

MY LITTLE PONY
Season 8

The Maud Couple
Ep 803

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THE MAUD COUPLE

Premise by Nick Confalone

Logline: Pinkie Pie's super-best-friend-sister bond is challenged when Maud gets a boyfriend that Pinkie can't stand.

TEASER**INT. PONYVILLE COMEDY CLUB – DAY**

We open a la *Seinfeld* or *Louie*, on a brick wall with a spotlight on MAUD PIE, who's finishing up a set of stand-up comedy before a crowded room. Her style is super-dry—*obviously*—delivered in a Tig Notaro-esque deadpan: "What do you call an Alicorn with no wings and no horn? 'Earth Pony.' But we've got magic powers too. Like walking around... and picking stuff up with our teeth. That's sarcasm, by the way." In the crowd, PINKIE PIE is cracking up. Sighing to catch her breath, she leans to STARLIGHT GLIMMER: "It's funny cause it's true!!!"

END TEASER**MAIN TITLES****ACT ONE****INT. PONYVILLE COMEDY CLUB – LATER**

After the show, Pinkie Pie runs up to Maud. That was AMAZING!!! Her jokes! Her sass! Her everything! Maud dryly agrees—she absolutely crushed it. Pinkie wants to know what she's up to after the show... Does Maud want to hang out and have SO MUCH HUGE FUN!?? Maud wishes she could, but she has other plans. PP: "...Again?!" Pinkie Pie is disappointed, but puts on a brave face... cause it's cool if Maud is hanging out with new friends instead of Pinkie Pie, she's not jealous not even a tiny bit... even though she hasn't hung out with Maud in weeks because she always has other plans, like three days ago when PP wanted to build whip cream pyramids—but no, never mind, it's totally fine, "I'm sure we'll make it happen soon! Just so long as we do it before your birthday—no reason I want to hang out before then, just, you know, not planning anything special. What about tomorrow?" Maud says, "ok." Pinkie whoopee's with joy. "You and me, Best Sister Friends Forever, right?!" Maud agrees: forever.

EXT./INT. GEM CAVE – THE NEXT DAY

Pinkie Pie enters from the sunlight. "Good morning, sleepyhead! Tomorrow is today now! Yay!!!" But Maud isn't there. PP's sadness changes into a look of determination.

INT. STARLIGHT GLIMMER'S ROOM – LATER

After a quick establishing shot, we cut inside Starlight's room, where Pinkie Pie bursts in the door: "ah-HA!" Starlight looks up from where she's reading a book and says hello. PP plays it cool, not unlike a detective trying to trap a guilty suspect. "So, what are you up to...?" But Starlight is just reading. PP flips through the book... words and everything... her story checks out, so it would seem. "But are you sure there's nopony hiding... IN YOUR CLOSET!?" Pinkie Pie goes for an ah-ha reveal, but... the closet is empty. Starlight is weirded out. Eventually PP

reveals why she's come: she was SURE Maud was here and just wanted to tag along with the two of them because, well, she hasn't spent time with Maud in forever! To her surprise Starlight agrees... she's been wanting some Maud-time too, but Pinkie's sister is always busy with other plans. Now they're both super-curious... what could she be up to? PP says that whatever it is, Maud better not have other plans for her birthday because Pinkie's planning the BEST SURPRISE PARTY OF ALL TIME! Starlight is excited to hear that, and says not to worry about Maud, "I'm sure she's just found a new rock formation she's in love with."

INT. SUGARCUBE CORNER – LATER

Pinkie steps up to the counter and tells MRS. CAKE she's got a very important order for a very important pony, and it's gotta be tippy-top-super-duper-secret, if Mrs. Cake knows what she means? Before Mrs. Cake responds, a voice from off-screen: "Technically? It's not your turn yet." Pinkie notices a stallion (RED ROOT) next to her. She apologizes and takes a step back. He stands there for a LONG time... doing nothing. Eventually Pinkie asks, "...Whatcha doin'?" In a dry, monotone voice, he tells her, "talking to you." PP's like, "Uh huh. But, we're trying to plan a party here, and you're taking a reaaaaaally long time to do... something. What are you thinking about, can I help you decide?" No, the stallion states, she can't. Pinkie Pie grows more exasperated until the other pony finally says "goodbye" to Mrs. Cake. Pinkie gapes - wait, that's what he was thinking about? He patiently says that he was picking between goodbye and so long, because "Technically? They're very different." Pinkie puts on her friendliest face as she shoos him to the door: "You're right! It was nice meeting you! Okaybyeeee!" But when she turns to Mrs. Cake, she's closing the store for lunch, sorry sweetie! PP: COME ON!!!

EXT. SUGARCUBE CORNER – MOMENTS LATER

Pinkie Pie exits, frustrated, but then brightens up upon seeing "MAUD! How are you! I was just inside NOT planning a secret party for you!" Maud deadpans: "Okay." Pinkie is so happy to see her, and after a cursory glance to see confirm Maud is by herself, she asks if Maud wants to hang out right now, since after all she's not doing anything with anypony else, that's visibly obvious and can't be contradicted. Maud catches her subtext and apologizes for not being around much. PP appreciates that. Then Maud adds, "It's because I have a boyfriend now." Pinkie Pie's jaw hits the ground. A WHAAAAAAA? "A boyfriend." A WHAAAAAAA??? "A boyfriend." YOU HUHHHHHHH???? "A boyfriend." (etc for like 10 pages.) Then PP breaks into a huge grin. That's so exciting! Her sister! IN LOVE!!! Maud corrects her: they're in "like." PP's brain explodes. She has to know everything about him, stat! Maud: "We have a lot in common." PP: "Well, I love you, so I know I'm going to love your boyfriend! I can't wait to meet him!" Maud: "You don't have to." PAN OVER to a rock. PP adlibs: "Oh, he's a rock... that's cool, etc." Maud stares: "No, behind the rock. Red Root, are you back there?" PINKIE GASSSSSSPS! Because... "Technically, I'm not back there anymore since I just revealed myself." It's HIM!

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. PONYVILLE – SAME

Picking up where we left off, Maud officially introduces Pinkie Pie to her boyfriend. His name is Red Root—Maud met him at a rock show. Red Root interjects: "Technically? It was a rock and

gem show.” And actually? They met a little to the left of that, because they met between the rock show and the stick show next door. Red Root was at the stick show. Red Root is really into sticks. Pinkie Pie tries to find common ground. She loves sticks too—they’re great for hitting piñatas! Red Root admonishes: “that is stick abuse.” Maud suggests he introduce Pinkie to his pet, because PP loves Boulder. Red Root reveals a little stick and puts it in the dirt next to Boulder. Maud: “Look at them playing together.” RR: “They’re adorable.” PP, confused, whispers to Maud: “It’s just a stick.” Maud tells PP not to be rude, and PP immediately apologizes. She’s not normally like this, she promises! She gets along with everyone, and “you know what? I’m sure we’ll get along great too!” HARD CUT TO:

INT. STARLIGHT GLIMMER’S ROOM – LATER

Pinkie Pie: “WHAT AM I GOING TO DO!??” She bounces all over the room as Starlight watches from the edge of the bed. Red Root is not like Maud at all! Maud is hilarious, friendly, caring, and easy to talk to! Starlight agrees: sounds like Maud. “But this guy is awkward, quiet, and kind of...strange!” Starlight: “Sounds like Maud.” PP laughs that off—Starlight, what a jokester. Maud is nothing like that, because if she were, then Pinkie wouldn’t like her. Starlight says that either way, Red Root should probably be involved in the party planning, since he’s Maud’s boyfriend now. Pinkie hesitates, but then admits Starlight is right. And PP is going to do her best to like him. Starlight offers to keep Maud busy while PP and Red Root plan the surprise party together.

INT. PINKIE PIE’S ROOM – LATER

Red Root follows Pinkie into her room as she begins filling him in. Maud’s birthday is in two days! PP pulls the secret switch and they both tumble down to... THE PARTY PLANNING CAVE! (“Technically? This is more of a cavern.”) Pinkie pulls out her files on Maud and begins to run ideas past him: edible rock candy plates, obviously, and balloons, and a piñata—no, scratch that one, um... he’s being awfully quiet. What does he think? RR: “Actually, I don’t think Maud would like a surprise party.”

Pinkie almost explodes, but she reins it in – since they are absolutely planning a surprise party, what does Red Root think of Pinkie’s plans? RR slowly flips through PP’s dossier on Maud. He doesn’t like any of the ideas. First of all, Maud wouldn’t like all these colorful streamers PP has picked out. Maud is more into a neutral palette. PP is incredulous: Maud is wild! A rainbow bursting through every smile! Red Root is confused: are they talking about the same Maud? PP says the one who’s confused must be him. Since they can’t agree on what Maud will like best, Pinkie decides the best way to get to the bottom of this (and prove that she knows the real Maud) is to ask Maud herself. BUT REMEMBER IT’S SUPPOSED TO BE A SURPRISE SO THEY GOTTA PLAY IT COOL!!!

EXT. GEM CAVE / MAUD’S HOUSE – LATER

Pinkie Pie and Red Root join Maud, who’s flying kites with Starlight outside the entrance to the gem cave. Pinkie tells Maud that she and Red Root have just spent the best time bonding and now they’re really starting to make some headway becoming besties, except for one tiny disagreement that maybe Maud could settle, because Red Root seems to think that Maud wouldn’t like bright rainbow streamers! Isn’t that funny how wrong he is?!

Maud thinks about it. She doesn't have very strong feelings about streamers, but if she did, she supposes she'd rather have ones that were more... neutral colors. Pinkie stretches Maud's face, just checking to see if somepony else wearing a Maud mask. She gets even more confused when Maud seems to like all of Red Root's boring ideas! This isn't the Maud she knows! Maud deadpans, “I'm the same Maud I've always been.” Shaking her head like this can't be possible, PP backs away, confused and hurt: “Then I guess... I have no idea who you are...!” She tearfully tells Red Root that he's in charge of that “surprise” thing they were planning. He obviously knows Maud best. PP would only drag him down with bad ideas. Before Maud can react, Pinkie gallops away crying. “If I don't know my own sister, what else don't I know?! Maybe I'm not really friends with anypony!!!”

Pinkie Pie gallops though Ponyville, comically descending into an existential crisis. Cartoonish visions of her friends swirl around her head. FLUTTERSHY says she's not even shy. APPLEJACK says she HATES APPLES! Even GUMMY appears in her imagination and speaks a la *Slice of Life*: “We are all prisoners in a cage of loneliness. Friendship is only an illusion. *C'est la vie, toujours misérable.*” MAYBE I DON'T EVEN LIKE CUPCAKES! AHHHHHHHHH! On this terrifying realization...

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. THE ROCK FARM – DAY

It's sunrise on the rock farm. A rooster crows and Pinkie Pie groggily opens her eyes in bed, remembers where she is and why, then puts the pillow over her head. MARBLE PIE nudges a tray of breakfast through the door, gives PP a sad look, then leaves. Moments later, LIMESTONE PIE peeks in the door, looks at PP fondly, then yells: “GET UP, IT'S TIME TO WORK!”

EXT. THE ROCK FARM – DAY

In the dirt field, Pinkie Pie follows Limestone and Marble, idly picking up rocks and looking underneath them. “I don't know anything anymore so I have to start from square one. And you don't have to talk to me anymore because I know we have nothing in common.” Marble looks at her sadly and says nothing. Pinkie Pie nods: “Yeah, see, don't talk to me.” Limestone, on the other hand, doesn't suffer wallowing fools. Sometimes life is sad. Sometimes you have to stay on the farm and help your parents while your younger sisters move away and have fun lives. That's just the way it is. But then Limestone's tough exterior cracks and she matches pace with Pinkie as PP explains that it's hopeless, they're too different, they can never be friends... just like PP and Red Root. Limestone tells Pinkie Pie to look at all these identical rocks. Boring, right? Then Limestone says she'll show them something she's never shown anypony else, ever. Limestone digs up a small wooden box. Her ROCK COLLECTION. “Those rocks out there are boring because they're all the same. A rock collection is much more fun because it's a bunch of different rocks together.” Just because they're nothing alike doesn't mean they don't love each other and can't be friends. Pinkie admires Limestone's collection for a moment—“You've really never shown this to anypony before right now? — then overcome with emotion she brings her sisters in for a SUPER PIE HUG. They're totally right! So what if other ponies think Maud is

quiet and kind of off-putting or whatever... they still LIKE her! And that means Pinkie Pie can like Red Root and they can throw the best surprise party ever for Maud! DOLLY COUNTER ZOOM ON PINKIE'S SHOCKED FACE: UNLESS IT'S TOO LATE!!!!

EXT. PONYVILLE TRAIN STATION – DAY

Pinkie dashes off the incoming train even before it's fully stopped at the station. She's like Scrooge at the end of "A Christmas Carol," running up to random ponies: "You, pegasus! What day is it? Has the party happened? (shaking her) The party, THE PARTY!!!!?" But nopony knows what she's talking about—"oh right it's a surprise. NEVERMIND!"

EXT. PONYVILLE SQUARE - DAY

Alone, Red Root hangs some drab-looking streamers above a pile of rocks. He's having trouble hanging an especially high one, and then is surprised to find himself hoisted up by Pinkie Pie. "I'd love to lend a hoof if you need one..." Mission accomplished, she lowers him down and he considers her. From her mane, she pulls out... "An olive branch. I was really unfair to you. I guess I always saw my sister a certain way and never considered how other ponies saw her, or what other ponies liked about her. And so I'm back to help, and I'm ready to listen to your ideas, if you still wanna be co-party planners." A long moment as Pinkie worries... maybe he won't forgive her! Then, Red Root puts his nose down near the branch: "Technically? This isn't an olive branch. It's a *quercus*, most likely *castaneifolia*." PP: "COME ON!" Then, gritting her teeth: "Keep it together, sorry, sorry, I'm workin' on it, I'm workin' on it..." And then Red Root offers a hoof. Friends? Friends. Now, since she's ready to listen, he does have one minor suggestion about the party: "Maud doesn't really like to go to parties." Pinkie gets a sly smile: "No problem, because you just gave me the best party idea ever!"

EXT. PONYVILLE TOWN SQUARE - LATER

The MANE 5 (minus Pinkie), Starlight, and other incidentals have gathered, hiding in the dark, when suddenly the door opens to one of the houses. Everyone yells SURPRISE! But... The doorway is empty. Even weirder: nopony seems to mind! The music starts and everyone begins mingling. (Except SG, who's confused because she has a wrapped present that is OBVIOUSLY a kite. "I missed what we're doing here, can somepony tell me where Maud is?")

REVEAL: Looking down at the party from a hilltop, Maud stands with Pinkie Pie and Red Root. Maud is very pleased. PP explains: when she first met Red Root, she couldn't connect with him and couldn't understand how he was anything like the Maud she knows and loves. But it turns out Maud is a little different than she thought, and that's ok. And by listening to what Red Root had to say, she realized the best surprise party for Maud is one she doesn't have to attend. RR: "Technically? It's not a surprise because you could see the pre-party from up here." Pinkie smiles: "Technically? ...You're right!" She hugs them both.

FADE OUT.

END EPISODE.