

MY LITTLE PONY
Season 8
The Mean 6
Ep 813
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THE MEAN 6

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Logline: Queen Chrysalis returns, ready to exact her revenge on Starlight Glimmer and the Mane 6!

Twilight Sparkle is stressing. She has her first ever “Faculty retreat” planned down to the second and they are already five minutes behind schedule! But the ponies can’t leave until they get a photo taken for an article about Twilight’s school. The SUPER high-energy photographer rushes in, apologizing profusely for her tardiness and quickly gets Twilight, the Mane 6 and Starlight in position, plucking stray hairs from their manes and tails to make sure they look as perfect as possible! Once the picture is taken, Twilight rushes the others out the door towards the Everfree Forest for their retreat. But WE follow the photographer, who trots out of the castle and over the bridge before finally ditching the bubbly persona and transforming into QUEEN CHRYSALIS! She looks at the hairs she pulled from the ponies and grins. She has JUST what she needs.

Chrysalis travels deep into the Forest, arriving in a clearing where six pony-esque forms have been molded from clay, sticks and leaves. The Cutie Marks of the Mane 6 are etched into the flank of each one. As Chrysalis speaks to them as if they are real (it’s clear her time without a hive has caused her to lose it a bit), we learn she has located an ancient spell that will breathe life into the clay ponies, turning them into copies of the Mane 6! She simply needed a piece of each of them to cast the magic. As she places the hairs on each corresponding pony form, she reveals her plan to her clay creations: she’ll use this “alternate Mane 6” to locate the Elements of Harmony. With the most powerful weapon in Equestria under her control, she’ll pit the REAL Mane 6’s own strength against them! She activates the spell and the ponies come to life!

In another part of the Everfree Forest, Twilight, Starlight and the REAL Mane 6 trot toward the site of Twilight’s retreat. Rainbow Dash asks if they REALLY need to do this retreat thing? Twilight explains that even though they’re best friends who have saved Equestria countless times, there’s no harm in sharpening communication skills and building a stronger sense of teamwork and camaraderie. It’ll make them better at running the school and spreading friendship! Pinkie Pie says after all they’ve been through, trust falling into Fluttershy is gonna be a super-fun breeze! Rarity asks how much farther they have to go. Twilight reveals they’ll be camping at the TREE OF HARMONY, the symbol of the elements that first brought them together!

Meanwhile, Chrysalis is quickly realizing that this alternate Mane 6 aren’t quite the originals. They look and sound like the ponies but they’re just... meaner. Applejack lies, Rarity is greedy, Fluttershy is nasty, Pinkie doesn’t think ANYthing is funny, Rainbow Dash can’t be bothered to do anything for anypony and Twilight is smart... but also calculating and manipulative (i.e., the “mean 6” act the way the ponies did in Season 2 when they fought Discord). Chrysalis tries to take control of the situation but it’s like herding cats. Mean Twilight questions everything about Chrysalis’ plan (Do you know WHERE the Elements are? How do we activate them?). Rainbow Dash just wanders off. Chrysalis is frustrated, but determined to make her revenge a reality.

As the Mane 6 and the Mean 6 travel further into the forest and closer to the Tree of Harmony, Mane and Mean keep unintentionally swapping places, causing Midsummer Night’s Dream-type

chaos, hijinks, and shenanigans! Mean Applejack lies to Mane Pinkie Pie, sending her away from the group. Mane Pinkie Pie is super helpful and gives Mean Twilight all the info she needs to find the Tree. Mean Rainbow Dash and Mane Twilight get into an argument about friendship and trust. Mean Fluttershy is nasty to everypony while Mane Fluttershy doesn't understand why everypony is upset with her! Starlight can tell something strange is going on but she can't quite put her hoof on what it is.

Mane Twilight and Queen Chrysalis continue to get more and more frustrated. Both of their plans (retreat and revenge) are falling apart. Faced with the same problem, they react true to form: Chrysalis continues to operate under the "might makes right" strategy and tries to cow the Mean 6 into submission. Meanwhile Twilight uses all that she has learned about friendship and conflict resolution to figure out why her friends are out of sync.

Chrysalis and the Mean 6 finally (and miraculously) make it to the Tree of Harmony, and it looks like Chrysalis' plan might ACTUALLY work... except that the Mean 6 simply can't work together without fighting. They literally fall apart, destroying themselves and Chrysalis' hope for revenge. It looks like Chrysalis is on the verge of an epiphany, realizing that the Mean 6's lack of friendship was their undoing... Then she decides that this just PROVES friendship doesn't work. If she's going to take out her enemies she will have to do it alone; no one else can be trusted.

As Chrysalis leaves, Twilight, Starlight and the MANE 6 enter the clearing. They all agree that their journey through the forest was odd, but they're friends, and they will always be there for each other, even when they're acting a bit off. After all, it's their friendship that has helped them overcome every obstacle they've faced, and it will be the thing that helps them overcome any challenge the future holds!