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MY LITTLE PONY 5

Flutteryshy's Nightmare Night

Episode

Written by: Dave Polsky

Premise: Oct. 11, 2013

FLUTTERSHY'S NIGHTMARE NIGHT

Premise by Dave Polsky

It's time for another Nightmare Night Festival in Ponyville, but this time the fear factor gets kicked up an extra notch: the traditional candy offering to Nightmare Moon at night's end will be held not in Ponyville but at Zecora's house deep in the dark of the Everfree Forest. Brave Everfree Forest on Equestria's scariest night... if you daaaaaare! And indeed the Mane 6 are rarin' to go for some good old holiday fun... well... most of them anyway. While the Mane 6 prepare for the big night, Fluttershy's hiding out in her house. This has always been her least favorite night of the year anyway, even in absence of this year's extra fear-boost. Though Fluttershy's attended before, she never makes it through the whole evening without something benign scaring her completely out of her wits, so this year she's decided to skip the event altogether. But somepony needs to run Zecora's vacated booth, so Fluttershy's friends - who feel the night would be incomplete without Fluttershy's participation - ask if Fluttershy would at least help with that until the march into the forest toward Zecora's house begins. Fluttershy's never tried running a Nightmare Night Festival booth before, so they argue that maybe this is the secret to her getting through the experience: if she's the one doing the "scaring," she'll be so busy with her duties that she'll have no time to think about being scared herself. Fluttershy's moved that her friends want so badly to have her involved, and agrees to give this a try.

Night falls and Fluttershy's on the job, doing her best to stay as busy as possible. But when ponies come to her booth to get scared, Fluttershy just can't bring herself to scare them. She either says "boo" in a teeny tiny soft voice, or begs ponies not to be scared after she "scares" them, or anxiously tries to make the "scaries" go away, or gives loads and loads of warning before giving a scare, etc... to the point that her booth becomes one big huge bummer and nopony wants to go. Unfortunately, the fewer the ponies attending her booth, the more time for Fluttershy's thoughts to fill her with worry and dread, and the more likely she'll have another mortifying cut-and-run episode. The Mane 6 worry that if she gives up on this Nightmare Night Festival, she may never attend one ever again! So the Mane 6 take action and try getting ponies to keep going even though they have no interest. When this plan runs out of steam, the friends make one more last-ditch effort: they'll keep disguising themselves in different costumes, pretending they're different ponies, and attend Fluttershy's booth one after the other (while Rarity works feverishly to keep the crazy costumes in fresh supply). But when this well-intended ruse goes haywire and gets accidentally exposed, Fluttershy's mortification is off the charts. The Mane Friends concede their plan was a perhaps "slightly flawed," but at least it's coming from a good place, right? They're just trying to keep Fluttershy involved because they'd miss her. Speechless, Fluttershy flees the scene.

But it turns out Fluttershy has not fled for home; rather she's gone to confer with her forest critter friends and unload how distraught she is over letting everypony down with her fretting. Not only to the forest critters listen sympathetically, but they even indicate they may have a plan to set things right. Meanwhile, the Mane Friends search throughout Ponyville for Fluttershy but she's nowhere to be found... and time has come for the climactic trek to Zecora's house.

So they set out as planned, but this trip into the Everfree Forest proves especially daunting for the Mane Friends as they're beset by one terror after another. These terrors are being perpetrated by forest critters who mean no harm - they're just trying to vindicate their friend Fluttershy by delivering some promised frightful fun on her behalf - but nopony else knows that! They think these are genuine scares, and they're all going half out of their minds!

Meanwhile, Fluttershy's sipping tea in Zecora's house, grateful to her critter friends for coming up with this win-win scenario, while Zecora wonders what the heck's taking everypony so long. When Zecora and Fluttershy go to check on where everypony is, they discover this well-intended plan of their own has gone haywire and the rest of Ponyville is hunkered down in the some remote part of the forest, afraid to flee and desperately trying to survive the night! Fluttershy then assumes the role of Unlikely Hero, clearing up the unfortunate misunderstanding. The night ends as planned in at Zecora's house, while everypony laughs at the how unexpectedly frightening the night turned out to be. Fluttershy inadvertently was behind the best Nightmare Night Festival in memory. The lesson: in friendships

there will always be misunderstandings and miscommunications, but as long as friends have the patience to sort it all out it's never anything to be afraid of.