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MY LITTLE PONY 5

What About Discord?

52#

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Outline: June 17, 2014

TEASER**SC. 1 - INT. CHARIOT – DAY**

PRINCESS TWILIGHT and SPIKE ride back from Canterlot towards Ponyville in Twilight's new CHARIOT. They just spent an extended period of time working with Celestia in Canterlot and are excited to get back to Ponyville and their friends. Twilight happily makes a list of all the things she wants to do with the Mane 6 when she gets back, including sharing with them the shipment of new books that she has coming in from Canterlot later. Spike pitches his own silly/terrible ideas as they arrive back at Twilight's castle. Just then, two blurs zip through air sky above. Spike and Twilight get off the Chariot to get a better look.

SC. 2 - EXT. PONYVILLE – SAME

Twilight and Spike watch the two blurs fly all over town like two heat seeking missiles. Twilight squints, "Is that Rainbow Dash being chased by... Discord?" As if to answer the question, the blurs come to stop: It is Rainbow Dash and Discord! And Discord has Dash cornered! Spike covers his eyes, "He's back to his old ways!" But it's even worse than Spike could have imagined. Discord holds his claw up towards Rainbow Dash. Twilight flies over with her horn glowing. "I don't know what you're planning, Discord, but it doesn't look good!" Dash's face falls. What is Twilight doing? Discord gently taps RD on the shoulder. "Tag, you're it!" Rainbow Dash laughs "Oh you!" and chases him into the sky. They disappear into the heavens, leaving Twilight a little confused, "What happened while I was in Canterlot?"

END TEASER**MAIN TITLES****ACT 1****SC. 3 - INT. CAROUSEL BOUTIQUE – DAY**

Pinkie, Fluttershy and Applejack assist Rarity in making a GORGEOUS, but bizarrely proportioned jacket. While they're hard at work, Twilight is filling them in on the weird thing she witnessed, "And they were flying around laughing and joking, not that don't I like Discord, he's a wonderful... um, ally..." Applejack looks up from her work, "we all like him, Twilight. We like him a lot." Twilight *totally* agrees, but don't they find this a *little* weird? Rainbow Dash has always simply tolerated Discord, and now they're best buddies?

Just then, laughter fills the boutique, followed by Discord and Rainbow Dash entering in hysterics. Twilight points to the laughter as proof of the weirdness, but the other ponies are too busy saying hello to Discord to notice. Rainbow Dash stops laughing long enough to yell, "Peanutbutter feet!" Everypony but Twilight cracks up. Did she miss some inside joke? From the other random things the ponies are laughing at with Discord, it looks like she missed quite a few.

She realizes Everypony has become close with Discord. Everypony but her. And to top it off, they present Discord with the new jacket Rarity just finished in the nick of time with the help of the other ponies. Rarity looks to Twilight, "I'm making one for you next... right after I finish a few more pieces I promised to Discord."

SC. 4 - EXT. TRAIN STATION – DAY

Twilight double-checks with the train station attendant to make sure her shipment of books will arrive on time. She cannot wait to get them on her shelves. She tells Spike about her experience with Discord and her friends. It just doesn't make sense that they would all be sooooo close now. Spike thinks she must be over-reacting. They probably aren't that close.

SC. 5 - INT. SUGARCUBE CORNER – DAY

Discord and the ponies feast on treats. And even though Discord is POUNDING DOWN all the cakes in the store, everybody just finds it funny. "Classic Discord!" Spike and Twilight share a look, weird. Twilight, who hasn't touched her dessert, encourages the ponies and Discord to share how they all become so close over the last few days, but nobody seems to remember any exact details.

They share obscure snippets about things TS missed, like "The apple balancing fiasco" and "Discord and Pinkie's cake duel." As she backs away to talk to Spike about this new development, we watch the ponies and Discord do a complicated synchronized hoofshake that must have taken hours to learn...

SC. 6 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE – LATER

Twilight is in front of a blackboard. Class is in session and Spike is the student. "As the Princess of Friendship, I've got to figure out how and why they're getting along so well..." Spike chimes in, "Cause you're jealous?" But, haha, that's not what Twilight's thinking at all, "If we know why they're *such* good friends now, we can help even the most unlikely of ponies become best friends. Solving this mystery could change friendship forever!!"

Like something out of 'A Beautiful Mind' or 'Good Will Hunting,' Twilight maps out a complex equation on the board (that barely makes any sense). "If they spent three hours apple bucking and Discord hung out with RD for an unknown period of time, then to find X, I must subtract the times Discord tried to break up our friendship and take over Ponyville multiplied by the time he meant well at the Grand Galloping Gala..."

Spike looks at the scribbles: "you forgot to carry the 2." Twilight's relieved, "No wonder it didn't make sense! Thank you, Spike!" At the very bottom of her blackboard of scribbles and bizarre numbers, she finally writes the equal sign and circles her scribbles, which, stepping back, is revealed to look like a drawing of Discord with his arms around her friends. "There's got to be something we forgot to include in the equation, right Twilight?"

Twilight starts working out a backstory with Spike. Discord must have gone "above and beyond" to make the rest of the Mane 6 his best buddies. He's used tactics like this in the past... Spike agrees it's a possibility, but what tactic? Twilight rules out threats and bribes, and then it comes to her -- he put the ponies under a spell to force them to like him so much. "And if that's the case, I'm nervous it could hurt my friends. Under that spell who knows what kind of bad decisions they'll make in an effort to maintain their bond with Discord!" Spike agrees, "We've got to break the spell!!"

END ACT 1**ACT 2****SC. 7 - EXT. EVERFREE FOREST – DAY**

Twilight and Spike make their way through the trees, arriving outside Zecora's hut.

SC. 8 - INT. ZECORA'S HUT – CONTINUOUS

While Zecora throws all sorts of bizarre and gross stuff into a new potion she's concocting, Twilight explains the situation. Zecora hints that maybe it's fine that the ponies are under the spell. Nothing bad has happened yet. Who is to say bonding with Discord is wrong, spell or not? Besides, with the ponies and Discord a new group of best friends, maybe Spike and Twilight will have more time to hang out with lonely old Zecora. She offers for them to stay over, do they want any soup? But the soup is CLEARLY the potion with all the gross stuff. "Potion or soup, it's can't possibly be that bad/would you hurt my feelings and say it's the worst you've had?"

Spike takes the bullet and politely drinks the disgusting soup/spell and smiles. He's even good about the fifth and sixth legs that sprout out of his body... Satisfied, Zecora gives them a potion to undo any forced friendship. Twilight's so pumped, "let's go!" Spike smiles and points at his legs, like, um, what about these? "Spike, do not cower/they will be gone in an hour."

SC. 9 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE – LATER

Twilight's glad the Mane 6 are happily together again. They all agree-- they totally missed her this past weekend. Pinkie pulls a cord and tons of confetti and pours down on Twilight! They love her so much! And she loves them too, "but just one last thing before we party... it's so not a big deal, but..." would they mind drinking this potion to break Discord's spell on them?

The ponies giggle, she's kidding right? Discord's their friend, same as Twilight. Should they drink a potion to escape Twilight's friendship? Of course they wouldn't, so they're not doing that for Discord either. Twilight figured they would say that, that's what ponies under spells always say... Twilight pressures them, the only reason they wouldn't drink the potion is if they know in their hearts that Discord does have them under his power. If not, what's the risk?

RD takes her challenge and guzzles it down. The other ponies join in—Pinkie's only drinking it cause it kind of looks delicious. Twilight's so relieved. Her friends are saved! Then FS realizes they're late for their shopping excursion with Discord. Twilight and Spike share a look, hmmm...

SC. 10 - EXT. PONYVILLE MARKETPLACE – LATER

The ponies push through the crowd. They find Discord, arguing with a vendor over the price of vegetables. Twilight can't help but remark he seems a little feisty. Evil even... But when he sees the Mane 6, he happily pays the full price and apologizes to the seller – he was taking out his worries over the Mane 6's lateness on her. He was worried something happened to his friends! Rarity gives him a big hug, "Don't worry my precious jewel, we're right here for you."

Spike looks to Twilight, "Okay! Now this is getting ridiculous!" Twilight agrees but suggests that maybe the potion hasn't kicked in yet? But when they look over, the other ponies and Discord are lined up in a back-rubbing chain with Discord at the back (nobody is rubbing him), "With my friends, I'm a giver more than a receiver."

As Twilight takes in the sight, she tries to remain calm (if a little zany eyed), "I guess it's not a trick. Discord and my friends are just really, really close now." As she finishes speaking, her eye twitches and Spike looks at her a little worried.

SC. 11- INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE – LIBRARY – LATER

The new shipment of books has arrived for the castle's library! She tries to relax to start her organizing, but she's still a little twitchy from her interactions with Discord and her friends. KNOCK. KNOCK. It's Discord with the other ponies behind him. He's here to help her organize all those books! And he convinced the other ponies to come help. Twilight's a little confused, how could he possibly know she was gonna do this? Discord is hurt, a good friend always knows. He gives her a warm smile, "Besides, organizing is kinda my thing."

Twilight blinks, hoping what she just heard was simply a misunderstanding. But nope, the words bounce around her head in slow motion, haunting her. Then the images from the first half of the episode appear again, distorted and creepy: The laughing at inside jokes, the hoofshakes, the backrub chain. Twilight shakes it off, getting back to reality, “I’m pretty sure organization and books are MY thing. I’m famous for it. No offense.”

But Discord is offended, next Twilight is gonna claim he doesn’t like apple bucking or sewing fancy dresses either.

Twilight can’t believe her ears. “YOU DON’T LIKE ANY OF THOSE THINGS!”

And that’s when she lets out what’s been building the entire episode: “Your friendship with my friends couldn’t have happened in a weekend. Things don’t just change over night!” Discord is confused, where is this coming from? Doesn’t she trust him? But before she can respond, Applejack speaks for the ponies, “It wasn’t over night, Discord rejoining society has been a process, and we’ve been a part of that process. So have you, Twilight. We’ve been bonding with Discord for months...”

Discord sees the frustration on Twilight’s face. Before she can yell at AJ, he clamps his hand over her mouth.

“Twilight, I don’t want you to say something to your best friends that you’ll regret. Why don’t you take a break? The pressure of all that organizing is getting to you. I can do it for you.” The rest of the ponies commend Discord for offering to do something so thoughtful. Organizing really is his thing after all. This pushes Twilight over the edge. “IT’S MY THING! ORGANIZING IS MY THING!!” The ponies exchange glances—has Twilight gone insane???

END ACT 2

ACT 3

SC. 12 - INT. TWILIGHT’S CASTLE – SAME

From the way the ponies are looking at Twilight, she can tell she came off a bit harsh and over the top... but it’s a bit too late for apologies at this point. Rainbow Dash: “Maybe we should just let you cool off for a while.” The ponies and Discord leave, heading to Discord’s for a home cooked dinner. The moment they’re gone, Twilight grabs Spike and pulls him close. “Do you see what’s happening? He’s trying to drive us apart. He’s gone FULL ON DISCORD! We’ve got to stop him!!

SC. 13 - INT. TWILIGHT’S CASTLE – MOMENTS LATER

They’re back at the blackboard. Twilight is frantically writing out a new equation. But this time she’s not even writing numbers. It’s the scribbling of intense paranoia. She walks Spike through her mess. She understands that Discord and her friends are genuinely bonded. Spike: “Yay for friendship!” Twilight: “No! Isn’t it all so clear now, Spike?” Discord bonded with her friends to separate them. Which means he’s keeping her isolated so he can pull off some awful plan to take over Equestria!

Spike’s confused, if this his plan, why is Twilight circling a heart around a scribble drawing of Discord? “The only way to defeat him is to remain close with my buddies. And to do that, I need to be BEST FRIENDS WITH DISCORD!!!”

SC. 14 - EXT. CHAOSVILLE – ESTABLISHING - DAY

SC. 15 - INT. DISCORD'S HOUSE – SAME

In his quaint, lovely home, Discord, now wearing the finished outfit Rarity made, puts down his teakettle to answer the door. It's Twilight. She's a little too happy to see Discord! It's unnerving. Discord brings her into the dining room, where we see the other ponies mid-dinner party. "Uh, Discord, did you forget our super bestie double secret hoofshake?" Twilight grabs Discord and **AGGRESSIVELY** does a hoofshake, manhandling his body to help him do this **CLEARLY IMPROVISED** hoofshake. "Like I always say, Twilight and Discord forever!" The other ponies are sooo wierded out. Why is she being so aggressive?

The girls don't feel it's genuine and they call Twilight out. Why is she trying to be close to him? But Discord sides with Twilight. "She likes me, for real." Fluttershy breaks the bad news, "No Discord, Twilight's trying to trick you. She's up to something..."

And that's the straw that breaks the pony's back. Twilight flips out. "ME?! YOU THINK I'M THE ONE WHO IS UP TO SOMETHING?! WHAT IS GOING ON? UP IS DOWN! LEFT IS RIGHT! NOTHING MAKES SENSE!" As she loses it, her magic goes out of control – *chaotic* even. Seeing her fully losing it -- WHAM, the girls **TACKLE HER** before she can cause too much damage.

SC. 16 - INT. TWILIGHT'S HOUSE – LATER

Twilight wakes up in her bed. Was it all a bad dream? Nope. Hovering over her are the rest of the Mane 6, Spike and... Discord. Twilight tells Discord that he's won. She can't figure out what he did to turn her friends against her, but it worked. The rest of the Mane 6 tell Twilight that they haven't turned against her. They're still as close as ever. She's just been acting really, really strange since she returned from Canterlot.

Twilight apologizes for her behavior. She just doesn't understand what happened while she was gone to change the dynamic between Discord and the rest of her friends, and she really isn't sure how she's supposed to be a part of this new special bond. Applejack thinks she knows what has changed. "You forgave Discord just like we all did, but it's clear that deep down you've been expecting him to mess up again. You forgave him, but you never forgot."

Fluttershy agrees; she was the first to truly forget Discord's past sins, that's why she was able to form such a strong bond with him from the start. The rest of the Mane 6 can't really explain what happened while Twilight was gone to make them decide to forget Discord's past transgressions, but they did. And doesn't she agree that they are all better for it? Twilight does agree and vows to also put the past behind her. Always anticipating Discord causing a problem only keeps her from becoming even better friends with him. And it could discourage him from continuing to *be* a better friend.

Discord is thrilled to hear this and shows Twilight the complicated hoof-shake he and the rest of the Mane 6 have been doing together. As he does so, he comments, that he can't believe Twilight thought his bonding with her friends while she was away was some evil plot to drive them apart. Though he has to admit that it would be a pretty ingenious idea. Twilight reads the mischievous look on his face, looks a hair nervous, but then takes a deep breath, and lets it go.

FADE OUT.