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MY LITTLE PONY 5

Changing of the Guard

5##

Written by: Dave Polsky

Premise Revised: April 01, 2014

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

Premise Revised by Dave Polsky

It's family dinner at the Apples, and Applejack regales her kin with tales of her recent adventures. The family loves hearing about it, but Applejack's enjoyment in sharing her exploits with the family dampens because of how it stands in contrast to the relatively unadventurous life of her brother Big Mac. Later, while working on the farm side-by-side with Big Mac, Applejack wonders if Big Mac has maybe resigned himself because of lack of opportunity. If Applejack could generate some opportunity for something new and different and adventurous for him, he might be game, right? Big Mac thinks this over and finally responds: "Eeyup." Applejack's on the case!

Applejack's search for a close-to-home adventure (baby steps!) leads her to Twilight and the castle... and realizing that Twilight is a Princess who STILL doesn't have a guard presents just the opportunity to fix two overdue situations in one fell swoop. Applejack gets Twilight to agree that having a guard might be a good thing, and Big Mac sounds like a perfectly good one. Applejack races off to deliver the good news. Soon, Big Mac gets oriented to his new guard duties by Spike and Twilight, with Applejack there encouraging Big Mac every step of the way. Everyone agrees that maybe Applejack needs to back off and let Big Mac take it from here... and Applejack takes the hint and goes. Big Mac does his best to navigate the new situation... and becomes super conscientious about it. He seems unable to take a hint, so he needs to be given extremely explicit instructions... and then he takes those instructions so literally it becomes annoying. Twilight isn't sure this is working out, but can't bring herself to let him go, as she fears that doing so will affect her relationship with Applejack. Big Mac sticks with it as long as he can, but he's no fool and eventually sees how much he is frustrating Twilight and quits.

When Applejack finds out that Big Mac has left his guard gig to return to the farm, she's upset: this can't be right. She goes to see Twilight and set things straight. Back at the Castle, Applejack's tries so hard to get Twilight and Big Mac to give things one more try that she becomes the frantic one. It seems she's the one who wants this to work more than anypony... more than Big Mac, and more than Twilight. Twilight finally draws this to everypony's attention, and Applejack must now stop and reflect. The truth comes out: Applejack feels embarrassed to be sharing her big adventures with the family; she's afraid that it makes Big Mac feel bad. Ultimately, in a poignant monologue that surprises everyone, Big Mac tells Applejack that he has never been jealous of his younger sister's exciting life, but worries that she's embarrassed to have a not-so-exciting big brother -- that's what motivated her to try and get him a more important role in Equestria. His desire to make Applejack proud was the reason he stuck with the guard gig for as long as he did, even when it was obvious from the start that he wasn't the right pony for the job. Applejack quickly quells these fears and says that she doesn't care what role Big Mac plays in Equestria, he plays an important role in her life and she has always considered him an amazing Big Brother.