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MY LITTLE PONY 6

“Unfriendly Competition”

610

Outline by: Nick Confalone

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THEME: Can ponies compete and still be friends at the same time?” Through the story, Rarity gains a more nuanced understanding of competition and friendship.

TEASER

SC. 1 - EXT. MANEHATTAN – DAY

Establishing this marvelous touchstone of Pony urbanization. It hustles. It bustles. It’s GREAT!

SC. 2 - EXT. SADDLE ROW – DAY

Rarity leads the Mane 6 down the most exclusive street for fashion boutiques in the city. She frets over tonight’s soft open (a “pre-grand-opening” concept she repeatedly explains to Rainbow Dash, who still doesn’t understand why a store would open twice). Rarity feels like the shops here are all so big and fancy and PERFECT. This is more than a street... this is fashion headquarters for all of Equestria. Saddle Row is more than an address. Saddle Row is an IDEA. She points out three famous designer’s stores: “There’s **Slip Stich**’s boutique. Look at those hemlines, I could never come up with something like that.” She finds similar things to be awed by with two other stores. Oh, she hopes her place will be ready. Pinkie Pie remarks, “Yeah, it was kind of a junkheap when Maude and I saw it. Oh. I’m not helping. Sorry.” They arrive at Rarity’s storefront. RY: “Well, I did my best.” She opens the door and flicks on the lights—IT IS AMAZING IN EVERY WAY. The others laugh and reassure her. They’re pretty sure everything’s gonna be fine.

END TEASER

MAIN TITLES

ACT ONE

SC. 3 - INT. RARITY’S BOUTIQUE – LATER

A flurry of activity as the Mane 6 prepare for the soft opening under the direction of a micromanaging Rarity. For example, she tells Pinkie Pie, “no confetti please.” – PP: “Sure thing.” – BOOM! A hidden confetti cannon goes off – PP: “ahem. Starting now.” (etc, with every pony: Applejack is in charge of food. Rainbow Dash will be the bouncer. Fluttershy and Twilight Sparkle are going to pretend they don’t know Rarity and say things like, “wow I love these designs!” in front of other ponies). Once again, they all assure Rarity that it’s all going to be great.

THE TIME HAS COME! Finally, the doors open, and Prim Hemline leads the guests. She catches up with Rarity: Coco Pommel sends her regards, but she’s busy with her own stuff, which makes Rarity very happy. It reinforces what she wants to believe: Suri was an aberration. It doesn’t have to be a pony eat pony world out there (although Rarity is clear: nopony’s taking advantage of her generosity this time!). Instead, Rarity is looking forward to this exciting community of TRUE artists. Prim’s outlook is less rosy: yes, this is a community, but designers feed off each other for inspiration. She wishes Rarity good luck, adding the slightly ominous warning that winning a competition is a great first step, but surviving in the fashion industry is a day to day struggle. Prim: “Say what you like about Suri, and I don’t support what she did, but she has what it takes to make it in the city.” Rarity scoffs: she will never be like Suri. It doesn’t have to be that way. Friends can compete and still be friends.

Then all eyes go to the front door, where Rarity meets THREE FAMOUS DESIGNER PONIES FROM SADDLE ROW. They are:

SLIP STITCH – Always wears black. He is hardcore into fashion, the way straightedge kids are hardcore. “Fashion 4 Lyfe.” He’s pierced, tatted, gruff, a bit scary... but speaks in a gentle Mike-Tyson-esque voice, even when he’s saying tough-guy things (about fashion).

BLUE BOBBIN – Sweet filly who tells it like it is with colorful language, but always in a very supportive way. “It looks like somepony threw up rainbow gumdrops, but if anypony can make it work, it’s you.”

SEERSUCKER BEAUREGARD – A folksy southern designer (Voice, think: non-stuttering Foghorn Leghorn). He tends to love everything he sees, no matter how ridiculous.

Rarity tries to play it cool, but these designers are her HEROES! They tell her they've seen her work in Canterlot, which Rarity finds SUPER flattering. Rarity is at her most nervous (and thus funniest), babbling and using words so big they may not exist. They tell her that every new designer on Saddle Row makes them all better. Rarity agrees! Most importantly, each of the three designers compliments on her on a specific element in her designs. E.g., Blue Bobbin loves how Rarity “contrasts crinoline over tweed to make that shimmering effect.” Blue Bobbin never would have thought to try something like that! Rarity is pleased. When Rarity has a free moment, she sums up the night to her friends: it's everything she'd ever dreamed.

SC. 4 - EXT. SADDLE ROW – THE NEXT DAY

It's early in the morning. Rarity walks down the empty Saddle Row. She's “carrying” several bolts of fabric she got down at the docks. She loves getting up before everyone else and experiencing the magic of Saddle Row by herself.

A SONG! Similar to her walk down Saddle Row in the TEASER, this time Rarity sings about all her hopes for the future, with visions of how she and her three new legendary designer best friends are going to change the world together. They won't let competition get in the way of being friends. Sure, she knows the city can be a rough place, but if they stick together, they can do it! All her dreams are coming true!

The song comes to a screeching end when... Rarity sees Blue Bobbin's boutique and notices the dress in the window is new... and it's got Rarity's crinoline-tweed combo that Blue Bobbin “liked” so much. Slip Stitch's boutique? Seersucker Leghorn? THEY'VE EACH STOLEN ONE OF HER IDEAS! Rarity reflects on her so-called friends: “They said every new designer on Saddle Row makes us better. THIS IS WHAT THEY MEANT?!”

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SC. 5 - INT. HOTEL ROOM – MORNING

The other Mane 6 are fast asleep when BOOM—Rarity bursts through door in full drama-queen Rarity freak-out mode. “BETRAYAL!” She flops onto the bed, hyperbolically lamenting the end of the world. Her friends tell her to slow down and start at the beginning. Rarity explains what happened. (NOTE: we really hang a lantern on her previous lessons at this point. She knew to watch out for ponies like Suri, but this was supposed to be different! This isn't Rarity's fault—this is Manehattan competition chewing her up and spitting her out.) She laments, wondering if she should have expanded beyond Canterlot and come to this awful place. But at the same time, she doesn't want to give up her dream... Oh, what to do!? The official GRAND OPENING is coming up and she's at a loss.

Her friends offer different kinds of advice: Twilight urges her to talk to those designers, tell them how she feels and see what they say. Pinkie Pie can't fathom cancelling the grand opening: “we already have balloons!” Most importantly, Rainbow Dash and Applejack remind her what Prim said: running a business is a competition. “And now you're speakin' our language.” They tell her it's not personal, it's just business. Rarity knows that; she's been in competitions before, she just doesn't want it to be her whole life! She doesn't want to lose friends over it. Twilight and Fluttershy come around to RD and AJ's point of view. Soon, everypony is urging Rarity to take their advice and get back in there: don't be afraid to compete with them! Rarity agrees: “If they don't want to be friends, then let the competition begin!” She asks RD and AJ to take her under their wing and teach her everything they know.

SC. 6 - INT. RARITY'S BOUTIQUE – LATER

Rainbow Dash and Applejack prep Rarity, while the others prepare the boutique for the public Grand Opening. RD and AJ: “You gotta get in their heads.” – “We're not saying play dirty... you just don't have to play... clean.” They're going to help make sure not only does she have a Grand Opening, but that she has the best one of all time. And it'll show those other designers that Rarity can compete with them. How? By using their designs, just like they used hers. (And meanwhile, TS, FS, and PP will get the shop into shape for the best Opening ever!)

INTERCUT THESE TWO IDEAS:

Rarity, RD, and AJ doing “fashion espionage,” while the others prepare for the opening.

Scenes prepping for opening:

- 1) PP will be the DJ.
- 2) FS is gonna be the “barker,” twirling a sign out front. (The quietest barker of all time.)
- 3) They hate to say it, but somepony should make guests feel bad about the clothes they’re wearing now, so they want to buy Rarity’s stuff. TS worries it might be going a bit far... but if it’s for Rarity, she’s give it a shot... (but maybe she won’t... she doesn’t know... oh what to do!!?)

Espionage!

1) Rarity, Rainbow Dash, and Applejack put on disguises and sneak into Blue Bobbin’s workshop. They see the new designs and get to work copying them. At her workshop, Rarity whips out the designs, proud she’s beat Blue Bobbin to the punch, until she sees BB put up new clothing in her window... and it’s completely different! She changed her mind! Dah! Frustrated, Rarity throws the “useless clothes” into a pile.

2) Rarity bursts into her boutique after going on a solo mission to infiltrate Slip Stich’s shop. She dumps out a basket filled with buttons. “He’s doing something with buttons!” (RD and AJ are proud of her.) So Rarity sews buttons onto the “useless” Blue Bobbin clothing she made. But then she looks over to Stich’s window and sees— ZIPPERS! DAH! Rarity begins to crack.

3) Seersucker Beauregard is doing a whole line of southern-gentleman Bow-Ties, which Rarity adds to her hodgepodge of clothing, ready to copy him before he even knows he’s being copied, but just like the others... now he’s using ASCOTS! Noooooo! Rarity’s frustration has reached a boiling point.

SC. 7 - INT. RARITY’S BOUTIQUE – LATER

The Grand Opening is tonight. The shop is looking great, but Rarity’s failure-driven drama-queen side has completely taken over. Her friends tell her it’s gonna be fine, it’s time to buckle down and focus on her own stuff. But Rarity can’t do it: as long as her competition is still around, the grand opening is meaningless! DON’T THEY UNDERSTAND?! AJ and RD try to talk her down, but Rarity tells them she’s planned out 17 other ways to BEAT THEM. “Number 9: it would be a shame if a goat got loose in their stores and ate all the fabric.” And with that, Rarity hurries off into the night. Everypony looks to RD and AJ, who sheepishly admit... “we may have created a monster.”

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

SC. 8 - INT. RARITY’S BOUTIQUE – THE GRAND OPENING!

Grand opening in progress. Ponies mill about, checking out Rarity’s new stuff. No pony has seen Rarity since she ran off. They’re worried. AJ and RD especially... this is all their fault. They’re able to compete and stay friends... but they didn’t pass this lesson along to Rarity. They hope she isn’t making a big mistake! CUT TO: a big mistake in progress.

SC. 9 - EXT. MANEHATTAN DOCKS – NIGHT

The docks. Seedy warehouses abound. Rarity leads her three designer friends, passing hastily made signs that say “Rarity Boutique opening, THIS WAY!” She’s nervously babbling, so excited to show them her avant-guard boutique. The high-brow designers are confused, but impressed: “I think a grand opening on a ship is a bold statement.” That’s right, agrees Rarity. She ushers them up a gangplank onto a CARGO SHIP. They’re confused, but Rarity assures them she’ll be right behind them. The gangway retracts and FOGHORN... the ship sails off, leaving Rarity alone on the docks. She finally breathes a sigh of relief. Competition: eliminated!

SC. 10 - INT. RARITY’S BOUTIQUE - LATER

Rarity returns to the Grand Opening. The other ponies are cautious... is everything alright? But Rarity assures them: everything is FABULOUS now! They don’t have to worry about her competition anymore.

At that moment, Prim Hemline enters and is ASTONISHED at what she sees: the best new clothing line she's seen in years! Rarity is confused: Prim is talking about the mish-mash of buttons and bow-ties and designs she "stole" from the other designers (during the espionage segment). Prim remarks that Rarity was right all along. Saddle Row really IS a place where competition is friendly: ideas bounce around and make everypony better through new combinations they never would have done without inspiration. THIS IS WHAT FASHION IS ALL ABOUT!

Rarity finally gets it! The other designers weren't stealing from her, they were influenced and inspired to make something new... "Just like I did." Rainbow Dash joins her, relieved: "Good thing you learned that lesson before you did something horrible." RARITY'S EYES GO HUGE: "you mean like tricking my competition into taking a month-long ride in a cargo ship around Equestria?" – RD: "I was gonna say the goat thing, but uh, yeah, that too?" CUT TO:

SC. 11 - EXT. MANEHATTAN DOCKS – ONE MONTH LATER

Rarity sheepishly waits as the CARGO SHIP docks and her new designer friends disembark. Rarity gives a full apology for everything. But the designers shrug it off: "Sorry for what, dear? We have new exotic fabrics from all over Equestria!" And sure enough, they've got bolts and bolts of amazing exotic stuff. Rarity is impressed, and asks if maybe they'd consider sharing some with her?

They laugh: "Definitely not. You're our competition!" Rarity smiles: "Fair enough." Then she adds, "But do you mind telling me about the trip?" They walk back to Saddle Row together, four friends exchanging tales of globe-trotting adventures in the fashion industry. **FADE OUT!**

THE END