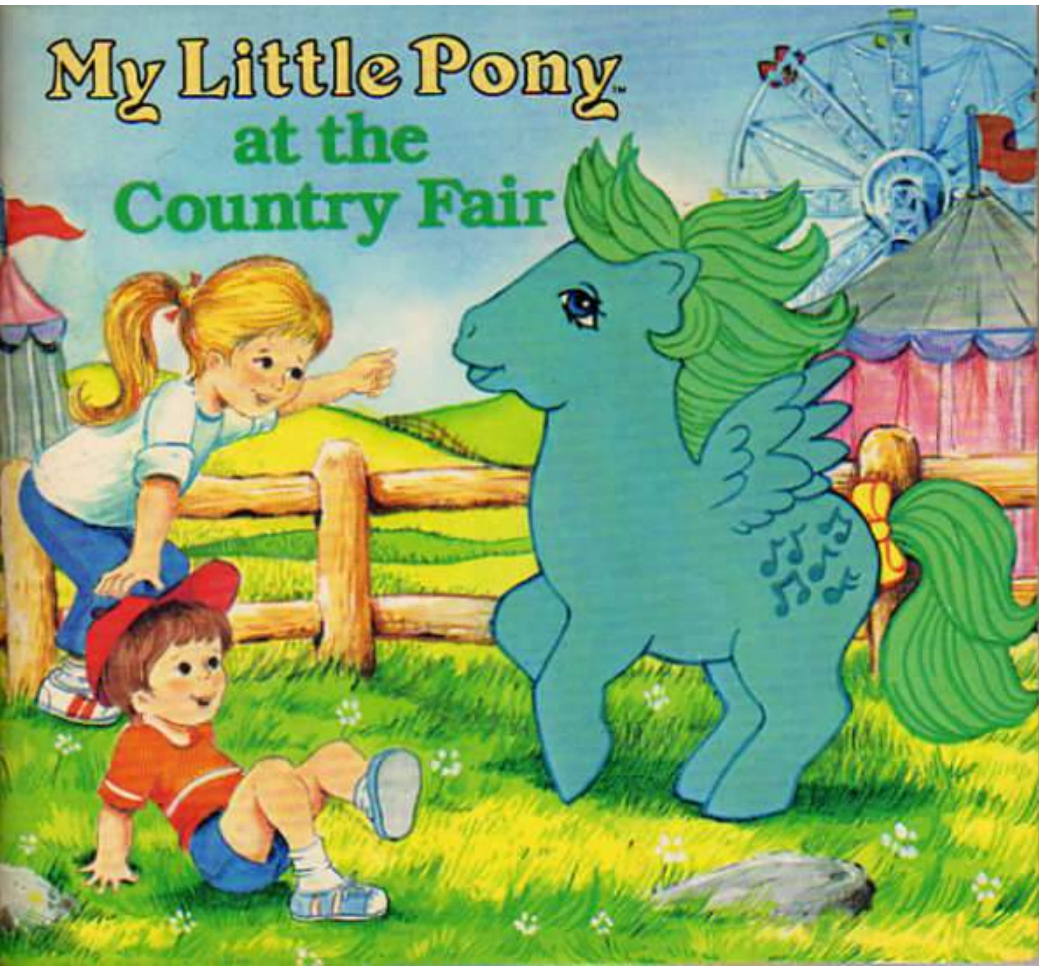


My Little Pony[™] at the Country Fair




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RANDOM HOUSE  NEW YORK

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One beautiful country morning, when the sun was shining brightly and a gentle breeze was blowing through the meadow, the Little Ponies heard some exciting news.

“The Country Fair is in town!” said Medley. “Would you like to go?”

“Oh, yes!” said the ponies happily.

“Follow me!” called Medley, and off they went.

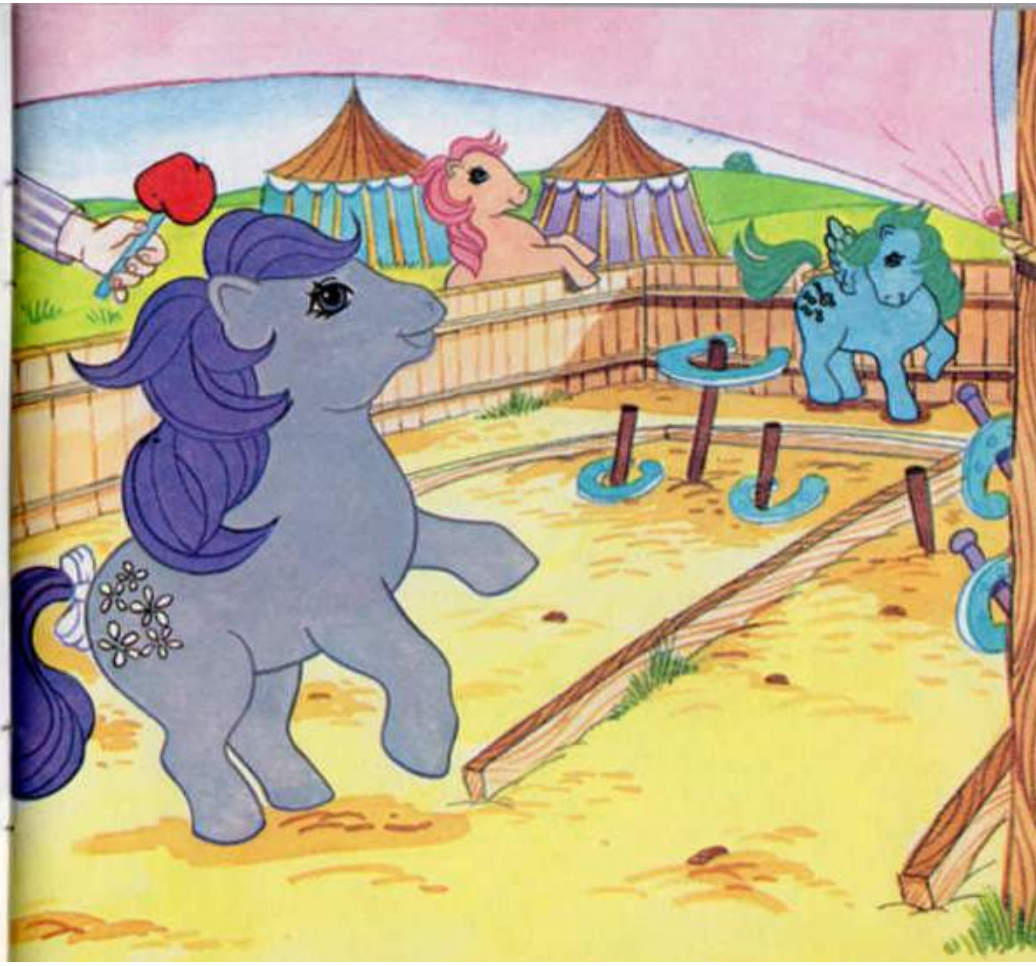


Soon the Little Ponies came to the fairground.

“Let’s pitch horseshoes!” said Blossom. The barker gave her three shiny horseshoes. She aimed at the post and tossed them one at a time.

One—CLINK! Two—CLINK!
Three—CLINK! A perfect score!

“This little pony gets a great big prize!” said the barker, and he gave Blossom a delicious candied apple.



“Step right up and test your strength!” called the barker from the next booth.

“I’d like to try!” said Medley eagerly. With one hoof she sent the bright red marker flying to the top of the scale. Lights flashed, bells rang, and the barker gave Medley a prize.

“Wow!” said a little boy nearby. “I didn’t know that ponies were so strong!”

“Neither did I!” gasped his older sister. “You must be a very special pony.”



“My name is Medley,” said the Little Pony. “Who are you?”

“I’m Janet,” answered the girl, “and this is my little brother, Jerry.” The little boy grinned and licked his melting ice cream cone.

Soon they came to a Ferris wheel.

“Let’s go for a ride!” said Jerry.

So they all climbed onto the Ferris wheel.



“Whee-e-e!” they shouted as the Ferris wheel began to climb. Suddenly the wind blew Jerry’s cap right off his head.

“My cap!” wailed Jerry.

“Don’t cry,” said Janet. “I’ll buy you another cap later.”

Jerry thought he saw his cap land in a hot-air balloon below. “Janet, look!” he said, tugging at his sister’s sleeve.

“Not now, Jerry!” said Janet.

The balloon was pitching in the wind. “I’d better get my cap back before the balloon blows away!” thought Jerry.



“Where should we go next?” asked Medley when the Ferris wheel creaked to a stop.

“Let’s bob for apples!” said Applejack.

“Or go on a hayride!” suggested Peachy.

“I’d like to see the puppet show!” said Blossom.

Suddenly Janet looked worried. “Where’s Jerry?” she cried. Her little brother was gone.

“We have to find him!” said the Little Ponies.



Janet and the ponies hadn't gone far when they spotted Jerry in the basket of the hot-air balloon.

"I found my cap!" he shouted when he saw them. He waved the baseball cap and smiled proudly.

Just then Janet noticed that two of the stakes that held the balloon to the ground had come loose!



“Jerry! Don’t move!” cried Janet. She jumped into the balloon and grabbed her brother.

Suddenly the remaining stakes pulled loose! The balloon was moving —up into the air!

“We’re flying!” Jerry shouted happily.

“Oh, no!” said Janet. “I don’t know how to fly a balloon.”



“Help!” she cried. “Somebody please help us!”

Some of the people on the ground tried to catch the ropes dangling from the side of the balloon—but it was too late! The balloon was flying farther and farther away from the fair.



Medley watched the children drifting away. "I think I can help them," she said. The Little Ponies stood back as Medley spread her wings. She gathered her hind legs beneath her, and with one powerful leap she sprang into the air. Medley caught the wind and soared!

"Good luck, Medley!" cried the Little Ponies.

"Good luck!" cried the people on the ground.



The runaway balloon floated silently across the cloudless sky. Soon it was drifting toward the edge of town.

“Oh, no!” gasped Medley. “It’s heading for the church steeple.”



Janet and Jerry covered their eyes.
But suddenly a gust of wind lifted the
balloon high above the point of the
steeple.

“Whew!” said Medley. “That was
close!”



Then she floated alongside the basket.

“I knew you were a special pony!” said Janet, and she reached out to pet Medley.

“Hold on tight!” Medley whinnied. “We’re going down!” She took hold of the brightly colored ribbons that hung from the side of the basket, and off they went!



Medley pulled the balloon and the children along at dazzling speed. They passed the church steeple and the town, and soon they were over the fair.

“There’s the Ferris wheel!” said Jerry happily.

The two children waved to the cheering crowd below.



Janet and Jerry felt a little thud as the balloon landed. Medley had saved them!

“Thank you so much!” cried Janet, throwing her arms around the pony’s neck.

Medley nickered, and the Little Ponies came over to congratulate her.



“Thank you, Medley,” Jerry said with a grin.

“I guess next time you’d better hold on to your hat!” said Medley, and everyone laughed.

