

Mine, Little Pony!: Crafting Is Magic
Chapter 3: Something Wicked this Way Creeps

Pinkie Pie awoke to the sound of her friends talking. She yawned and stretched, feeling the cave's cold air surround her. Studying her surroundings, the party pony noticed that the others had broken several 1x1 holes into the entrance they had blocked off last night. Pinkie approached the other ponies.

“What are we talking about?” she asked.

“We’re making plans to build some shelter. Sorry we started without you, but we couldn’t wake you. You’re a very heavy sleeper,” Twilight answered.

“We need to cut some trees for wood to make the house,” Applejack said. “With Twilight being able to break the wood into more wood like she did last night, I don’t think we need that much.”

“What about beds, darling? I don’t want to spend one more night on the... *ground*,” Rarity said, disgust in her voice.

“Well, if some of us gather supplies and some of us work on the house we could probably get this done a lot faster,” Twilight said, always eager to help manage something.

“I should be out gathering stuff, because I’m the fastest flier in all Equestria!” Rainbow Dash exclaimed.

“I... I’d like to stay and help build, if that’s okay with you... I don’t want to wander too far off...” Fluttershy said.

“Well I *certainly* can’t dirty my hooves with any of this menial labor! I would much rather *design* the home!” Rarity said.

“Ah ain’t afraid of no dirt. Ah’ll go with Dash and get some supplies,” Applejack spoke.

“I wanna go out and gather stuff! There’s got to be lots to see around here and I want to see it *all!*” yelled an excited Pinkie Pie.

“Um... can I stay and help build?” Ditzzy Doo asked hopefully. She knew her eyes might impair her building ability, but she would be more embarrassed hitting a tree headfirst again.

“Sure! And I’ll stay and help Fluttershy and you build,” Twilight concluded. With the arrangements made, the ponies (excluding Rarity) carefully began to remove dirt from the blockade. Once that was done, Rainbow Dash darted out and checked around for anything that could attack them. Seeing only a wide green plain dotted with trees, flowers and grass, the pegasus returned and informed her friends that it was safe to go out.

Twilight was the last to exit the cave, taking the torches with her.

Pinkie Pie, Applejack and Rainbow Dash were all racing towards the nearest tree. One was eager

to see it give off blocks like the one Ditzzy had hit. One of them was looking forwards to a job well done. The last was hoping to get there before the other two mares, racing them without their knowledge. She did indeed reach it first, and was going too fast to slow down before she impacted with it. It was a pleasant feeling to the chromatic blur, as she was expecting branches.

With no branches to be found, Rainbow Dash simply plowed straight through the leaves and managed to shear off a little under half of them. Turning, she headed back towards it, going much slower this time. Rainbow Dash managed to land at about the same time Pinkie and Applejack reached the tree.

“Didja get any wood yet?” Applejack asked with a small chuckle. Rainbow Dash glared. *She’s only jealous because she can’t go as fast as me. After all, I’m the **Best Young Flier in Equestria!*** As the pegasus sat consoling herself, seemingly in another world, Applejack walked up to the tree and bucked it. A small crack appeared. Bucking repeatedly enlarged the crack and finally a loud “pop” filled the air as a block of wood found its way into the apple farmer’s saddlebag.

“That took quite a few bucks... this is gonna be a long day,” Applejack said. She finished off the second block of the tree as Pinkie rattled on about how it didn’t fall over. The orange earth pony had already accepted that this world was bizarre. She didn’t like not knowing what might happen next, but she did know that obsessing over it wouldn’t help.

“Need some help?” Rainbow Dash asked in a victorious tone as Applejack tried in vain to reach the highest blocks. The earth pony grumbled something and stood aside as her blue friend hovered close to the tree and kicked it repeatedly until it gave off another small block of wood. Pinkie, meanwhile, had moved on to a nearby pond and was testing the temperature. Finding it to be cool (but not too cool), she stepped in.

Several trees later, Applejack withdrew her own wood from her saddlebag and gave it to Rainbow Dash. The orange mare told the pegasus to take it back to the others as fast as she could. With a self-confident grin, Rainbow Dash was off.

“When will the others arrive with the lumber? I’m simply *dying* to see my design come to life!” Rarity exclaimed. She had already had the others dig out the foundation (though Ditzzy had made a few mistakes that needed to be filled in) and the fashionista pony was waiting eagerly to begin construction.

“I think they’ll be here soon,” Ditzzy said, one eye focused on something in the distance.

“It’s Rainbow Dash!” Twilight said excitedly. The purple unicorn was excited for this new experience, however unplanned it may be. The blue pegasus grew larger on the horizon and finally landed a few blocks away from Fluttershy. With a smirk, the blue mare pulled the wood out of her pack (a sizable amount, she thought) and dropped it at Twilight’s feet. Twilight’s horn glowed, and all of the pieces shattered into four smaller ones, each of them entering her pack.

“Oh, thank you, Rainbow Dash! This is a fantastic start!” Rarity squealed.

“S... start?” The best young flier’s voice wavered. She was already worked to near exhaustion. What kind of a house had Rarity conceived?

“Oh, yes, you didn’t think I would let the opportunity to use these resources to construct a mansion go to waste, did you?”

“Mansion? But... a normal house would be fine... we’ll only be here a little while...” This earned Rainbow Dash a glare from Rarity.

“Rainbow Dash, all of my life I have wanted to live in a mansion. I *will* live in a mansion,” Rarity said in a voice so harsh that Twilight, Ditzy and Rainbow Dash all cringed along with Fluttershy. Deciding to cut her losses, the blue pegasus took off and headed back to Applejack and Pinkie Pie.

“Only a start?” Applejack asked in shock. Rainbow Dash nodded grimly. Pinkie Pie splashed in the pond in what she hoped was an equally grim manner. Since she was Pinkie and since she was splashing, it wasn’t.

“She said it’s going to be a mansion.”

“What? Didn’t ya tell her that we don’t need no mansion?! We’re only gonna be here fer a few days!”

“I tried. She gave me a look that makes Fluttershy’s seem like a smile.” Applejack recoiled at the thought. With a collective sigh, the trio went back to work. After finding that work was hard, Pinkie went back to splashing in the water.

“No, dear, a little over... no, no, that isn’t right... Ditzy, try closing one eye,” Rarity said as she was trying to guide the wall-eyed mare. *Ditzy is a nice pony, but did she really need to help with the construction?* Finally, the gray pegasus was in position. “That’s perfect, Ditzy! Set it down right there!”

The small block expanded and at last the second external wall was completed. Rarity stepped back to admire her work. *This will be simply fabulous!* she thought.

“Okay girls, now we can start on the third wall!” The others seemed much less enthusiastic about it. *Oh well*, thought Rarity, *I suppose some ponies just aren’t cut out for hard labor!* The white unicorn’s friends sighed and returned to work, building up the wall block by block. Just then, Rainbow Dash arrived with more wood.

“Hey, Rarity, how much more of this are you gonna need? We’re all getting really tired and we have to go out farther and farther to find more trees...”

“Oh, I don’t think I’ll need much more, darling. Just one more trip should finish this up!” Rarity already had a saddlebag that was filled with planks, and the girls’ packs were still mostly full.

“Couldn’t we... you know... finish it tomorrow?”

“We *could*, but that would leave a hole in it! And a hole would just invite all of those terrible creatures to come after us!” Rainbow Dash sighed and took off towards Applejack and Pinkie Pie for what she hoped was the last time.

A very weary duo of ponies (and Pinkie Pie) were climbing over the last hill between themselves

and their future home. Rainbow Dash had opted to walk back, her wings being sore. *I can practice my stunts all day long with no pain, but Rarity... Rarity is a slave driver.*

“All ah can say is that this better be werth it,” Applejack said. As the three mares arrived at the top of the hill, they saw that it was. The trio shared a gasp as they saw the mansion looming before them. The sun’s last rays of light were splayed out over a massive wooden structure, containing windows, balconies, doors, an array of torches, and through the windows they could see beds beckoning to them. In addition, there was a large hole in the ground where sand had been that morning. As could be expected, they rushed inside and slammed the door behind them.

“Rarity! This is amazing!” Pinkie Pie exclaimed as she bounced around examining everything. There were paintings on the walls and though they were on hastily-made wool canvases they still looked spectacular. One of them depicted Ponyville at sunset, another showed a huge lake.

“Why thank you, darling! I worked so hard on it!” This earned her a collective glare from Ditzzy, Twilight and even Fluttershy. “I mean, *we* worked so hard on it!”

“Rarity? Where’d ya get all this? All we gave ya was wood and you make... paintin’s? Beds? Chests? Well, the chests ah can see making, but where’d ya get all the rest a this? And what about the glass fer windows?”

“Oh, that’s an interesting story! You see, Ditzzy here had just come back down for another stack of wood when she spotted a sheep in the distance. The poor dear was a bit eager to make its acquaintance and rushed towards it. Well, that eye of hers acted up and she rammed into it. As soon as she hit it the sheep was tossed back and it dropped a pile of wool! Never one to pass up an opportunity, I had her... ‘convince’ a few more sheep to part with their wool and I used it to create the marvels you see before you!”

“Okay... what about the glass? Twilight, you explain this one!” Rainbow Dash said hastily, hoping to avoid another lengthy story.

“You remember how I burst into flames when I got angry at Pinkie that one time with the hydra? Well, I got angry at Rarity this time... sorry about yelling at you, Rarity... while we were standing on some sand. It turned to glass from the heat! You guys probably saw the big hole outside, right? Well, we dug up some sand and placed it where the windows are now and I heated it up.”

“That’s *so* cool!” Pinkie squealed.

“Well, enough of this! Girls, would you like to see your rooms?”

“Yes!” they all cried in unison. Twilight, Ditzzy and Fluttershy had built theirs, but they were eager to sleep indoors for once. Ditzzy, however, took a quick detour. The mail mare opened the door and stood there, watching the sun set.

“... And here is your room, Rainbow Dash!” Rarity said, excited to hear what Rainbow Dash thought. It was similar to the other rooms, but there was a rug made of rainbow-colored wool in the floor.

“It’s great, Rarity! Perfect!” Just then, a loud boom sounded as an explosion rocked the mansion.

“Where’s Ditzzy?” Twilight asked. The ponies rushed downstairs.

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