

MY LITTLE PONY
Season 7
It Isn't the Mane Thing About You
Ep 720

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IT ISN'T THE MANE THING ABOUT YOU

Outline: by Josh Haber

Friendship lesson: Stay true to yourself no matter how you look and you'll always be beautiful.

TEASER**Sc. 1 - EXT. PONYVILLE MARKETPLACE – VARIOUS**

Open on a really busy flower shop/stall. DAISY, LILY, and ROSE are beyond stressed, there's no way they can possibly take any more orders for flowers today. Suddenly the door bursts open and everypony stops what they are doing to behold RARITY, standing in a shaft of light – the epitome of fabulousness. Rarity is going around town preparing for Photo Finish's next shoot for Vanity Mare on the Best Manes in Equestria. Since her own mane is in contention, Rarity wants to ensure a quality photo shoot and, as everypony knows, you can't have a quality photo shoot without quality flower arrangements. Rarity insists that of all the flowers in Ponyville none of are of a higher quality than the ones in this shop. Flattered, the shop ponies agree not only to take Rarity's order, but to put a rush on it as well.

With a winning smile and a flip of her mane, Rarity proceeds to place similar orders at Mr. Breezy's Fan Shop (for that windswept look) and at Davenport's Sofa's and Quills (for all of your note-taking and lounging needs). Rarity is able to get everypony to agree to expedite her orders with nothing more than her innate ability to make ponies feel good about themselves.

Sc. 2 - INT. SUGARCUBE CORNER – DAY

Rarity stops by for the last item on her list, an order of 'thank you' pastries for Photo Finish and his crew. But as soon as she walks through the door, she gets hit with a spray of silly string! It's all over Rarity's mane! Off Rarity's gasp, we...

END TEASER**ACT ONE****Sc. 3 - INT. SUGARCUBE CORNER – RESUME**

Rarity tries to figure what to do – her hair is a mess! PINKIE PIE apologizes and explains she was throwing a little party for the Cake Twins' sneeziversary! (i.e., the anniversary of their first sneezes, obvs.) In FLASHBACK we see...

Sc. 4 - INT. SUGARCUBE CORNER - MINUTES AGO

Pinkie celebrating the twins' sneeziversary. As the foals blow out the candles on their cupcakes, Pinkie sings a quick Happy Sneeziversary song and sprays silly string everywhere – pretending it's coming out of her nose like a sneeze. We are treated to several quick cuts of this joyous spray-fest, much to the Cake

Twins' delight. Then Rarity opens the door and Pinkie Pie accidentally sprays silly string all over her.
MATCH CUT TO:

Sc. 5 - INT. SUGARCUBE CORNER - BACK TO SCENE

Rarity's upset face. The photo shoot is only days away! Pinkie Pie realizes she's done quite a number on the shop – and she'll have to get it cleaned up before the Cake's return from their baking convention in Canterlot. Both friends are in a pickle and need the help of somepony who can whip up a batch of super-duper mane shampoo AND something that can magically remove silly string from all the nooks and crannies of the cake shop. They turn to each other, brimming with simultaneous realization – ZECORA! Everypony knows her hut is the place to go for mane shampoo and her famous magical remover potion that can get anything out of anything!

Sc. 6 - EXT. EVERFREE FOREST – DAY

Leaving the Cake foals in the competent and caring hooves of Cranky Doodle Donkey and Matilda, Rarity and Pinkie set off through the dark forest – spooky eyes staring out at them from the brush. Pinkie asks about the upcoming photo shoot and Rarity explains that Photo Finish has traveled all over Equestria taking pictures of only the finest and most fabulous manes to put into the pages of Vanity Mare. Ponyville is to be her last stop and she contacted Rarity specifically to check on her availability. Of course Rarity is over the moon at the prospect of appearing in the pages of yet another glamorous magazine, though she's less excited to have her silly string mane-doo immortalized. Pinkie tells her not to worry. Zecora will absolutely be able to help them both. Reassured, though still uncomfortable with her silly string look, Rarity turns to the spooky forest eyes that are still staring at them and tells them to take a picture – it will last longer. Wait. On second thought, don't. Getting her picture taken in her current state is exactly what she's trying to avoid!

Sc. 7 - INT. ZECORA'S HUT – DAY

At Zecora's both ponies watch as the zebra mixes the two concoctions simultaneously – one with each hoof. As Zecora bottles the two (similar looking) potions in identical bottles, she explains to Rarity that it is lucky the only problem with her hair is cleaning it. Working with manes is incredibly difficult. Rarity, "Tell me about it." But Zecora is serious – if Rarity wants to hear some mane horror stories, Zecora has plenty. Even on her best day, Rarity wouldn't be up for hearing stories as scary as that and given her current condition, she is especially sensitive. She quickly grabs her bottle and leaves. Pinkie, on the other hand, settles in for what she assumes will be a haunted mane story, but then remembers she has a cake shop to clean. Before she goes, Zecora reminds her to be careful with the magical remover potion. It will remove whatever she's thinking about.

Sc. 8 - INT. SUGARCUBE CORNER – DAY

Back at the shop, Pinkie thanks Matilda and Cranky Doodle for their help and gets to work. Dabbing a bit of the magical remover potion onto some rags, she enlists the foals help and starts cleaning. She explains to Pumpkin and Pound that they need to work fast to get the place cleaned up before their parents get

home then tells them to think about the silly string so Zecora's potion can work. As they all get started, suds start to build up and Pinkie points out how great the remover potion smells...but it doesn't seem to be getting the silly string out.

Sc. 9 - INT. CAROUSEL BOUTIQUE – BATHROOM – SAME

Meanwhile, Rarity steps out of the thick steam of the shower, commenting on how there's nothing quite like the feeling of a good mane washing. You just soak in a hot shower thinking about nothing but your mane and how amazing it is going to look. She notes how the herbal mixture of Zecora's shampoo seems to have changed. This batch doesn't smell like the previous ones. With that she wipes the fog from the mirror to REVEAL – her mane is now just a scattered collection of pathetic tufts of hair. As Rarity SCREAMS we...

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

Sc. 10 - INT. ZECORA'S HUT – DAY

Rarity, covered in a thick shroud, her voice quivering, talks to Zecora in a roundabout way. She certainly means no offence and explains that she's always been pleased in the past, but the current situation presents quite the predicament. Zecora apologizes and assures her that she will do whatever she needs to do to fix the problem, just as soon as Rarity tells her what it is. Rarity sighs and removes her cloak to reveal her hair situation. Zecora looks on with dismay and explains that Rarity and Pinkie must have gotten their orders mixed up. Rarity is relieved to have the problem identified – at least she isn't allergic to Zecora's wonderful shampoo. All that remains now is for Zecora to fix the situation and she'll be on her way to finish getting ready for her photo shoot. Zecora explains that fixing the situation isn't exactly easy. She has long searched for the cure to Mare Pattern Baldness, but mane magic is some of the trickiest stuff there is – even the potion kind. One wrong ingredient can lead to disaster. In a near-panic, Rarity can't imagine anything more disastrous than this. Zecora tells her not to give up hope (Rarity hadn't even considered that and panics more). Zecora promises to work on it. Rarity encourages her to work fast, the photo shoot for the Best Manes in Equestria is nearly upon them.

Sc. 11 - EXT. PONYVILLE MARKETPLACE – VARIOUS

Trying to keep her mind off of the situation, and telling herself over and over that Zecora will find a cure in time, Rarity covers herself once more and visits the merchant ponies of Ponyville to collect on her expedited orders. However, now that she is super-self-conscious, her winning ways are absent. At the still crowded flower shop, the florist ponies explain that they only have half of Rarity's order – there's been such a rush on floral arrangements. But instead of graciously accepting half of the order, Rarity practically melts down – it's like the whole world is falling apart. She's certain the ponies are treating her differently because of how she looks, and if that's the case she'd rather have no flowers at all.

Rarity finds similar faults at Mr. Breezy's, where the fan is smaller than she hoped – clearly, she assumes, due to her no longer being fabulous enough to warrant a large fan, and at Davenport's, where the sofa she ordered doesn't match the quill – though obviously, she thinks, it would have if the shop pony wasn't judging her on her appearance. To Rarity, ponies just seem generally less inclined to go out of their way for her, now that she's unfabulous. Of course, Rarity isn't helping by covering herself in a dark cloak and being curt with everypony (because she wants to spend as little time in public as possible), but she chalks it all up to being treated differently because she doesn't look her best.

Sc. 12 - INT. CAROUSEL BOUTIQUE - DAY

Wanting to make sure she tries everything that she possibly can, Rarity calls her friends together in the hopes that one of them will come up with a solution. All but Pinkie show up – perhaps even Pinkie Pie is less inclined to help a pony with such a horrible disfigurement. Dressed in a Phantom of the Opera-type mane cover, she reveals the extent of the follicle damage. Her friends are understandably shocked at first, but quickly shift into supportive mode. Together they will fix this problem!

MONTAGE

In a quick series of scenes each of them try to help in their own unique way: Fluttershy and her animal friends create a wig made from bits of fur, but it's full of twigs and leaves; Rainbow Dash agrees to follow Rarity around all day trying to keep a mane-shaped cloud on her head, but it blows off with the first breeze; Applejack offers a milkmaid's bonnet, but Rarity dismisses it – it's not a photo shoot for the Best Bonnets in Equestria; etc. With each failure, Rarity grows more and more anxious.

Sc. 13 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE – DAY

Desperate, Rarity begs Twilight and Starlight to conjure up some kind of mane restoring magic spell. Both explain that as handy with magic as they are, mane magic is tricky business. Rarity knows. She's heard it all before – Zecora explained that there are risks, but she doesn't care, she's out of options. Her pleas convince Twilight and Starlight to try and in a few quick shots we see a series of magical mane failures: a wig made of crystal (with an accompanying shot of a hairless crystal pony somewhere in the Crystal Empire), a wig made of wood (and an accompanying pan to one of the thrones that is now missing a mane shaped piece), a tentacle mane (think the Mane-iac), a swirling black hole of hair that threatens to swallow all of Equestria, etc. Finally Twilight and Starlight explain that they've tried everything they could think of, but it seems like Rarity will just have to wait for her mane to grow back on it's own.

Sc. 14 - EXT. SUGARCUBE CORNER – DAY

Finally, Rarity tracks down Pinkie – curious why she missed her initial call to arms. Pinkie answers the door – just as harried as Rarity (we see the growing mountain of suds in the background). Rarity tells her friend that she needs help, the situation is desperate! Pinkie is disappointed – she'd hoped Rarity came to help her! She explains that she has a desperate situation of her own. Rarity is perturbed. Doesn't Pinkie have even one suggestion for restoring her mane? Pinkie hands Rarity a bottle of silly string and asks

Rarity if she can build a mane with it. Rarity loses it. Silly string is how the whole situation got started! Pinkie feels like Rarity is blaming her and Rarity... kind of is. Pinkie tells her she's sorry Rarity feels that way and would love to help, but she has troubles of her own. Rarity storms off in a huff. Pinkie heads back inside to look for Pumpkin and Pound in the wall of soap bubbles.

Sc. 15 - EXT. PONYVILLE - STREET - MOMENTS LATER

As she's stalking off, Rarity runs into Zecora, who's been looking for her. Rarity asks if Zecora came up with an antidote to her potion? Zecora says unfortunately, no...

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

Sc. 16 - EXT. PONYVILLE - STREET - SAME

Zecora explains how she tried everything she could think of, but the cure for Mare Pattern Baldness remains as elusive as ever. Short of traveling back in time and preventing the hair loss in the first place, there isn't anything they can do. She immediately nixes the idea of time travel because that NEVER turns out well. Rarity finally accepts that her hair will not be fabulous in time for the photo shoot and decides to cancel it. She slumps out to go tell Photo Finish the bad news.

Sc. 17 - EXT. SUGARCUBE CORNER – DAY

Meanwhile MR. and MRS. CAKE return home from a baking convention to find that everything looks pretty quiet from the outside of the shop. Mr. Cake points out that looks can be deceiving. Even though they trust Pinkie implicitly with the kids, he maintains that something interesting usually happens whenever Pinkie is involved. He just wonders what it is this time. Mrs. Cake tells him he's exaggerating, but as she opens the front door, a wall of SUDS washes over them – with Pumpkin, Pound, and Pinkie riding on top.

Sc. 18 - INT. CAROUSEL BOUTIQUE - DAY

Across town, Twilight and Starlight have gathered the other friends (except Pinkie) at the Boutique. They heard she was cancelling the photo shoot but they wanted to try to convince Rarity that she is beautiful regardless of what she looks like on the outside. Rarity knows that of course they are right, but every pony in Ponyville treated her so differently now that her mane is in shambles. It's hard to argue with the cold, hard fact that when ponies look at her now, all they see is a sad unicorn with a gross and scraggly mane! Her friends tell her that's not what they see. They see their friend who started a fashion empire, their friend who accompanied them when they were afraid, their friend who made them feel beautiful in her stunning creations, their friend who was willing to chop off her own tail to help a sea serpent! Rarity wells up, realizing that her experiences with the merchant ponies might have had more to do with how she was feeling about herself. What makes a pony truly beautiful is how they treat others, and she certainly wasn't very beautiful today. Rarity gets up and walks behind a changing screen. When the others ask what she's doing she explains she's getting ready to go out and spread a little beauty.

Sc. 19 - EXT. PONYVILLE – VARIOUS

In a replay of the previous scene, we see the flower shop – as busy as ever. The door bursts open and everypony stops to see – Rarity standing in a shaft of light with what's left of her hair done up in the craziest, multi-colored, spikey, punk-style ever! Rarity strides in, her confidence returned as she apologizes to the staff for her earlier behavior. She understands just how busy they are, and with the high quality of work they do it's no wonder. She tells them not to worry about her order, she should have given them more time. In addition, she offers to help them deal with the surge in business by providing fabric flowers for any costumers that want them. Several customers take her up on her offer right then and there and the Florist Ponies are super grateful for the help.

In a series of quick shots we see Rarity make similar amends with both Mr. Breezy, helping him organize his fans into a beautiful display, and with Davenport for whom she designs interchangeable throws to coordinate any sofa with any quill.

Sc. 20 - INT. SUGARCUBE CORNER – DAY

Rarity shows up to find Pinkie and the entire Cake Family still cleaning. Rarity apologizes to Pinkie for being so horrible earlier and offers to help. Pinkie is grateful, but even after they finish cleaning the suds, there's still the silly string to contend with. Rarity realizes she was so caught up in her own problem that she didn't realize she had the solution to Pinkie's. She leaves and quickly returns with the remains of Zecora's magical remover potion and in no time the shop is spotless. Afterwards, Mrs. Cake looks at Rarity and mentions how much she likes her outrageous new hairstyle.

Sc. 21 - INT. CAROUSEL BOUTIQUE - DAY

Sometime later – Rarity's hair has all grown back. There's a KNOCK at the door and all of her friends are there. Rarity asks what the special occasion is and they explain that the latest issue of Vanity Mare is out and they thought she'd want to see a copy. Rarity is genuinely excited to see the column, wondering whose mane the magazine selected. Unable to contain herself, Pinkie shouts, "YOURS!" Pinkie reveals the cover is a picture of Rarity sporting her spikey, punk hairstyle. Rarity doesn't understand – she called off the shoot. Twilight steps forward and tells her how before she and Starlight gathered their friends and went to Rarity's, they first found Photo Finish and explained what an inspiration Rarity is to all of them as the perfect representation of what it means to be truly beautiful – inside and out. Photo Finish then followed Rarity, taking candid pictures of her as she made amends and helped out all the ponies in Ponyville. Rarity flips through the magazine to see shots of her handing out fabric flowers, helping out Mr. Breezy and Davenport, and cleaning up Sugarcube Corner. What's more Applejack points out the window and we see several ponies (including Mrs. Cake) walking by sporting Rarity's, now famous, spikey, punk mane-doo. Turns out Rarity has inspired beauty in more ways than one. Welling up, Rarity explains that it's easy to be beautiful you have friends as good as hers. **THE END.**