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WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?!?

If you’re willing to put your wall of masculinity down, you can enjoy the show—and become a Brony.

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**My Little Pony** is a half hour show meant for young girls. Neither the writers nor the creators of the show imagined the fan base expanding to men and women of all ages, but that's exactly what's happened. “Bronies” are people over the target age of My Little Pony who enjoy watching the show. We found an Iowa State junior who identifies as a Brony to explain his fascination with the cartoon and what being a “Brony” truly means.

**Ethos:** When did you first hear about My Little Pony?

**Brony:** It was back a couple years ago when I was a sophomore in high school. I was looking at the site KnowYourMeme, and it was one of the articles that was posted. I looked at it and got interested.

**E:** What was your initial impression of the show?

**B:** Usually the shows are supposed to be mindless, just for the kids. But this show tries to do more than that—it entertains kids and adults as well. You get involved. The show makes sure of that.

**E:** How often do you watch the show?

**B:** When I can. I watch it when I’m not busy with college and whenever I need to calm down.

**E:** How long do the episodes last?

**B:** They make about 20 to 26 episodes per season and they’re about 30 minutes, 20 if you take out the commercials.

**E:** What generations do you watch?

**B:** I’ve just watched the newest generation, it’s on now. The newest generation is My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic. They’ve revamped their line and made a show to promote merchandise.

**E:** How do you watch the show?

**B:** Sometimes I’m able to catch it on TV but otherwise I have to watch it online. It’s on Hub Network.

**E:** What keeps you so engaged?

**B:** It’s always been about the characters and whether you care about them or not, how they develop and change over the course of the seasons, and the lessons they learn. You get kind of caught up in the characters.

**E:** What happens in a typical episode?

**B:** It typically focuses on one of the six main characters and how she has a predicament and how her friends try to help her out. Then she finds something in herself to fix her problem; in the end they learn some sort of moral about friendship. There are life lessons that you can learn either as a kid or an adult.

**E:** Who is the intended audience?

**B:** I think it’s for young girls about six to ten, or four to eight. It has grown out of the original audience and the writers and makers of the show have taken notice and have adjusted what they do accordingly.

**E:** What is your definition of a Brony?

**B:** It’s just someone who watches My Little Pony and likes it. They can be male or female—‘Bronies’ is what has stuck the most. There are some female fans that call themselves ‘Pega Sisters.’

**E:** When did you consider yourself a Brony?

**B:** After the first half of the first season, I decided that I liked the show. In the beginning I thought it was weird that there were all of these adults so dedicated to a show that’s targeted to little girls—it’s strange.

**E:** Are there a lot of people online who are Bronies?

**B:** Just about everywhere you go there’s a special My Little Pony thread or a subforum. There’s definitely a sub-Reddit. They normally form a subforum on the big sites like Know Your Meme and 4chan. If there are two or more Bronies there’s definitely going to be something going on. There’s also a few dedicated My Little Pony sites, mostly the Equestria Daily where people get their news and community events.

**E:** Do you know any other Bronies?

**B:** Yeah, I used to go to high school with a couple of them, and I know at least a couple in college. They mentioned My Little Pony, and then I mentioned My Little Pony, and they went, “Ooooooohhh.”

**E:** Are you ever nervous to mention My Little Pony?

**B:** Yeah, I mean, in the end I like a show that’s originally targeted to little girls, so there’s social stigma that comes with that. The fan base can get really, really dedicated and can get too extreme for me. People associate those extremes with me, even though I don’t do them at all.

**E:** Have you ever experienced any harassment or negativity?

**B:** Not particularly, some people are okay with it. There are people who are like “Eewwwhhhh,” but nothing bad. There are those trolls who just like to harass you online. It’s the classic “you’re gay” or you like this really gross stuff like My Little Pony porn—and stuff like that. It’s on the internet; they’re not yelling in my face. There’s a disconnect.

**E:** In real life how do people treat you?

**B:** They joke about it, but it’s just a friendly jab.

**E:** What are some misconceptions about Bronies?

**B:** We don’t all look at My Little Pony porn, we’re not all gay, we’re not all men, we’re not all neck beards, we’re not all white men who watch it in their basements—there’s a wide variety of people who watch the show.

**E:** Have you been in any awkward situations?

**B:** I was talking to another Brony and there used to be this fan-made game that was taken down by Hasbro who makes My Little Pony. That guy was really mad, he went on this huge emotional rant that was way too extreme for me. It was just like “OK.” It was very uncomfortable.

**E:** What was the game?

**B:** It was like a fighting game that some fans of the show were making. It was getting a lot of buzz and even showed up at some popular e-sport competitions. Hasbro had to use a cease and desist order on its development and people got really mad. I was excited for it, but it was a fan-made game and Hasbro had the right to cease and desist.

**E:** Do you have a favorite character and why?

**B:** I like the character Fluttershy. She’s one of the kindest and nicest characters, and she’s very shy, but she’s got a heart of gold and cares about everybody. I’m shy, a bit of an introvert and can relate to having to get out of your comfort zone for your friends.