

MY LITTLE PONY
Season 7

Fame and Misfortune
Ep 714

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FAME AND MISFORTUNE

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Friendship Lesson: Fame can have its ups and downs, but remembering why you got into it in the first place makes it worth it.

When the Mane 6 are having brunch at Twilight's castle, Pinkie Pie surprises them all with their very own copies of their Friendship Journal! She found it in Twilight's library, cleaned it up (all of Applejack's pages were covered in sweat stains, Fluttershy wanted to leave room for everypony else so her entries were so small they're barely readable, etc), and made copies. It warms everypony's heart to flip through it and reminisce about the things they've learned together. Then they remember they always meant to publish their friendship journal so even more ponies can benefit from the wisdom they've all acquired. Maybe now's the time? Everypony thinks it's a great idea. They work together to create enough that they can share some with the rest of Ponyville. One goes to the school library, where the Crusaders become class heroes for having written a few entries of their own. Twilight even gives one to Princess Celestia, who is oddly passive-aggressive about the gift ("Ah. The *friendship journal*. The thing that replaced all those lovely letters I used to receive. Hm.")

The journals spread through the town like parasprites. Everypony loves reading them. Most ponies remember the incidents that prompted the lessons, but never had the benefit of seeing what was learned. Everywhere the Mane 6 go, they're approached by happy ponies wanting to talk about the lessons they learned. They think it's going so well, maybe they should make another? It's been awhile since they last wrote in the journal, and they never stopped learning lessons! But as the journal's popularity grows, they also notice a negative reaction. When a group of pegasi crowd around Rainbow Dash, there's a sinister undertone to what they're saying. "I didn't bother reading any of the other ones. I know Dash's are the best." Dash gives her a high-hoof. She loves being famous for her writing. It makes her feel a little like Daring Do.

As time goes by and more ponies read the journal, strange things start to happen. A group of ponies accost Fluttershy, asking why she keeps learning the same thing over and over. Twilight's overly-analytical fans say that it doesn't make logical sense for her to be friends with the Mane 6. She should have stayed in Canterlot. One group of fans starts fighting with another arguing over which of the mane 6 is the best. It even starts to affect the Mane 6's relationships when they inadvertently hurt each other by listening to their fans!

Eventually, the mane 6 have to wear disguises so they won't be recognized in public. They're so tired of having to defend themselves and their choices to everypony. They start to feel like this was a huge mistake. It's all so overwhelming. Maybe they shouldn't keep doing this. But then they notice a group of young fillies (who remind them of themselves) talking to each other and using the friendship lessons they learned from the journal to deepen their bond as friends. The Mane 6 are touched - this is why they did this in the first place. They can't change the fact that ponies are going to have opinions about them, but they can change their outlook on the situation. And as long as there are ponies who can learn from their example, they're determined to be the best role models of friendship that they can be!