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MY LITTLE PONY IV
"Castle Mane-ia"
Episode 407
Written by: Josh Haber

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TEASER**1) INT. LIBRARY – AFTERNOON**

SPIKE putters as TWILIGHT SPARKLE pours over a stack of books trying to concentrate. As the baby dragon cleans, Twilight shoots him perturbed looks over the top of her book and he switches to quieter and quieter tasks (from doing the dishes to folding the laundry, etc.) until finally Twilight curtly asks if he can dust more quietly. She's trying to do some research on the mysterious chest and locks from the previous episode. All she needs is a little peace and quiet to figure things out and do some work.

Spike is happy to help, but just as the two finally settle down to their task, a cacophony of construction sounds cascade through the open window. Spike and Twilight look out to see that virtually all of Ponyville is under construction as everypony tries to repair the damage from the previous episode's plantastrophe. Off of Twilight's exasperated expression... credits.

ACT ONE**2) INT. LIBRARY – A SHORT WHILE LATER**

Spike watches Twilight pace back and forth, fretting over her request to Princess Celestia to come to Canterlot and do her work there where things are quieter and everypony respects the value of academic research. Surely the Princess will understand how important this is. Spike agrees that Celestia will know what to do, at which point he coughs up a letter.

As Twilight reads, we hear Princess Celestia admit in VO that while it would be perfectly lovely to have Twilight in Canterlot once more, there is another option much closer to Ponyville: The CASTLE OF THE TWO SISTERS (ie, the ruins of the castle where Celestia and Luna grew up). As Celestia's VO continues we dissolve to...

3) EXT. EVERFREE FOREST/CASTLE OF THE TWO SISTERS – LATER

Twilight and Spike emerge from the Everfree Forest and stand before the Castle Ruins. They enter as Celestia's VO continues. Celestia explains that when she was a young Princess and needed a place to think, she often snuck away to a secret room in the castle she shared with Princess Luna.

Twilight and Spike pick through the ruins, climbing crumbling stone stairs, etc. Celestia goes on to explain that while much of the ancient castle is in ruins, it could still be a perfectly quiet place to do some reading. In addition, Celestia suspects that tucked away in the castle's ancient library there may even be a book that could help with Twilight's research.

"Library?" Twilight exclaims as we pull back to reveal Twilight and Spike standing before an ancient library— books stacked up all the way to the flying-buttressed-stone-arched ceiling. Spike casts nervous glances at the musty shelves of old books, the creepy cobwebs, and the crumbling walls. He looks to Twilight, a little less than eager to stay. Unfortunately for him, Twilight's eyes beam bright enough to light up the whole place, "It's perfect!"

4) EXT. EVERFREE FOREST/CASTLE OF THE TWO SISTERS – LATE AFTERNOON

Cut to RARITY and FLUTTERSHY walking through the forest on their way to the Castle. Fluttershy is creeped out by the dark, foreboding foliage, but Rarity lights the way with her horn. Rarity explains that she is embarking on the most important thing she will ever do in her entire life and she needs Fluttershy's help. Fluttershy of course agrees. Rarity tells her that she's heard rumors that the castle is filled with gorgeous ancient tapestries. She's decided to check them out and perhaps borrow one or two to use as the inspiration for a new line and she needs help carrying them back to her boutique. Okay, so maybe not the most important thing ever, but retro-ancient classical will be all the rage next season, so it's definitely up there.

They arrive at the entrance to the Castle of the Two Sisters and Fluttershy is even more apprehensive. Even Rarity admits the place looks frightful, though she is speaking more in the aesthetic sense. Fed up with the ponies' trepidation, an exasperated ANGEL hops past them and heads right through the front door. Fluttershy and Rarity follow.

5) EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES – SAME TIME

Meanwhile, at Sweet Apple Acres we start on an extreme close up of RAINBOW DASH's eyes. "I'm not gonna move. You move." We cut to a similar close up of APPLEJACK's eyes. She also refuses to move. We pull out to reveal that both ponies are covered, mane to tail, in BEES! PINKIE PIE watches the scene with PENCIL AND SCORECARD in hoof. Pinkie is so excited, she can barely contain herself.

A BEEKEEPER PONY walks up and asks what they're doing. Pinkie Pie explains that Rainbow Dash and Apple Jack are competing for the title of Most Daring Pony. They've done a million things so far, but this is by far the most daring. The Beekeeper is nonplussed and explains that he's going to need his bees back. Rainbow Dash is crestfallen. She objects (through her bee suit), "But then we'll never find out who the most daring pony is!" The Beekeeper apologizes, then gives a whistle as the entire swarm of bees fly off and follow him away.

"Now what?" Applejack wonders. She and Rainbow Dash turn to Pinkie Pie who is writing furiously on her score card. Finally, Pinkie finishes and looks up. "Congratulations!" she says with a cheer, "You're tied!" With that she bounds off over the rolling hills of the orchard.

Applejack and Rainbow Dash do not share Pinkie's enthusiasm for ties. Rainbow Dash explains that it's impossible to be tied for Most Daring Pony. You're either the most daring or you're not. Applejack agrees. They rack their brains trying to come up with another daring challenge worthy of their competition. Eventually, Applejack's eyes land on a super creepy path leading out of Sweet Apple Acres and right into Everfree Forest. She turns to Rainbow Dash with a grin, "I think I know what we can do."

6) INT. CASTLE OF THE TWO SISTERS – FOYER – MOMENTS LATER

Fluttershy and Rarity walk into a GRAND FOYER filled with statues, paintings and TAPESTRIES. Angel stands at the entrance to one of the many hallways and alcoves shooting off the main hall. The rabbit stamps an impatient paw as Rarity and Fluttershy

catch up. Fluttershy admonishes the bunny, telling him not to run off again. He could get lost and who knows what could happen in these old ruins. As Fluttershy finishes parenting her pet, Rarity trots past, then shouts from down the corridor, "IT'S MAGNIFICENT!" Angel and Fluttershy rush to see what's gotten their friend so excited.

No sooner have they left the room than Spike and Twilight enter along a balcony hall overlooking the main floor. Twilight levitates a large candelabra, "carrying" it out in front of them. Spike wonders why she's bothering with candles. Just use magic to light their way. Twilight explains that she can't waste even a bit of magical concentration; she will need it all for her research. Now that they have a light source they can head back to the library and really get to work. They exit.

Just as Twilight walks out, Applejack and Rainbow Dash arrive. Rainbow Dash wonders what's so daring about the Castle, they were just here. As they stand between two enormous tapestry portraits (one of Princess Luna and the other of Princess Celestia), Applejack recounts an ancient legend told to her by Grannie Smith. Grannie claims that even though she was defeated, vestiges of NIGHTMARE MOON's magic still remain in ruins of the castle that the royal pony sisters once shared. Applejack dares Rainbow Dash to spend the night with her in the castle. Whichever one of them stays the longest can claim the title of Most Daring Pony. Rainbow Dash scoffs that it will be a piece of cake since she doesn't believe in old legends.

7) INT. CASTLE OF TWO SISTERS – ALCOVE – SAME TIME

Meanwhile, Fluttershy and Angel rush into an alcove to find Rarity standing before an enormous tapestry of a FULL MOON over EQUESTRIA. This is the tapestry Rarity wants to take back to Ponyville. She convinces Fluttershy to fly up and try to lift it from its hook. As the pegasus flies under the tapestry and pulls, THE ENTIRE WALL SPINS AROUND, replacing the portrait of the Full Moon with the one of Princess Luna from the Main Hall where...

8) INT. CASTLE OF TWO SISTERS – FOYER – SAME TIME

A wide-eyed Rainbow Dash and Applejack turn to see the portrait of Princess Luna has been replaced with a FLOATING ONE OF the Moon! Applejack asks if Rainbow Dash still doesn't believe in old legends and the two of them take off down a corridor away from the floating tapestry.

9) INT. CASTLE OF TWO SISTERS – CORRIDOR – CONTINUOUS

As Rainbow and Applejack run, Rainbow admits that if the legend is true, only the most daring pony could stay in the castle without being scared. Applejack pulls up short in front of a PAINTING OF AN ELDERLY PONY. "Who said anything about being scared? I'm not scared." "Me neither," Rainbow Dash lies. Together they agree: Whichever one of them can stay the longest is the Most Daring Pony. As they exit, we push in on the painting of the Elderly Pony to see its EYES following them off as we cut to...

10) INT. CASTLE OF THE TWINS – SECRET ROOM – CONTINUOUS

Pinkie Pie stands behind the painting, looking out at her friends. "Wow! I can see through this painting!"

ACT TWO**11) INT. CASTLE OF TWO SISTERS – FOYER/ALCOVE – MOMENTS LATER**

Fluttershy continues to struggle under the giant tapestry of the Moon. She gives another tug and the wall spins back around. Fluttershy flies out from under the fabric, unable to lift it. Rarity asks Fluttershy where she disappeared to, but the pegasus doesn't know what she means. Rarity explains that Fluttershy must have activated a secret door. Fluttershy apologizes, but Rarity reasons that the place is probably full of similar booby traps. They need to be much more careful. They set out to find a smaller tapestry that is easier to transport, but haven't taken two steps before a trap door opens in the floor beneath them and they disappear into darkness. Angel stares for a beat at the place the ponies just were, then shrugs and hops off.

12) INT. CASTLE OF TWO SISTERS – CORRIDOR – MOMENTS LATER

Cut to Rainbow and Applejack walking through the castle, both totally creeped out and both totally unwilling to admit it. "I think I'm probably a hundred percent less scared than you," etc. As they look for ways to prove their total lack of fear, they challenge each other to explore the scariest place in the Castle they can think of, the dungeon. They come upon a set of stairs down a hallway lined with intricate carvings of pony hooves holding candelabra sconces (a la Jean Cocteau's *Beauty and the Beast*). Neither one of them is keen on heading down the creepy staircase, but both are doing their utmost not to let on.

13) INT. CASTLE OF TWO SISTERS – TRAP ROOM – SAME

Meanwhile, Fluttershy's and Rarity's eyes blink open in pitch black. All these trap doors and filthy dungeons are starting to wear on Rarity who uses her horn to illuminate the room. There doesn't appear to be a way out and Fluttershy notices that Angel isn't with them. As they look for an exit, they find a hole in one wall just big enough for a hoof. Rarity sticks her front leg through the hole and feels around while...

14) INT. CASTLE OF TWO SISTERS – COCTEAU HALLWAY – SAME

Rainbow Dash and Applejack hesitantly make their way down the hallway of hooves. Rainbow Dash remarks that it's just a hallway full of hooves and there's nothing creepy about that and Applejack doesn't need to put her arm around her, unless of course Applejack is scared. "Um... I'm over here," Applejack tells her. Rainbow Dash looks up to see that Applejack is on the other side of the hall. Rainbow looks up to see one of the scone-hooves draped over her shoulder. Both ponies freak out and take off down the hall. Pinkie Pie bounds down the stairs after them, stopping just long enough to high-hoof the outstretched leg.

15) INT. CASTLE OF TWO SISTERS – TRAP ROOM – SAME

On the other side of the hallway, Rarity shrinks back in horror. She felt something on the other side of the wall. Something... alive. "Angel!" Fluttershy exclaims and sticks her hoof through the hole.

16) INT. CASTLE OF TWO SISTERS – COCTEAU HALLWAY – SAME

On the other side of the wall we see Fluttershy's hoof feel around until it finds a nearby candelabra. She pulls on it and another secret door slides open, releasing them from their trap. Rarity admits that tapestries or no, she has had enough secret passages and mysterious presences. Rarity is ready to leave, but Fluttershy refuses to go without Angel. She's is terrified that something horrible has happened to him as we cut to...

17) INT. CASTLE OF TWO SISTERS – LIBRARY – SAME

Angel jumps up onto the table where Twilight is working. "Angel? What are you doing here?" But before she can think too hard about it, Spike walks in hoping that Twilight has made some significant progress. He keeps hearing strange sounds and is totally ready to head home. Twilight tells him to stop being so silly. The castle is thousands of years old and half of it was destroyed by Nightmare Moon. Of course it makes strange sounds, it's practically falling apart. And no, she hasn't made any progress. There are just too many books. It's going to take weeks to go through them all. If only there were a way to narrow her search to just the right one. At that moment, Angel jumps from Twilight's table to a nearby bookcase. He catches himself on the spine of one of the books, pulling it out from its place on the shelf. As the book tilts down, the entire bookcase slides open to reveal: CELESTIA AND LUNA'S SECRET ROOM.

The secret room has none of the pretention of the giant library, but instead seems like a cool place to hang out, comfy pillows on the floor, etc. A shaft of moonlight shoots through a skylight illuminating a single book, sitting on a pedestal in the middle of the room. Twilight walks up and looks at the cover: THE DIARY OF THE TWO SISTERS.

18) INT. CASTLE OF TWO SISTERS – CORRIDOR – MOMENTS LATER

As Rainbow Dash and Applejack gallop away from their last brush with creepiness, they continue to talk trash to each other, despite the fact that they are running and obviously afraid. "Oh, I'm just running to stay in shape," "Yeah, my wings just need a workout," etc. They continue down the hall, past an open doorway. After a beat, Pinkie Pie appears hopping after them (a la [Pepé](#) Le Pew). Pinkie stops at the doorway and peers in at...

19) INT. CASTLE OF TWO SISTERS – MUSIC ROOM – SAME

Pinkie looks up at an ANCIENT PIPE ORGAN and bounces onto the bench. She giggles as she places a hoof on one of the keys. A long base note rings out and the door to the room slides shut, sealing her inside. Pinkie's response? "NEAT!"

20) INT. CASTLE OF TWO SISTERS – ARMOR ROOM – SAME

Rainbow Dash and Applejack stop running at the sound of the organ. "Did you hear that?" "You mean the creepy sound of a haunted pipe organ? I don't know what you're talking about," etc. They look around at the room where they've ended up. Full of suits of pony armor line the walls. Nothing creepy about that, Rainbow Dash exclaims. It's not like they're going to come to life or anything...

21) INT. CASTLE OF TWO SISTERS – THRONE ROOM – SAME

Meanwhile, as Rarity and Fluttershy continue their search for Angel, they stumble upon THE THRONE ROOM OF THE TWO SISTERS. Rarity gapes at the intricate pair of thrones AND the two small tapestries hanging over each (one with a sun and the other a moon, etc.). "They're perfect!" As Rarity climbs up onto Luna's throne to get the moon tapestry, Fluttershy begs her to hurry so they can keep looking for Angel. Fluttershy continues on to the next room as...

22) INT. CASTLE OF TWO SISTERS – MUSIC ROOM – SAME

Pinkie decides to play more notes on the organ. She hits one and we FLASH CUT to the Armor Room where the wall behind Applejack spins around replacing her with a fearsome suit of pony armor. Pinkie plays another note and we FLASH CUT to the Throne Room where Luna's throne tilts backwards dumping Rarity through a hole in the wall. Pinkie plays a CHORD and we cut to our...

SIX PANEL ACT OUT:

- Rainbow Dash turns expecting to see Applejack but instead looks into the eyes of a scary suit of armor and FREAKS!
- Applejack's wall spins her outside, high above the Castle courtyard on a gargoyle's perch. She looks down and FREAKS!
- Rarity slides out from a shoot that dumps her outside the Castle walls. A rustle comes from a nearby bush and she FREAKS!
- Fluttershy returns to the throne room to find that now Rarity has disappeared too and she FREAKS!
- Pinkie Pie goes full on Phantom of the Opera with the organ as...
- Twilight kicks back on a pillow reading the diary, oblivious.

ACT THREE

23) EXT. CASTLE OF TWO SISTERS – MOMENTS LATER

We come back to Rarity and the rustling bush. Terrified, Rarity quickly jumps back into the Castle through an open window. Once she's gone a frog hops out from the underbrush. It looks around, curious, then hops off.

24) INT. CASTLE OF TWO SISTERS – ARMOR ROOM – SAME

Cut to Rainbow Dash who backs away from the scary suit of armor. "Applejack? If you're not around, I guess that means I win. Right?" She backs into another suit of armor which crashes to the ground and sends the pegasus careening out of the room.

25) INT. CASTLE OF TWO SISTERS – THRONE ROOM – SAME

Meanwhile, Fluttershy hesitantly explores the throne room looking for any sign of Rarity. Suddenly, another organ chord rings out and she gallops out of the room in a panic.

26) INT. CASTLE OF TWO SISTERS – MUSIC ROOM – SAME

Cut to Pinkie still at the organ, holding the chord with a crazed expression on her face, then... "Okay. I'm done." She hits the first base note again and the door to the music room slides open. With a FLASH CUT we see that Applejack is also spun back into the Castle from her precarious perch. Pinkie hops off the bench and bounds out of the music room.

27) INT. CASTLE OF TWO SISTERS – ARMOR ROOM – SAME

Applejack stands back in the Armor Room, a bit shaken. She looks over the suit of armor that Rainbow knocked over and sees a secret passage that was revealed behind it. She heads inside. "Rainbow?"

28) INT. CASTLE OF TWO SISTERS – GRAND FOYER – MOMENTS LATER

A statue slides over to reveal the exit to Applejack's secret passage as she backs into the Main Hall. Across the room, Rarity appears backing out of another hallway, while Fluttershy does the same from another direction. Finally Rainbow Dash flies into the room backwards, covering her tracks as all four ponies back right into each other and chaos ensues.

Rainbow flies around the room in circles, screaming about possessed suits of armor, while Rarity scales the tapestries, sorry she ever even considered taking them. As the tapestries fall to the ground, Applejack dodges them, knocking over several statues in the process while Fluttershy digs through the wreckage searching frantically for Angel.

29) INT. CASTLE OF TWO SISTERS – SECRET ROOM OF THE PRINCESSES – SAME

Twilight looks up from reading the Diary, wondering what all the commotion is. Spike makes a sarcastic comment about it probably being just more strange sounds of the castle falling apart. Twilight tells him that no one like sarcasm and they head out to investigate.

30) INT. CASTLE OF TWO SISTERS – GRAND FOYER – MOMENTS LATER

Twilight, Spike, and Angel enter from a balcony and look out over the other ponies all going crazy. Twilight tries to ask them what's going on, but they're all too freaked out to answer. Finally, Twilight's horn glows as she yells, "STOP!" freezing her panicking pony friends in place.

As the ponies finally stop long enough to see each other, they start to realize that they've spent the entire night scaring each other. Twilight unfreezes everyone as they all discuss the night's events. None of them can believe they were so scared. The friends all agree that things wouldn't have been so frightening if they hadn't let their imaginations get the best of them. Rainbow Dash mentions how weird it is that they all ended up at the Castle together, all of them except Pinkie Pie.

Just then, Pinkie bursts out of suit of armor, "We should play this game more often!" she proclaims. "What game?" Rarity asks. "The one where we all meet up in the scary castle and hide from each other. Duh!" she answers.

TAG:

Cut to a diary. Twilight in VO talks about how Celestia told her she'd find something in the castle that would help her. Maybe the Diary of the Sisters is it. She and her friends have decided to follow the Princesses' example and keep a journal of their own as we pull out to reveal Twilight making the first entry.

31) INT. CASTLE OF TWO SISTERS – SECRET ROOM OF THE PRINCESSES – SAME

The Mane Six hang out in Princess Celestia and Princess Luna's Awesome Secret Room. Fluttershy lays on a pillow with Angel. She hugs him tight, telling the rabbit not to wander off again as he rolls his eyes. Rarity holds the two throne room tapestries, excited to incorporate them into her new line. Applejack tells Rainbow Dash she's glad Grannie Smith's legend wasn't real. Rainbow says me too and Pinkie Pie chimes in, "Me three. Especially since that means you guys are still TIED!"

Off Rainbow and Applejack's pained expressions...

FADE OUT.

END.