

Pinkie Pie was sure that she'd never felt so full. At least, not this week.

She and her closest friends were just finishing an all-you-can-eat breakfast of delicious waffles, courtesy of the Apple family (with apple-flavored syrup, of course).

"Waffles are the best breakfast," Pinkie mumbled in satisfaction.

"You know, a good serving of oats is probably the best breakfast. It's just about the healthiest thing you can have in the morning. It's science," said Twilight Sparkle.

Pinkie countered, "Everyone who agrees that waffles are the best breakfast, raise your hoof."

"Agweed," said a chorus of voices from Rainbow Dash, Fluttershy, and Applejack, who all had their mouths full at the moment.

Rarity elaborated a little further. "Normally I'm all for some delicious pastries or other refined breakfast, but today I agree, waffles are best breakfast."

Pinkie smiled. "Sorry Twilight, it looks like you're outvoted."

Twilight harrumphed and turned her head, looking aloof. "You can't outvote science."

Pinkie just chuckled and nodded her head good-naturedly. "Yes, Twilight, I **can** outvote science."

Twilight raised a hoof to respond, but then thought better of it. Pinkie might have a point.

A few minutes passed by in comfortable silence, all of them feeling fairly stuffed.

Pinkie broke the silence. "Hey Twilight, can I come by and spend some more time at your library today? I'd like to look at more of that genealogy stuff."

"Of course you can, Pinkie. The library will be closed in the evening, though. I'm taking a trip to Canterlot over the weekend."

"Ooh, I'm so excited! I can't wait to see what I'll find out today!"

"Well, whatever it is, I doubt it'll be as exciting as finding out you might be related to Applejack!"

"I know, I know, but I just can't wait to find out more!"

"Then don't keep waiting just because of me. We can go over to the library and start right now."

"SOUNDS GREAT!" And with that, Pinkie Pie dashed out the door. Twilight stared after her a moment. Pinkie was a hard pony to keep up with.

"Well, it's been fun, girls, but it looks like I need to get going now." She picked up Spike in her magic and placed him on her back. The little guy had been tired this morning, and then fell back asleep shortly after finishing his second plate of pancakes.

Applejack walked her to the door. "Well, be sure to drop by any time ya like for some good 'ol Apple family hospitality."

"I sure will. See you later!"

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By the time Twilight arrived at her home, she still hadn't seen Pinkie again. She took a key out of her saddlebags and unlocked her door. As she walked into her house, she thought about how she'd have to ask Pinkie Pie where she went. At least, she would ask Pinkie the next time she saw her.

"HI TWILIGHT!"

"AAAAHH!!!"

Once Twilight managed to figuratively stuff her heart back into her chest, she realized that she probably should have been expecting that. Pinkie was already in the library, happily reading along.

"So Pinkie, how's the research going?"

"Oh, it's great! Some of my ancestors have really funny names!"

Twilight rolled her eyes and gave a small smile. Of course Pinkie Pie would love that about genealogy. Twilight never would have guessed beforehand that Pinkie would find the subject so interesting, but it now seemed like genealogy would keep the pink mare's attention for quite a while longer.

Pinkie carefully replaced one scroll back into the pile where she had found it, and decided it was finally time to take one of the scrolls from the top. It was kind of a tall stack of scrolls, though, so she had to reach...and accidentally bumped into the pile, knocking the whole thing over. Twilight turned her head from the book she was reading to look at Pinkie, who hung her head and blushed

sheepishly. She kicked out a hoof bashfully, kind of like Fluttershy sometimes did. "Sorry."

Twilight sighed and walked over. "It's okay, they all have markings near the top that help me figure out where they go."

"Oooooohhhh, THAT'S what those are for." It took them a few minutes, but eventually, the two ponies had remade the jumbled mess of paper into an organized system again. Two stacks this time.

"That's odd," said Twilight, "I'm not sure where this one is supposed to go."

"Oh, let me read it! I'll tell you all about what's in it!"

Twilight shrugged and walked back over to her book.

Pinkie started on the new scroll. It was different. Instead of just family lines, it had quite a few comments and explanations written in. Pinkie finally managed to track down one of her own ancestral lines, the Stone family. It seemed a bit of an odd one out on this list. The scroll she was reading included all sorts of fancy names; there was even a family named "Fancy." (She suspected that if she tracked it down to today, she would find Fancy Pants). It even had royal ones, like Blueblood. Her reading continued like that for some time, until she saw another one of the explanatory notes.

At this point, the family had a schism. The fight became so severe, part of the family moved out to the country, away from the aristocratic life in Canterlot. The other half stayed, and kept their original family name...

"MorningStar."

"What was that, Pinkie?"

"Twilight."

"Yes, Pinkie?"

"Twilight."

"YES, Pinkie?"

"I think I'm related to Princess Celestia."

* * *

Princess Celestia MorningStar sat in her Royal Quarters, away from company so that she could finish the rest of an absolutely delicious cake in peace. It was becoming a worse and worse habit of hers, and she'd probably start gaining more weight, soon. After all, she didn't work out as much these days as she did back before she became a Princess. How long ago WAS that now, anyways?

Suddenly, there was a loud knocking on her door. She hastily hid the last piece of cake in a dresser drawer and dabbed a napkin at her mouth. "Just a moment, please."

She didn't really know who it could be. The guards didn't knock that loudly, and Luna should still be busy at the dining hall.

What saw when she opened the door, though, was a pink pony with a giant smile on her face. To her immortal surprise, the pink pony jumped up and hugged her.

"HI, COUUUSIIIN!!!!"

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Having lived for several millennia, Princess Celestia had a certain respect and appreciation for those moments in life that could *still* make her take a step back and say, "*What?*" Pinkie Pie showing up today had definitely qualified. That, and Twilight visiting Canterlot all added up to make today a pretty good day, she thought.

That evening, Princess Celestia, Princess Luna, Twilight Sparkle, and Pinkie Pie all sat down to eat dinner in the banquet hall together. Twilight had dressed up for the occasion, but Pinkie had taken the trip on short notice, and hadn't thought to bring any clothes. Her party cannon and five different types of confetti, sure, but no clothes to speak of. Princess Luna started the conversation. "How wonderful it is to meet new family! I'm glad you could join us, Pinkie. I'll enjoy introducing you to the Palace Court."

Pinkie hopped up and down in her seat. "Ooh, what's that?"

Princess Celestia responded. "A number of notable ponies who have a say in the politics of Canterlot. I daresay they'll be surprised to meet you, Pinkie."

"Well, I can't wait to meet them! This is going to be so much fun!"

Princess Celestia let out a quiet laugh, and with a little sparkle in her eye, said, "Oh, I hope so, Pinkie. And I daresay that I believe it will be."

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Prince Blueblood finally finished dressing for the dinner banquet. It had only taken him an hour today. He had to look at his very best in front of the rest of Canterlot. His reputation as "Most Eligible Bachelor" depended on him looking simply splendid at all times. He wasn't about to give up that image.

Feeling satisfied with how he looked, he opened the door and stepped out of his room. Upon taking his first step out the door, he accidentally bumped into Princess Celestia herself, who had been standing in front of his doorway. Startled, he stumbled back a couple of steps before managing to bow. "My apologies. Good evening, your Majesty."

"Oh, no need for all that formality, Blueblood. I've told you before, you can talk to me like family. Just think of me as your Aunt. On that note, by the way, I've decided to drop by and introduce you to another family member. I don't believe you've had the chance to meet Pinkie Pie?"

Blueblood looked to the left and right of the Princess, not seeing anypony. "I'm sorry, who?"

"HIYA!"

"AAAAHH!!!" Blueblood tumbled over as a very pink mare suddenly appeared to his side.

"My name's Pinkie Pie! I've heard of you before and one time you made one of my friends angry but that was a long time ago and I thought since we're family we could let bygones be bygones and I'm just very excited to meet you and make a new friend!"

Prince Blueblood had no idea what just happened, or what the crazy mare in his room had just said. It took a whole ten seconds before he realized he was still on the floor, remembered his high society manners, and introduced himself in return. "I am Prince Blueblood. It is...a pleasure to make your acquaintance. Did...did Princess Celestia say that you and I are family?"

Celestia responded. "Indeed she is, Blueblood. We have recently discovered a previously unknown connection she has with the royal family. In honor of that, and previous services to Equestria, we've granted Pinkie Pie a spot in the Court."

Prince Blueblood couldn't help but feel a terrible foreboding sensation in the pit of his stomach.

Pinkie Pie spoke up again. "Yupperoni! The Princesses are showing me around the whole castle!" Pinkie walked over and swung a foreleg over Blueblood's shoulders. "I have a feeling you and I are going to be seeing a WHOLE lot more of each other!"

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The next day, the Princesses held a session of the Palace Court, where, as Pinkie understood it, political stuff happened. Occasionally, laws were passed, or something. It was kind of complicated, but Pinkie did understand some things. For example, when faced with a decision about provision 10647-3, much of the nobility had just voted wait until later to decide, and the motion to delay had been passed. Procrastination was something Pinkie Pie understood very well. Pinkie didn't quite understand why they hadn't just said, "We're going to procrastinate on this one," and moved on. After all, she said that to herself all the time! But if they liked to use fancy words and take way longer than was necessary, then that was all right for them, she guessed. Who was she to judge?

Oh, right, she actually had a seat at the court now. Heh.

Princess Luna spoke next. She introduced another provision that could apparently pass under the sole jurisdiction of the Princesses. And then finally, it was time. Princess Luna smiled for a moment at Pinkie, and then addressed the rest of the Court. "I'm pleased to announce the addition of a new member to the Court! **LET ME INTRODUCE...PINKIE PIE!**" Luna boomed out the last sentence, gesturing dramatically to the high-energy mare sitting just a small distance away to her right.

The whole room turned to look at her as if they somehow hadn't noticed her before. Pinkie was nervous. Almost nopony had been smiling for the entire meeting so far. Tough crowd. Even so, she sat straight up, held her head up high, and gave an enthusiastic greeting.

"Hey, everypony! I'd just like to say hi and also that I'm very excited to meet you all! I hope that we can all be the very best of friends!"

One of the ponies in the crowd responded, "But she's...naked..."

Pinkie looked down at herself, then looked back up and stared blankly at the pony who had talked. "Well, **duh**."

A mare in the crowd fainted.

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Celestia, Pinkie Pie, and Twilight were all together in the Princess' chambers after the meeting ended. In a strange turn of events, Pinkie Pie was the only one there who looked sad.

"I had hoped it'd go better than that."

Princess Celestia gave her a smile. "To tell you the truth, Pinkie, I thought it was quite enjoyable."

"But I disrupted the meeting. And nopony seemed happy..."

"Oh, sometimes those ponies think they're above being happy. As if they're too good for it, or some silliness like that. Don't get me wrong, a lot of them have good heads on their shoulders, but they can also be quite full of themselves, and that doesn't usually wind up being to their own benefit. Believe me, Pinkie; if you added a little disruption to their lives, you did them a favor."

Pinkie relaxed and let a smile come to her face once more. "Thanks, Princess."

"Oh, you don't need to call me that, now. We're family after all. You can call me Aunt Celestia." She lowered her voice to a playful whisper. "Or even 'Auntie,' if you like."

Pinkie giggled. "Thanks. You know what? I'm going to make those stuffy nobles smile someday, somehow. That's a promise."

"I look forward to seeing it."

Pinkie gave her Auntie Celestia a hug. "You know, it's been fun, but I think it's about time I head back home to Ponyville." She released her grip on the Princess. "After all, all of my bestest friends live there, and they're my family, too."

Twilight walked over and gave Pinkie a hug. "Aww, Pinkie, that's so sweet. Friends like you are the best family a pony could ask for."

Pinkie returned the hug enthusiastically. "Same to you, Twilight."

The two friends released the hug and started walking to the door.

Pinkie turned back to Princess Celestia for a moment on her way out. "I'll be sure to visit! And I'll have new ideas about how to make the ponies in Court smile!"

"I know you will, Pinkie." The Princess responded.

As Pinkie and Twilight were just walking out the door, the Princess said one more thing. "Pinkie!"

"Yes?"

"I'm proud to call you my family."