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MY LITTLE PONY IV
"Bats!"
Episode 411
Written by: Merriwether Williams

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BATS!

Outline by Merriwether Williams

TEASER**1) EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES - MORNING**

As soon as the sun rises Applejack is out in the fields. She is bursting with excitement because today is Applebuckin' Day! And this year the Apple Family Orchard has a bumper crop of Pink Lady apples. AJ gives a tree a good, swift kick, bucking down the first bushel of apples. But as soon as a few of those apples hit the ground, they turn to dust.

AJ is mortified. She bends over to take a closer look at an apple and sees that its innards have been sucked out. Applejack's eyes grow wide. She thinks she knows what did this – she looks up into the trees. And there hanging from the branches are some sinister-looking VAMPIRE FRUIT BATS!

ACT ONE**2) EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES – A LITTLE LATER**

Twilight, Spike, Rarity, Rainbow Dash, Fluttershy, and Pinkie Pie are gathered around an upset Applejack who needs her friends help.

Twilight says, "Of course we'll help you Apple Jack, but first we need to know what the problem is." AJ answers, "I'll tell you what the problem is...it's vampire fruit bats!" "Eeewwww" squeals Rarity, "Bats are creepy." "No, they're not," says Fluttershy quietly.

Twilight says, "I thought the fruit bats usually stay put in the West Orchard."

AJ replies that these aren't the bats from the West Orchard. She explains that these are Vampire Fruit Bats and are out to destroy her entire crop. She remembers the last time this happened, "We lost a huge section of the orchard that year. Ponyville had to ration the few apples we had left. It was a tough winter for everypony."

The pony friends shiver at the thought of it.

AJ adds, "We didn't even have enough apples to make cider that year." "NO CIDER? NO CIDER?" yells Rainbow Dash. "That's horrifying!"

"You think that's horrifying. Just wait until you see these bats. They're like flying monsters!" "No, they're not," insists Fluttershy. Cue music.

3) EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES – VARIOUS

Musical Duet between Applejack and Fluttershy (think "Summer Lovin'" from GREASE.) AJ and Fluttershy sing about two different versions (or ideas about) these fruit bats.

In AJ's version, these bats are horrible, fanged, vengeful creatures. As she sings we actually SEE HER SCARY, DARK VISION of the bats, terrorizing the orchard and destroying the apples.

In Fluttershy's version that bats are wonderful, special animals that are just behaving the way animals do. All animals need food, vampire fruit bats are no different. Her VISION is filled with pastel colors and smiling; dancing bats whom are all living harmoniously in nature.

Throughout the duet, the other ponies sing the "Tell me more, tell me more and wella, wella" parts of the song as they trot alongside Applejack and Fluttershy to get the real scoop on bats.

SONG ENDS.

4) EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES – PRESENT

Applejack takes a more urgent tone as she asks her friends to help her round up the bats now. Once the bats are gathered, the ponies must find a way to contain them so that they don't destroy the rest of the Apple Family Orchard.

Fluttershy suggests that they build a fruit bat sanctuary where they can have their own little area of apples to enjoy. Twilight sees the logic of this plan, but Applejack insists that there is no time to build a sanctuary. If they don't do something now, her whole crop will be ruined.

Rainbow Dash can't stand the idea of a winter with no cider- she agrees with Applejack. They need to take care of this problem now. As for Rarity, she doesn't like the idea of so many "creepy bats" flying around Sweet Apple Acres.

Twilight suddenly remembers that she knows a magic spell that can quickly remove the Fruit Bats desire to eat apples. The spell actually makes bats prefer other kinds of fruit. All the ponies think that's a great idea.

The only problem is Twilight needs the bats full and complete attention in order to perform the spell. In order to get that, she needs Fluttershy to do her STARE on them. Fluttershy really doesn't want to do this. She doesn't want to interfere with nature. She thinks they should find a way to peacefully co-exist with the bats. Twilight thinks both friends have a point.

But Applejack and all the other ponies put the pressure on Fluttershy. Ultimately even Twilight thinks Fluttershy should help AJ saying, "Friends help each other and right now their friend, Applejack needs their help."

CLOSE ON FLUTTERSHY as she tries to decide what to do. She is torn between her desire to be a good friend and what she knows to be true in her heart. The pressure to make a decision builds as we END ACT I.

ACT TWO

5) EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES – PRESENT

BACK ON FLUTTERSHY as she finally succumbs to her friends pressure and agrees to do her STARE on the bats (although she doesn't look too happy with her decision.) The rest of the ponies CHEER. "First round of cider's on me!" shouts Rainbow Dash. "Hold it right there, we gotta round these beasts with wings up first. Time's awastin'!"

6) EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES – VARIOUS – BAT ROUND UP

Series of gags around the farm of the ponies trying to round up the bats.

- 1) Rainbow Dash bends back a tree and literally slingshots a group of bats toward AJ.
- 2) AJ puts an apple shaped bow in Pinkie Pie's hair. Pinkie Pie pops up here and there in the trees and soon she is leading a string of bats behind her, piper style.
- 3) Rarity dons a crazy huge "Outbreak" =style of protective gear. She knocks on bat out of a tree and it falls on her back. Rarity screams, "Ewww" as she runs back with the bat on her back. Etc...

7) EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES – LATER

With all the bats now rounded up, AJ tells Fluttershy it's time to do her STARE. Even though she clearly still has misgivings, Fluttershy does the STARE on the bats.

Twilight aims her horn toward the bats and performs the magic spell. Twilight thinks it worked. The bats no longer have any interest in the apples.

AJ breathes a sigh of relief - her crop has been saved. "We'll be drinking cider all winter long!" yells Rainbow Dash. AJ thanks her friends for their help.

8) EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES – THE NEXT MORNING

AJ is up bright and early again. She plans on doing a whole lot of apple bucking that day to make up for lost time. She bucks her first tree.

SMASH CUT TO AN APPLE, TURNING TO DUST. PULL OUT TO REVEAL

The ponies all gathered around it. They are all in shock. "The spell didn't work," says Pinkie Pie.

"Yer durn tootin' it didn't work!" says an even more upset Applejack.

"I say we take care of those bats once and for all!" yells Rainbow Dash. She leads a charge to where the bats last were, but stops short in her tracks when she spots the bats, all happily eating oranges and bananas.

The ponies realize that the bats can't be the culprits. "You mean there's somepony else poaching my apples."

"Somepony or something," answers Rainbow Dash.

"Well, there's only one way to find out," says Twilight.

9) EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES – LATER - SUNSET

The ponies, Spike and Granny Smith have gathered for the big stake out. When night falls they will be there to see just exactly who is sucking these apples dry.

Applejack has given each pony her own bat whistle and is assigned her own row of the orchard. The ponies split up and patrol the orchard.

We cut around to several of the ponies, looking for any signs of mischief. They look this way and that, getting more and more freaked out at the shadows and sounds of the orchard.

Suddenly, a WHISTLE BLOWS! All the ponies come running toward Applejack. On the ground, next to her, is a shadow of a HUGE BAT.

In unison all of the ponies and Spike and Granny Smith look up to the tree. Their jaws drop in unison too.

Hanging upside down from an apple tree is FLUTTERSHY! She has red eyes and bares a pair of fangs. Cue scary music sting!

ACT THREE**9) EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES – SAME TIME**

BACK ON THE PONIES staring up at the Fluttershy. She doesn't respond to their requests to come down from the tree. They feel horrible about what has happened to their friend. "Maybe Fluttershy was right," says Rarity, "Maybe we shouldn't have messed with nature."

Fluttershy stretches and spreads her wings which have started to transform into more bat-like wings. Pinkie Pie suddenly gets comically hysterical and runs in circles, screaming, "How could this have happened? Flutterbat on the loose! Flutterbat on the loose!"

"Flutterbat" simply re-folds her wings as Twilight calms Pinkie Pie down. Twilight realizes that this is their fault. Like a school teacher (or the Seinfeld episode where they traced the trajectory of Kramer's spit) Twilight uses her magic to draw a diagram in the air – showing how her spell must have backfired. The magic must have bounced off the Fruit Bats and gone into Fluttershy as she did her STARE.

As a result, Fluttershy is gradually turning more and more into a Vampire Fruit Bat. They must reverse the spell or they may lose their friend forever! Just then, Flutterbat spreads her wings and dive-bombs the ponies. "Hit the deck!" yells Rainbow Dash.

Flutterbat then flies off deeper into the orchard. The ponies go after her.

10) EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES – SOON AFTER

Applejack, Twilight, Rainbow Dash, Rarity, Spike, and Pinkie Pie search the orchard for Flutterbat. The scene takes on a spookier and spookier feel as the stealthy Flutterbat stalks her “apple prey”, moving from tree to tree and sucking the apples dry. Every time the ponies think they’ve got her, she disappears deeper into the orchard.

The friends are starting to lose faith that they’ll ever catch the Flutterbat. They need to find a way to lure her closer to them. But even if they manage to do that, how are they going to get the Flutterbat’s full and complete attention long enough so that Twilight can reverse the spell?

“If only we had Fluttershy to do her STARE on the Flutterbat,” says Pinkie Pie. “That’s it!” says Twilight.

11) EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES – LATER

The ponies are putting their plan into action. Applejack and Rainbow Dash roll out a giant apple as bait. Suddenly, Flutterbat comes swooping over, staring greedily at the apple, ready to take a huge bite. At the last second Applejack and Rainbow Dash kick the apple aside, revealing a mirror held by Pinkie Pie, Rarity and Spike.

Flutterbat STARES into the mirror at her own reflection STARING back at her. Twilight fires up her horn and Fluttershy remains focused long enough for her to perform the reverse spell and take the magic out of Flutterbat.

WE SEE Fluttershy return to normal and all of her friends surround her in happiness and relief.

12) EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES – THREE DAYS LATER

The ponies are putting the finishing touches on a brand new Vampire Fruit Bat sanctuary. And it only took three days to build.

Applejack concedes that at first she wasn’t too keen on the idea of giving over some of her land to a Vampire Fruit Bat sanctuary. But now that the fruit bats from the west orchard have moved over to the sanctuary as well, she can recover that land. “I’m confident that Ponyville can look forward to many more great apple seasons in the years to come.”

“Cider! Cider! Cider!” chants Rainbow Dash, flying around filling everypony’s cup.

In a heartfelt moment, AJ and the others apologiz to Fluttershy for pressuring her to do something she was never comfortable with. “I guess my short term solution was a little short sighted,” admits AJ. Fluttershy tells her friends that she should have held firmer to her beliefs.

Applejack offers Fluttershy a juicy red apple as a token of their “stronger than ever” friendship. Fluttershy says, “I’d love one.” She opens her mouth to take a bite and we see that she still has two small fangs.

FADE OUT.