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MY LITTLE PONY 5

Going Gaga

52#

Premise by: Meghan McCarthy

Premise: June 17th, 2014

GOING GAGA (Temp Title)
Premise by Meghan McCarthy

Sweet Apple Acres is hosting the Pony version of Coachella and the headliner is the hottest new pony pop singer in Equestria, Duchess Frivolity. Everyone is thrilled that Duchess Frivolity will be appearing at Pone-chella, but no one more than Applejack. The two became good friends at summer camp many years ago and Applejack hasn't seen her in ages. Last time she did, Duchess went by her given name, Daisy Whimsical. Daisy was the one who wrote and performed the song that became the theme for camp that summer. Applejack isn't surprised she's found success; she's a major talent. But when Duchess Frivolity arrives in Ponyville to rehearse for the big concert, she's definitely not the down-to-earth Earth pony Applejack remembers. Duchess' new over-the-top look and sound don't make a lick of sense to Applejack, but she chalks it up to not being on top of the latest trends. Something Rarity agrees with whole-heartedly.

Since Pone-chella is being held at Sweet Apple Acres, it falls on Applejack to help make sure the artists appearing at the event's needs are met. Applejack wants her friend to have a successful show, but Duchess seems to have a never-ending list of increasingly bizarre requests. Requests that her entourage (including her particularly sycophantic manager) agree are of the utmost importance. Applejack can't make heads or tails of why anypony would need 100 stuffed frogs to have a successful concert, but again chalks it up to it being part of a modern musical art-form that this down-home pony just doesn't understand.

But as Applejack observes Duchess Frivolity with her manager and hangers-on, she realizes that she doesn't have to understand what the fillies are listening to today to know that her friend has surrounded herself with ponies that don't really have her best interests at heart. These ponies aren't saying "yes" to Duchess Frivolity because they know more about the fashion and music scene than Applejack does. They are saying "yes" because they don't want to risk being booted from her entourage and losing out on the privileges that come with it. Applejack decides that it's her job as a good friend to make Duchess aware of this. Alas, Duchess isn't quick to believe what Applejack has told her. Applejack suggests they put her theory to the test by having Duchess tell her manager that she wants do something so completely ridiculous that it would put out, and possibly anger, some of the locals in Ponyville.

After watching her "friends" agree with her latest and most absurd decision, Duchess realizes that Applejack is right. She dismisses her manager and the rest of her entourage and asks Applejack for her honest opinion about the plans she's made for the show. Applejack tells Duchess that she's the wrong pony to ask, she doesn't know much about spectacle; she's always just been a fan of watching somepony with talent sing. Duchess admits that some of her latest ideas have gotten out-of-hand. She started out just wanting to be a little different so she could set herself apart, but has perhaps taken things a little too far. It didn't help that she didn't have anypony around to tell her when enough was enough.

In the end, Duchess Frivolity decides to lose the crazy sets and costumes and perform a stripped down version of her hit song. The concert is a success and Duchess thanks her friend Applejack for looking out for her. She doesn't have any interest in becoming her new manager does she? Applejack rejects the offer, but is certain Duchess Frivolity knows what criteria to look for in somepony else.