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MY LITTLE PONY IV
"Power Ponies"
Episode 406
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Outline: July 4, 2012

TEASER**1) EXT. CASTLE OF THE TWO SISTERS - EVERFREE FOREST - DAY**

SPIKE walks out of the castle, carrying a little BAG OF TRASH while engrossed in a COMIC BOOK. Its front cover features pony supervillain, MANE-IAC, vs. the superheroic POWER PONIES. Spike is reading aloud: "The nefarious supervillan, Mane-iac, strikes again!" Etc. Without a pause in his narration, he takes out the trash then turns to return into the castle. Because Spike isn't paying any attention to where he's going, just as he reaches a particularly perilous moment in the comic book's story, he simultaneously walks right off the edge of the castle's drawbridge and comically plunges into the moat - "Waaa!" <SPLASH> - throwing the comic book into the air (keeping it dry) as he falls.

ACT I**2) INT. CASTLE - "MANE" THRONE ROOM - DAY**

The castle has become a sort of hangout for our Mane 6 and TWILIGHT SPARKLE and her friends are trying to fix it up a bit. Twilight confidently delegates tasks to her friends. FLUTTERSHY and RAINBOW DASH fly up to hang banners high on the walls. RARITY uses her magic to turn the old throne area into a spectacular sparkling showpiece. APPLEJACK skates around with scrub brushes tied to her hooves - "Coming through!" - polishing the floor until it shines. PINKIE PIE is happily rearranging the furniture, then rearranging it again, and again, and again... until it all ends up right back in its original position!

During all this pony activity, Spike returns from taking out the trash and eagerly steps up to offer his further assistance. Twilight assigns him several more menial tasks that he is more than proud to do - maybe a little too proud. Not recognizing his little assignments for the busywork that they really are, a comically full of himself Spike boasts about how indispensable he is - and he truly believes it.

First, Twilight asks Spike to unroll banners for Fluttershy and Rainbow Dash to hang. A whirlwind of eager activity, then: "Finished! What else do you need help with?" Twilight asks him to fetch more water for Apple Jack. "Done!" Twilight looks around trying to think of other little things Spike can do to help, but is running out of ideas. It's the big jobs that have

to be done right now, and the ponies are the ones who have to do them.

Twilight assures Spike he's integral to the project and that she'll have something really important for him to do later. She suggests that he dump out AJ's dirty bucket of water and then catch up on his reading until his services are required. "If you insist!" Spike replies.

3) INT. CASTLE - HALLWAYS, VARIOUS

Spike walks through the castle hallways, holding the bucket of dirty water in one hand, and his open comic in the other. He reads aloud, lost in the adventure: The Power Ponies are just about to be captured by nefarious supervillain, Mane-iac... because their useless sidekick, STOMPER, left the GALLOPING GAUNTLET OF GOODNESS - the only item with the power to defeat Mane-iac - back at their headquarters, the CORRAL OF COURAGE.

Stomper is Spike's least favorite character. The Power Ponies clearly don't need him and are always having him do menial tasks just so he'll feel like he's part of the group. As the dirty water from AJ's water bucket sloshes onto the ground, Spike comments aloud that he's glad he's nothing like Stomper.

Spike is so engrossed in the comic book that he totally doesn't notice occasional GLOWING MAGICAL PATTERNS appear on the stones in the floor underfoot as he walks along. Each time he steps on one, different SECRET DOORS in the hallway wall open to reveal various HIDDEN ROOMS with different magical attributes. Spike is completely oblivious as he passes by each doorway he's opened: a huge magical blast of PURPLE FIRE shoots out from one just missing him; ANCIENT BOOKS flap through the air like birds in another, with one big book flying out and almost clapping shut on him; and the giant SUCKERED TENTACLES of an unseen monster grasp out at him from a third!

Still walking and reading aloud, Spike steps on one last glowing trigger on the floor activating a magical deconstruction of the bricks in the wall directly in front of him. Unaware, he walks into the opening and disappears into the darkness of this mysterious magical room

4) INT. CASTLE - WISHING WELL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Spike stops reading and blinks: "Hey, who turned out the lights?" He breathes fire to illuminate the room, lighting wall

torches. Reveal - Smack dab in the center of the room now where Spike was just walking is a so-big-you-can't-miss-it WISHING WELL. On the reveal, there's a comical HEAVENLY CHOIR sting: "Ahhhh..." Spike: "Huh. Didn't notice that before." Off-screen, the Mane Six's voices call out Spike's name.

5) INT. CASTLE - HALLWAYS, VARIOUS - CONTINUOUS

The ponies are searching for Spike. They are headed to the castle's dining room for lunch and want him to join them. As they pass all the open doors Spike activated, Twilight explains that Princess Celestia and Princess Luna informed her that there are many magical rooms hidden throughout the castle, each with a different purpose. When they reach the Wishing Well room, they hear Spike talking out loud to himself.

6) INT. CASTLE - WISHING WELL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Just as the ponies start to enter, Spike wistfully wishes that the Mane Six were able to see him the way he sees himself: like one of the awesome super heroic costumed characters in his Power Ponies' comic, *the way he really is*. Twilight's eyes widen and she shouts: "No!" But it's too late. As soon as Spike utters those words, an incredible rainbow of blinding light shines out of the Wishing Well, filling the room. When it dissipates, Spike and the ponies are gone...

7) EXT. MARE-TROPOLIS - CONTINUOUS

The same rainbow of light blasts down from the sky and deposits Spike and the ponies on the ground. They are now standing in the urban, comic book-style world of MARE-TROPOLIS... and they are dressed in superhero costumes! "Where are we? What happened? Is everypony okay?" Spike realizes where they are and is stoked! This is the one and only Mare-tropolis, city of the future, that the Power Ponies are sworn to protect!

The ponies wonder how this can be... and how they got these costumes. Rarity says: "Who cares? We are fillies with flair!" Spike explains that they're dressed as the Power Ponies! He goes down the line, excitedly telling each pony who she is and what her superpowers are:

- TWILIGHT = ("The Masked Matter-horn") wears a headdress that focuses light, enabling her to shoot different colored and kinds of BEAMS—laser, freeze ray, X-Ray, etc.—from her horn.

- PINKIE PIE = ("Twinklie Toes") super-dee-duper SPEEDY. "Wanna see me do (whatever)? (pause) Wanna see me do it again?"
- RAINBOW DASH = ("Zappina") wears a helmet with lightning bolts. The mantle around her neck holds a golden hammer in a holster. She swings the MIGHTY Mallet of Meteorology to control the weather, shoot lightning bolts, or create mini-tornadoes. While in her "power-up mode," her eyes glow different colors.
- RARITY = ("Radiance") has various pieces of JEWELRY that shoot out different colors of energy creating various kinds of CONSTRUCTS on an as-needed basis. All of the constructs have that Rarity touch of being sparkly and embellished with ornate details.
- APPLEJACK = ("Captain Mare-velous") has the pony version of a utility belt - the SADDLEBAGS OF SUPREMACY - full of gadgets all with pony-themed names, like the horseshoe-shaped "HOOF-A-RANG".
- FLUTTERSHY = ("The Rampager") gets super strong and turns into an aggressive bulked-up monstrous form when she gets angry. Problem is, Fluttershy is so naturally timid and forgiving, she isn't easily riled up, even when she has a right to be.

The ponies eagerly ask Spike which hero he is and he excitedly looks down at his own costume... He is shocked/disappointed/appalled to discover that he's Stomper, the useless sidekick! But he quickly covers by telling the ponies that he's... uh... their leader, yeah, that's it... PROFESSOR... um... SUPER... GALACTIC... GUY... and has the most awesome superpower of them all... but it's far too dangerous to use unless absolutely necessary. He could tell you what it is, but he'd have to kill you. Because when he was fishing for words, Spike introduced himself as "Professor, um, Super Galactic Guy," the ponies keep referring to him, un-ironically, as "Professor Um."

They've been zapped into a new world, and it is pretty cool and all, but Twilight reminds them that they should really be getting back home. She tries to use her own magic to zap them out of this comic book world and into their real world, but can't. Her magic doesn't work! Rarity gives it a shot too, but her magic doesn't work either! The only powers they each have here are those of the comic book characters they've become.

Rainbow tells them all to relax, she's got this: she'll just fly out of the comic book and drop a ladder or a rope or a rope

ladder down to the rest of them, no problem. She flies straight up into the sky... but surprisingly <SPLATS> right into a "glass ceiling"! "Huh?" The "sky" of this place ends there! (ala THE TRUMAN SHOW)

8) INT. CASTLE - WISHING WELL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The comic book lies open on the floor of the room. Looking down at the panels on the page: In one, Rainbow flies up repeatedly against "the other side" of the panel, trying to break through it, like a skylight.

9) EXT. MARE-TROPOLIS - CONTINUOUS

Back inside the comic book, the ponies all turn to their "leader" Spike: He's the mightiest hero of them all - Get us out of here! Spike erm's and ah's some excuse about destroying the space-time continuum if he were to unleash his awesome powers...

10) INT. CASTLE - WISHING WELL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Outside the open comic book again, looking down at the same panel: All six of our Power Ponies' faces are squished up against it in extreme close-up (like General Zod, Ursa, and Non trapped in the Phantom Zone). "Hello? Help! Somepony? Anypony?" They're trapped inside the comic book! Forever??...

ACT TWO

11) EXT. MARE-TROPOLIS - RE-ESTABLISH

Our Power Ponies cannot push or magic their way up and out of the comic book! Twilight reminds the panicking ponies how whenever you're reading and lose yourself in a story, you always come out of it when you get to the end. She deduces that it stands to reason the only way out of this comic book world is to make their way through the story to the last page. Spike enthusiastically takes the lead: "Don't worry about a thing. I'll get us home, easy. I know this story by heart. Follow me!"

12) INT. CASTLE WISHING WELL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

On the open comic book - Our heroes exit one panel, and reappear in the next panel in an incongruously completely different position and lighting! They do it again, suddenly all in silhouette at a dramatically canted angle. And again, now inexplicably in a low-angle with dramatic shadows. Etc. Since

Spike has read this comic book a zillion times, he confidently acts as their tour guide through this fantastical world...

13) EXT. MARE-TROPOLIS - CONTINUOUS

Spike narrates everything that's happening around them just before it actually does. "Oo! I love this part! This is where a meteor from Planet X comes crashing in from outer space!" On cue, a meteor screams down from the sky and crashes, nearly missing them. "And this is when we first find out that Mare-tropolis was unknowingly built on an ancient burial ground!" Comical ZOMBIE PONIES erupt out of the ground: "Braaaaains..." Rainbow asides: "That sure is an unlikely series of events to happen in one town." Fluttershy hushes her, then asks: "Where are we now, Spike?" Spike looks around: "What page are we on?" Twilight: "Page 3." Spike: "Awesome!" "Why, what happens on page 3?"

<BOOM> In a blinding flash of evil energy, a sinister-looking pony suddenly appears on the scene with a <SINISTER LAUGH>. It's the nefarious supervillain, MANE-IAC! As she gives her introductory evil monologue (NOTE: Mane-iac only calls them by their comic book hero names), Spike gleefully recites her lines in unison with her! This gets her attention. And irritation. "Since when did you get to be so bold, Stomper?" Spike: "Who me? I'm afraid you must have me confused with someone else. I'm the leader of this team!"

Mane-iac scoffs: "The leader? You're not the Masked Matter-Horn!" Everypony looks at Twilight aka the Masked Matter-Horn, who points to herself, confused: "I'm supposed to be the leader?" Everypony turns to Spike for answers: "What does she mean, Professor Um?" He turns beet red with embarrassment. Mane-iac continues, taunting Spike: "How dare you even speak to me, Stomper!" Spike, boldly: "Stop calling me that!" Mane-iac: "Or what? You'll trip over me?"

Fluttershy politely but firmly steps up to Spike's defense: "You'd better take that back. Professor Um Super Galactic Guy has the most awesome power of all. He's just too nice to use it on you and risk destroying the space-time continuum, 'cause he's so thoughtful and thinks about others." Spike gives a weak smile.

Mane-iac cackles menacingly and calls forth her legion of EVIL ROBOT MINIONS! Spike gets indignant: "Hey! You're not supposed to call forth your legion of Evil Robot Minions until page 8!" Mane-iac doesn't know what he's talking about. She doesn't have time for this: she's got to get back to trying to take over

Mare-tropolis! Applejack asides: "Why do nefarious supervillains always want to take over the city?" Pinkie shrugs. Mane-iac interrupts with a bellowed command and her Evil Robot Minions attack!

Spike wishes they had the Galloping Gauntlet of Goodness. Spike wishes he could just wish for the Galloping Gauntlet of Goodness. The ponies wish Spike would stop wishing and tell them what to do! He reminds them they're superheroes: they do superhero stuff. "Oh, right." The Power Ponies leap into action! Since he knows all about their powers and they don't, Spike takes charge and instructs the others as they attempt to use their new super skills to battle Mane-iac's Evil Robot Minions. It takes them each more than a few comical tries to get the hang of it:

Pinkie, aka Twinklie Toes, tentatively takes one teensy step... and is off like a rocket, quickly disappearing from sight!

Rainbow, aka Zappina, grandiosely wields her Mighty Mallet of Meteorology... causing a small storm cloud to appear over her head and downpour on only her. Another swing of the Mallet and the sunlight intensifies, causing everypony to start sweltering in a sudden intense heatwave. One more swing of the Mallet, and an avalanche of snow buries only Rainbow so she looks like a snowman/pony.

Pinkie comes zooming by in a blur, blowing the snow covering off Rainbow as she passes through, then is out of sight once again... and keeps periodically zooming through the scene in a blur - interjecting a hurried remark each time before she's gone again - as Twilight (aka The Masked Matter-Horn), Applejack (aka Captain Mare-velous), and Rarity (aka Radiance) attempt to get the hang of their powers too. Rarity fires a colorful blast from one of her jewels at Mane-iac... but instead of an attack construct, creates a giant fluffy lace pillow. It does turn out to be useful, however, when out-of-control super speedy Pinkie zooms into frame in a blur and runs into it <POOF> finally stopping.

Spike tries to get a rise out of Fluttershy so that her incredible strength as "The Rampager" will be unleashed... but she is just too forgiving to fly off the handle! No matter what the Minions do or the nefarious supervillain Mane-iac cackles at her, Fluttershy meekly says it's okay, she's sure they didn't mean it. It's going to take way more than that to make her angry.

Because he's read this story a zillion times and knows what it going to happen next, Spike tries to help by anticipating where and what each Evil Robot Minion will do next... but is shocked to discover he's wrong every time! How can this be? Twilight figures now that they've interfered with the narrative, the story has changed and Spike won't be able to predict what's going to happen anymore!

Spike is at a loss how to help... until it occurs to him that he may not have the Galloping Gauntlet of Goodness that can defeat Mane-iac, but he knows where it is! Unlike Stomper, he's not just some useless sidekick who can't help save the day! Spike tells the ponies to stall Mane-iac and her Minions: he'll be right back. As Spike runs off, Mane-iac assumes he's running away and comments on "Stomper's" cowardice.

14) EXT./INT. THE CORRAL OF COURAGE

Spike knows the secret code word to enter the Power Ponies' hideout and knows exactly where the Galloping Gauntlet of Goodness is kept. He goes directly over to get it, and then grandly holds it aloft, calling out its name, adding his own fake echo to his line for emphasis.

15) EXT. MARE-TROPOLIS

The battle action between the Power Ponies and Mane-iac's Minions continues. Spike returns triumphantly with the Galloping Gauntlet of Goodness and announces to his friends that the hero of the story has returned! Stand back! Spike recites some magical words he knows well from his many readings of this comic book, and heaves the Galloping Gauntlet of Goodness at Mane-iac to do her in. With the sound of <THUNDERING HOOVES> dramatically accompanying it, the Gauntlet glows and springs to life! Pinkie "Oo"s and "Ah"s in astonishment. Fluttershy apologizes to Mane-iac for them having to defeat her but she gave them no choice. The animated Gauntlet goes after Mane-iac... who easily fends it off and destroys it without batting an eye!

Spike is taken aback. That wasn't supposed to happen! The Gauntlet's power has been altered by their presence in the story! The Power Ponies turn to Spike for guidance: "Now what do we do, Professor Um?!" Spike slumps. He's got nothing. Mane-iac cackles that Stomper ought to accept the fact that the Power Ponies only keep him around because they don't want to hurt his feelings: they just give him unimportant busywork to do to make him feel important, when it's so obvious to everypony that he's not! Spike starts to protest again that he's not Stomper... but

stops himself when it occurs to him that this sounds an awful lot like what Twilight and his friends do to him.

With a triumphant laugh, Mane-iac commands the SIX Minions lined up in front of her to end this now! Rainbow Dash defiantly flies toward Mane-iac, waving the Mighty Mallet of Meteorology: "Time to put you out to pasture!... What?!" One of the Six Robot Minions opens its chest to reveal a colored JEWEL that now bathes Rainbow in a beam of light. "The Gem of Gravitas!" exclaims Spike as Rainbow is pulled to the ground by the weight of the Mallet. "It increases gravitational pull and renders your powers useless!" Spike explains. Rarity creates a pretty but powerful construct and charges toward Mane-iac with it, but is hit by a beam of light from a JEWEL inside another Minion that freezes her like a statue. "The Sapphire of Standstill!" cries Spike. "It stops you in your tracks and renders your powers useless!"

As Twilight, Applejack, and Pinkie make their attempts to get through to Mane-iac, each is hit by a different colorful beam of light from different JEWELS inside the Minions. Spike begins to explain, but Applejack interrupts: "Don't tell me. Renders our powers useless. Ahhh!" Fluttershy, meanwhile, still hasn't used her powers at all: Even their current terrible predicament isn't enough to make her get angry. What's it going to take?! Mane-iac gloats that she has all the Power Ponies right where she wants them!

Spike braces himself, assuming he's next... but Mane-iac just laughs: Spike has no weaknesses, because he's already weak! The Minions pass right by Spike paying him no mind as they take the powerless ponies captive and whisk them away to Mane-iac's evil lair, the PADDOCK OF PERIL. Spike desperately chases after them, but there's nothing he can do to stop them and he knows it. Mane-iac mocks him: "Useless as always, eh, Stomper?" As his immobilized friends are taken prisoner, Spike dejectedly realizes: "It's true. I *am* just like Stomper."

ACT THREE

16) EXT./INT. THE PADDOCK OF PERIL

The Power Ponies are now being held prisoner in Mane-iac's evil lair in classic but funny ways: suspended over a vat of boiling oil, a bed of sharp spikes, a tub of circling sharks, a bubbling lava pit, a barrel of snapping crocodiles, and a menacing circular saw. They are still each held completely IMMOBILE by

the colorful beams emitting from their corresponding rendering-their-powers-useless jewels. Mane-iac playfully taunts her captives by stepping into one of the beams of light, blocking it so a pony is momentarily free... but then quickly stepping aside it so the pony is held prisoner again! She does this several times in a row, entertaining herself.

Meanwhile, Spike sneaks into the lair, still in a funk. Since the powerless ponies are her prisoners and Spike is no threat, there was no need for Mane-iac to lock the door! Yet another blow to Stomper-Spike's ego. Spike eavesdrops unseen as Mane-iac evil monologues about her imminent glory: "At long last, I shall finally destroy the Power Ponies so there will be nopony left to stand in my way. Today Mare-tropolis, tomorrow the world!"

Mane-iac rears up, and on cue, several Minions unfurl huge WALL BANNERS featuring images of Mane-iac posed regally wearing a crown. "Soon my mane-nificent visage - that means my "face" - will adorn every area of this pathetic city!" Through clenched teeth, Rarity sarcastically asks why she would want to rule the city if she thinks it's pathetic. "Silence!" Mane-iac gestures with her hoof toward a huge pile of rolled up banners. "My legion of Evil Robot Minions will make sure my face is everywhere in Mare-tropolis!"

The frozen pony prisoners strain comically to talk through clenched teeth, saying with all sincerity that Mane-iac is unwise to underestimate Spike. They don't know who this "Stomper" is she keeps talking about, but Spike is a valuable member of their team who always comes through for them when they need him, and they are all absolutely confident that he'll find a way to save the day: he always does.

Overhearing that his friends think he's so important and not like Stomper after all, gives Spike the emotional boost he needs to get out of his funk and save the day as only he can. He is reminded that he has the support of his friends who genuinely believe that even though he doesn't have super powers, he's an important part of their group. Spike then sets out to prove that their belief in him isn't unfounded. Mane-iac may think he's weak, but his friends know that he's something special.

Spike sneaks around inside the lair, narrowly avoiding being discovered by the Robot Minions. The pony prisoners, however, spot Spike and are psyched to see him! Although unable to budge and not wanting to call any attention by talking, they do their best to signal to him with their eyes, moving only their

eyeballs. "What?" Spike mouths silently. The ponies each keep trying to indicate with their eyeballs what it is they want Spike to notice. They all keep comically indicating in the same direction with their eyeballs: toward the pile of rolled-up banners.

Mane-iac notices that the ponies seem to be getting a bit restless. "Need a little more exercise?" She starts teasing them again by prancing in front of the gems' light beams, gleefully freeing the ponies for just a moment then immobilizing them, over and over again. Spike knows exactly what small but important task his friends need him to do. While Mane-iac is occupied playfully doing her little dance, Spike sneaks over to the pile of banners, and with great effort, pushes one off the pile. It unrolls across the floor... and covers the collection of gems whose beams are holding the ponies prisoners. As soon as the gems are covered, the beams are cut off and his friends are free!

The Power Ponies quickly leap into action, using their amazing, stupendous, uncanny, ridonkulous powers in a battle royale against Mane-iac and her legion of Evil Robot Minions. Meanwhile, Spike handles the small but critical job of sneaking out with the jewels and disposing of them - because they don't affect him - so that Mane-iac can't use them against his friends again.

What it takes to defeat Mane-iac once and for all, however, is her idly doing something completely innocuous and trivial that ironically turns out to be the last straw for Fluttershy, finally making her angry enough for her super powers to emerge!

After one final battle led by super-strong, hulking-out Fluttersky, aka THE RAMPAGER, the bad guys are defeated at last. The Power Ponies all pose: "Pony power!"

Though now subdued and immobilized, wrapped up in one of her own banners, Mane-iac gets in one more evil cackle: "It's not over yet!" "Oh, yes it is," Spike grins, pointing to the printed words "THE END" at the bottom right corner of the page they're on! They've made it all the way through the story and defeated the villain. The ponies thank Spike: they couldn't have done it without him. He says he knows and smiles in agreement, proudly-maybe a little too proudly again. Mane-iac tries to take one more dig at Spike, calling him Stomper, but this time it doesn't faze him in the least. Spike gets in the last word, then leads the ponies past the words "The End", out of the comic book panel

to the right, and off the page. A brilliant light completely fills frame...

17) INT. CASTLE - WISHING WELL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The brilliant light that is filling the frame dissipates to reveal our Mane Six ponies plus Spike, all now back in the Castle's Wishing Well room and all now back to their normal designs. The ponies congratulate Spike on helping save the day. They couldn't have gotten out of there without him. Spike starts to get a little braggy about it, saying he never doubted for a minute that he was an important part of the team. Twilight gently reminds him that they wouldn't have even been in that predicament at all if it weren't for him either. Spike is humble again, but everypony agrees it was pretty great getting to be superheroes. Fluttershy, who barely got to use her powers, starts to wish that they could go back! Twilight quickly covers Fluttershy's mouth and suggests that maybe they ought to seal up this particular room for a while. She asks Spike if he would mind being in charge of this small but important task. Spike happily agrees to do it.

THE END