

Bonus Case 1: Turnabout Triplets

Chapter 3: Trial Part 2

July 12, 2:20 PM, Defendant's Lobby #1, Ponyville

I entered the lobby with Blueberrie and saw Pinkie Pie jamming out on the couch to music that could no doubt only be heard in her head. I wondered why she was in the defendant's lobby of course, but I decided that asking her questions about it was probably not just pointless, but futile as well.

"Hey guys!" Pinkie shouted as she hopped toward us, "How's the trial going? Is Blueberrie innocent yet?"

I smiled and said, "It's going pretty well actually. Blueberrie hasn't been proven innocent yet, but I think everything's going on track."

"What do you think Blueberrie?"

Blueberrie was still a bit sullen, but she managed to put on a happy face for Pinkie. "Haven't you been watching the trial Pinkie?"

"It's too loud in there. I've been in here trying to think of an awesome victory song. The problem is that I can't think of anything that rhymes with innocent." Pinkie turned to me. "Do you think you could make it last a little longer so I can think of something?"

"I can't promise anything. Personally, I hope we can finish it quickly."

"Maybe you guys can help me then. How much time until you have to get back?"

"We won't be here very long Pinkie."

I hope.

"Now that you mention it, why are you here in the first place?"

"The witness was lying, so Grayamina needs to sort some things out."

"Ooh. That reminds me. I need to go and ask Grayie how the trials going for her. Good luck Blueberrie."

Pinkie left the room at a brisk pace. No doubt she was going to surprise Grayamina with some random outburst when she arrived.

Blueberrie took a seat on one of the nearby couches and I decided to join her. "So how are you doing Blueberrie?" I asked.

She sighed and smiled at me. "I'm doing better than I expected. To be honest, when Pinkie recommended an attorney I didn't have very much faith."

"Why? I thought I looked pretty respectable."

"It's not that. It's just that Pinkie isn't exactly the most trustworthy pony."

"Does she let you down a lot or something?"

"...I'd prefer not to talk about Pinkie much if you don't mind."

"That actually reminds me. Why didn't you tell me about your motive before this whole thing started?"

"Well you never asked. Besides I didn't even think I really had a motive."

"I guess that's understandable, but surely you knew that Grayamina could use this whole jealousy thing for her case."

"I thought that Grayamina would be on my side," Blueberrie's head drooped as she spoke, "I guess she really does consider this her job."

[I wish I could cheer her up somehow. Why did Pinkie have to leave?](#)

Before I could think of a way to lighten her spirits, someone walked into the lobby. I recognized it as the bailiff. "The prosecution is ready. Please return to the court."

Blueberrie smiled at me as we walked out and said, "Please don't let me down Ms. Twilight. You've done great so far."

July 12, 2:40 PM, Courtroom #1, Ponyville

Grayamina looked somewhat more annoyed than usual when she entered the courtroom. I wasn't sure if this was because of dealing with Angel or Pinkie's earlier visit.

Celestia turned to her and asked, "Is the witness ready now Ms. Pie?"

"I believe so, your honor. Me and Ms. Fluttershy talked things out with him and I believe that the version he's given us is true."

“Why was Angel lying in the first place?” I asked.

Grayamina sighed. I was surprised to see her showing this much emotion. “Apparently he found that the truth was too embarrassing, and decided to tell a story that made the attacker seem stronger.”

“And you’re sure you’ve got the real story now?”

“As sure as my trust will comfortably allow. I’m afraid that you will have to settle for that.”

I get the feeling she’s not the most trusting pony. That’ll have to do.

Clestia nodded. “Very well. Please bring them to the stand, bailiff.”

Both Angel and Fluttershy were clearly annoyed this time when they approached the stand. It obviously hadn’t been easy to get the bunny’s confession.

Grayamina regained her usual composure and turned to the stand. “Please tell us what really happened witness.”

Testimony

-- The 'Real' Crime --

-Angel wasn’t really hit with a rock.

-He was embarrassed by what happened because he thought it made him look weak.

-He was actually poisoned.

-Somepony came to the door, and gave him a bunch of carrots.

-After he ate a few of them he felt woozy and passed out.

-He says that the pony he saw looked like Blueberrie.

This time Celestia was the first to speak. “You may begin your cross-examination now Twilight.”

This will probably be the last testimony. It’s now or never.

Cross-Examination

-- The 'Real' Crime --

“Were the carrots bad or something?” I asked

Grayamina turned from the stand to me. “It’s possible, but we are operating under the assumption that the poisoning was intentional. We couldn’t learn much from the carrots that were found with the witness. Most of them were crushed after all.”

“Then the carrots in the cart were the same ones from the crime scene?”

“There weren’t any carrots at the actual crime scene, so it is most likely.”

Carrots updated in court record.

-Carrots: Half eaten carrots found in the cart with Angel. Apparently they were laced with something that makes rabbits sick.

I guess it’s time to bluff.

“Did you get a good look at the pony, witness?”

“...He says that they looked like that pony in the defendant’s stand.”

“You got a good look at their face, then?”

“...Actually, he says he didn’t.”

The crowd and I gasped in unison.

Wow that actually worked? I wonder if this is how all defense attorneys do things.

“W-well then,” I continued, still surprised I’d actually gotten anything, “If he didn’t see the face, then how did he recognize them?”

“For that matter,” Grayamina chimed in, “How did he not see the face of his kidnapper if they gave him carrots?”

“...He says he may have seen their face, but he doesn’t actually remember it that well because of how sick he got.”

“Then,” I asked again, “how did he know it was Blueberrie?”

“...He says he saw a blueberry cutie mark like the defendant has.”

Well that didn’t help as much as I thought. Well I guess I might as well keep pushing.

“Just to make sure, can Angel please describe the mark?”

Even I could understand Angel’s gestures in this case. He pointed to Blueberrie, and made a circle.

Of course Fluttershy still felt that she needed to translate. "It was blue and round."

Celestia's gavel once again snapped me out of my thoughts. "I think that settles it. While the tracks and the testimony alone might qualify as flimsy evidence at best, together with where the victim was found make it clear who the guilty party in this case is. Does the defense have anything more to say?"

Cud! I have to think of something quickly. Let's try that bluffing thing again.

"There is one other possibility."

Grayamina sighed again. It was clear she was ready to end this trial. "And what would that be Ms. Sparkle?"

"What if it was some other pony that Angel saw?"

Grayamina leaned forward and gave me her usual cold stare. "Are you serious Ms. Sparkle?"

"All that Angel remembers is the cutie mark. I'm sure plenty of ponies have a round blue cutie mark."

"Very well Ms Sparkle. I'll give you one chance. What pony, other than the defendant, has a round blue cutie mark, the same size hoof as the defendant, and a reason for taking the victim to the Pie farm?"

C'mon Twilight. It wasn't Blueberrie, so there's only one other option.

"The only other person who might fit that description is none other than the defendant's sister, Pinkie Pie!"

The commotion in the crowd had to be silenced by Celestia's gavel.

Celestia seemed almost excited by this turn of events. "You've raised an interesting point Twilight. I would like to hear from this other potential kidnapper."

They're taking me seriously? This is going better than I thought.

"We will need to have a recess in order to find Ms. Pie however.

"Actually your honor, the accused is currently in the prosecutor's lounge." I noticed by Grayamina's tone that she had returned to its usual cold state.

“Very well. Bring her in please, bailiff.”

Pinkie hopped into the courtroom behind the bailiff a minute later. I wasn't sure why she was so happy. Obviously the bailiff hadn't told her why she was here.

She immediately started waving toward everypony in the courtroom. “Hey Twilight. Hey Grayie. Hey Blueberry. Hey Princess. How's the trial going?”

“Pinkie,” I asked, “do you know why you're here?”

“I'm here to hear the verdict right? So who won?”

Grayamina slammed one of her hooves on the table. “Pinkamina! This is serious business. Stop bouncing.” She seemed a bit more angry than usual. Her tone and face hadn't changed, but the way she slammed her hoof betrayed her mood.

“Calm down Grayie. I'm just excited to hear who won.”

“That's not why we called you in here! You have been accused by Ms. Sparkle of kidnapping the rabbit. We need your alibi right now.”

“Okie dokie lokie. Why didn't you just say so.”

“Okay Pinkie. Please tell us what you were doing yesterday.”

Testimony

-- What I was doing yesterday --

-Well first I woke up and I had a bowl of oatmeal.

-Then I went to town square and told Rainbow Dash to meet me at the farm after she finished working.

-After that I started handing out invitations for Gummy's party.

-He didn't bite me for a whole day last week so I thought we should celebrate.

-I was all over Ponyville handing out invitations.

Grayamina sighed again. It seemed she had returned to being exasperated. “Well that bit about the oatmeal was hardly necessary, but the rest of the testimony is unclear. Pinkamina can you tell us where you were from 6:00 to 8:00?”

“I wasn't really keeping track of time, but I can tell you that I wasn't at the farm.”

“Very well. Ms. Sparkle-“

“Ms. Pie.”

Grayamina didn't even bother apologizing this time. She simply went quiet.

“Twilight, you may begin.”

Cross-Examination
- - What I was doing yesterday- -

“Did you ever go to the farm to meet Rainbow Dash? At 7:00 in particular.”

“No. There were still some clouds hanging around Ponyville so I assumed she was still working.”

I noticed Grayamina had begun writing something on her envelope. “I'll be sure to include that in my report to the weather patrol.”

Poor Dash will be eating boiled grass by the time Grayamina's done with her salary.

“Who were you inviting?” I said continuing my questioning, “I know I wasn't invited.”

“Shh. I can't say. Gummy's in the audience.”

I looked up into the stands and, indeed, the toothless gator was there.

I was going to say something, but Grayamina beat me to the punch. “Pinkamina, do I have to remind you how serious this situation is?” Her anger was beginning to show in her voice. “We need to know where you were and who you met.”

“I'm sorry Grayie, but I can't spoil the surprise.”

Celestia smiled at the pink pony at the stand and said, “I understand Ms. Pie. Bailiff, would you please escort the gator from the courtroom.”

“But then Gummy'll miss the verdict,” Pinkie complained.

“The only other option is to tell us with him here Ms. Pie.”

“But he's already found out there's a party. I can't spoil the guest list for him too. Couldn't we wait until the party's over? It's planned for tomorrow.”

Grayamina once again slammed her hoof on the bench. “Pinkamina be serious!”

Maybe I can get her to talk.

“Pinkie, if you don’t tell the court I’m going to have to.”

Pinkie looked confused. “How do you know who I invited Twilight?”

It’s just a hunch, but it’s worth a shot.

“Pinkie you invited Angel to the party didn’t.”

Pinkie’s shifty eyes activated immediately after I said the bunny’s name. I was on the right track. After a moment she focused her eyes on me intently and asked, “What proof do you have?”

Is she seriously going to keep arguing?

“Pinkie when we were visiting Fluttershy’s cottage earlier today, you mentioned that you thought Angel was shedding because of the hair on the floor. However, considering the situation it would have been much more reasonable to assume that the bunny had fought against his kidnappers. How could you have known he was shedding unless you had seen it yourself?”

I knew it wasn’t much, but I was hoping that the force I said it with would be enough. It seemed I was right because after my little speech Pinkie bowed her head and said,
”Why do you keep ruining my surprises Twi?”

This time when the prosecutor spoke up the anger could actually be seen on her face.
“Pinkamina, why were you hiding such important information from this court?”

A smile came back to Pinkie’s face when she looked back to Grayamina. “I didn’t want to spoil the surprise silly.”

“This information could be vital to the case.”

Celestia was still smiling throughout all this. It was almost like she found it funny. “Ms. Pie, the prosecutor is right. I’m afraid that regardless of the alligator in the room we will need this information.”

Pinkie shrugged. “Well Twilight spoiled the surprise anyway I guess. So I can tell you now.”

Testimony

- - What I was doing yesterday part 2- -

-I did see Angel yesterday because he was invited to Gummy’s party.

-I also invited Winona, Owlicious, Opal, and this orange chicken that I met in town square.

-Each invitation was personalized for the invitee, except for the chicken, who I just gave a cupcake.

-I was all over delivering the invitations, so I'm not sure what time it was when I saw Angel, but I'm pretty sure it was before six, because he wasn't kidnapped yet.

I looked over at Grayamina, expecting her to say something, but all she did was stare. Her previous cool had come back to her, but she seemed to be actively attempting to maintain it.

Celestia pulled my gaze to her by saying the very words I expected from Grayamina. "Twilight, you can start the cross-examination now."

I shook myself back to reality. "Of course princess."

Cross-Examination

- - What I was doing yesterday Part 2- -

"I didn't see you deliver anything to Owlicious. Did anyone else see you deliver the invitations?"

"I met Applebloom when I saw Winona. That was after I met Angel though." Pinkie seemed to be trying really hard to remember. "Oh! Sweetie Belle saw me when I gave Opal hers too. And I ran into Scootaloo right after I gave the chicken the cupcake."

"So Fluttershy wasn't there when you met Angel than?"

"Nope. I think she was buying more chicken seed or something."

"What exactly was it that made the invitations personalized?"

"Well I gave every guest their favorite food. Except for the chicken, but that was because Fluttershy was out of seed."

"What did you give each of them?"

"Let's see...I gave Opal a fish, Winona a bone, the chicken a cupcake, Owlicious a rat, and I gave Angel some carrots."

I looked over at Grayamina expecting to see a bit of surprise. Her face was still completely solid however. Apparently her emotion binge was a little short lived.

"Pinkie," she said as she rifled through her envelope and pulled out a new photo, "Are these the carrots you gave Angel?"

Pinkie examined the photo probably longer than was necessary before saying, "No those

carrots are too dirty. I gave angel some really nice shiny carrots.”

Suddenly an idea popped into my head. “Pinkie, did you do anything special to the gifts you gave out.”

“Yeah. I used some of Blueberries super powered shining stuff on them.”

“Pinkie,” Blueberrie gasped, “That stuff is highly toxic.”

“Well yeah I know that now. Angel got really sick when I gave it to him.”

I was moments away from leaping into the air and cheering. I couldn’t believe this had actually worked. However before I could get too excited Grayamina spoke up again. Her voice alone was enough to cool me off. “Hold on Ms. Sparkle. Just because Pinkamina poisoned the rabbit does not mean she’s a kidnapper.” She then turned back to the pink pony on the stand. “Pinkamina, what did you do after the rabbit passed out?”

“Oh that’s kind of embarrassing.”

“We need to know Pinkamina.”

“Okie dokie.

Testimony

-- Sick Angel --

-I was really worried when Angel got sick, but I didn’t know where Fluttershy was.

-It’s embarrassing, but I couldn’t remember the way to the nurse pony either.

-I thought that Blueberrie would know what to do since she made the shining stuff, so I went to the farm instead.

-I still had all the other invitations to deliver though. Plus I had to get all new stuff.

-I just left Angel on the farm where I thought Blueberrie would find him.

The whole courtroom went briefly silent. I looked over to Grayamina at last expecting to see some surprise on her face, but what I saw was disappointment. “Pinkamina, do you know what this trial is for?”

Pinkie looked up obviously a bit confused. “It’s to see whether or not Blueberrie locked Angel in the silo right? How did you forget that Grayie?”

“Silo?”

“Yeah, that’s where I put Angel after all. I figured Blueberrie would find him when she went to put

the rocks away. It was closer than the farmhouse.”

I chimed in here. “Pinkie, we were trying to figure out who took Angel from Fluttershy’s cottage.”

“OOOOHHH! That was me. Why didn’t you guys just ask me?”

I noticed something that almost seemed like a smile on Grayamina’s face. If I didn’t know better, I’d have thought she was laughing. “Pinkamina, do you no how much time you could have saved if you had told anyone what you just said?”

Pinkie took a moment to think this over. “A lot.”

This sent Grayamina over the edge. She fell over onto the bench and started laughing almost hysterically. For a few seconds, only to be interrupted by Celestia’s gavel.

“Ms. Pie, please get a hold of yourself. We do still have quite the unanswered question here.”

Grayamina pulled herself back up and after a second managed to put her straight face back on. “I’m sorry your honor. It’s just the very idea is humorous. A whole day here was wasted because nobody asked the one person who knew what was going on.”

I looked up at Celestia as I was still a bit confused. “Hold on princess. Doesn’t this mean that Blueberrie’s innocent. Pinkie just admitted to kidnapping Angel after all.”

Celestia shook her head. “I’m sorry Twilight, but I’m afraid Blueberrie can’t be absolved of guilt just yet. While it’s true that she did not kidnap the victim, the victim was found injured inside of her rock cart. If Pinkie Pie here left the bunny in the silo as she says, then we still need to figure out how they got from one place to the other.”

“So you see Ms. Sparkle,” Grayamina interjected, “While Blueberrie may be innocent in relation to the kidnapping, we still have the matter of assault to settle. Angel was badly injured after being buried in her rock cart. Blueberrie is still the primary suspect.”

“Thank you Ms. Pie, but I was just about to explain that.”

“I apologize your honor.”

“I think that for now we cannot deduce how the victim got from the Pie Silo to the defendants cart. Court will be suspended for further investigation.”

I sighed. When was this going to end?

Celestia’s gavel sounded the end of today’s court session and the court was emptied.

Me and Pinkie waved goodbye to Blueberrie as the Bailiff moved her back to the dungeon. "I'm sorry Twilight," Pinkie said as she walked me home, "I could have saved you a lot of time."

"It's okay Pinkie. I suppose I didn't ask."

"I promise I'll be more helpful tomorrow!"

"Tomorrow?"

"Of course. There's still a lot more of investigatin' to do." She waved goodbye as I opened the door. "See you in the morning."