

## Bonus Case 1: Turnabout Triplets

### Chapter 2: Trial Part 1

*July 12, 1:15 PM, Courtroom #1, Ponyville*

I was panting as I sat down behind the defenses podium. I had barely made it in time, but I was here. Pinkie was forced to wait in the lobby though.

Celestia looked down at me and grinned. "Glad to see you made it Twilight. I was afraid you wouldn't be joining us today."

"I'm sorry princess. I was busy investigating and lost track of time."

"Investigation is best left to the police Twilight."

*Then why didn't I run into any police while I was looking around.*

"Regardless, I think it's about time we got this trial started. Is the prosecution ready?"

"Yes your honor." I looked over and saw Grayamina sitting at the prosecutor's podium. I guess she wasn't kidding about being the prosecutor. Of course that wasn't surprising; as I wasn't sure she could even make jokes.

"Very well. Is the defense ready Twilight?"

"Actually your honor, before we proceed there is something that's been bothering me. Isn't it a conflict of interest if the prosecutor is related to the defendant?"

"I'm sorry Twilight, but Ms. Pie was the best I could find on short notice with the Doctor out of town. Apart from you, she was the only pony in Ponyville that I thought would take this case seriously."

"Don't worry Ms. Sparkle," Grayamina said, the icy tone still in her voice, "I assure you that the defendant being my sister will have absolutely no effect on how I proceed with the prosecution."

*Somehow that doesn't make me feel any better.*

"Well if that's settled than we should proceed." Celestia turned back to Grayamina.  
"Prosecution, would you please call your first witness?"

"Yes your honor. To begin, the prosecution would like to call the pony that made the arrest, Rainbow Dash."

Rainbow dash entered the court room quickly, but seemed a bit more nervous than usual.

She's probably remembering what happened last time.

"Name and profession."

"I'm Rainbow Dash, and I'm part of the weather crew for Ponyville." She seemed to be regaining a bit of her usual confidence as she spoke.

"Tell us what happened when you arrested the defendant Ms. Dash."

Dash looked smugly at the Gray pony giving her orders and said, "You know it wouldn't hurt if you asked nicely."

"We've already been over this Ms. Dash," Grayamina said and she leaned forward on her bench, revealing her well shined hooves, "All we need is your testimony."

"Alright miss big shot prosecutor."

### Testimony

-- The Arrest --

- "I was meeting Pinkie that day, because she said she had something to give me."

- "She said that she was going to meet me at the farm, so obviously that's where I went."

- "That was when I heard Fluttershy scream."

- "Of course, I got to her as fast as I could, but when I got close I saw that she had passed out."

- "I thought that the blue pony must have done something to her, so I decided to try out that new 'citizen's arrest' thing that Celestia made up."

Grayamina turned her unfeeling gaze from Dash and aimed it straight at me. "You may begin your cross examination Ms. Sparkle."

"Ms. Pie, if you wouldn't mind I believe it is my job to inform the defense to begin," Celestia said calmly as she looked towards Grayamina.

"I apologize your honor. Go right ahead." Even though she spoke to Celestia, her eyes seemed firmly focused on the defendant's bench.

"You may begin your cross examination now Twilight."

Thanks, but I don't need to be told twice. I didn't get to talk to Dash earlier, so I suppose I should use this time to get as much information as I can.

## Cross-Examination

### -- The Arrest --

“Do you have any idea what it was that Pinkie was planning to give you?”

“I don’t know for sure, but she said she couldn’t bring it in the balloon, so I figure it was something pretty big.” She spread her arms out wide to emphasize this.

“Ms. Sparkle,” the icy voice said from across the room, “how is this of any importance.”

“It probably isn’t, but-“ I was interrupted by the slam of Grayamina’s hoof against her bench and the accompanying flash of light.

“Ms. Sparkle, I would appreciate it if you refrain from asking such pointless questions.”

*She sure doesn’t like wasting time.*

“When did you finish cloud clearing, Dash,” I asked.

“Well I took a loooong nap, so I think I finished sometime around 7:00.” Once again her arms spread for emphasis.

Grayamina stared angrily at Rainbow. “I’ll be sure to recommend that they cut your pay for the wasted time Ms. Dash.”

*Can she actually do that?*

“However, there is a problem with your testimony,” Grayamina continued,” Fluttershy stated that she found the rabbit at 8:00 P.M. Where were you during the extra hour?”

“Well you see that’s because I went to the Apple Farm and it takes a *long* time to search those orchards, even for me.”

*I guess she didn’t know that Pinkie was giving her a rock.*

“So when I couldn’t find her, I decided to check the rock farm.”

“Fluttershy is a very quiet pony,” I said continuing my questioning,” Where were you exactly when you heard the scream?”

“I was just below the clouds around the farm, but it was a really loud scream for Fluttershy. She must have been really freaked out. That’s probably why she fainted.”

“You said she had fainted before you got there, correct?”

“Yeah, she was out cold, so I figured somepony had freaked her out or something. That was why I decided to arrest the only other pony there.”

“So you didn’t even have a reason to arrest Blueberrie when you first saw her?”

“Well, no, but after I arrested her I had a reason. When told her she was under arrest, she freaked out and started saying stuff like, 'I have no idea how he got there.' That’s when I checked the cart and saw Angel and arrested her for that.”

I think that’s all I need.

“That’ll be all Rainbow Dash.”

“Wait, so you’re just going to let me leave this time?”

“Yes Dash. All I needed was to know what you saw.”

“Cool. See ya later then. Good luck Twi.”

Rainbow Dash waved and left the podium quickly. As if she could do it any other way.

“Now, Ms. Sparkle, I believe it is your turn to call a witness for me to cross-examine correct?”

“Actually Ms. Pie,” Celestia chimed in, “I’m afraid that’s not quite how it works.”

“Really? I simply assumed that the defense's turn came right after the prosecution's.”

I guess she did just get her badge yesterday.

“No Ms. Pie. Feel free to call your next witness.”

“Well I still believe in playing fair, so let’s give the defense a chance to speak. I would like to call Blueberrie Pie to the stand your honor.”

“You really don’t have to you know.”

“Turnabout’s Fair Play.”

“Very well. Will Ms. Blueberrie please approach the stand?”

Blueberrie moved from the defense's booth to the witness podium with an air of confidence that seemed very inappropriate considering her situation.

"Name and profession."

"My name is Blueberrie Pie, and I work at the Pie rock farm."

"Very well. Ms. Sparkle, what would you like to hear from the witness?" Her stare was as cold as ever, but now I couldn't help but wonder if she just couldn't help it.

"Ummm I guess we could start with why Blueberrie has no reason to kidnap Angel."

"Very well. Witness?"

Testimony  
- - The Motive - -

-I had no reason to kidnap the bunny.

-What motive could I possibly have to kidnap a rabbit I don't even know?

"OBJECTION!"

I'M BLIND!

"Your honor, I've spotted a contradiction.

-The witness is lying about her connection to the victim.

-While it's true she does not know the rabbit personally, she does know its owner, Fluttershy.

-It is well known to me and the rest of the Pie family, that she dislikes this pony because she is such good friends with her sister."

I still couldn't see anything, but I'm sure that the next thing I heard was the sound of Celestia's gavel. "Ms. Pie, I think you're still having trouble understanding how this works. It's the defenses job to point out contradictions from your witnesses. If you keep up like this I'll have to issue you a *strict* penalty."

"I apologize your honor. It seems I am not as familiar with the system as I thought."

"Also, I would appreciate it if you'd avoid pointing in the future. It seems that Twilight can't take the shine from your hooves."

I stopped rubbing my eyes and looked around. I could see again! "I'm okay now princess."

"However, as this testimony does seem pertinent to the case, I will allow Twilight to

cross-examine it if she pleases.”

This is just ridiculous. I guess I'll just have to go about it like normal if the princess is allowing it.

### Cross-Examination

-- The Motive --

I moved my eyes back and forth from the stand to the prosecutor's bench. I was cross-examining Grayamina so my eyes eventually settled on her, but it still seem odd to be looking at this part of the room during the examination. “As far as I understand it, none of Pinkie's friends have even met the defendant. How could she possibly know who Fluttershy is?”

I shuddered a bit as Grayamina's eyes stared into mine. “It is not impossible to know who someone is just because you have never met them Ms. Sparkle. Pinkamina is known to brag about her friends quite often during her rare visits to the farm.”

Well that wasn't nearly as helpful as I thought it would be.

“How is being a friend with the defendant's sister a good reason for criminal activity?”

“There is no ‘good reason’ for criminal activity Ms. Sparkle.” I spotted a bit of anger in Grayamina's eyes now, although she spoke as straightly as ever. “However, if you are asking for the connection between the motive and the friendship, that is no more than a matter of simple jealousy. Pinkamina rarely visits the rock farm nowadays, and when she does she doesn't do more than brag about her friends. We, as sisters, have of course often discussed how irritating this is.”

“When you put it like that it seems just as likely that you could have committed the crime.” I pointed accusingly at Grayamina.

“I have an alibi. The defendant does not.”

“Maybe we should see just how true that is. I'd like to hear about Blueberrie's alibi.”

“I am interested in hearing the defendant's side as well,” Celestia interjected, “Besides, as fun as this has been, it would be nice to get this trial back on track. Defendant, if you please.”

Blueberrie nodded. Here previous confidence was completely gone. “Okay.”

### Testimony

-- My Alibi --

-I was at home all day shining the rocks for sale.

-The workload was pretty small because that day was sale day.  
-Dad and Grayamina had gone into town to sell the rocks, so I was left home alone with mom.  
-At around 6:00 I finished my work so I decided I would help out with the actual harvesting of the rocks.  
-I was working for two hours straight when that yellow pegasus showed up.

“So you were throwing rocks into a cart for two hours and you expect us to believe that you simply didn’t notice that a bunny was inside it,” Grayamina leaned accusingly toward Blueberrie.

“Well you know I don’t move very fast, and I didn’t exactly look into the cart when I was throwing the rocks in.”

Grayamina fell back and turned toward me. “Very well. Ms. Sparkle cross-examine the witness.”

“Ms. Pie we’ve been over this,” Celestia said as calmly as ever.

“I apologize.”

“You may begin Twilight.”

Is this going to happen every time we start a proper cross-examination?

### Cross-Examination

-- My Alibi --

“Can your mother confirm that you were at the farm all day?”

“Yes I’m sure she would vouch for me-“

“Objection!” This time Grayamina merely slammed her hoof on the bench. The resulting flash was distracting of course, but I was just glad I could still see. “Mother has been bedridden for a week now, and her room doesn’t have a view of the field. If Blueberrie was out of the house from 6:00 to 8:00 than mother would not have been able to verify her location.”

“What if Blueberrie were to check on her?” I asked, “It couldn’t be that unlikely if the woman was sick.”

Grayamina turned away from me and stared intently at Blueberrie. “Did you check on her defendant?”

“...No, not after I started working. And I don’t think she ever got out of bed either.”

Darn, I thought I hit gold. It was just a hard rock.

“Thank you for not raising your hoof Ms. Pie, but I would still appreciate it if you avoided shouting so much.”

“Yes, your honor.”

“Do you usually help with the rock harvest?” I asked Blueberrie.

“No, I’m not much of a work pony. That’s why it took me so long to get the cart only half full. The rocks are very heavy.”

“Why did you decide this particular time to work?”

“Well it’s not that uncommon. Dad has often come home to me or mom farming the rocks during a sales day. I just felt like I should be working even though I had finished my polishing.”

“And does it usually take you two hours to harvest half a cart of rocks?”

“My speed isn’t very consistent, but I like to think I’m getting faster.”

“By ‘yellow pegasus’ I assume you mean Fluttershy?” I continued.

“Yes. We don’t get many visitors so I was really surprised when she flew up. She screamed when she got close, so I tried to calm her down.”

“Did you know at the time why she was screaming?”

“She looked into the cart so I checked to see what had frightened her. I tried to calm her down after I saw the bunny in the cart.”

I can’t help but think there's a problem with that statement.

“Princess, I’d like to request that the defendant’s statement be added to her testimony.”

“If you insist Twilight. I hope you have a plan for it.”

-When I saw the bunny in the cart I tried to calm the screaming pony down.

“Hold on just a minute.” **Ha! That’s way better than objection.** “Rainbow Dash testified earlier that Fluttershy must have fainted almost immediately after her scream. Why would you try to calm down someone who has just fainted?”

“I-I didn’t know she’d fainted at the time.”



Grayamina didn't betray anything when she turned to me. "I hope you have a reason for contradicting your own client, Ms. Sparkle."

"Believe it or not, I do. I propose that the defendant was thrown into a panic by the discovery of the bunny. How could she be so surprised if she knew the bunny was there?"

"That's a pleasant story Ms. Sparkle, but ponies have been known to panic for various reasons. The defendant could have been startled by the actual *discovery* of the rabbit. Maybe she didn't know what to do now that it had been spotted."

[Curse you and your logic.](#)

I tried to think of a rebuttal, but the sound of Celestia's gavel kept me from gathering my thoughts properly.

"I believe that's all that we need to hear from the defendant. Are there any further questions, or shall we move on?"

"I have no further questions your honor," Grayamina said.

I tried to think of something else to ask, but nothing came to mind. "I can't think of anything your honor."

"Very well. Defendant, you may take your seat." Blueberrie did so. I watched her walk somberly back to the bench.

"Now, I see we have proven the defendant's lack of a proper alibi, but I still haven't seen any conclusive evidence that she kidnapped the rabbit," Celestia continued, "Ms. Pie, do you have anything more to go on than the cart that the victim was discovered in?"

"Yes your honor." Grayamina rifled through a file in front of her and pulled out a photo, "To start I have a photograph of a set of tracks found to lead from Fluttershy's Cottage directly to the Pie farm."

"Those tracks could belong to anypony," I interrupted.

"As you'll no doubt remember Ms. Sparkle I have measured these tracks and they match Blueberries hoof size."

"But many ponies have the same hoof size. How can you be sure they're Blueberrie's?"

"Very few ponies visit our farm Ms. Sparkle, and I'd imagine even those few that might visit

would not come from Fluttershy's Cottage.

"Also, before you ask, I have taken the liberty of measuring Fluttershy's hooves. They do not match the defendant, and Fluttershy herself says she flew to the farm. May I continue now, or do you have something else to add?"

"...Go ahead."

"The other piece of evidence is the pile of hair found in Fluttershy's Cottage. Mixed in with the white hair of the rabbit, there are various strands of blue hair that match the defendant's cutie mark."

"That fur could have come from anywhere. It's hardly compelling evidence."

"On that, we agree Ms. Sparkle. However I did not intend to use it as such, I simply found that it was worth mentioning."

[If you don't plan to use it, how is it worth mentioning?](#)

"The evidence that will prove the defendant's guilt takes the form of a witness. The prosecution would like to call the rabbit Angel to the stand."

"Hold on. How do you plan to question someone who doesn't speak English?"

"The rabbit has shown an understanding of my questioning so far, so I don't expect to encounter any problems with the questioning. However the rabbit's owner will be needed in order to translate. I assume your honor will allow this?"

"I don't see any real problem with this," the princess turned to me, "assuming the defense agrees."

"...I have no problems with it your honor."

"Very well. Bring the witness to the stand."

Fluttershy nervously approached the stand with Angel in tow. It was clear Angel was badly hurt. Both his hind legs and his left ear were bandaged.

"Name and profession."

Fluttershy's eyes darted nervously from me to the judge to the prosecutor. "I'm Fluttershy and I take care of the animals in ponyville."

"I was actually referring to the witness, Ms. Fluttershy." I noticed that Grayamina seemed to be

acting a bit more warmly than she had been. Even her gaze didn't seem as chilly.

"Oh. His name is Angel and he's an umm... rabbit."

"Very well. Mr. Angel, could you please tell us the events of the kidnapping."

### Testimony

#### -- The Kidnapping --

-Angel says that he didn't recognize the kidnapper when they walked in.

-Before he could find out who it was, they attacked him.

-Oh my! They hit you with a rock?

-That must be how you broke your leg, huh?

-Oh, they hit you in the head.

-So you don't remember much after that?

The courtroom went silent for a moment. I wasn't entirely sure why, but no one was talking.

"Your honor?" Grayamina piped up after a few seconds.

"Yes Ms. Pie?"

"Don't you have something to say?"

"What? Oh right! You may begin your cross-examination, Twilight."

Does she need Grayamina to remind her now?

### Cross-Examination

#### -- The Kidnapping --

"Did you get a good look at the attacker?" I asked.

Fluttershy paused briefly to look at Angel. He was making a bunch of strange motions with his paws, but she seemed to understand them. "He says he's pretty sure that it was the defendant."

"Pretty sure is not completely sure."

Grayamina leaned forward and, once again turned her glare towards me. IT was icy again. "Ms. Sparkle, do you really want to argue this point? The witness saw someone who looked like the defendant and wound up in the defendant's rock cart. Who else could the witness have seen?"

I took a moment to think of a name, but she was right. "I don't know."

“Then please stop wasting time and continue with the examination.”

I turned back to Fluttershy. “So the attacker hit you with a rock?”

“Y-yes, that’s what he said.”

“Then where is this rock?”

Grayamina interrupted again, although the slight warmth had once again returned to her voice. “I found a large rock at the scene of the crime. Here’s a picture of it.” She pulled another photo out of her folder.

“...Angel says that looks like the rock that hit him.”

Wait isn’t that..?

“Hold it right there!”

“Eep!”

Celestia leaned toward me and said, “Twilight, please try not to frighten the witness.”

I guess it’s not much better than objection after all.

“Ahem,” I continued trying to look professional, “the rock that the witness just mentioned has absolutely nothing to with the case. In fact, the rock was delivered to Fluttershy’s Cottage earlier today by the defendant’s sister, Pinkie Pie.”

“Why would Pinkamina deliver a rock to a crime scene?” Grayamina asked.

“I’d be lying if I said I understood it, but apparently it’s an invitation to a party. The point is that this rock could not have been used to attack the defendant, because it didn’t arrive until this morning.”

“That doesn’t mean that the witness is lying,” Grayamina said as she leaned on her bench, “The rock could have been carried back to the farm.”

“The witness said that the rock in the picture looked like the rock that hit him. You should know, prosecutor, that this rock is one of the more unique rocks of the pie farm.”

“Yes, I believe father calls it his Gray Rock. It is very easily distinguished from most rocks because it is so colorless.”

“And along with being super gray, I believe that it is also super heavy. Too heavy for one pony to carry it back and forth between the pie farm and Fluttershy’s Cottage in a short time.”

“It is true that the rocks are heavy and the walk is long, but it is hardly impossible. Couldn’t the defendant have used a cart to haul the rock and the rabbit back to the farm? That would explain why he was in the cart after all.”

“That would make sense, but I have proof that a cart was never involved. I believe you took this picture Grayamina.” Now it was my turn to pull something out an envelope.

“Oh I see what you’re getting at. Very well.”

“These tracks are believed to be the kidnappers correct.”

“Yes.”

“And as you can clearly see, there are no cart tracks anywhere near them.”

Grayamina clapped her hooves together for a moment. I wasn’t sure if she was being sincere or sarcastic though, because her face remained as blank as ever. “Well done Ms. Sparkle. I suppose that means that a rock was not used in this particular crime.”

The glare from Grayamina was enough to freeze the bunny, and most of the court, in place.

“You’ve been lying to me this whole time, haven’t you witness?”

Surprisingly, Fluttershy was unfazed Grayamina’s gaze. Instead of freezing, like most of the room, she turned her own stare on Angel. “Is that true Angel? What have I told you about lying?”

I managed to shake myself back to life and said, “Fluttershy, do you think you can convince Angel to tell us the truth?”

“Just give me a minute Twilight. Come on Angel we’ve got some serious talking to do.”

Fluttershy walked right out of the courtroom while she scolded the bunny. Right after she left I heard Celestia’s gavel slam down again.

“I think now seems like a good time for a recess. Ms. Pie, if you would please get the witness under control so we can continue.”

“Yes your honor.”

“We’ll reconvene when you’re ready, please make it quick.”