

MY LITTLE PONY
Season 9
Hearth's Warming "Under Wraps"
Holiday Special
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HEARTH’S WARMING “UNDER WRAPS”

Outline by Mike Vogel

ACT ONE**1) EXT. PONYVILLE – DAY**

Hearth’s Warming Eve is here once again! Well... ALMOST. It’s a week ‘til the holiday and all of Ponyville is abuzz with anticipation (which we’ll get to see in our opening HOLIDAY MUSICAL NUMBER)! All the PONIES we know and love are preparing for the big day (but in singles or doubles, so to cut down on crowd scenes). Some, like STARLIGHT and TRIxie, are heading out of town to celebrate. Others, like THE PIE FAMILY, arrive in town to spend time with friends and family (in their case the APPLE FAMILY and (non-speaking) GRAND PEAR). Since we are spending the majority of the special with our M6 +1, this is our chance to quickly show what the rest of Ponyville is doing and get into the holiday spirit. We hop from pony to pony, getting more and more festive until we finally arrive at...

2) INT. TWILIGHT’S CASTLE – CONTINUOUS

Where TWILIGHT SPARKLE is in deep holiday-prep mode with SPIKE holding the checklist. Twilight’s got a PACKED holiday schedule with tons of plans. Her sister-in-law, PRINCESS CADANCE, her brother, SHINING ARMOR, and her baby niece, FLURRY HEART, are heading to Ponyville from the Crystal Empire to spend the holiday with her (their parents were going to join but decided on a cruise around the coast of Equestria instead, GREAT deals during the Holidays). They won’t be arriving for a few days, but Twilight is already panicking, she has SO MUCH TO DO, including decorating, baking, AND making sure there’s time for her to get gifts for everypony.

So when the rest of the MANE SIX show up to invite Twilight to join them on some fun pre-Hearth’s Warming activity (sledding, singing carols, etc.), she apologizes – she has every moment planned up until Hearth’s Warming Eve, and the longer she talks about it, the more time she loses. To make Twilight’s burden a tad easier, APPLEJACK suggests that this year, the Mane Six and Spike do a “Hearth Helper” gift trade! PINKIE PIE thinks that sounds AMAZING... what is it? Applejack explains that the Apple family holidays used to be SO big that they decided to cut down on all the gift-giving. Instead, each Apple pulled one name out of a hat in secret, and only had to buy THAT pony a present. Made things a WHOLE BUSHEL easier. Pinkie doesn’t like the idea of cutting BACK on gifts. But ultimately, with all of their families and other holiday events, the group of friends decide that if it makes things a bit less hectic, then they should give it a try this year.

Applejack puts all of their names in her hat, and Spike and the M6 pull them out one by one. Unbeknownst to each other, Spike has drawn Rainbow Dash, Twilight has drawn Pinkie Pie, Fluttershy has drawn Rarity, Applejack has Spike, Rarity has Applejack, Rainbow Dash has Fluttershy, and Pinkie has Twilight. They all wear their BEST poker faces (which in Pinkie Pie’s case, isn’t very) and agree that they will spend Hearth’s Warming Eve together for their gift exchange, before celebrating the next morning with their various friends and families.

Easy, breezy and stress free! (Spoiler alert, it won’t be any of those things).

As the Mane Six go their separate ways, Spike gets a moment with Applejack to ask her if he can trade Hearth Helper names. She asks why, and he explains – he REALLY wanted to get Rarity. AJ says there’s nothin’ in the rules against trading. But she can’t help – she doesn’t have Rarity. Despite the setback, Spike is now a dragon on a mission – he’s gonna find out whichever pony has Rarity and trade with them, no matter what it takes!

ACT TWO

3) INT. TWILIGHT’S CASTLE – THE NEXT MORNING

Spike wakes up to discover that Twilight has been up all night, trimming the castle and baking. The place looks and smells amazing. Twilight’s been knocking things off the list and should have PLENTY of time to pick out the perfect gift for her Hearth’s Helper pony. Spike slyly tries to find out who Twilight has, but Twilight just says that she is SURE this pony will love her gift and that she isn’t hard to shop for at all. Spike realizes that CAN’T mean Rarity.

As he heads off on his mission to swap names, he wishes Twilight luck. *“For what?”* Twilight asks, confused. Spike explains that since each pony is only getting one gift, they’ve each gotta pick a REALLY good one. Twilight feels a twinge of worry. She has Pinkie who is, like, the BEST at gift-giving EVER. Twilight is gonna have to REALLY nail this gift. She decides the rest of the decorating can wait, she’ll need to put some work (and research) into this to come up with a gift worthy of Ponyville’s premier party planner. Knowing Pinkie, she probably already has HER Hearth Helper present all figured out!

4) INT. PINKIE PIE’S HOUSE – LATER

Pinkie complains to GUMMY that she doesn’t have her gift figured out at all! Being Pinkie she had already bought presents for ALL her pony pals, and she was SUPER-DUPER excited to hand them out! But now they’re gonna have to wait for NEXT year. Pinkie examines the sweet, thoughtful gifts she already picked out for Twilight (the name she pulled from the hat), and while they’re great given all together, she needs something new and special to give by itself.

However UNLIKE Twilight, this realization doesn’t stress Pinkie out, it excites her. This is a CHALLENGE! Maybe the BIGGEST HOLIDAY CHALLENGE ANYPONY HAS EVER HAD (aside from the whole Wendigo thing...). Pinkie tries to figure out the best way to come up with the PERFECT gift.... And then she remembers that she is an honorary yak! And yaks think EVERYthing they do is perfect! If anypony knows how to find the perfect gift, it’s Prince Rutherford! She just needs to head to Yakyakistan, ask them what to do, get the gift, come home and wrap it before Hearth’s Warming Eve! Easy as pie and twice as fun! She grabs a scarf and rushes out of the house.

5) EXT. PONYVILLE STREETS – CONTINUOUS

Pinkie rushes through the streets of Ponyville on her way to Yakyakistan. Spike waves her down and, in a roundabout way, tries to ask who she is getting a gift for. But Pinkie has NO TIME for roundabout (and is SO excited) so quickly says she has Twilight and shh don’t tell and she can’t talk cause she has an epic GIFT QUEST to go on! She rushes off, leaving behind a totally confused dragon. As she hurries to catch the train, she rushes past a VERY satisfied RARITY, walking alongside SWEETIE BELLE.

Sweetie Belle asks why Rarity seems so relaxed this holiday season? Rarity explains that the whole Hearth’s Helper idea was a real time saver. She WAS making holiday outfits for all her friends, but now, with only one pony to prepare for, she’s all set, and it was EASY! Rarity reveals to Sweetie Belle that Applejack is her gift-pony. At first, Rarity thought it might be the perfect opportunity to expand Applejack’s fashion horizons. *“But that was really more of a gift for me,”* Rarity explains, and instead, she decided to focus on what Applejack loves. Then INSPIRATION STRUCK – she could buy the farm pony a new hat!

Sweetie Belle asks why Rarity didn’t just MAKE Applejack a hat. Rarity agrees she could have created quite the hat, but explains that she knows a very talented and very famous milliner in Manehattan, FEDORA FELT, who specializes in rustic western wear. He owed Rarity a favor, so she special-ordered one of his designer cowpony hats for Applejack. It’s all set to arrive tomorrow, and with that Rarity’s shopping is done and done! Now she can treat both herself AND her little sister to holiday spa treatments while she waits for the gift to be delivered!

As the two of them head to the Ponyville Day Spa, we pan over to find RAINBOW DASH following FLUTTERSHY, while she attempts to do her shopping (they stop outside of a lovely jewelry/gem store). Rainbow Dash asks Fluttershy several questions about what kinda stuff she likes (it’s pretty obvious she pulled Fluttershy’s name and is trying to figure out what to get her). Unfortunately for Rainbow Dash, Fluttershy says she likes everything! This of course, drives Rainbow Dash CRAZY. Rainbow Dash lists off all the things SHE would LOVE to get for Hearth’s Warming in an effort to try to get Fluttershy talking, but it doesn’t work. The shy Pegasus thinks ANY gift is a good gift! *“Okay, what DON’T you like?”* Rainbow Dash demands, frustrated. *“Not liking things,”* Fluttershy says. Dash face-hooves.

Spike joins them and asks how the Holiday shopping is going. Rainbow Dash rolls her eyes and says it’s GREAT! Everypony loves EVERYthing. Whatever you get is FANTASTIC! Fluttershy says she agrees wholeheartedly, which irks Rainbow Dash even more. She wishes them good luck and goes off to do some shopping, grumbling to herself on the way.

Spike observes the jewelry/gem store, and casually asks Fluttershy what she’s doing over here. Fluttershy reveals that her Hearth Helper pony would probably like something from this store. *“Bingo!”* Spike thinks. He asks a few more questions, and he becomes reasonably certain that Fluttershy has Rarity. Rather than come out and ask, he acts upset, saying he has NO idea what to get HIS pony. Fluttershy says she’d love to help him. He reveals that he has Rainbow Dash. Fluttershy says she knows JUST what Rainbow Dash would like (since she JUST told her). Spike says that trading ponies is a GREAT IDEA! Fluttershy is confused, who said trade ponies? Is that even allowed? Spike assures her it is. He convinces Fluttershy

to trade, gets Rarity, gives HER Rainbow Dash and rushes off, happy he FINALLY got the pony he was hoping for!!!

Fluttershy stands there, slightly confused about what happened, when she hears somepony “Psssssst” her. She turns to see Applejack hiding behind a holiday display. She walks over and Applejack says that Fluttershy is JUST the pony she needs to talk to! Fluttershy asks why Applejack was hiding. AJ explains that she didn’t want SPIKE to overhear her question. Ya see, HE’S what she needs to talk to Fluttershy about. She pulled his name and isn’t sure what to get him. But he’s a dragon and Fluttershy knows ALL about every animal there is. Can she help come up with suggestions? Fluttershy says there actually ARE some great things for dragons in Canterlot at the Annual Holiday Street Festival. And she realizes there’s some good things for HER pony as well. Perhaps they could go there together and get their shopping done? Applejack LOVES that idea and agrees they can head out together tomorrow!

6) INT. PONYVILLE CANDLE SHOP – A LITTLE BIT LATER

Meanwhile, Rainbow Dash picks out a gardenia scented candle for Fluttershy, figuring that if she likes everything, than ANYthing she gets will be fine. But as Dash picks the candle up, a face appears in the candle next to it! The candle asks what Rainbow Dash thinks she is doing. Shocked a candle is talking, she says she’s buying somepony a present. The disgusted candle points out that candles are the gift you buy when you have no idea what to get somepony. Realizing now who she’s talking to, Rainbow Dash rolls her eyes and asks DISCORD what he wants.

The Draconequis pops into existence and says he simply wants to make sure his friend Fluttershy gets a GOOD gift for this Holiday Hearth Whatever thing. He feels like Rainbow Dash is messing it up. A frustrated Rainbow Dash explains that she TRIED to get an idea what Fluttershy would like, but she likes EVERYTHING. Discord corrects Rainbow Dash, Fluttershy SAYS she likes everything... but her REAL friends know what she ACTUALLY likes. Rainbow Dash reminds Discord she has known Fluttershy a LOT longer than he has. “Good.” Discord says, “*Then you of COURSE know how much she dislikes gardenias... don’t you?*” An annoyed Rainbow Dash says she will get Fluttershy something else. Discord says he’ll tag along... just to make SURE it’s worthy.

7) INT. TWILIGHT’S CASTLE - LATER

Spike walks back into the castle, SUPER happy with himself. He got Rarity! Now he can impress her with an awesome and amazing gift. He’s got a whole bunch of ideas... that he... um.... Nope. He quickly realizes that while he loved the IDEA of getting Rarity a gift, he doesn’t actually have any idea WHAT it is that he should get her! Off of his panicked realization we move on to...

ACT THREE

8) EXT. CANTERLOT – THE NEXT DAY

Applejack and Fluttershy walk the streets of Canterlot, taking in the Holiday décor. It’s impressive, but nowhere NEAR as impressive as The Canterlot Holiday Street Festival itself! Booths from all kinds of vendors selling all KINDS of gifts are everywhere! Shopping for a dragon (and for Rainbow Dash) should be a breeze here! Applejack rushes off to check out a fire booth, leaving Fluttershy alone. She notices several PONIES rushing towards one of the booths. She hears the VENDOR say, *“there’s only a few left, if you want one, you need to hurry!”* Curious, she approaches the large colorful booth where a strange (but oddly familiar) pony keeps the crowd at bay. He says he will do his BEST to help as many ponies as he can, but stock is limited and the price is steep. Fluttershy asks a pony next to her what they’re all waiting for. The pony on stage hears her and says he can’t believe she doesn’t know about ... HOLLY THE HEARTHWARMER!! It’s only THE MUST HAVE Hearth’s Warming present! IF you are looking for the best gift for an awesome friend that is 20% cooler than any other present THIS IS IT! Fluttershy gets excited. This sounds PERFECT for Rainbow Dash! She asks how much Holly is. The pony grins and asks how much she has....

9) EXT. YAKYAKISTAN – DAY

PRINCE RUTHERFORD watches the royal yak palace GUARD run “perfect” drills (meaning not very) when two pink hooves wrap around his large head. “GUESS WHO?” Prince Rutherford is TERRIBLE at guessing and names everything EXCEPT Pinkie Pie! But when Pinkie shows herself he assures her he knew it was her “Yaks BEST at guessing games.” He asks pink honorary yak what it is she is doing. Pinkie explains her predicament. She needs the PERFECT gift and figured that there was no better place to check than with her perfect yak friends! Rutherford looks uncomfortable and tells Pinkie they can’t talk out in the open. He leads her inside a nearby hut.

10) INT. YAK HUT – CONTINUOUS

Once inside, he reveals he is about to share something VERY TOP SECRET with her. Pinkie says she’s ready. She LOVES top secret. Rutherford explains that there is one thing yaks are NOT best at.... Gift giving. Pinkie. Is. SHOCKED. Rutherford says he knows, it’s hard to believe, but there are others who are better than yaks at this one thing. But only this one thing!

He pulls out a map and hands it to her. She must travel high up into the northern mountain. When she reaches the top where the sky shimmers and glows, she will meet the best gift-givers that have ever lived. But he SWEARS Pinkie to secrecy. NO ONE can know yaks aren’t best at everything. Pinkie thanks him and promises that his secret is safe with her.

11) INT. RARITY’S BOUTIQUE – SAME DAY

Rarity is putting the finishing touches on a special-order Holiday dress when she realizes that Applejack’s designer hat has yet to arrive. It’s getting late in the day. She wants to make SURE nothing went wrong... CUT TO:

12) INT. PONYVILLE POST OFFICE

Rarity rings the bell for service and MUFFINS pops up! As more and more ponies line up behind her, Rarity explains that she’s checking on a package that was supposed to arrive. Muffins checks the records, and a frustrating “Who’s On First” style back-and-forth follows, as they track down where exactly the package is. At first it seems like there was a mix up and rather than going to Rarity’s boutique, it got sent to Sweet Apple Acres, which isn’t GOOD but also not TERRIBLE, as long as nopony opened it. But then, it becomes clear that Muffins REALLY screwed things up and the package got sent to SHINY APPLE ORCHARDS in Applesooa!!!! Rarity panics. She needs that package! It’s one of a kind! Muffins feels terrible about the mix-up. Rarity says it’s fine, there’s still time to get there and back. She rushes off and Muffins turns to the next pony in line asking them how she can help (of course after hearing the exchange between Rarity and Muffins, nopony is certain they want her to mail their packages).

13) INT. VARIOUS PONYVILLE SHOPS – CONTINUOUS

Meanwhile, Spike rushes around the streets of Ponyville, frantically trying to find the perfect gift for Rarity. The vendors keep showing him nicer and nicer things but not even a diamond bust of Rarity herself is good ENOUGH. Spike wants to get this gift PERFECT, and no matter how nice these things are, NONE of them fit the bill.

As Spike rushes around like a dragon with his head cut off, Rainbow Dash continues shopping for Fluttershy, with Discord constantly over her shoulder. She asks if he doesn’t have anything better to do and he assures her he’s fine. Every time Rainbow Dash goes to pick something up, Discord mutters under his breath why Fluttershy won’t like it. The two of them get into a bit of a competition about WHO knows Fluttershy better. Rainbow Dash asks Discord if he is SO good at this why doesn’t he go get her a present on his own? He tells her he already has her present all worked out. He snaps his fingers...

14) INT. DISCORD’S HOUSE – CONTINUOUS

... And transports Rainbow Dash to his home, where he has transformed an entire area into a fantastical nature preserve that houses every type of animal that never really existed. Rainbow Dash is impressed. That’s... Pretty cool.

Discord says he was GOING to make a preserve of hard-to-find animals, but there was one that he couldn’t catch so he gave up. It was just. Too. Fast. Rainbow Dash, her interest piqued, asks what the animal was. Discord says it doesn’t matter. As rare as it is and as much as Fluttershy would love it, it’s just too hard to catch. You would have to be the fastest pony in Equestria to get it. Rainbow Dash explains to Discord that he’s TALKING to the fastest pony in Equestria! If there’s an animal that Fluttershy would love, especially a fast animal, then Rainbow Dash is the one to get it for her. She demands Discord take her to wherever this fast rare animal is. Discord sighs. If she insists...

15) INT. TWILIGHT’S CASTLE/LIBRARY – CONTINUOUS

Books are piled everywhere. Twilight has become a one-pony-research-fiend, trying to find the right gift for Pinkie Pie. But she’s FINALLY found something that fits the bill. There’s a legend of a special dinner on the original Hearth’s Warming Eve. After defeating the Windigos, the leaders of the Earth Pony, Pegasi and Unicorn nations and their advisors all prepared the FIRST Hearth’s Warming meal together and celebrated the founding of Equestria. Apparently, Chancellor Puddinghead made a pudding that was SO delicious, that legends and songs were written about it. Pinkie LOVES desserts, and THIS one might just be the most legendary and hard to find dessert of all! Twilight simply needs to find the recipe... She looks up at the countless books in her library. It has to be here somewhere... right?

16) EXT. CANTERLOT CITY STREETS – LATE AFTERNOON

Applejack searches the crowd and finally finds Fluttershy. AJ is telling her friend how great the street fair is, when Fluttershy turns and reveals her present for Rainbow Dash: Holly the Hearthwarmer. Fluttershy squeezes it and it says (in FLAM’s voice) “I’m so pretty and I LOVE Holidays.” Applejack is taken aback. The doll isn’t just hideously creepy, it’s also made terribly, and is already falling apart! She asks what the heck that thing is, and why Fluttershy thinks Dash would like it. Fluttershy explains the vendor said it’s the must-have gift of the season. Applejack looks around and sees other ponies carrying around the same creep-tastic doll. She asks how much Fluttershy paid for it. Fluttershy reveals she gave the vendor ALL her bits. “Do you mind if I borrow some for the train ride back?” She asks, sheepishly. Applejack frowns – of course she can. But something about this here doll is mighty fishy, and she tells Fluttershy to show her this vendor.

When the duo reach the booth, the vendor is gone, and there’s a line of ponies waiting, desperate to get a Holly Hearthwarmer. Applejack and Fluttershy sneak around to the back of the booth, where they see the vendor pull off his disguise... it’s FLIM!!!! Flam appears with more boxes filled with the apparently “hard to find” Hearth’s Warming doll. “I shoulda known.” Applejack mutters.

ACT FOUR

17) EXT. SHINY APPLE ORCHARD – THE NEXT MORNING

Rarity dubiously approaches “Shiny Apple Orchards”. The orchard is... Well, “rustic” would be putting it nicely. It’s a run-down apple farm on the outskirts of Appleoosa, with a handful of scrawny trees. Rarity opens the rickety gate and approaches the farmhouse. It’s small, simple, and adorned with some meager Hearth’s Warming decorations. She knocks on the door and is greeted by GOLDEN CRISP and APPLE CRISP, the sweet and simple couple that own the place. Rarity introduces herself and begins to explain why she’s arrived. But as soon as she gets to the part about being the one who sent the package, the couple’s eyes light up. SHE is the one who sent the package?! They don’t know why she would do that... or how to THANK HER!!! Rarity is surprised – thank...her?

They invite Rarity inside, where she meets HONEY CRISP, the young son of Golden and Apple. Honeycrisp is decorating a Charlie Brown Christmas-style Hearth’s Warming tree and WEARING THE HAT RARITY ORDERED. Golden says Rarity’s gift was a true miracle. They couldn’t afford to get Honey Crisp a present this year, what with the bad crop that fall, but he really LOVES the hat. Rarity realizes she’s not getting the hat back, and politely guesses that Honey loves it because he wants to be a farmer when he grows up? “A FARMER?! No WAY!” Honey Crisp walks over and says he LOVES it because it’s a Fedora Felt ORIGINAL. “This. Hat. Is. EVERY. THING.” The couple explain that they don’t know where their son’s love of fashion came from but they want him to follow his dreams. “Waitamminute.” Honey Crisp studies Rarity, “Are you THE Rarity?” Rarity blushes and says she is. Honey Crisp INSISTS Rarity stay for dinner! He has so many design questions! One look at the grateful parents and there’s no WAY Rarity can say no.

18) INT. TWILIGHT’S CASTLE – LATER

Twilight packs a saddle with scrolls and quills. She finally figured out where to get the information she needs about this recipe. She’s about to teleport away when there’s a knock at the castle. She opens it to find CADANCE, SHINING ARMOR and FLURRY HEART (Flurry Heart is squeezing her doll tightly, pulling on its head, basically being exuberantly rough with her toy)! Twilight is confused. She thought they weren’t arriving until tomorrow?

Shining Armor rolls his eyes and says that’s what they said in the scroll they sent YESTERDAY. He studies his sister. He knows this expression, “*Twily, what are you obsessing about?*” he asks, mussing her mane. “*NOTHING.*” She insists, annoyed at her big brother. She tells them she just has one QUICK errand to run. They should settle in and make themselves at home. Flurry Heart rips the head off of her doll. Cadance removes it and gives her another one, explaining to Twilight their little bundle of joy is going through a destructive phase. Twilight smiles and promises she’ll be back really soon! And with that she powers up her horn and teleports to...

19) INT. STARSWIRL’S TOWER – CONTINUOUS

Even Starswirl’s tower is decked out for the holiday! He is shocked to see Twilight pop in. She tells him she needs his help. It’s an emergency! STARSWIRL panics! What is it? Is Magic fading again? Is it Tirek? Did the Sirens return? WHAT?! Twilight assures him it’s nothing like that. She just needs Puddinghead’s ancient recipe for magic Holiday pudding and he is the oldest, most magical pony she knows. Does he remember the recipe? Starswirl can’t believe THAT is what Twilight teleported all this way for. A Pudding recipe? Twilight explains that it’s for her Hearth’s Helper gift for a VERY good friend.

Starswirl mutters something about Princess of Friendship problems as he rummages through his scrolls and tomes and eventually finds it. But he warns Twilight that this is a MAGICAL pudding. The ingredients are very volatile, and the recipe has to be followed to the letter! Twilight smirks - she is ALL ABOUT following the rules. That’s not gonna be a problem. He looks over the recipe as he passes it to her, mentioning that there’s something he feels like

he is forgetting. But Twilight is desperate and says she’s SURE it will be fine. She thanks him profusely and wishes him a VERY happy Hearth’s Warming.

20) EXT. ANCIENT GIFT GIVER GROVE – LATER THAT DAY

Pinkie finally arrives at the top of the Northern Mountain and finds herself in a gorgeous grove. Enchanted trees surround an adorable little cottage. She knocks on the door and is greeted by... three elderly REINDEER! She says she has travelled far to find them and is in need of the perfect gift! They invite her in and introduce themselves: AURORA, BO and ALICE! They are VERY excited, it’s been a long time since they’ve given someone a perfect gift. They pepper Pinkie with questions about Twilight. Pinkie is impressed with their obvious love and skill with gift ideas. They say they’ve learned from the best (we will imply these reindeers learned from Santa without getting too deep into it. Just enough to have some fun).

The old reindeer hobble around the cottage, arguing with each other, but finally come up with the PERFECT gift. They put it in a gift box and show it to Pinkie. It glows brightly and her eyes shine. She’s sure it’s the PERFECT gift... but... she doesn’t quite get it. Why this? The reindeer smile. Just trust them....

21) INT. CANTERLOT WAREHOUSE – LATER

Applejack and Fluttershy approach Flim and Flam. “*We already SAID NO REFUNDS!*” Flam says without looking up. Then he turns and sees Applejack. “*Oh. It’s YOU.*” Applejack demands to know what they’re up to, and why they’re in disguise. They reveal that AJ and her friends have foiled their plans so many times that ponies don’t TRUST THEM, so now they have to wear costumes to lie to them! Applejack says she can’t let them cheat anypony. Flim and Flam insist they aren’t! They just *happened* to come into a shipment of defective toys and needed to offload them. It’s not THEIR fault they’re so persuasive! But if ponies WANT something, who are they to say no?

Applejack points out the dolls are defective and they’re gonna ruin ponies’ Hearth’s Warming. Flam insists that the dolls won’t break until AFTER Hearth’s Warming so... technically they’re not ruining the holiday. Ultimately Flim and Flam aren’t doing anything illegal here. It’s just supply and demand. And there’s nothing Applejack can do about it. If ponies want the dolls, they should get to buy the dolls! But to show they’re nice guys, the duo give Applejack and Fluttershy a box of Holly Hearthwarmers. In the spirit of the season and all that. Flim and Flam tell Fluttershy and Applejack that these dolls are worth a LOT of bits. They could sell them to ponies who honestly want them and use the money to buy their friends something nice. NO lying. Just business! They head off to sell more dolls, leaving a frustrated Applejack. But Fluttershy starts giggling. Applejack asks what’s up and she tells her she has an idea...

22) EXT. SNOWY MOUNTAIN – LATER

Discord and Rainbow Dash follow a trail through a dangerous snowy chasm. Discord keeps talking and Rainbow Dash keeps shushing him. How can they stalk an animal if he keeps yapping? As they continue on it becomes partially clear WHY Discord is doing all of this. He is confident in his friendship with Fluttershy, but he knows how important her other friends are as well. And Fluttershy hates letting anypony down, so choosing who to hang out with for the holiday is stressful for her. If he was better friends with the OTHER ponies it would make her life easier. Rainbow Dash is actually kind of touched by that. Maybe Discord isn’t sooo bad. But before they have a cute moment together, Discord shushes Rainbow Dash and points out the rare WINTERCHILLA, the most adorably adorable winter rodent you’ve EVER EVER seen. He tells Rainbow Dash she’s gonna have to be—but before he gets the word “fast” out she’s zoomed over, grabbed it, and has returned. Okay. Discord admits it. She’s FAST.

23) INT. SPIKE’S ROOM – THAT EVENING

Arts and crafts supplies are strewn everywhere. Spike has finally realized that buying Rarity a gift wouldn’t be personal enough. He needs to MAKE her one. But he’s been trying different things, and none of them have really turned out right (WHIP PAN over to the graveyard of horrible art projects he’s already attempted). This latest project MAY just be the one. But as he gets to work, he YAWNS. He’s been working at this all day and has really wiped himself out. As his eyes get heavier and heavier

24) EXT. CANTERLOT – THAT EVENING

Flim and Flam are in the midst of selling ANOTHER batch of Holly Hearthwarmers when something gets the nearby ponies’ attention. They all turn to see Applejack and Fluttershy! They’re selling something even BETTER! They reveal the GOLDEN HEARTH WARMER (Holly Hearthwarmers that have been fixed, painted, and decorated). They only have a few but these are the MOST RARE AND ORIGINAL HEARTHWARMER YOU COULD EVER OWN! EACH ONE WITH ITS OWN PHRASE! Fluttershy squeezes hers and it says “yay” in her voice.

The crowd rushes them, leaving Flim and Flam’s booth. Furious, Flim grabs some paint and slathers it on a Hearthwarmer, yelling that HIS IS NOW THE MOST RARE! “Yup. But does it do THIS” Applejack asks, squeezing her doll. It sings a line of “Hearth’s Warming Eve is Here Once Again.” The crowd LOVES it. Flim and Flam say they’ll sell theirs for HALF the price! But the ponies aren’t interested in their wares any more. They’re old news. They only want the NEW hottest toy! Applejack grins at the charlatans: “*Supply and demand y’all.*”

ACT FIVE

25) EXT. SHINY APPLE ORCHARD – MORNING

Rarity waves goodbye to the Crisp family. She was truly touched by their hospitality and of course there was no WAY she could take the hat away from Honey Crisp. He truly DOES have an eye for fashion. Rarity promises to keep in touch. BUT it doesn’t change the fact that

she’s headed back to Ponyville and has NO idea what to give Applejack at their gathering tonight!

26) INT. FRIENDSHIP EXPRESS – CONTINUOUS

Applejack and Fluttershy sit on the train, feeling good that they stopped Flim and Flam from ruining a bunch of ponies’ Holiday. But now they’re headed back, and neither of them have anything to give Spike or Rainbow Dash! Well, correction: they have SOMETHING they could give them. REVEAL that they are travelling with all the boxes of defective Holly Hearthwarmer dolls. They used the money from their sales to buy all the horrible dolls to ensure Flim and Flam didn’t try that trick again.

27) INT. PINKIE PIE’S HOUSE – CONTINUOUS

Pinkie Pie studies the “perfect gift” box. She just isn’t sure about it. She trusts Rutherford, and the reindeer REALLY seemed to know what they were doing but... is this REALLY going to be the greatest gift of all? Well... ONE way to find out!!

28) INT. TWILIGHT’S KITCHEN – CONTINUOUS

Twilight is carefully following the recipe, making sure it’s JUST right. Shining Armor comes in with Flurry Heart and asks if everything is okay. A disheveled Twilight admits she maybe got a bit carried away with her gift for Pinkie Pie. But it’s almost done, and then she can celebrate with everypony! As they chat, Flurry Heart examines the pudding and starts playing with the ingredients, pouring different things into the pot. Strange smells waft from the pot as the pudding expands, unseen by Twilight and her brother...

29) EXT. TWILIGHT’S CASTLE – CONTINUOUS

Rainbow Dash and the Winterchilla head towards the castle. Discord says he hopes the Mane Six have fun. He’ll just... do something all alone. Rainbow Dash decides to invite him along. She never would have thought of this gift on her own, and she knows Fluttershy is gonna love it. Discord is touched and thanks Rainbow Dash as the sun sets behind him. It’s now OFFICIALLY Hearth’s Warming EVE. Suddenly the Winterchilla roars. Rainbow Dash drops it. Discord smacks his forehead. *“Oh did I forget to mention? The Winterchilla transforms into a Winter YETI when the sun goes down!”* Off the Winterchilla’s transformation we cut to...

30) INT. SPIKE’S ROOM – CONTINUOUS

Spike wakes up. He fell asleep on the papier-mâché sculpture he was making, and glue, paper, and glitter are all stuck to him. He realizes he doesn’t have a gift, but also realizes that it’s too late! He hears ponies downstairs! He rushes down to meet them, unsure what he’s gonna do!

31) INT. TWILIGHT’S CASTLE – CONTINUOUS

Rarity, Fluttershy, Applejack and Pinkie Pie all enter the castle. Each of them greets the other awkwardly, not sure what to say, since they all totally failed the present thing (Well, except Pinkie who is just baffled about her present). Spike comes running down the stairs, trips and lands at the ponies’ hooves. But before they can ask him why he’s covered in glue and glitter, an explosion from the kitchen interrupts them. Twilight, Cadance, Shining Armor and Flurry Heart come rushing out. “RUN! THE PUDDING IS COMING!” Twilight yells. Behind her, molten pudding oozes out of the kitchen, overtaking everything in its path.

The ponies all rush to the door but before they get there the doors fly open and Rainbow Dash and Discord come running in. “*RUN! THE YETI IS COMING!*” Rainbow Dash yells as the giant Winter Yeti comes running behind them.

With the Yeti on one side and the Pudding on the other....

ACT SIX

32) INT. TWILIGHT’S CASTLE – RESUME

The ponies deal with the double threat of the pudding which is consuming EVERYTHING it touches and the Yeti which will likely consume whatever it can get its claws on! Shining Armor does some heroic stuff, keeping the pudding at bay while the others narrowly escape its delicious ooze.

Rainbow Dash tells Discord to use his magic, but he keeps “missing” on purpose. Twilight uses the sparkly Spike to keep the Yeti distracted. The whole thing is bananas. And Hearth’s Warming is looking like it’s going to be ruined. But Fluttershy rises to the occasion, flying to the so-scary-it’s-cute Yeti, and calming it. Meanwhile, Twilight tries to stop the pudding, searching the recipe for clues. ON THE BACK she sees that Starswirl has scrawled a message – it must be what he thought he was forgetting to tell her: The original pudding was made with ingredients from all the first ponies in attendance. If the recipe should go wrong, she can add those ingredients to stop it. The Mane Six wrack their brains – who was in attendance... Smart Cookie, Clover the Clever...

The mention of a cookie makes Pinkie snap her head up. She has a cookie. THAT’S IT! THAT’S WHY IT’S THE PERFECT GIFT! And with that, she opens her gift box and hurls the contents at the pudding – a cookie (that we’ll later learn had all the ingredients necessary to stop the pudding – somehow, those great gift giving reindeer knew exactly what Twilight would need for Hearth’s Warming). The pudding stops expanding, the Yeti is purring... But the castle is a disaster.

33) INT. TWILIGHT’S FOYER – CONTINUOUS

The bedraggled ponies (including Cadance, Shining Armor, Flurry Heart and Discord) sit by the hearth and recover. They all come clean with the fact that they don’t have gifts. They all got carried away and it turned into a big old mess. But as they all share their stories of what happened we realize the gifts all kind of DID work out. Fluttershy tamed the holiday beast

and got to be the hero who saved Hearth’s Warming (which, Rainbow Dash realizes, was Discord’s plan ALL along)! Rarity’s story reminds Applejack of the special day her Dad gave her HER hat for the first time. Spike and Rainbow Dash think it’s awesome that Applejack and Fluttershy stopped Flim and Flam, and Pinkie LOVES that Twilight TRIED to make legendary pudding. Twilight is glad that thanks to Pinkie, she now knows the secret of the magical pudding (being a magic dork that stuff is important to her) and even Shining Armor and Cadance are thrilled – the Holly Hearthswarming dolls AJ and Fluttershy brought back will be great for Flurry Heart until she finishes her destructive phase!

As they all sit around the hearth laughing about their crazy adventures, Spike announces that he has part of a present to give – he didn’t know what to get Rarity, and he tried lots of things. One of them was writing a song...But he only has the first verse. He stands and begins a song about the most important gift, what her friendship means to him. As he sings the others pick up the song, adding their own parts. They realize that they give one another a great gift every day – the gift of each other! And as we pull out on them all spending time together...

34) EXT. PONYVILLE – CONTINUOUS

A shooting star falls from the sky. The snow falls. There’s a jingling of bells, and three reindeer fly across the sky.... HAPPY HEARTH’S WARMING EVERYPONY!

THE END