do is carry it over to the Chicken stand, and they'll be on their way! Unfortunately, as soon as RD grabs the crystal chalice, it BREAKS INTO A MILLION PIECES!!

ACT TWO**7) EXT. VINTAGE PIE TIE STAND – CONTINUOUS**

Applejack proudly shows rarity the vintage item AJ wants to swap both their trade stashes for. Rarity is shocked to learn the vintage item AJ wants isn't a beautiful antique, but is instead an old,

rusty PIE TIN! "They don't make 'em like this anymore" insists AJ proudly. "Thank goodness," replies Rarity, "Dahling please, once you see what I found, you won't want to waste our stash on that!"

Rarity shows pulls AJ over to a nearby booth and proudly shows her a vintage BROOCH she wants to trade all their stuff for. AJ points out that the brooch is identical to the one Rarity is already wearing! Well, sure, admits Rarity, "I know it looks and feels the same. But I *know* it's older! That's what makes it so great!"

That doesn't make any sense to AJ. "Aw, c'mon," she says. "If I switched em' up, you wouldn't even know difference!" To prove her point, AJ three-card montes the two brooches. "So which is the vintage one?" Rarity hesitates – then picks one. AJ tries to call her bluff, but realizes can't tell difference, so she doesn't know if Rarity is bluffing. Argh!

7) EXT. THE ANTIQUE CHICKEN STAND – CONTINUOUS

FS and RD glue the last piece of crystal chalice back together. Whew! They got it done. But it took forever! The two hustle over to the pony running the Antique Chicken Statue stand and hand over the Chalice in trade. The Chicken stand pony happily takes it, then SMASHES it pieces! Huh?! Turns out, he wanted it for the broken chalice mosaic he's making! Argh! But there's no time to complain. After all the time they wasted, they've got to get their antique chicken statue and go make their next trade - fast!

8) EXT. TWILIGHT'S BOOK STAND – CONTINUOUS

Twilight is about to trade all her books for practically nothing – when Pinkie swoops in and stops her. The rules of the Exchange are that a trade is only fair if **both** ponies end up with something they want. Twilight is the Princess. Of all ponies, she can't break the rules! Which means she can only trade for something she really wants. And Pinkie is pretty sure Twilight doesn't want the piece of junk she was about to trade all of her books for. Pinkie just saved Twilight from breaking the rules she's here to uphold. Pinkie is not going to let Twilight make a mistake like that again: "You just leave everything to me!"

SMASH CUT TO: Pinkie in full on carnival-barker mode, exhorting the crowd to run, not walk for their chance to trade for "authentic, one-of-a-kind, officially authorized Princess Merchandise!"

10) EXT. THE ANTIQUE CHICKEN STAND – CONTINUOUS

The Antique Chicken Stand Pony offers RD and FS their choice of any of the many different kinds chicken statues: speckled, brown, gray – you name it. RD realizes that the pony they're going to trade the chicken to didn't say what *kind* of antique chicken he wanted. "I'm fast," says RD. "So I'll zip over and find out what kind he wants. Fluttershy, you stay here and talk anybody who wants to trade for an old chicken out of it." Fluttershy agrees, but as the least assertive pony in Equestria, she's no good at talking ponies out of anything. "Oh you shouldn't get that one. I mean, unless you really want to." Hearing that, RD shakes head – "Ok, you go. I'll stay here!"

11) EXT. ANOTHER PART OF THE EXCHANGE – DAY

Rarity and Applejack look at their combined trade stash. Rarity SIGHS, then says, "Ok, well, even though it's for something that doesn't seem very valuable at all, I will be the better friend. You take our trade goods and get what you want."

"Oh, no," insists AJ. "I'm going to be the better friend. So even though you're making a huge mistake, you take our stash." The two go back and forth, each insisting on proving she's the better friend by letting the other taking their trade stash. As they continue to argue, Fluttershy and Rarity race by with the antique chicken. We follow them to...

12) EXT. LAMP STALL – LATER

It took awhile, but having gotten the right kind of antique chicken, Fluttershy and Rarity bring it to the Lamp stall – only to find the pony who runs it isn't there! RD and Fluttershy find out that the

pony is taking a break for lunch! He's at the end of a very long food truck line. And he won't reopen his stall until he's eaten.

14) EXT. TWILIGHT'S STALL – LATER

Pinkie is in full on Atlantic-City-boardwalk/infomercial mode, telling the crowd of ponies that have gathered that “these books so important because they made Twilight the princess she is! Before that, she was nothing. Trust me, I knew her then. Big fat zero. Then she read these books and *voila* – Princess!”

Tw interrupts Pinkie's spiel, saying she doesn't like the way Pinkie is describing her. Sure, she doesn't like being called a zero, but even more, she doesn't like being pitched as somepony who is better than everyone else. Pinkie steps back and gives Twilight a chance to strike a bargain with the ponies who are now eager to buy her books. But Twilight is clearly a terrible salesman and keeps underselling the books to the point where she is about to give them away for free.

Pinkie whispers to TW, “I know you're not better than everyone. In fact, you're much worse than me. At selling. So please! Just leave this to me!” Pinkie turns back to crowd, and launches into an even more over-the-top sales pitch!

13) EXT. NEARBY FOOD TRUCK – MOMENTS LATER

RD asks if the ponies in line if they will let the Lamp Stall pony cut ahead and get his food. One pony in line replies, “That doesn't seem like a very fair deal. Maybe we should check with Princess Twilight?” Forget it, grumbles RD. She's got a better idea. She and FS zip into the food truck. The two pitch in to help flip oat patties, making everything go faster to get the Lamp Stall pony through the line.

15) EXT. ACROSS THE EXCHANGE – LATER

Struggling to carry the ORTHROS, FS and RD race across the exchange – right past Rarity and AJ, who are still arguing about who is the better friend. They then pass Spike who is rifling through a box of comic books.

FS and RD race past the bird call booth – but before Fluttershy has a chance to even thinking about stopping there, RD insists they've got to hurry. The Antiques Exchange is almost over and they've still got to trade the Orthros for the book. Nothing – not even an exotic bird call - is more valuable to Fluttershy than a friend, so she zips right past them to...

16) EXT. DARING DO COLLECTOR'S STALL – MOMENTS LATER

Panting with exhaustion, RD and FS drop the cranky Orthros in front of the Daring Do collector's stall. The Exchange is almost over, but they did it. They got an Orthros to trade for the book, just like the collector asked! But instead of handing them the book, the Daring Do collector tells them: “Um, yeah, you know...I don't think I want a Orthros anymore.” RD and FD can't believe it! “But, but, but,” is all FS manages to sputter, before she turns to RD to let her do the talking – and sees RD has collapsed in shock!

ACT THREE

17) EXT. DARING DO COLLECTOR'S STALL – RESUME

Rainbow Dash and Fluttershy are still in shock as the Daring Do collector goes on to tell them, “I mean, I did want a Orthros. You know, like 4 hours ago, when I first talked to you. But I've been watching them over there in the Ancient Beast Booth all day. Those things are crazy! I don't want one of those in my house!”

As if proving the collector's point, the giant Orthros lashes out. Until Fluttershy calms it down. "Orthros aren't crazy," she insists. "You just have to know how to treat them. With a little training they can be a wonderful household pet."

And indeed, with Fluttershy's attention, the Orthros turns as docile as a kitten. The Daring Do collector sees that and changes his mind again. "All right, I'll trade you the book for the Orthros," he tells Rainbow Dash. Then he points at Fluttershy. "If her training services come with it." Fluttershy considers this for a moment. "Gosh. Training an Orthros to be a domesticated animal could take months." The Daring Do collector tells her not to worry; he's got a guesthouse she can stay in while she's training the beast.

"Deal!" shouts RD without even thinking. That's how focused she is on getting the book. And seeing how important the book is to her friend Rainbow Dash, Fluttershy agrees to the deal. "I guess I'll need someone to care for all my critters while I'm gone for the next several months. But my friends are the most valuable thing to me," she says. "So if that's what Rainbow Dash wants..." Hearing that, Rainbow Dash looks stunned for a moment. Then says: "You know, hearing you say that suddenly makes me realize...I'm gonna get the book!"

She makes the trade! She gets what she came for and immediately starts lovingly flipping through the pages. He face buried in the book, she says, "Ok, so Fluttershy, so what about those bird calls you wanted to look at? Fluttershy?"

She looks up and sees that Fluttershy's not there – she's gone with the Collector and the Orthros. Now that it's over, it finally hits RD: "What have done!?"

18) EXT. TWILIGHT'S STALL – DAY

Thanks to Pinkie's sales pitch, everypony wants to trade their most valuable possessions for Twilight's books. But nothing anypony offers is good enough for Pinkie: "That's not even worth a page of one of Princess Twilight's books! These are the books that made Twilight the Princess she is!"

Pinkie talks up the value the books so much, that she convinces everypony that no one could possibly have anything valuable enough to trade. They all leave - leaving Twi with all her books! Seeing that, Pinkie realizes she screwed up. But Twilight tells her she didn't: "You weren't wrong. None of them had anything valuable enough to trade for my books." Not because Twilight's a Princess, but because these books were there with her as she was growing up. That kind of sentimental value can't be replaced. Twilight realizes that now – thanks to Pinkie! The moment is cut short as RD runs up – she needs a Princess to say a trade wasn't fair! Fast!

19) EXT. ARENA BOX SEATS – A LITTLE LATER

One of the BOX SEATS that line the arena has been redressed as a royal court for the princess. Sitting in a high-backed chair, Twilight listens as the Daring Do Collector finishes telling his side of the story. Twilight turns to Rainbow Dash and says that her hooves are tied because the trade seems fair (Pinkie, self-appointed keeper of the rules, nods her agreement).

But RD insists it can't be fair: "I didn't realize until now that nothing more valuable than a friend. There's nothing in the world that's worth as much to me as my friends. So there's no way this trade can be fair!"

That makes sense to Twilight. She calls off the trade. The collector gets his Daring Do book back. RD gets Fluttershy – who gives her a big, happy hug – and the Orthros.

The two walk off together, passing Spike who hands over a stack of comic books for a mint condition comic sealed in a mylar bag. The comic book vendor looks on in horror as Spike haphazardly rips open the bag and flips through its pages.

20) INT. TRAIN – THAT NIGHT

As Spike and the Mane Six all ride back to Ponyville, Pinkie points out to Rainbow Dash: “Things didn’t turn out so bad for you. I mean, you didn’t get your book, but you ended up with a giant Orthros! That’s pretty cool! What’re you gonna do with it?”

“Oh, I already did something with it,” Rainbow Dash informs her.

REVEAL that RD traded the giant beast for a little bird whistle, which a very happy Fluttershy is eagerly playing with.

Over in their seats, AJ and Rarity both admit that they acted pretty dumb at the Exchange. Rarity: “You know, it was so silly, us arguing for so long about who’s the better friend. We almost missed the whole exchange! But there was just enough time in the end for me to take my half of our trade goods and get you this.” She gives AJ a small pie tin. “I know it’s not the pie tin you were after,” says Rarity, “but I’m sure you’ll like, because it looks like a rusty piece of junk.”

AJ is obviously happy to have the tin. But she tells Rarity, “You think that makes you the better friend? Well, I took my half of our stash and got you this!” She gives Rarity a piece of jewelry. “And I know you’ll love it because you already have a bunch of identical ones sitting in a drawer doing nothing at home!” Rarity obviously loves the jewelry. “So that should settle once and for all which one of us is a better friend,” insists AJ.

Before Rarity can respond, Rainbow Dash interrupts, telling them they are both great friends, because they put aside what they wanted to get what their friend wanted. As AJ and Rarity both agree with that, Rainbow Dash goes on to say that she knows what she’s talking about: she didn’t get the book she wanted so much, but that’s a small price to pay to make her friend Fluttershy happy.

At the same time, Twilight goes through the books of hers she’s keeping thanks to Pinkie, and Fluttershy sees they happen to include a copy of the first Daring Do novel – the one RD was desperate to get her hooves on! Sure, this one’s a battered paperback, rather than a prized first edition. But it’s got the same story, which RD is psyched to reread for the twelfth time on the train ride home with her friends – who have all helped each other in different ways to learn what’s truly valuable.

DISSOLVE TO:

21) INT. RAINBOW DASH'S HOUSE - LATER

Rainbow Dash begins an entry in the JOURNAL OF THE TWO SISTERS, detailing how today taught her that friendship is way more valuable than any thing. As she narrates her entry, we CROSS DISSOLVE to the other ponies, who make their own entries, highlighting how they all – in different ways – were reminded of what is truly valuable at the Exchange.

THE END