

MY LITTLE PONY
Season 9
Friendship, Actually
Christmas Special
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FRIENDSHIP, ACTUALLY

Hearth's Warming Eve is here once again! This year, TWILIGHT SPARKLE is more excited than ever for her favorite holiday, which she's hosting at her castle for Equestria's princesses! That means CELESTIA, LUNA, and even more exciting, her sister-in-law CADANCE, her brother SHINING ARMOR, and her niece baby FLURRY HEART! She is BEYOND excited and she wants to make sure everything is perfect! She and SPIKE go over their to-do list (checking it twice), and prepare the castle (Twilight dancing as she decorates a la *Love, Actually*). She won't miss a single tradition: Hearth's Warming dolls, a reading of a Hearth's Warming Carol, presents, and topping it off with Ponyville's all new Hearth's Warming Spectacular in town! Spike's thrilled too – this year, he's found the best present for Rarity ever. It's gonna be the perfect holiday!

A knock at the door causes Twilight to freak – are the princesses EARLY?! She opens the door... to find the entire APPLE / PIE CLAN (all of APPLEJACK and PINKIE PIE's families). Twilight is relieved. At least she still has time to get things ready for the princesses! She asks what she can do for the motley crew. Pinkie Pie and Applejack look at her with confusion. They're here for Hearth's Warming, silly! Doesn't Twilight remember? SMASH CUT to several weeks ago. Twilight grades papers in her office at the school while Pinkie Pie gets the BEST idea and says they should all spend Hearth's Warming Together with their families this year! Twilight smiles, half listening and says that sounds nice. Pinkie says, "Done and DONE!" SMASH CUT back: Twilight vaguely remembers the conversation. Pinkie says the Apple/Pie clan wanted to get there early to help set up. Spike starts to explain the mix-up, but Twilight stops him and says to come on in.

As the herd of ponies enters, Spike asks Twilight why she didn't come clean. She explains that she doesn't want to be responsible for ruining anypony's Hearth's Warming, ESPECIALLY not her BPF's. She can make it all work. Somehow. So when the Princesses, Shining Armor and Flurry Heart arrive, Twilight covers and says she wanted them all to see what a real Ponyville holiday was like. Of course, everypony is fine, the more the merrier right? Spoiler alert - NOTHING goes right: Twilight's VERY specific plans don't meld well with the more "unique" Apple/Pie traditions. GRANNY SMITH and LIMESTONE PIE recruit Celestia and Luna and put them to work. Cadance and Shining Armor think everything Flurry Heart does is "cute" (opening everyone's gifts, breaking things, messing things up in the kitchen) while Applejack thinks the little princess needs a bit more discipline and Pinkie Pie goes from worried to annoyed, to angry to over the top panicked when RARITY, RAINBOW DASH, FLUTTERSHY and STARLIGHT GLIMMER are super late (WHERE ARRRRE THEY!?). Twilight does her best to keep everything "perfect" but by the time the rest of the friends show up (after dealing with the B, story and runners, below), she has a full-on holiday breakdown. Her FAVORITE day of the year is RUINED! Spike isn't doing much better. In the Apple/Pie madness, his perfect present for Rarity was destroyed! (Which leads to a nice heart to heart with MAUDE on a bench a la the kid and Liam Neeson in *Love, Actually*).

Meanwhile... TRIXIE is thrilled to be with hanging out with Starlight for the Holiday, less so about spending it with Twilight Sparkle. But she's making the most of it. Trixie reveals her weird holiday tradition to Starlight: She leaves out a bowl of mashed potatoes and ice cream

every year (gross). Trixie explains that her Dad told stories about this crazy REINDEER that delivered presents to good ponies. She always knew it was just Dad leaving the presents, but now that he's gone, she leaves the Reindeer dish out every year to remember him. Starlight decides to surprise her bestie with a visit from an actual reindeer! She magically sneaks off, teleporting to find one. She discovers that Trixie's dad was telling the truth! Reindeers DO have a tradition where a Santa-like Reindeer delivers presents to allll the good little fawns. She finds the older Reindeer who used to do it back in the day and discovers he actually knew Trixie's Dad! She asks him to come with her and he agrees. But eventually Starlight discovers that this Reindeer is retired and actually HATES the holiday (ungrateful kids, obsessed with presents, YUCK).

At the same time, Rarity and Rainbow Dash board the Friendship Express from Manehattan to get home to Ponyville (Rarity was there for her boutique and Rainbow Dash for a Wonderbolts Holiday show). Unfortunately, the train breaks down. Ponies are stranded and can't get home! Holiday travel is terrible at the BEST of times, THIS is a disaster! But neither Rarity nor Rainbow Dash plan on missing the festivities and end up hoofing a ride. The two of them "Planes, Trains and Automobile" their way across Equestria, getting into more and more ridiculous travel situations as they both get more and more on each other's nerves. By the time they get to Ponyville they are both over each other and this dumb Holiday!

As a final comic runner, Fluttershy is doing her last bit of Hearth's Warming shopping with DISCORD. Pinkie Pie gave her the job of getting the perfect Hearth's Warming tree topper. Fluttershy is taking the job VERY seriously (and dealing with a SLOW store clerk a la Mr. Bean in *Love, Actually*) and Discord is B-O-R-E-D. He tries to hurry things along, but Fluttershy explains that finding the perfect tree topper is a big responsibility and she wants everything to be just right. Discord decides to be helpful (which is worse) and decides none of the tree toppers in Ponyville will do. He whisks Fluttershy away on a chaos-fueled journey to find the most perfect tree topper in all of Equestria.

At the top of act three, everypony has finally arrived at the castle. But Rarity and Rainbow Dash are so over each other that they aren't speaking, Discord and Fluttershy show up with the most ridiculous tree topper anypony has ever seen (even Pinkie Pie is in shock - come on Fluttershy you had ONE JOB), and Starlight and Trixie arrive with a passive-aggressive reindeer who hates the Holiday. Cadance and Shining Armor are in a fight with Apple Jack, and Limestone Pie and Granny finally agree on something, Princesses are HORRIBLE assistants. Twilight is miserable, which makes PINKIE PIE miserable, because she's the one who MADE Twilight miserable.

Finally Twilight says they should just call the holiday party off. They'll go to the Hearth's Warming Spectacular (no reason to ruin Ponyville's holiday by the Princesses not showing up) and then everypony can just go home. The friends and family realize what the holiday means to Twilight, and how stressed she's been trying to make it perfect for them. They put their petty issues aside as they plan a surprise for her at the Spectacular. They take to the stage and perform an awesome (if somewhat silly and ridiculous) musical number about how no matter how much stress the Holidays bring, the memories are worth it (in a big show stopping number like All I Want For Christmas in *Love, Actually*). The old reindeer is so touched by the way the ponies understand the TRUE meaning of the Holiday that he gets his mojo back and ends up leaving

surprise gifts for EVERYpony in Ponyville (with an EXTRA special one for Trixie – her dad's old magic set).