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

Premise: July 16, 2012

CASTLE MANE-IA
Premise by Josh Haber

NOTE: This would be slotted as episode 403 to allow us to set up the Castle of the Two Sisters as a new meeting place for our Mane 6.

A new construction project in Ponyville has Princess Twilight scrambling to find a quiet place to do some reading and research. (She's hoping to find some info that will provide more clues regarding the chest and locks set up in 401/402.) But try as she might, she just can't get any peace and quiet. She even goes so far as to ask Princess Celestia if she could hole up in Canterlot Tower for a few days. But Princess Celestia has another idea. 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. While much of the ancient castle is in ruins, it could still be the perfect quiet place to do some reading. Princess Celestia suggests that tucked away in the castle's ancient library there may even be a book that might aid in Twilight's research. Twilight eagerly heads for the castle.

Little does Twilight know that elsewhere, Rainbow Dash and Applejack have been enjoying a good-natured competition as to which of them is the more daring Pony. The competition has culminated in Rainbow Dash daring Applejack to stay the night in the Castle of the Two Sisters. Unbeknownst to them, Rarity and a reluctant Fluttershy have also headed to the castle. Rarity wants to borrow a few of the ruin's ancient tapestries for inspiration and may need some help getting them back to her boutique. (She noticed them when they returned the Elements of Harmony and has been thinking about them ever since.) And while everypony else seems mysteriously drawn to the Castle Ruins, Pinkie Pie bounces from house to house in Ponyville, wondering where they've all gone.

At the ruins, both Rainbow and Applejack are determined to outlast each other, despite the growing sense that they are not alone. And while Rarity and Fluttershy also sense a presence that is not theirs, both sets of ponies remain oblivious to the others. In a series of encounters with what turns out to be each other, everypony's fears spiral out of control until even Pinkie Pie (who's come looking for her friends AND is aware they are all there together) gets swept up in the mania.

Eventually, all five ponies discover each other, but instead of realizing their mistake, each pony's imagined fears are added to the mix. They run through the ruins until flashes of magic draw them to the library where they discover Twilight, who herself is convinced the night's events are the work of ancient pockets of magic left behind after Princess Celestia and Princess Luna's battle. But as Twilight recounts her experiences, everypony realizes they've just spent the night scaring each other. As the sun rises, Pinkie Pie points out that if they had realized it earlier, the whole thing would have been pretty fun. They all agree that the night has taught them not to let their imaginations run away with them.

Twilight suggests that the Castle become a regular meeting place for the Mane 6 and that since they are no longer required to write letters to Princess Celestia, it might be nice to keep a diary there where they could record the lessons they've learned and the adventures they've had together.