

Distribution:

Production:

Lauren Faust
Chris Bartleman
Kirsten Newlands-Davidson
Rob Renzetti
Sarah Wall
Jayson Thiessen
James Wooton
Angela Belyea

Discovery/Hasbro:

Donna Ebbs
Scott Pennington
Chris Mehl

Hasbro Studios:

Stephen Davis
Lisa Licht
Linda Steiner
Mike Riley
Brian Lenard
Robert Fewkes
Sophia Hussain

Hasbro IP:

Mark Wiesenhahn
Matt Mattus

Hasbro Global Brand:

Valerie Jurries
Michelle Hogue

Hasbro Design:

Liz Knight

Ed Consult:

Jordan Brown

MY LITTLE PONY

"Swarm of the Century"
(Pied Piper Pinkie)

EP010

Outline by
Mitchell Larson

Outline: December 9, 2009
Notes Due: December 11, 2009

TEASER

FLUTTERSHY is out picking wildflowers when she hears a tiny chirp from behind a rock at the edge of the Ever Free Forest. She leaps in terror, but before she can race back to the safety of her cottage, her heart melts when she sees the source of the adorable sound. It's a tiny furry creature with huge eyes and shimmering wings. She grabs one of the apples from the bushel she was going to eat for lunch and breaks off a tiny piece. The sweet little animal, called a PARASPRITE, timidly steps out its hiding place and sniffs the morsel. Fluttershy watches in amazement as the miniscule parasprite unhinges its jaw and devours the entire bushel in one gulp. It flutters its hummingbird-esque wings and lands on Fluttershy's mane, settling in like it's just found a new nest. Fluttershy, of course, is delighted to have a new pet, even one with a seemingly massive appetite. She can't wait to show her friends her new discovery.

ACT I

TWILIGHT TWINKLE is in a tizzy. Her library is a mess, books and scrolls littering every surface, the fallout from her nonstop studying. She barks orders at SPIKE to help her clean up because PRINCESS CELESTIA is coming for a visit with her prize student and Twilight wants everything to be perfect. While Spike cleans, she's going to check and see how her friends' preparations for the visit are coming along.

Twilight heads to the Sugarcube Sweet Shoppe where PINKIE PIE is supposed to be preparing a banquet in honor of the Princess's visit. Unfortunately, the banquet isn't going so well because Pinkie Pie keeps eating half of everything. But before the frazzled Twilight can panic, Fluttershy shows up and introduces her friends to her new pet. She takes it out of her overgrown mane, and is shocked to discover three cute, chirping parasprites instead of one! Twilight says she'll happily take one off Fluttershy's hooves. It'll be nice to have a companion for Spike, so he isn't always bothering her while she studies. When Fluttershy offers the other to Pinkie, she's not interested, saying she does, however, need a trombone. Twilight and Fluttershy exchange a look. Typical Pinkie...

Twilight takes her parasprite and heads to Carousel Couture to see how RARITY's project is coming along. Rarity is designing gorgeous outfits for all the friends so they can look their best for the Princess. She's even got RAINBOW DASH there, unhappily doubling as a tailor's dummy. "SOOO boring!" They hear teeny-tiny little chirps, so Twilight shows them the new pet. Strangely, her parasprite somehow seems to have turned into three, just like what happened at the Sweet Shoppe. Luckily, Rarity and Rainbow Dash LOOOOVE the parasprites and each volunteer to take one as a pet. Just then Pinkie arrives, out of breath. "Guys! Does anypony know where I can find an accordion?!"

That night, Twilight gets ready for bed. She's still stressed about the Princess's visit

tomorrow, but can't help smiling when she sees Spike and the parasprite snuggled up together, snoring away. She turns out the light and heads off to dreamland...

And when she wakes up the next morning, Spike is covered in parasprites! "Spike! What happened?!" Spike can't believe his eyes either. "I don't know! The little guy got hungry in the night, so I gave him a snack. I don't know where these others came from!" SMACK! Scrolls and books start raining down as the parasprites play hide-and-seek in the bookshelves! "Oh no! They're messing up all my cleaning! We've got to get them out of here!" Twilight says she hopes no one else is having this problem...

Rainbow Dash is sound asleep on her comfy cloud. She smiles groggily when she hears the cute, tiny chirp of the parasprite. But her sleepy smile soon turns to shock when she hears the overpowering clamor of dozens of the creatures buzzing around her like flies!

Rarity, meanwhile, doesn't seem bothered by the fact that her parasprite has multiplied; she's using them to help measure and tailor her outfits. "Not only are you adorable, but you're also quite useful." She scratches one of the little creature's chins. The parasprite starts to shake and looks like it might be sick. It belches and gurgles. Rarity watches in horror as it suddenly coughs up another of its kind like a cat with a furball. And just like that, there are two. Rarity, disgusted by the creatures' reproduction, immediately starts rounding them up into saddlebags. No creature that behaves like this can live in the boutique. She steps outside just as Pinkie Pie races past: "Look! Applejack loaned me a harmonica! Isn't that great?" Confused, Rarity closes up the shop and hauls her parasprites away.

Twilight, Rainbow Dash, and Rarity all meet up on the way to Fluttershy's cottage, their saddlebags bulging with parasprites. "Fluttershy knows everything about animals. She can tell us how to stop them from multiplying." Twilight knocks on the door. After a beat, it swings open and HUNDREDS OF PARASPRITES pour out! "Uh-oh..."

ACT II

As parasprites swarm all around, Twilight implores Fluttershy to use her abilities with animals to control them. Fluttershy tries, but with no success. Twilight foresees the disaster the rapidly multiplying parasprites pose to the Princess's visit. Rarity, watching with disgust as one parasprite belches up another, adds, "Plus they're super gross." They have to figure out a way to get rid of the little beasts.

Just then, APPLEJACK shows up pulling a cart. "Here's all them apples you asked for, Fluttershy, but I still can't figure why you want so many—" Before she can finish her statement, the parasprites have descended on the cart, devouring all the apples. Seeing Applejack gives Twilight an idea. No pony can herd like Applejack! Maybe if they work together they can drive the parasprites back into the Ever Free Forest.

Applejack leads the ponies in rounding up every last parasprite from around Fluttershy's cottage. With Applejack, Twilight, and Rarity driving the swarm toward the forest, and Rainbow Dash and Fluttershy containing them from above, the strategy seems to be working. Even Pinkie Pie joins in, running alongside the herd. But once again, the ponies can only roll their eyes when she says she needs their help finding some maracas when they're finished herding.

Finally, once the ponies have successfully returned the parasprites to the forest, they head back to Fluttershy's cottage to discuss how they're going to make up for the lost time before the Princess arrives. With a new plan in place, Fluttershy starts to head into her cottage when another wave of parasprites pours out! Sheepishly, she admits, "I may have kept just one of them." She blushes from the angry looks of the others. "I couldn't help myself. They're so cute..." Twilight says, "We don't have time to keep herding these things! What do we do now?!"

Rainbow Dash has a new idea. Using her flying skills, she twirls up a ferocious cyclone! As the other ponies use their teeth to avoid being blown away, Rainbow Dash's cyclone sucks up parasprite after parasprite until finally she's got a giant funnel cloud of cuteness. Pinkie Pie races past, the cyclone sucking the massive cymbals she's carrying out of her teeth. "Hey! Gimme those back!" After a beat, the cymbals shoot out of the cyclone, crashing over Pinkie's head. Dazed, she says, "Thanks..." Rainbow Dash, meanwhile, tries to take the parasprites to the forest, but the force of the cyclone is too great and she loses control! Parasprites shoot out of the funnel, raining down over Ponyville!

At first, the citizens of Ponyville think the parasprite shower is adorable. Who couldn't love these little furry things? But they soon see what voracious appetites these creatures have. They may be small, but (as we saw in the teaser) they eat big. In the Sugarcube Sweet Shoppe, Mr. and Mrs. Cake fight to protect their inventory from the hungry parasprites, but are soon overwhelmed by the creatures. "Help, Pinkie Pie! They're headed for the banquet we've been preparing for Princess Celestia!" Pinkie, meanwhile, frantically shines a giant tuba. "I'm polishing as fast as I can!"

Twilight and the others see that not only are the parasprites multiplying, they're also eating all the food in Ponyville! Applejack races off to try and save her orchard. Twilight, meanwhile, is reeling. She decides to try a spell designed to make the parasprites stop eating all the food. She casts the spell, and slowly the parasprites stop their rampage. There's a beat of tension as the ponies wait to see what the parasprites do next. Nopony breathes...

Just then, Pinkie Pie races in, saddlebags loaded with tambourines! "You guys, you'll never believe it! Look at all these great tambourines I found!" She races off, leaving the same tense silence. Suddenly, the parasprites burst into a flurry of activity! They eat the streetlamps! They eat the leaves off the trees! They eat... EVERYTHING!! Rainbow Dash points to a pile of carrots. "Nice job, Twilight, at least

they're not eating the food anymore."

It's everypony for herself! Rarity races to the boutique to save her outfits. She bursts in, only to find the parasprites devouring every button and bow from the gorgeous outfits she painstakingly created for the Princess's visit. . She tries to shoo them away, but there are too many of them, and they're all coughing up more! She leaps onto a chair and shrieks as they devour the boutique around her! Rainbow Dash flies in heroically. "I'll save you!" But she's immediately chased out of the shop by a furious swarm of parasprites. "AAAAHHHHH!!!!" Seconds later Pinkie Pie bursts in. Rarity asks, "Are you here to save me, too?" Pinkie, confused, says, "No, I just wanted to see if you had some bagpipes." Pinkie exits, leaving Rarity to fend for herself.

Meanwhile, at the Big Apple Orchard, Applejack, Big Apple, and Granny Smith have set up a perimeter around their precious apple trees. "No parasprite's gonna eat Applejack's crop!" As they brace for the coming horde, Applejack watches in horror as the creatures completely bypass the apple trees, instead devouring her farmhouse!

Twilight bursts into the library to find Spike hiding under a basket as parasprites swarm! Pinkie Pie races in next to her. "This is horrible!" As Twilight's scrolls and books crash to the floor, she sees that their pages are completely empty! "It is horrible! They're eating all the words!" Pinkie replies, "That's not what I'm talking about. It's horrible that I can't find any drums anywhere!" Twilight says, "Pinkie, you've got to stop with all this nonsense about musical instruments! We're trying to prevent a crisis here!" Pinkie shouts, "So am I! I don't have any drums!" She races away, panic-stricken. Twilight's eyes narrow. Messing with her books is an act of war. She snatches one of the parasprites out of the sky and races off, leaving the terrified Spike still under the basket. "Um, Twilight?"

With the parasprite in her mouth, she races to the Ever Free Forest. Deep in the woods, she finds Shaman's house, and bursts inside, interrupting one of Shaman's bizarre magic rituals. She frantically explains that they've tried everything, but can't seem to stop the parasprites. And the Princess will be in Ponyville any minute! But Shaman can't help. In fact, Shaman is absolutely petrified of the cute little creature. She says parasprites are notorious pests that do nothing but multiply and eat. "If they're in Ponyville, you're in deep doo-doo." ALT: "You're doomed."

ACT III

Twilight races through the Ever Free Forest, frantically trying to formulate a new plan before the Princess arrives. She bursts out of the forest only to see the royal procession moving down the mountain from Canterlot toward Ponyville. Time is running out! Back in town, the situation is worse than ever. The parasprites devour everything in sight as ponies run neighing in all directions. Twilight barks orders, but no pony's listening. "Okay, here's the plan: Rainbow Dash, you distract them!"

Rainbow Dash zooms past, chased by a massive swarm of parasprites. “Good! Everyone else, we need to build an exact replica of Ponyville right over there! We’ve got less than a minute!” But Twilight knows her plan is futile when she hears the distant sound of music. This is it. The Princess’s royal procession has arrived. And Ponyville is a disaster area...

But Twilight’s eyes go wide when she sees what’s actually making the music. It’s Pinkie Pie and her one-pony-band! She’s got tambourines strapped to her neck, accordions between her front and rear legs, cymbals tied to her hooves, a bass drum lashed to her back and rigged up to her front legs, a harmonica holder in front of her mouth next to a tuba holder... every square inch of her is rigged up with instruments. “Pinkie! How many times do I have to tell you that we can’t deal with your nonsense right now! We’ve got real problems here...” She trails off when she notices something strange.

The parasprites have stopped eating. They start bouncing in time to the beat of Pinkie’s tune. Twilight watches in amazement as the parasprites start to fall in line behind Pinkie! As she works her way through the streets, they all march behind her!

Twilight, Rarity, Applejack, Rainbow Dash, and Fluttershy follow Pinkie’s one-pony-band as it leads the parasprites toward the Ever Free Forest. Suddenly, all of Pinkie’s bizarre behavior makes perfect sense. The march of the parasprites soon crosses paths with Princess Celestia’s royal procession. She’s fascinated by the cute little critters, and wildly impressed that Twilight and her friends held a parade in her honor. Unfortunately, with many apologies the Princess explains that she can’t stay. An emergency has come up in Fillydelphia – apparently some sort of infestation – so she’ll have to come for a visit another time [NOTE: the Princess says this with a wink and nod, so we know she’s aware what the ponies have been through]. But before she goes, she asks for a quick report from Twilight on what she’s learned about friendship.

As Twilight watches Pinkie lead the parasprites happily back into the forest with her music, Twilight says she’s learned the importance of stopping and taking the time to listen to your friends’ opinions and perspectives, even when they don’t always seem to make sense. Sometimes the solution to a problem can come from where you least expect it. The Princess is very happy with her prized pupil, and heads off to Fillydelphia impressed.

As Pinkie rejoins her friends to watch the Princess’s procession, Twilight thanks her for being such a good friend and helping to save the day, and her reputation with the Princess. The ponies turn to head back to town – the town Pinkie Pie just saved – only to find that everything has been half-devoured by the parasprites and lies in ruins. Maybe it’s not so saved after all...