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MY LITTLE PONY 5

Changing of the Guard

5##

Story by: Mitchell Larson

Premise: January. 24th, 2014

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

Premise by Mitchell Larson

Princess Twilight Sparkle is finally doing something Celestia and Spike have been urging her to do for ages: she is interviewing potential guards. As royalty, she needs to face the fact that guards will be a part of her life. She is uncomfortable with the process, but understands the reason for it.

Applejack stops by with a request. Big McIntosh has always harbored a secret desire to live the exciting life of the royal guard. “Really? I never knew that about him.” Applejack says there’s a lot that ponies don’t know about Big Mac. “But what about the farm?” Applejack replies she has talked to Braeburn and he’s willing to move to Ponyville and help out if it will allow Big Mac to live his dream. Applejack doesn’t realize the uncomfortable position she is putting her friend in, and is thrilled when Twilight hesitantly agrees.

At first, Big McIntosh is a stellar guard. He is conscientious and unobtrusive and always able to anticipate Twilight’s needs. She is thrilled with how this has worked out. But it soon becomes clear that he’s just a bit *too* conscientious. She can’t go anywhere, even a friendly lunch with Rarity or stroll with Fluttershy, without him RIGHT THERE. She wants to be normal old Twilight, but he won’t let anypony near her. She finally flies away from him just to get a moment’s peace. “I’ve never been so grateful for these wings.”

Twilight begins using Fluttershy, Rainbow Dash, Pinkie Pie, and Rarity as “guards” against her guard. They throw Big Mac off the scent so Twilight can try to get through her day without him always right behind her. Applejack discovers what’s going on and is completely devastated. She turns in Big Mac’s uniform, saying that what Twilight did is just plain not nice. Heartbroken, she returns to the farm with her humiliated brother.

Twilight feels horrible. Big Mac may have been annoying, but he was only trying to do the right thing. She goes to Sweet Apple Acres to apologize, but instead finds her life in danger when one of Braeburn’s “shortcuts” leads to an avalanche of cider barrels. Just as she’s about to be flattened, Big Mac heroically rushes in to save her.

She apologizes to Applejack and Big Mac. She knows now that she should have been upfront and honest with her friend from the start and admitted that hiring Big Mac made her uneasy. Now that she’s seen him in action, however, she’d love to have him back. But Big Mac has had his fill of adventure and is ready to get back to the farm life. And after seeing how lazy Braeburn is, Applejack is only too happy to have her big brother back.