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MY LITTLE PONY IV
"Bats!"
Episode 411
Written by: Amy Keating Rogers

Premise: July 17, 2012

BATS!

Premise by Amy Keating Rogers

Applejack wakes up in the morning, excited that today is Applebucking Day! And this year, the Apple Family Orchard has a bumper crop of apples that are going to outshine any other apples ever before! 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 takes a closer look at an apple and sees that its innards have been sucked out! Applejack eyes grow wide. She knows just what did this—Fruit Bats!

Calling all her pony friends into action, Applejack and the girls begin a “Fruit Bat Roundup” -- and gather up these troublesome creatures. (The fruit bats usually stay put in the West Orchard as seen in Episode 309, but every so many moons descend like locusts on the other sections of Sweet Apple Acres.) Once the fruit 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. And while the ponies agree that this is a great long-term solution, AJ fears that they don't have that kind of time. They've got to stop these Fruit Bats from eating the apples—now!

Twilight knows a magic spell that can quickly remove the Fruit Bats' desire to eat apples. All the ponies think this sounds like the best solution—except Fluttershy. The problem is Twilight needs Fluttershy to do her STARE on the Fruit Bats so she can perform the spell. Fluttershy really doesn't want to do this. But with the pressure of her friends weighing on her, she gives in. Fluttershy does her STARE, Twilight does the spell, and the Fruit Bats suddenly have no interest in the apples! Problem solved!

But the next morning, when Applejack goes to applebuck, more apples have been completely sucked dry! The ponies run to check on the Fruit Bats, but they are not the culprits. They are happy eating other fruits, paying no mind to every apple that is set before them. Everypony offers up their theory as to how this happened. We see their ideas, which range from the very logical (Twilight) to the incredibly outrageous (Pinkie Pie).

Since the culprit only hunts at night, the girls prepare for a stake out to capture this orchard attacker. Each of the ponies wanders her separate way, searching through the orchard. They look this way and that, getting more and more freaked out by the shadows and sounds in the orchard. But then suddenly, Applejack sees something truly horrifying. The shadow of a HUGE BAT! She screams for her friends to hurry over and when they do, all their jaws drop. Hanging from an apple tree is a gigantic...FRUIT BAT FLUTTERSHY!!

As the rabid, apple-eating Flutterbat hangs from the trees, the ponies realize that this is their fault. Somehow Fluttershy's STARE combined with Twilight's spell, giving Fluttershy all the ravenous Fruit Bat traits! But now they have to cure her! The ponies bat around about ideas on how they can cure Fluttershy. The trouble is that the pony that has the skills to help Fluttershy **is** Fluttershy! So they try to think of things that Fluttershy would do to help an animal in need. Using what they have learned from their friend, they finally cure Fluttershy, turning her back into her old pony self again. Fluttershy's friends apologize profusely, now realizing that their short-term solution was

also short sighted. Fluttershy takes some of the blame, as she should have been more adamant that she really did know best.