

NAS Part 1

by

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INT. CRSYTAL PALACE PLAYSET

Twilight is making a paper frog on the crystal table. Rarity walks in from screen left.

RARITY

Hi, Twilight!

TWILIGHT

(lifting up a paper frog)

Rarity, look! I made a paper frog on my first try!

RARITY

(amazed)

Wow.

TWILIGHT

That's why I'm a princess.

RARITY

Cool. Hey! Can you collect taxes?

TWILIGHT

Taxes?

RARITY

Yeah. You know - when ponies give you money because you're princess.

TWILIGHT

Oh, I have a history book about this!

Twilight levitates a book from somewhere. It's a children's book, which she opens up.

TWILIGHT

Once upon a time, legends say that long ago there was such a thing called taxes.

Zoom in on the book, which is drawn out in crayons.

TWILIGHT

Every year, on Celestuary 24th, ponies were ordered to pay money to the princess. But most ponies couldn't count higher than 20, so nobody knew when the 24th was.

TWILIGHT

That was okay, because the tax pony couldn't count that high either so he didn't do anything. But then one day, the tax pony died!

RARITY

Oh my gosh. Was it an evil anti-friendship snake!?

TWILIGHT

No. He choked on a marble.

RARITY

Oh, Sweetiebelle nearly died from that.

TWILIGHT

The old tax pony was replaced with a new tax pony who could count to thirty. And on the 24th of Celestuary, he set out on a fateful errand.

TWILIGHT

He went door to door, asking each and every pony to pay the tax, but all the ponies argued that it wasn't the 24th because they weren't sure what day it was. The arguments took so long that eventually a day went by, and then the tax pony wasn't sure if he could keep asking for taxes because it wasn't the 24th anymore.

TWILIGHT

The ponies held a town hall meeting, where they agreed to tar and feather the tax pony. After that, the new tax pony learned a lesson, and from then on always said that taxes were probably due next week, so he never went outside again for all eternity. The end!

Twilight closes her book.

TWILIGHT

I love books.

RARITY

I actually knew all that. That's why I asked if you can collect taxes.

TWILIGHT

(bewildered realization)

Oooh. Boy, I feel dumb explaining all that now.

RARITY

That's okay. You were smart in books. Do you think you could collect taxes for a friendship reason?

TWILIGHT

I suppose I am the Friendship Princess, so I have to say yes, or else I would be objectively admitting that I don't do anything!

RARITY

Alright, I have an elaborate, multi-step plan.

Rarity lays down a folder for Twilight. Twilight picks it up and sees drawings of three houses in crayon.

TWILIGHT

This looks really ambitious.

RARITY

I plan to open as many boutiques as I can count.

TWILIGHT

There's only three here. That's how many you already own.

RARITY

Oh. I meant more than that, but I got bored of drawing.

TWILIGHT

Oh, okay. That makes sense.

RARITY

And to do that, I'm going to need a lot of money!

TWILIGHT

How much are we talking exactly?

RARITY

How high can you count?

TWILIGHT

Well I can count to a hundred.

RARITY

That much!

TWILIGHT

But recently I've been studying a new theoretical number called a "Twhundred".

RARITY

Then no, I meant that much.

TWILIGHT

You don't even know how much it is!

RARITY

I don't know how much a hundred is!

TWILIGHT

Rarity, nobody knows how much a twihundred is! It's when you count to a hundred a hundred times!

RARITY

Isn't that just one hundred?

TWILIGHT

No, let me explain.

Twilight dumps a bag of marbles on the table, which scatter everywhere.

TWILIGHT

You see these marbles?

RARITY

(horrified excitement)

Is this Twihundred marbles!?

TWILIGHT

No! No. It's like thirty marbles.

RARITY

Still lost.

TWILIGHT

Okay, lets say we have two marbles.

RARITY

Okay. Got it. Two.

TWILIGHT

Now we get another two marbles. How many marbles do we have?

RARITY

Two.

TWILIGHT

No, count again.

RARITY

One, two, three, four. Oh, you miss-counted, Twilight. These are four marbles.

TWILIGHT

(Covering half the marbles)

No, no! How many do you see?

RARITY

One, two.

TWILIGHT
 (Covers the other half,
 uncovers the first)

Now?

RARITY
 One, two.

TWILIGHT
 (revealing all four
 marbles)
 Now how many?

RARITY
 (cautious)
 One, two, three, four.

TWILIGHT
 Four! Now how many times did we
 count to two?

Rarity just stares imploringly at Twilight.

TWILIGHT
 (Holding her hooves over
 all four marbles)
 Count my hooves!

RARITY
 One, two!

TWILIGHT
 Two! We counted to two, two times,
 and we got a completely different
 number than two!

RARITY
 Oh my god!

TWILIGHT
 I think all numbers are just made
 up of smaller parts of ones!

RARITY
 (getting scared)
 I don't think I understand numbers!

TWILIGHT
 It doesn't stop there! Watch this!

Twilight splits a marble in half with her magic.

RARITY
 Why did you break your marble!?

TWILIGHT
 (getting uncontrollably
 excited)
 Now how many?

RARITY

Three!

TWILIGHT

(out of control)

No! It's five!

RARITY

No, one is broken, Twilight! I don't like this!

TWILIGHT

They're all made up of smaller parts of marble! There might even be more than five marbles here, but we don't know how many parts of a marble there are!

RARITY

(crying)

This is why I don't hang out with you as often! I know less about the universe than when I came in here! Celestia wouldn't approve, Twilight!

TWILIGHT

But Rarity! We could collect twihundred taxes! And there might even be more than twihundred taxes in that twihundred!

RARITY

(heel turn into positive excitement)

Wait, could we really!

TWILIGHT

Oh. Um. I got carried away. It is all theoretical. What if I told you I might be wrong?

RARITY

I am an incredibly excited right now, and I would be extremely let down!

TWILIGHT

Okay. That's what I thought. Then that's our conflict for today. Let's figure out how to collect taxes.

RARITY

So you'll do it!?

TWILIGHT

If helping your friends gain access to things they wouldn't have otherwise isn't why I became princess, then I'm not sure why I became a princess at all.

Roll credits - to be continued.