Story: Who Else, but Discord? by Craine

Reviewed by: MrAlbum321

Ah, one-shots. They are easy to read due to their brevity, can be edited quickly, and at their best provide a very complete experience in as short a time as possible. This makes the genre (and yes, it is prolific enough to be a genre) very popular for both authors and writers, to such a point that a massive glut of high-quality one-shots has stormed fan fiction outlets. This story, "Who Else, but Discord?", follows in this same trend, to predictably good results.

The grammar is impeccable. This is helped in part by the small word count which ensures fewer opportunities to mess up, and in part by the author's effective use of Discord's first-person perspective. Dialogue is not only properly formatted, but maximized for comedic effect.

The pacing is, of course, fast, but the jokes are timed very well. This is mostly due to the author's choice of words, which manage to vividly describe both Discord's perception of the world and the believable reactions the other characters have towards his chaotic behavior. While there is a lot left to the imagination due to the low word count, enough is described to give that imagination a base to launch from.

The characters are true to their personalities from the show, although it is interesting to see some nastier sides of Discord's personality come through. After all, many folks forget that Discord has the potential to do almost anything he wants. Thus, some folks may be shocked at some of the things Discord does prior to the events of the story, which sets up the scenario for the one-shot. While the story plays the whole ordeal for laughs, I would not be surprised if some folks cringe when they read those particular passages.

The only minor complaint I have is where the author insinuates that other ponies simply don't appreciate Discord's unique perspective of the world, which is why they treat him the way they do. As true as this is, that does not mean that the point needs to be thrust in the reader's face. Granted, this philosophizing was merely a setup to the last joke of the piece, which undermines its potential preachiness.

In conclusion, this story is a high-quality one-shot in a sea of high-quality one-shots. This means that the grammar is good, the dialogue is perfectly crafted for good comedic timing, the choice of words vividly describes Discord, his environment, and the characters around him with an economy that is enviable, and it is over and done in under ten minutes, give or take a few. While the quality of the piece does not make the piece stand out from the crowd, at least it can stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the rest of its ilk.

Score: 9/10