One does not simply start a story with "And they all lived happily ever after"

Wrapper

A Guest Lecturer

[Cheerilee is addressing the pupils in Ponyville's school-house.]

Cheerilee: OK, everypony, in order to prepare you for your story-writing-assignment, I invited a guest lecturer from Chaosville University. Please welcome Professor Discord, Ph.D.!

Discord: thank you, Ms. Cheerilee. Just for the record, I am an MCSE [= Microsoft Certified Solutions Expert], not a Ph.D.

Discord: anyway, one observation on story-writing my colleagues and I came up with, and which seems logical, is that most good stories describe one or more problems which need to be reconciled. Some examples:

Discord: 1. The Israelites wish to find a way to defeat Goliath, a tall Philistine giant, and so win the battle. [Reference.]

Discord: 2. Bilbo Baggins, a Hobbit, is recruited to assist a band of dwarves reclaim their ancestors' home from the dragon Smaug; he wishes to accomplish that while remaining alive and healthy. [Reference.]

Discord: 3. Theseus wishes to kill the Minotaur of Crete, so it will stop killing the youth of Athens. [Reference.]

Discord: Like my colleagues like to say: "One does not simply start a story with 'And they all lived happily ever after'".

Discord: well given I have a chaotic nature, I decided to write just such a story.

[Discord snaps his fingers causing a smartphone to materialise and float in mid-air. He takes the phone, and taps on it.]

Discord: [reading from the phone] "And they all lived happily ever after. But not before they:

Discord: • Caught pneumonia after crossing the Alps.

Discord: • Got involved in a copyrights' infringement lawsuit.

Discord: • Were stranded on an uninhabited island.

[Cut to the Cutie Mark Crusaders (= Apple Bloom, Sweetie Belle, and Scootaloo). They are bored trying to listen to Discord.

Cut.]

Caption on the screen: 5 minutes later.

[Cut.

Scootaloo is sleeping and snoring.]

Discord's voice: • Found it very time-consuming and ran into many difficulties rewriting a large Python 3 project in Rust.

Sweetie Belle: Scootaloo, wake up! [nudges her.]

Scootaloo: [wakes up] what? ... oh.

Apple Bloom: ahem, Professor Discord?

Discord: yes, dear?

Apple Bloom: if I may be prudent enough to inquire: how did "they" (whoever they are) manage to reconcile all these problems?

Discord: hmmm… to be honest, it slipped out of my mind. Can you please file an issue on the story's GitHub project?

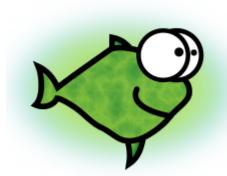[Cut to the Cutie Mark Crusaders; they look angry.

Cut to a long shot showing the school building.]

The Cutie Mark Crusaders: [shouting] Discord!!

[Discord is shown running, while holding his phone in his right hand, chased by the Cutie Mark Crusaders.

Pause. The screen fades into greyscale. Zoom-out to a page in a book saying "And they all lived happily ever after".]

Licence

[Emblem:

Dedication

[Dedication]