

Distribution:

Production:

Lauren Faust
Chris Bartleman
Kirsten Newlands-Davidson
Rob Renzetti
Sarah Wall
Jayson Thiessen
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
Dean Carley

Ed Consult:

Jordan Brown

MY LITTLE PONY

"Call of Cutie"

EP012

Outline by
Meghan McCarthy

Outline: December 23, 2009
Notes Due: December 24, 2009

TEASER

School is in session and APPLE BLOOM is in the front row of her class listening very intently to her teacher CHEERILEE. The lesson for the day is about the moment in a young pony's life when he or she gets his or her Cutie Mark. Cheerilee explains that Cutie Marks magically appear when a pony finds his or her special gift or talent.

While Apple Bloom is being very attentive, the other ponies in her class are not. In fact, the ponies on either side of her, MINTY and WILLOW are trying to get Apple Bloom to help them pass a note. Apple Bloom grows more and more frustrated as the two ponies distract her from the lecture with their requests to help them out. Exasperated and desperate for them to leave her alone, she finally takes the folded slip of paper in her mouth. She is just about to pass it along when Cheerilee turns around and spots her. "Apple Bloom! You of all ponies should be paying attention!" she admonishes.

Cheerilee takes the note and asks what was so important that it simply couldn't wait until after class. She opens it up to reveal that there is nothing written on the paper. "It's blank," she says, confused. "Remind you of anything?" Willow whispers to Minty. She gestures to Apple Bloom's hindquarters and we reveal that she doesn't have her Cutie Mark. Apple Bloom stewes as we END TEASER.

ACT I

As Apple Bloom and her fellow classmates file out of the school building, Minty and Willow complain about how silly it is to give a lesson about Cutie Marks when there are only two ponies in class who don't have them yet. Apple Bloom and her fellow "blank flank", FROST, share embarrassed looks. Before the ponies go their separate ways, Willow informs her classmates that the "Cute-ciñera" to celebrate the appearance of her Cutie Mark will be held over the weekend and that they are all invited.

Apple Bloom returns home where she laments the absence of Cutie Marks on her hindquarters to AppleJack. She wants her Cutie Marks, and she wants them now! AppleJack tells her that there is no rush and that everything happens in good time. She was one of the last ponies in her class to get her Cutie Marks, but she couldn't be prouder of them. She shows off the APPLES on her hindquarters. The sight of AppleJack's Cutie Mark gives Apple Bloom an idea. Maybe her special talent has something to do with apples too. She and AppleJack are sisters after all. Apple Bloom eagerly offers to help AppleJack sell apples at the Ponyville market, certain that her special gift will be revealed and her Cutie Marks will soon follow.

The next day at the market, Apple Bloom tries a little too hard to sell apples. She accosts customers who are making other purchases and forces them over to AppleJack's apple cart. She loads apples into unsuspecting shoppers saddlebags and then tells them to "pay up". She tells an insulted CHUBBY PONY that recent studies have shown that eating tons and tons of apples is actually a good way to shed some pounds. It becomes pretty clear, pretty quickly that being a good apple salespony is not her special gift.

Things go from bad to worse when Minty and Willow, accompanied by Frost, arrive on the scene. Willow has some great news. She and Frost will now be having a joint Cute-ciñera! An excited Frost shows off the Cutie Marks that magically appeared that morning. AppleJack congratulates Frost and Willow and makes a big deal about how amazing their new Cutie Marks are, even offering up free celebratory apples. Minty sarcastically tells

Apple Bloom that she is sure no one will even notice that Apple Bloom is the only pony at the Cute-ciñera with a blank flank. "It definitely won't be, like, the most embarrassing thing ever," Willow assures Apple Bloom with a smirk.

But it will be the most embarrassing thing ever! Apple Bloom can't be the only pony at the party who hasn't gotten her Cutie Marks yet. She just can't be! She is going to find her special talent and she is going to get her Cutie Marks and she is going to do it by tomorrow!

ACT II

Unfortunately, Apple Bloom has no idea where to even start when it comes to seeking out her special gift. Help arrives in the form of Rainbow Dash who, unlike Applejack, thinks there is nothing wrong with being in a rush to get your Cutie Mark. Why would you want to wait for it to happen, when you can *make* it happen? Rainbow Dash offers to take Apple Bloom under her wing (figuratively, not literally) and takes the young pony through an intense regimen that has Apple Bloom trying just about everything under the sun in an effort to find her true talent. Is it juggling? No. Kite-flying? No. Potato-sack racing? No. Balancing a bucket on her nose while standing on one leg while jumping up and down on a trampoline? No. Rainbow Dash is like a trainer preparing a boxer for a fight, never letting Apple Bloom have a moment's rest and yelling out words of encouragement that unfortunately don't seem to help at all.

Apple Bloom is really getting worn out and is no closer to her goal. Sweaty and exhausted, she runs into Minty and Willow who are on their way to the Carousel Boutique to pick up their outfits for the Cute-ciñera. Once again, they give her a hard time for being the only pony that will be without a Cutie Mark at the party. Apple Bloom has got to find her true calling or face utter humiliation. But she's starting to think Rainbow Dash might not be the best mentor. She collapses in frustration. They've been at it for hours and the only thing Apple Bloom seems to be good at is not being good at anything.

"You look like you'd be good at taste-testing my cupcakes!" Suddenly, Pinkie Pie is standing right above Apple Blossom. Apple Bloom is reenergized! Perhaps her true calling can be found in the kitchen! (Either way, tasting cupcakes sounds a whole lot better than continuing to suffer under Rainbow Dash's tutelage.) Apple Bloom thanks Rainbow Dash for all her help, but tells her that she's going to just head over to the sweet shop with her new mentor Pinkie Pie. Apple Bloom arrives at the shop ready to taste cupcakes and finds out that Pinkie Pie hasn't actually baked them yet. "But you look like you'd be great at helping me bake them!" It turns out that Pinkie Pie is wrong. Very, very wrong. Apple Bloom is a terrible baker. She spills batter, knocks over flour, burns half-dozen batches of cupcakes, and accidentally turns the icing from pink to black when she adds the wrong food coloring. Still, despite all of these mistakes, it looks like a Cutie Mark has appeared on her hindquarters! But what is it in the shape of? A cookie? No. A mixing bowl? No. A tower of moist, delicious cupcakes? No. Turns out it's not a Cutie Mark at all, just some flour that got knocked onto her rump.

Apple Bloom dusts herself off and decides that she needs to look for her talent somewhere else. But to make up for the disaster she's created in the kitchen, she agrees to help Pinkie Pie set up some goodies around the shop. Anxious to move on, Apple Bloom gets a little careless with the tower of cupcakes she's carrying. She sets it down on the very edge of a table and its weight causes the table to tip. In a domino effect, every table in the room is toppled and every sweet treat in the shop falls to the ground.

Apple Bloom feels just terrible and tries to help Pinkie Pie clean up the mess. But she seems to have a hard time even doing that. When she goes to wipe down a table, she accidentally dips her rag in a bucket of chocolate rather than a bucket of water and spreads the stuff all over the place. Luckily, Twilight drops by and, seeing the horrible mess, offers to use her magic to fix things right up. She enchants all the cleaning supplies and within a few minutes, the shop is sparkly and clean and all of Pinkie Pie's beautiful and tasty desserts are returned to their proper places.

Apple Bloom is relieved that Pinkie Pie's shop is no longer a disaster area, but relief quickly turns to concern when she realizes that it's almost time for the Cute-ciñera. What is she going to do? She still hasn't found her true calling and there isn't any more time to look for it. Seeing how powerful Twilight's magic was when it came to cleaning up the sweet shop, Apple Bloom gets an idea -- maybe Twilight can use her magic to give her a Cutie Mark. Twilight doesn't think that she is capable of such a thing, but seeing how desperate Apple Bloom is, she agrees to give it a shot. Twilight aims her horn and FLASH! FLASH! FLASH! A series of rapid-fire images appear on Apple Bloom's hindquarters. Alas, none of them last for more than a moment.

Apple Bloom decides that the situation is hopeless. She's never going to get her Cutie Mark. She just can't handle being teased at the party and decides she just won't go. "But, Apple Bloom," Pinkie Pie says, "You're already at the party!" We widen to reveal a giant banner that reads "Happy Cute-ciñera, Willow and Frost!" Off Apple Bloom's panicked look, we END ACT II.

ACT III

Apple Bloom had completely forgotten the party was taking place at the sweet shop. She has to find a way to get out of there before anyone sees her. Not an easy task, as guests are starting to arrive in droves. Apple Bloom makes her way to the exit by ducking under tables, hiding behind towers of cupcakes that are rapidly being consumed by party guests, and posing behind an ice sculpture in the shape of a prancing pony. She's almost out the door and about to make her getaway when she runs right into AppleJack who has just arrived. AppleJack doesn't realize her sister is trying to sneak off and pulls her back into the party.

Luckily, Willow and Minty haven't spotted Apple Bloom yet. If she can just find a way to keep her still blank backside a secret, maybe she can get through the party without being publicly humiliated. She spots the solution on a nearby table. She'll simply cover her rump with a tablecloth and pretend it's her party dress. No one needs to know what is or isn't underneath it. Just as she finishes wrapping the cloth around her hindquarters, Willow and Minty approach with Frost. Willow tells Apple Bloom that she is so glad that the fact that Apple Bloom is the only pony in class without a Cutie Mark didn't keep her away from the party. Apple Bloom informs the girls that she actually does have a Cutie Mark. She got it this morning and it is totally amazing. So amazing, in fact, that she didn't want to steal their thunder and is keeping it under wraps until she has her own Cute-ciñera the following week.

The girls seem to buy it and, pleased with herself, Apple Bloom turns to make a dramatic exit. Unfortunately, as she spins on her hooves, her tablecloth party dress accidentally catches on the corner of a display cabinet. It is pulled off to reveal her Cutie Mark-less backside. Everyone gasps. Minty and Willow giggle. "Wow! That is amazing!" Minty says sarcastically. "Nice try, blank flank," Willow adds. Totally humiliated, Apple Bloom lowers

her head in shame.

"What's so bad about being a blank flank?" a tiny voice calls out from the back of the room. The party guests turn to see SCOOTALOO and SWEETIE BELLE, a baby Pegasus and a little unicorn, who are wearing little capes that cover their bottoms. "It means you're not special," Willow replies. "No. It means you're full of potential," Scootaloo responds as she and Sweetie Belle stand on either side of Apple Bloom. "It means you could be great at anything. The possibilities are endless!" Sweetie Belle adds. Minty asks why Scootaloo and Sweetie Belle are such big defenders of ponies who don't have their Cutie Marks yet. "Because we don't have our Cutie Marks yet," Scootaloo responds. She and Sweetie Belle remove the capes covering their backsides to reveal that they are blank. Sweetie Belle reminds Minty and Willow that once you get your Cutie Mark, you're stuck with it. "And where's the fun in that?" Scootaloo asks. Applejack, Twilight and even Rainbow Dash agree that Sweetie Belle makes a good point. The process of discovering your true calling is pretty great. Feeling foolish for giving Apple Bloom a hard time, Minty and Willow slink off.

Scootaloo and Sweetie Belle officially introduce themselves to Apple Bloom who thanks them for putting Minty and Willow in their place. Left alone, the three admit that they still really look forward to getting their Cutie Marks someday. Apple Bloom suggests that maybe the three of them could work on getting their Cutie Marks together. Scootaloo and Sweetie Belle think this sounds like a great idea. They could even form their own secret society, Sweetie Belle proposes. "We could call ourselves The Cutie Mark Crusaders!" Scootaloo suggests. They decide to celebrate their newly founded club with some cupcakes. "Not that one," Apple Bloom warns as Sweetie Belle starts to take a bite of one of the cupcakes Apple Bloom made earlier.

Twilight looks on as the new friends snack on some of Pinkie Pie's desserts. Over images of the three little ponies joking, laughing, and playing together, we hear Twilight's letter to Princess Celestia. In it she writes about the lesson both she and Apple Bloom have learned -
- There are always true friends out there who are going through the same things you are, and because of this, you never have to feel different or alone.