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MY LITTLE PONY
Season 9

The Last Laugh
Ep 914

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TEASER**SC. 1 - INT. TWILIGHT'S THRONE ROOM - DAY**

RAINBOW DASH zooms in through the doors to find TWILIGHT, FLUTTERSHY, APPLEJACK, RARITY and SPIKE all waiting. Dash looks around, confused.

1 RAINBOW DASH
What gives? I thought Pinkie Pie said to get here right away.

2 APPLEJACK
(agreeing) She sure had a bur in her britches about something.

3 SPIKE
So, where is she?

They all stare at the doors to the room.

4 PINKIE PIE (O.S.)
Yeah. What is taking her so long?

PAN OVER to reveal PINKIE PIE standing behind Spike. They all turn to look at her, surprised.

5 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
Just kidding. You guys really need to look behind you once in a while.

6 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Pinkie, you said you had something important tell us.

7 PINKIE PIE
Not telling so much as showing.
(dramatic) In fact, what you're about to see may shake the very foundations of your perception for all time!

Off of their looks of intrigue, she pulls a LARGE CUPCAKE out from behind her back.

8 FLUTTERSHY
A cupcake?

9 PINKIE PIE
YES! But wait! There's more...

She pushes down on the cherry and the top of the cupcake pops open. With a BLAST of confetti, a NOTE pops out on a spring.

10 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
(excited) It's an invitation to
visit the Cheese Sandwich Amusement
Factory!

11 SPIKE
Cheese Sandwich opened a factory?

12 APPLEJACK
(playfully sarcastic) What do they
make there, rubber chickens?

13 PINKIE PIE
That's ridiculous... (then) They
make way more there than just
rubber chickens!

14 RARITY
Cheese hardly seems the factory
type. I still remember the Goof Off
showdown between you two at Rainbow
Dash's party. I just assumed he'd
continue to wander Equestria
throwing parties. Still, you must
be excited to see him.

15 PINKIE PIE
I am! I can't wait to tour his
factory, catch up, have him tell me
my life's purpose, swap gag tips--

16 APPLEJACK
Hold up. What did you say?

The rest of the Mane Six also look to Pinkie, unsure if they
heard her right.

17 PINKIE PIE
Uh, catch up? I mean, it has been
awhile.

18 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Pinkie, I think Applejack is asking
about the part about Cheese
Sandwich and your life's purpose..?

19 PINKIE PIE
Oh, that. Yeah. It's just all of
you have found your thing. You're
going to rule all of Equestria.
Rainbow Dash is a Wonderbolt.
Fluttershy has her animal
sanctuary. Rarity has her
boutiques.

(MORE)

PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)

Applejack has that hat... (off her look) and the farm, so that's, like, two things. I don't even have one.

Pinkie Pie slumps her shoulders and off-handedly takes a bite of the giant invitation cupcake. Her chewing makes a strange <CRUNCHING> sound.

20 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)

When I first got Cheese's invite, I was a little jealous. It felt like even he was moving on to bigger and better things and everypony was leaving me behind.

21 RARITY

Darling, we would never leave you.

22 PINKIE PIE

But then I realized Cheese Sandwich is a party pony just like me. If he figured out his purpose, he can help me figure out mine!

23 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

Pinkie, I think talking to Cheese Sandwich is a great idea, but the only pony who can really find your life's purpose is you.

24 PINKIE PIE

I know, silly. That's why I'm going to visit Cheese Sandwich's factory so I can ask him to help me!

With that, Pinkie takes another big bite out of the invitation cupcake. The odd <CRUNCHING> sound continues. Spike inspects the cupcake more closely -- it's papier-mâché.

25 SPIKE

Ah, Pinkie, are you sure this is edible.

26 PINKIE PIE

(continuing to CRUNCH)
I am not!

Off the others' uncertain looks we...

END TEASER

MAIN TITLES

ACT ONE**SC. 2 - EXT. FACTORY/FRONT GATE - DAY**

Pinkie walks along the high walls that surround the factory. She passes HUGE POSTERS of Cheese Sandwich smiling HUGE smiles--in fact, his LAUGHING FACE is everywhere. Pinkie Pie stops to look up at it.

27 PINKIE PIE
Yep. Anypony with a laugh like that
is exactly the kind of pony I want
helping me.

She comes upon the guard house/main gate (think Buckingham Palace). As she approaches the gate, two GUARD PONIES block her path.

28 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
Oh, hey guys. Pardon me. Just gonna
squeeze by...

She tries to squeeze through them, but no go.

29 GUARD PONY #1
(sighs) Can we help you?

30 PINKIE PIE
You sure can. I'm here to see
Cheese Sandwich!

31 GUARD PONY #2
<SMUG LAUGH> Cheese Sandwich
doesn't "see" anypony.

32 GUARD PONY #1
This factory is shut tight. No pony
ever comes out and no pony ever goes
in - including you, so... move
along.

33 PINKIE PIE
(resigned) Oh, that's a shame. And
to think I came all this way
because of this personal invitation
from Cheese Sandwich himself.

She pulls out the half-eaten invitation cupcake and both guards' eyes light up.

34 GUARD PONY #2
You have an invitation?!

35 GUARD PONY #1
Well, why didn't you say so!?

Guard #1 turns and pushes a BIG RED BUTTON. Suddenly, ALARMS go off and a loud steam whistle BLOWS. The Guards stand aside and the massive gates slowly CREAK open. Smiling, Pinkie bounces past them and inside.

36 GUARD PONY #2
Next time, I get to push the button.

37 GUARD PONY #1
Not gonna happen.

SC. 3 - EXT. FACTORY COURTYARD - CONTINUOUS

She hops to a stop and looks around at the gray, empty and desolate courtyard.

38 PINKIE PIE
Oooh. Desolate-y.

An enormous metal door slowly opens. Pinkie peers into the dark interior.

39 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
Hello? Anypony there?

Suddenly, out of the darkness comes a huge unrolling RED CARPET. It heads towards Pinkie, but stops in front of her revealing-- "Cheese Sandwich" at the end of the roll. TA-DA! <MUSIC STING>.

"Cheese Sandwich" stares at her, an overly broad smile frozen on "his" face - in fact it's the EXACT SAME smile as the posters outside. Pinkie runs up and hugs him.

40 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
Cheese, I'm so happy to see you!

"Cheese's" face remains frozen. Then "he" reaches up and removes what we now see is a Cheese Sandwich MASK. The placid-faced pony beneath the mask, SANS SMIRK, turns to TWO LAB COATED ASSISTANTS who suddenly appear at his side--his speech is very proper (think Frasier Crane).

41 SANS SMIRK
(to assistants) Hmmm. This should have gotten a big laugh. I wonder if we need to add more carpet rolls. I suppose it could be the mask...

The assistants nod, jotting down notes on clipboards. Sans holds up the mask and studies it.

42 SANS SMIRK (CONT'D)
(to assistants) Let's try taking
the nostril flare down 10%.
Thoughts?

He lowers the mask - revealing Pinkie standing in front of him.

43 PINKIE PIE
I have a thought. Who are you?

44 SANS SMIRK
Oh, so sorry. Sans Smirk, Vice-
President of amusement integration.
Mr. Sandwich is very excited you're
here. In fact, we all are.

45 PINKIE PIE
Well, I'm excited you're excited.

46 SANS SMIRK
If you'll just follow me, it's a
short trip through the factory to
Cheese's office.

They head to the big door and Pinkie stops to look up at the place.

47 PINKIE PIE
Wow. A whole factory dedicated to
gags. I bet it's the fun-est place
ever!!!

Excited, she dashes inside...

SC. 4 - INT. FACTORY FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

...and bursts in onto a normal, boring factory floor, with more lab-coated WORKERS at assembly lines. It's not quite the Orwellian vibe of Apple's famous "1984" Superbowl commercial, but it isn't fun looking either.

48 PINKIE PIE
Huh. Maybe the fun is behind all this
boring-looking factory stuff.

Sans looks at her, slightly confused.

49 SANS SMIRK
The fun is the factory stuff. We
take a fairly serious approach to
comedy here. Observe...

He leads her around an assembly line. Sans points to a worker holding a squirting flower.

50 SANS SMIRK (CONT'D)
(exaggerated) Oh, look. A pretty
flower.

He makes a show of leaning in for a sniff, then gets hit with a TORRET of water. He looks to Pinkie, dripping, expecting her appreciating the gag. But she just smiles, politely.

51 PINKIE PIE
(nods) The squirting flower's a
classic. (then, thinking) Oooh!
What if the flower was part of a
shirt, but the flower didn't squirt-
- the shirt did!

Sans just stares at her, wide-eyed. You can practically smell the smoke as his brain works through this revelation.

52 SANS SMIRK
That. Is. Literally. The funniest
thing I've ever heard.

53 PINKIE PIE
Come on. That's just off the top of
my head. You probably get seventeen
ideas like that from Cheese every
minute.

But Sans is already writing furiously in a notebook.

54 SANS SMIRK
(to himself, as he writes)
We'd have to use a series of
interconnected tubes in the
fabric...

He looks up at Pinkie, or more looks through her as he's too busy thinking (like an absent-minded professor), then a thought flashes across his face and he rushes off.

He returns holding a Whoopie Cushion.

55 SANS SMIRK (CONT'D)
What do you think of this?

56 PINKIE PIE
I think it's a whoopie cushion.
Embarrassing sounds are always
good.

57 SANS SMIRK
(leading) Yeeesss...

He waves over a small group of lab ponies.

58 PINKIE PIE
But what if you made the
embarrassing sound come from
somepony else?

He looks to the other ponies in shocked appreciation.

59 SANS SMIRK
(getting excited) I sit on it, but
the sound comes from you! We could
call it the "Ventriloquoopee
Cushion"!

The lab ponies all give <AFFIRMATIVE MUMBLES> as they
scribble away on their note pads.

60 PINKIE PIE
So... which way is Cheese's office
again?

61 SANS SMIRK
Right. Of course. Sorry. It's
just... It's been quite a while
since we've had the opportunity to
work with true comic inspiration
like this.

62 PINKIE PIE
(confused)
What about Cheese?

63 SANS SMIRK
OH! One more thing...

He runs over and grabs a glass dome holding a banana peel on
a small pedestal. He smiles, beaming.

64 SANS SMIRK (CONT'D)
Our "Super-Slip Banana Peel." Still
in development, but we think it's
pretty special...

He lifts the glass dome and the banana peel slips off its
pedestal.

It slides along the floor, slipping under several Worker Ponies who all fall along their assembly line, before the peel rebounds off a wall and shoots back into the glass dome. (**NOTE:** we see all of the fallen workers get up no worse for wear.)

65 SANS SMIRK (CONT'D)
 (to Pinkie, expectantly)
So? Too slippery?

66 PINKIE PIE
Well, bananas are slippery. Oooh!
What if instead of slipping, you
were sticking? One step on this
banana peel and you can't get it
off. (laughs to herself) That's
funny.

Sans stares, stunned.

67 SANS SMIRK
(clapping) Wow. Just... wow. (then)
Ms. Pie, I am so glad you're here.
You're exactly the pony Cheese
Sandwich needs to see.

As they head up the stairs:

68 PINKIE PIE
Great, because he's exactly the
pony I need to see.

SC. 5 - INT. CHEESE SANDWICH'S OFFICE - LATER

Pinkie sticks her head into the small, dark office where a figure (**CHEESE SANDWICH**) sits at a desk shrouded in shadow.

69 PINKIE PIE
Hello?

Without turning on the light:

70 CHEESE SANDWICH
(flatly) Pinkie, I'm glad you came.

71 PINKIE PIE
Of course I did! And your factory
is-- big! It really seems like you
found your purpose - which is
perfect, since I came here for
help.

72 CHEESE SANDWICH
That is perfect! I knew I could
count on you to help me!

73 PINKIE PIE
That's triple perfect because--
Wait. Why do you need my help?

Cheese Sandwich finally turns on the lights and we see him
for the first time.

His color is less saturated and his hair falls completely
flat along the side of his head (think Pinkamena). More
shocking, the broad smile we've seen plastered everywhere is
completely absent. He stares at her, flat in every way.

74 CHEESE SANDWICH
(panicked and pleading) Because,
Pinkie, I've completely lost my
laugh!

Off of Pinkie's jaw on the floor, we...

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SC. 6 - INT. CHEESE SANDWICH'S OFFICE - RESUME

Pinkie stares in disbelief as Sans Smirk looks on.

75 PINKIE PIE
You lost your laugh? Is that some
kind of joke? Because if it is,
it's not a funny one... Unless it's
over my head. (looking up) Nope.
Nothing up there.

76 CHEESE SANDWICH
It's not a joke. And even if it was,
I wouldn't be able to laugh at it.

77 PINKIE PIE
(not believing) Riiiiiight.

She spots a "CAN OF PEANUT BRITTLE" on his desk.

78 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
(slyly) Why don't we continue this
discussion over some delicious
canned peanut brittle?

She opens it. Spring loaded snakes and confetti launch out, bouncing off of Cheese's face. Pinkie looks at Cheese expecting him to laugh, but he just stares blankly.

79 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
Wow. You did lose your laugh.
<GASP> That's horrible!

Sans steps forward, looking through his notes.

80 SANS SMIRK
Sorry to interrupt, but it occurs to me that a 7% tighter wind on the snake springs would yield a 12% increase in giggle output.

81 CHEESE SANDWICH
(to Pinkie) This is why we're a team. Sans, here, has always been able to eek every last laugh out of my gags. Which is a help since I haven't come up with any good ones in a while.

*
*
*

Sans gives a curt little bow.

82 PINKIE PIE
Wait. So you can tell if a gag is funny or not, you just can't laugh at it?

*
*

Cheese turns to her with a dramatic SOB.

83 CHEESE SANDWICH
YES! And it's torture!

84 PINKIE PIE
How did this happen?

85 CHEESE SANDWICH
I don't know. Back when I was a party pony, I laughed at everything.

SC. 7 - EXT. ROAD - FLASHBACK

We see Cheese Sandwich moments after he walked off into the sunset in episode S04E12.

86 CHEESE SANDWICH (V.O.)
I spread my party cheer wherever it was needed.

SC. 8 - EXT. FIELD - FLASHBACK

He comes upon a Cute-ceanera. Everypony looks bored out of their minds, fighting to stay awake. Cheese smiles knowing he can work his magic. He spins a YOUNG FOAL in a fancy dress around, hands her a thick bat and points her at a piñata.

87 CHEESE SANDWICH (V.O.)
I even started making individual,
one of a kind novelty gags for each
and every one of my parties.

When she strikes the piñata it doesn't move, but THE BAT BREAKS OPEN and candy falls out. Cheese Sandwich, along with everypony around him, doubles over in laughter.

A PONY taps Cheese on the shoulder. He holds out some bits and points at the bat.

Cheese smiles, but somepony else taps him on the shoulder. He turns to see a long line of ponies waiting to give him money.

88 CHEESE SANDWICH (V.O.)
Soon, it seemed like everypony in
Equestria wanted one.

SC. 9 - INT. WORKSHOP - LATER

Exhausted Cheese Sandwich stands at a work bench, a small pile of gags next to him. He presses a hoof buzzer and laughs, then looks to a long list in front of him.

89 CHEESE SANDWICH (V.O.)
It was more work than my hooves could
handle, but I didn't want to disappoint
all those smiling faces...

The door to the workshop swings open and Sans Smirk walks in holding a briefcase.

90 CHEESE SANDWICH (V.O.)
Luckily, Sans Smirk came to me with
the idea for a factory. A gag
factory.

Sans opens his briefcase and pulls out a set of blueprints.

SC. 10 - EXT. FACTORY - LATER

Cheese Sandwich stands outside of the factory with Sans Smirk at his side.

91 CHEESE SANDWICH (V.O.)
I could finally keep up with demand
and make everypony happy.

Cheese Sandwich and Sans start putting the smiling posters of himself all over the walls. Cheese Sandwich looks at them and smiles himself.

SC. 11 - INT. FACTORY - LATER

Cheese Sandwich stands watching all of the employees working away on the line.

92 CHEESE SANDWICH (V.O.)
Soon we were sending gags all over
Equestria.

Cheese and Sans watch as a collection of gags roll off the line. Sans checks a clipboard as Cheese nods (but doesn't laugh) at each one - binoculars that leave rings, leaking tea cup, a fake hoof, etc.

Cheese looks over as a worker pony presses down on a can of silly string. Nothing happens. He turns it around to look at the nozzle and a torrent of silly string shoots out, covering his face. Cheese Sandwich just nods and turns back to his work. Suddenly he freezes - a horrified look of realization washing over him...

93 CHEESE SANDWICH (V.O.)
But then, one day my laugh was just
gone.

SC. 12 - INT. CHEESE SANDWICH'S OFFICE - RESUME

Cheese Sandwich sits with his head in his hooves.

94 CHEESE SANDWICH
I haven't left the factory since. I
don't want anypony to see me like
this. Who's going to buy a gag from
a pony who can't laugh? I mean look
at me - Boneless 2 doesn't even
recognize me anymore!

Boneless 2 sits in a nearby chair, its head facing away almost like it's avoiding eye contact.

95 CHEESE SANDWICH (CONT'D)
So can you help me Pinkie? What do
you think?

96 PINKIE PIE
I think I've got two words for you -
(slow, intense) Knock, knock.

97 CHEESE SANDWICH
(confused) Who's there?

98 PINKIE PIE
Boo.

99 CHEESE SANDWICH
Boo who?

100 PINKIE PIE
Don't cry because I'm gonna get you
your laugh back!

101 SANS SMIRK
(in awe) She has the gift.

As he starts scribbling away furiously in his notebook and off Cheese's hopeful expression...

SC. 13 - EXT. FACTORY COURTYARD - LATER

Pinkie stares at Cheese, deep in thought.

102 PINKIE PIE
Hmmm. Let's start with something
small... Like a joke!

She reaches off screen and pulls in a small brick wall, a la a comedy club. She's instantly in a jacket, with the sleeves pushed up and holds a microphone.

103 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
This bit always works for Maud--

She smooths her hair down with a hoof and does her best Maud impression...

104 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
(Maud-like) How do you make a rock
float? (then) You put it in a glass
with ice cream and root beer.

A <RIM SHOT> comes from nowhere, but Cheese Sandwich just stares.

105 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
Nothing, huh.

Pinkie's hair POPS back to normal and she shoves the brick wall and comedy attire out of frame.

106 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
Okay, how about some classics...

In a FLASH, Pinkie zips out and zips back in with San Smirk. She positions him directly in front of Cheese, then turns away.

107 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
Excuse me, Mr. Smirk, but is there something in my EEEEEYYE!

She turns back wearing classic EYES ON SPRINGS glasses. They bounce up and down in front of Sans who nods appreciatively.

108 SANS SMIRK
Top notch eye googling, Ms. Pie.

Pinkie checks Cheese - nothing. Undeterred, she holds a hoof out to Smirk.

109 PINKIE PIE
Why thanks, Sans, old pal. Put 'er there.

Sans takes her hoof and gets "shocked". Pinkie laughs and reveals she's wearing a hoof BUZZER, but Cheese remains unmoved. Not giving up, Pinkie looks back.

110 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
Sorry about that. Let me make it up to you. How about some pie?

She pulls out an oversized cream PIE and goes to pie him, but "trips" and lands face first into the pie. She stands with a flourish and takes a bow.

111 SANS SMIRK
(quietly to himself, while scribbling away) Googly eye to hoof buzzer to pieface pratfall. Masterful.

But Cheese Sandwich just shrugs and <SIGHS>. Pinkie's expression drops.

112 PINKIE PIE
Come on! Those classic bits put Rainbow Dash's funny bone in a cast for a week!

113 CHEESE SANDWICH
Don't blame yourself, Pinkie. Whatever I got, I got it bad.

114 PINKIE PIE
Maybe we need to start even
smaller.

SC. 14 - INT. FACTORY FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

Pinkie, now dressed like Mickey from Rocky (sweats and with a whistle around her neck, etc.) paces back and forth in front of Cheese Sandwich as San Smirk looks on.

115 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
You can't run before you can walk
and you can't laugh before you can
smile. And your smiler's all out
whack.

116 SANS SMIRK
Is there any assistance I can
provide?

117 PINKIE PIE
Just stand back and watch, mister.
(then, to Cheese) Now let's see
what we're working with. Gimme your
biggest, bestest smile!

Cheese tries his hardest to smile. The edges of his lips barely quiver and sweat pours down his face.

118 CHEESE SANDWICH
Am I doing it? Am I smiling? I feel
like I'm smiling.

He is definitely not.

119 PINKIE PIE
Aaaalmost... Maybe I just need to
spot you for a rep or two.

She jumps in and contorts his face into different shapes, finally ending in something resembling a smile. She strains under the weight of maintaining it.

120 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
<BREATHING HARD> OKAY! YOU GOT
THIS! IT'S ALL YOU! READY?

Cheese nods and Pinkie releases his face and steps away-- but Cheese's face immediately POPS back into his flat expression. He looks at them, hopeful.

121 CHEESE SANDWICH
Anything?

Pinkie shakes her head sadly. Cheese slumps. Pinkie screws up her face, determined...

122 PINKIE PIE
I'm not giving up on you yet, Cheese.
I know there's something somewhere
that'll make you laugh. I just have
to figure out where to look.

123 SANS SMIRK
I would like to take this
opportunity to point out that we
are in a gag factory...

Off Pinkie intrigued...

SC. 15 - INT. FACTORY - R & D ROOM - LATER

Pinky follows Sans into a "clean room" type section of the factory. Cheese Sandwich mopes in behind them.

PONY RESEARCHERS in lab coats scribble intricate formulas on chalkboards. One dissects a spring snake, another drops different size weights onto various whoopie cushions.

124 SANS SMIRK
This is where the magic happens.
Research and development. It's
where we figure out the science of
funny.

125 PINKIE PIE
(confused)
How do you science funny?

126 SANS SMIRK
Of course there's no one size fits
all joke, no grand unified gag
theory. But, if we figure out the
funny of one gag, we can combine it
with the funny of another gag, and
make a third funnier gag!

127 PINKIE PIE
I guess that makes sense...

Pinkie looks around curious. She looks at a blackboard.

128 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
(re: board) Rule of threes. Hmmm,
one, two, three. Yep, that math
checks out.

She looks at a chart.

129 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
Oooh, I bet the aardvarks weren't
the only one's surprised by your
research on non-sequiturs.

Pinkie takes a long look around the room and comes to a
decision...

130 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
Hmmm. At this point, I'm willing to
give anything a try!

WIPE TO:

QUICK "COMEDY SCIENCE" MONTAGE

In a few stylized shots we see Pinkie (now in a lab coat and
glasses) leading the team of comedy researchers...

--Pinkie holds a blueprint, while the rest of the lab workers
stand behind her. Pinkie uses a large pencil to erase
something and then roughly draws in a replacement. The lab
workers excitedly nod in agreement.

--While lab-coated workers look on, Pinkie leads Cheese up to
a welcome mat in front of a door frame - a large bucket
precariously balanced above. As Cheese opens the door, the
bucket falls onto his head, but there's no water. Suddenly a
BLAST of water shoots up from the welcome mat, knocking the
bucket off of Cheeses head-- but also reveals he isn't
laughing. The researchers shake their heads and take notes as
we... STYLIZED WIPE TO:

--Pinkie looks at a lab pony, proudly showing her a model of a
covered wagon. He pulls out a tiny figure of a lab pony from
it. Pinkie shakes her head no. As she begins to speak and
gesticulate wildly, the lab workers scribble away frantically.

--Pinkie pulls a ridiculously small COVERED WAGON up to
Cheese. She opens the tailgate and a succession of research
ponies come out, each one shorter than the last (think: clown
car). Finally the shortest one exits, then pulls an impossibly
large wagon out of her lab coat, which the research ponies
then all proceed to climb back into. Cheese just stares at
this, unmoved. Sans take more notes as we... STYLIZED WIPE
TO:

--CLOSE on Pinkie as we PAN around her head, "Beautiful Mind"-esque diagrams and joke structures float by-- a cross section of a rubber chicken, a engineering diagram of a hoof buzzer, crazy math-like formulas (banana + whoopee cushion = cream pie), etc. The images get more intense, moving by faster and faster until we... END MONTAGE.

RESUME on Pinkie, who tosses her notes down in frustration while Cheese looks on, despondent.

131 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
I don't understand. We've tried everything. Stand-up, classic gags, physical humor, prop comedy, vaudeville, surrealist alt-scene character pieces. Nothing's worked!

132 SANS SMIRK
It seems we've exhausted every avenue that even the science of comedy can provide.

Saddened, Cheese nods and stands up.

133 CHEESE SANDWICH
That's it, then.

134 PINKIE PIE
What do you mean?

135 CHEESE SANDWICH
I appreciate everything you've done, Pinkie, but if you can't make me laugh, nopony can.

136 SANS SMIRK
But, sir, you can't just surrender.

137 CHEESE SANDWICH
It doesn't look like I have a choice. I need to figure out how to live without a laugh. (then, to Pinkie) I know you tried your best, but it's time you went home.

With that, Cheese heads back into his office and shuts the door. Off Sans and Pinkie sharing horrified looks, we...

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

SC. 16 - INT. R & D DEPARTMENT - RESUME

Pinkie looks on as Sans and his team of disheartened research ponies start to clean up.

138 PINKIE PIE
So that's it? You're all just
giving up?

139 SANS SMIRK
I'm afraid Mr. Sandwich is right.
You are the funniest pony in
Equestria and if you can't bring
back his laugh, it is surely gone
forever.

140 PINKIE PIE
But Cheese was just as funny as me.
I can't believe all that's gone.

Pinkie drops her head as the reality starts to sink in. Sans
puts a hoof around her shoulder as they walk toward the exit.

141 SANS SMIRK
None of us can. I shudder to think
what will become of the factory.

He starts to open the large metal door to the courtyard.

142 PINKIE PIE
You're not going to close down are
you? I thought this place was
Cheese's life's purpose.

143 SANS SMIRK
It certainly was mine, but if Mr.
Sandwich has finally given up,
there's only so long we can re-tool
his old ideas before we run out of
gags to produce.

*
*
*
*
*

He turns to Pinkie, hopeful.

144 SANS SMIRK (CONT'D)
I don't suppose you'd consider
working here? Your fresh take on
our classic gags rivals Mr.
Sandwich in his prime.

145 PINKIE PIE
I need to find my life's purpose,
but I don't think that's it. I'm a
party pony. I need to make ponies
happy in real time!

146 SANS SMIRK
Ah, yes. In our early days, nothing
brought Mr. Sandwich more pleasure
than seeing the laughter his gags
brought to ponies first hoof.

*

147 PINKIE PIE
Yep. Cheese and me are the same,
that's why I really thought he
could help me figure out what I'm
supposed to do. Guess it's back to
the drawing board.

148 SANS SMIRK
Well, there will always be a place
here for you if you change your
mind.

With that, Pinkie gives Sans a faint smile and turns to go,
then suddenly, she freezes.

149 PINKIE PIE
Hold on. What did you just say?

150 SANS SMIRK
There'll always be a place here--

151 PINKIE PIE
No. Before that.

152 SANS SMIRK
Back to the drawing board?

153 PINKIE PIE
That was me!

154 SANS SMIRK
Nothing brought Mr. Sandwich more
pleasure than seeing the laughter
his gags brought to ponies first
hand?

155 PINKIE PIE
YES! That! We've been going about
this all wrong. We don't need to
make Cheese laugh. He needs to make
US laugh!

With that, Pinkie rushes back inside. A stunned, Sans turns
to follow.

INT. CHEESE SANDWICH'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

The door to Cheese's office bursts open as Pinkie bounces in.

156 PINKIE PIE
Cheese! I figured it out. I know
why the caged Cheese doesn't laugh.

157 CHEESE SANDWICH
What? Why?

158 PINKIE PIE
You started this factory because
you didn't want to disappoint
smiling faces, but in here you
can't see any!

Sans appears in the doorway out of breath.

159 SANS SMIRK
It does make a certain sense, sir.
Spreading laughter has always
brought you joy.

Cheese stands, considering.

160 CHEESE SANDWICH
But spreading laughter is what this
factory does.

161 PINKIE PIE
But you don't see it. You're a
party pony like me. You need to
make ponies smile in person!

Pinkie grabs Sans and pulls him over as a few of the factory
workers gather around the doorway.

162 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
Here! Just try it.

Cheese walks up to Sans, thinking, then...

163 CHEESE SANDWICH
Why did Boneless 2 cross the road?
To prove to Boneless 1 he wasn't a
chicken.

*
*

164 SANS SMIRK
Very funny sir. Excellent joke.
(then, realizing) Oh! I mean,
(stilted) Ha. Ha, ha.

Pinkie stares at him, indignant.

165 PINKIE PIE
Really!?

166 SANS SMIRK
Sorry. Not much of a laugher.

167 PINKIE PIE
Here. Try me. I promise I'll laugh.

168 CHEESE SANDWICH
Pinkie, you laugh at everything. I
appreciate what you're doing, but I
think it's a cost laws, er, a lost
cause--

*

As Cheese corrects himself, a SNICKER comes from the crowd of workers in the doorway.

Cheese freezes and whips his head around at the sound, a sudden intensity in his eyes.

169 CHEESE SANDWICH (CONT'D)
What. Was. That?

The crowd of workers parts as he strides toward them, revealing a single WORKER, biting his lip.

170 WORKER
I'm sorry. But when you swapped the
letters of those words it was just
a bit...

Cheese leans in super close.

171 CHEESE SANDWICH
...Funny?

As the worker nods, just the edges of Cheeses mouth curl upwards in the faintest of smiles. <MUSIC UP> as Cheese continues in a spoken rhythmic prelude.

172 CHEESE SANDWICH (CONT'D)
(spoken)
So you're saying it's the mix up
of the sounds that I just made,
that coaxed the snicker from your
throat in a delicate cascade?

The worker nods more emphatically.

173 CHEESE SANDWICH (CONT'D)
(spoken)
If I did it one more time, if I
reproduced the feat?
(MORE)

CHEESE SANDWICH (CONT'D)
Mixed up some letters here and
there you'd lelly baugh tout suite?

The worker busts out with a loud full-throated LAUGH. The smile on Cheese's face gets broader as he turns to the rest with a twinkle in his eye. <MUSIC SHIFTS INTO MAIN MELODY>

174 CHEESE SANDWICH (CONT'D)
*So that's all I need to do
that's who I need to be!
I thought I needed to be made to
laugh
But now I know the laughter making
has to come from me*

Cheese spins with a flourish and is suddenly dressed in a top hat and tails, holding a cane as he bursts from the office and onto the factory floor.

He rushes up to the WORKERS on the assembly line.

175 CHEESE SANDWICH (CONT'D)
*I suppose now I should amp things
up to get the thing I'm after.
Move whole syllABLEs all around and
change emPHAsis to get laughter!*

The workers on the line all start to LAUGH. Cheese turns, smiling now ear to ear as he high-steps over to the science ponies in the R&D room.

176 CHEESE SANDWICH (CONT'D)
*I can't stop now I'm on a roll,
I've almost got it back
Smart folks like you aren't subject
to my play on words attack.
So with something else I'll have to
play to get me where I'm going.
Some Commedia dell'arte to get the
laughter flowing...*

Cheese sits next to a pony mannequin situated in front of a pie-to-the-face administering machine.

In a physical comedy bit reminiscent of Donald O'Connor's in Make 'Em Laugh (ref: <https://youtu.be/SND3v0i9uhE?t=2m5s>), Cheese interacts with the mannequin. First appearing to rescue it from another pie, then seeming to offer to share a slice, then appearing to unintentionally take the pie to the face himself. [note: Doesn't have to be this. Directors feel free to take liberties]

By the end, the science ponies are all laughing hysterically. Cheese leaps away, energized, blissful and nearly laughing himself.

177 CHEESE SANDWICH (CONT'D)
*That's what I need to do
this is who I need to be!
I thought I needed to be made to
laugh
But now I know the laughter making
has to come from me!*

He turns and looks back to his office where a delighted Pinkie and Sans look out.

178 CHEESE SANDWICH (CONT'D)
*And now my biggest test, the
hardest fish to fry.
A mind so analytical, a sense of
humor dry.*

In a flash, Cheese is right next to Sans, peering into his face.

179 CHEESE SANDWICH (CONT'D)
*To make you laugh would prove to me
that this experiment's done.
Something ridiculous, and not too
smart... something like a pun?*

<MUSIC OUT> as Cheese leans in further.

180 CHEESE SANDWICH (CONT'D)
(spoken) Hey Sans, how do you call
a laughing bird? (beat, then) With
a guffaw caw.

Sans's eyes start to bulge, like something is building up behind them.

181 SANS SMIRK
Sir. That is so...
*ridiculou*AAAHHHHAAHHHAWWWW!

*

As Sans explodes into a fit of uncontrollable LAUGHTER, Cheese joins him. Soon, the entire factory is in hysterics as the <MUSIC> comes back up in a big finish.

182 CHEESE SANDWICH
*That's all I need to do
that's what I need to see!
I thought I needed to be made to
laugh when all this time
(MORE)*

CHEESE SANDWICH (CONT'D)
<BIG FINISH>
*The laughter making had to come
from me!*

<MUSIC OUT> as everyone falls down laughing. Cheese helps Sans to his feet.

183 SANS SMIRK
It's so good to have you back, sir.
Finally we can get the factory back
to how things used to be!

Sans and puts a hoof on Sans' shoulder.

184 CHEESE SANDWICH
Sans, my good pony, I don't think I
can run this factory anymore. (off
Sans' look of shock) But YOU can!

SANS SMIRK
(shocked) Without you?! I don't
understand.

*
*
*

Cheese grabs Pinkie and pulls her close, then points to everypony laughing.

185 CHEESE SANDWICH
Pinkie was right! This is what I
need! I can't just have funny ideas
- I need to wander the land and see
ponies laughing at them. You can
run the factory, but I need to
LIIIIIVEEE!

Cheese does a twirl and is suddenly dressed in his old cowboy hat and poncho. He looks off screen.

186 CHEESE SANDWICH (CONT'D)
And don't think I've forgotten
about you, little buddy.

CUT TO Boneless 2 in the same chair he was before, only this time he's turned toward Cheese, like he's look right at him.

187 CHEESE SANDWICH (CONT'D)
I knew you'd be on board!

With a flourish, he slings Boneless 2 over his shoulder, then turns to Sans.

188 CHEESE SANDWICH (CONT'D)
Don't worry. Out in Equestria I'll
have more great ideas for gags and
I'll send them all to you!

189 SANS SMIRK
Sir, are you sure this is what you
want to do?

190 CHEESE SANDWICH
Of course! It's my life's purpose!

Pinkie looks up at this.

191 PINKIE PIE
Hey! That's what I came here
looking for.

192 CHEESE SANDWICH
You did? Well, come on! Let's
figure it out.

Pinkie looks around at the happy factory ponies, the
rejuvenated Cheese Sandwich, and the big grin on Sans Smirk's
face.

193 PINKIE PIE
Actually... I think I'm good.

Off all of them smiling...

SC. 17 - INT. TWILIGHT'S THRONE ROOM - DAY

Twilight, Fluttershy, Rainbow Dash, Rarity, Applejack and
Spike are gathered around Pinkie.

194 PINKIE PIE
...and then I said goodbye and then
I came here. Oh, and then I
gathered you all together and
started telling you about it. First
I said--

195 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
--Well, that sounds like quite a
trip!

196 FLUTTERSHY
And Cheese Sandwich just left his
own factory?

197 PINKIE PIE
Yep. But I think Sans Smirk's
hooves were the perfect ones to
leave it in. As much as Cheese was
born to wander Equestria and make
ponies laugh in person, Sans was
born to run that factory.

198 APPLEJACK
And you don't sound so worried about
finding your life's purpose anymore.

199 PINKIE PIE
Nope! I figured out Cheese and I
are pretty much the same. We both
need to see ponies laughing to feel
fulfilled. And I already do that.
My life is purposing itself all
over the place!

*
*
*
*
*

200 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
It certainly is.

201 RARITY
I agree completely.

202 APPLEJACK
I couldn't have put it better
myself.

203 PINKIE PIE
Thanks. (then) Oh, I almost forgot.
I got you all a little something
from my trip. Who likes peanut
brittle?

She points to nearby table covered in cans of peanut brittle.

204 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
(snickering) Dig in...

SC. 18 - EXT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - CONTINUOUS

Spring snakes and confetti shoot out of the windows. As
everypony laughs, we...

FADE OUT

END