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MY LITTLE PONY 5

Fillydelphia Ragtime

2nd Map Episode

5##

Written by: M .A. Larson

Premise: February 27, 2014

FILLYDELPHIA RAGTIME

Premise by M .A. Larson

The map is a-callin', and this time it's Rarity and Applejack who are summoned. Rarity is thrilled that they'll be going to the bustling metropolis of Fillydelphia! Applejack is nonchalant. She's been there lots of times since she sells a percentage of every cider season's output to her friends who run the local Fillydelphia restaurants. When they arrive, Rarity is utterly charmed by the town, but neither pony knows quite what to do about their mission. Everypony seems happy and the city is bustling. But when they notice a huge crowd forming, they discover that they've arrived on election day! And – surprise! – the winner is the newly minted MAYOR FLAM!

As his first order of business, he is outlawing cider! With all his snake-oil-salespony charm, he has convinced half the town of the horrors of cider. He has seen with his own two eyes how cider can pit pony against pony! For Fillydelphia's own good, cider must go! And in its place? A potato-based alternative beverage called True Spud. Half the town cheers, the other half grumbles. But Applejack sees red when she sees her restaurant owner friends up on stage with Flam. She has known and worked with them for years, knows their families and their businesses, and now they're joining this huckster to outlaw cider?

As Applejack goes off to meet with the lone holdout amongst her restaurant friends, Rarity is approached by an aide to the new mayor. Hizzonor recognized her in the crowd and wants to see her. She suspects Flam is somehow related to the friendship problem, so she flatters and compliments him to try to get to the bottom of what's going on. She becomes a flapper-dress-wearing femme fatale, infiltrating Fillydelphia's high society while standing by Flam's side.

Applejack, meanwhile, is crushed to learn that her old friends are hitching their wagons to Flam because he is flashy and popular and they think they can get something out of this access to power. These were business partners, sure, but they were also real friends. And now they have thrown her overboard for a false friendship that might improve their status. She is genuinely hurt. And so, as Rarity works the halls of power looking for clues to Flam's motives, Applejack starts sneaking cider into town. Most Fillydelphians are thrilled to have their cider back – they never saw what the problem was – but some have bought Flam's lies hook, line, and sinker and are True Spud true believers. The once peaceful town is being ripped apart at the seams.

Eventually, at a high-powered society dinner with all the town's elites, Rarity discovers that the mysterious force behind True Spud is none other than Flim! The brothers are working both sides to drive the Apple Family out of Fillydelphia to make room for their potato product! Applejack, meanwhile, uses this information to convince her old friends that they have been behaving badly. They have abandoned their wholesome principles, and treated a good friend poorly, all so they could make themselves feel more important. They realize they have been nothing more than social climbers, and it's never worth it to climb if it means you have to step on a friend. They agree to sell cider again! Flim and Flam, meanwhile, are run out of town on the rails, peace is restored to Fillydelphia, and a small sapling grows in the town square.