Distribution:

Production:
Lauren Faust
Chris Bartleman
Kirsten Newlands-Davidson
Rob Renzetti
Sarah Wall
Jayson Thiessen
James Wooton
Angela Belyea
Ridd Sorensen
Kimberly Small

Discovery/Hasbro:
Donna Ebbs
Scott Pennington
Chris Mehl

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

Habro IP:
Mark Wiesenhahn
Matt Mattus

Hasbro Global Brand:
Valerie Jurries
Michelle Hogue
Donna Tobin

Hasbro Design:
Liz Knight
Dean Carley

Educational Consultant:
Jordan Brown

MY LITTLE PONY

"Call of the Cutie"

EP012

Story by

Meghan McCarthy

Polish: February 10, 2010
Notes Due: February 11, 2010

TEASER

FADE IN:

EXT. SCHOOLHOUSE - ESTABLISHING - MORNING

INT. CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

YOUNG PONIES take their places behind their desks. APPLE BLOOM is between class snobs SILVER SPOON and TIARA.

1 PONIES
<WALLA>

As the students get ready for class to begin, we are able to get a glimpse of Silver Spoon and Tiara's Cutie Marks, as well as those of several of their classmates. (NOTE: The action should be staged in such a way, however, that we never get a chance to see Apple Bloom or Twist's flanks.) Their teacher, CHEERILEE, steps out from behind her desk to address the class.

2 CHEERILEE
Let's quiet down, please. We have a very important lesson to get to.

The ponies focus their attention on Cheerilee .

3 CHEERILEE (CONT'D)
Thank you.

Cheerilee steps in front of a PRESENTATION STAND with a large white card propped against it.

4 CHEERILEE (CONT'D)
Today we are going to be talking about Cutie Marks.

She gently removes the white card off the stand to reveal another card with the words "CUTIE MARKS" written across it in a flowery font.

Tiara and Silver Spoon roll their eyes.

5 TIARA
(under her breath)
Bor-ing.

Apple Bloom shoots her a look, then quickly retrieves a piece of paper and a quill from her backpack.

6 CHEERILEE
You can all see my Cutie Mark, can't you?

Her students nod as she walks back and forth in front of the class, showing off her Cutie Mark.

7 CHEERILEE (CONT'D)
Like all ponies, I wasn't born with a Cutie Mark.

She gently knocks down the "CUTIE MARK" card to reveal another card. This one has a picture of a BABY CHEERILEE lying on her tummy on a fuzzy pink blanket.

8 TWIST
(with a lisp)
Aww. She'sth stho precthious.

9 CHEERILEE
My flank was blank.

Cheerilee takes a POINTER in her mouth and points to the baby Cheerilee's blank hindquarters.

10 CHEERILEE (CONT'D)
Then one day, when I was about your age, I woke up to find that a Cutie Mark had appeared.

She removes the baby photo card to reveal another card. This one features a picture of an older Cheerilee dancing at a party. The camera zooms in on her cutie mark in the picture as she describes it.

11 CHEERILEE (CONT'D)
I had decided to become a teacher and the flowers symbolized my hope that I could help my future students *bloom* if I nurtured them with knowledge. The smiles represented the *cheer* I hoped to bring to my little ponies while they were learning.

The camera widens on the picture, as the students start to giggle. Adolescent Cheerilee's mane looks like she used a crimping iron on it. (Perhaps she even has braces?)

12 STUDENTS/SILVER SPOON
<GIGGLES>/Look at her hair.

13 CHEERILEE
Yes, I know, but honestly, that's how everypony was wearing their mane back then.
(then)
(MORE)

CHEERILEE (CONT'D)
Now, can anyone tell me when a pony gets his or her Cutie Mark?

Twist raises her hoof.

14 TWIST
Oh! Oh! Oh! When sthe discoverths that thertain sthomethin' that makesth her sthpethial.

15 CHEERILEE
That's right, Twist. A Cutie Mark appears on a pony's flank when he or she finds that certain something that makes them different from every other pony.

Apple Bloom, quill in mouth, writes this down.

16 APPLE BLOOM
(to herself)
"Makes her different and special."

Tiara tries to get the studious Apple Bloom's attention.

17 TIARA
Psst.

Apple Bloom ignores her as Cherilee continues.

18 CHEERILEE
No two ponies are alike, so no two Cutie Marks are alike.

Tiara tries again to get Apple Bloom's attention.

19 TIARA
Psst.

Apple Bloom continues to ignore her.

20 CHEERLIEE
Discovering what makes you unique isn't something that happens overnight. And no amount of hoping, wishing or begging will make a Cutie Mark appear before its time.

21 TIARA
PSST.

An irritated Apple Blossom turns to Tiara.

22 APPLE BLOOM
(irritated whisper)
What?!

Tiara holds up a folded piece of paper and motions for Apple Blossom to pass it to Silver Spoon. Apple Bloom rolls her eyes, then takes the note from Silver Spoon.

23 CHEERILEE (O.S.)
Apple Bloom!

Apple Bloom freezes, the slip of paper in her mouth.

24 CHEERILEE (CONT'D)
Are you passing a note?

25 APPLE BLOOM
Uuuuuuuhhhhh... *

As she speaks, the note falls out of her mouth. Cheerilee appears out of nowhere and catches it.

26 CHEERILEE
What could be so important that it couldn't wait until after class?

Cheerliee opens the note. She looks at it, confused.

27 CHEERILEE (CONT'D)
It's blank.

She holds it up, waiting for an explanation.

28 TIARA
<GIGGLE>
(whispering to Silver Spoon)
Remind you of anypony?

She motions to Apple Bloom's flank.

REVEAL: Apple Bloom does not have a Cutie Mark.

29 TIARA AND SILVER SPOON
<SOFT GIGGLING>

Apple Bloom stews, then hears...

30 PONIES
<WHISPERS>

Apple Bloom looks around to see her classmates pointing at her. She sinks with embarrassment as we...

FADE OUT.

END TEASER

ACT I

EXT. SCHOOLHOUSE - LATER

A BELL RINGS and a moment later the pony students exit. Among them are SCOOTALOO and SWEETIE BELLE. (NOTE: We do not see their flanks.) Apple Bloom emerges from the schoolhouse with Twist. She still looks pretty upset. Twist motions to the satchel on her back.

31 TWIST
(to Apple Bloom)
Want thomething thweet? I've got thome peppermint stickths...
(then, proudly)
I made them mythelf...

Apple Bloom gloomily shakes her head "no".

32 TWIST (CONT'D)
They'll make you thmile.

Apple Bloom shakes her head "no" again.

33 TWIST (CONT'D)
(with a shrug)
Thuit yourthelf.

She retrieves a peppermint stick for herself as Tiara and Silver Spoon approach.

34 TIARA
I don't know why we had to sit through a lecture about getting a Cutie Mark. I mean, waiting for your Cutie Mark is sooo last week. You've got yours. I just got mine. We *all* have them already.
(then)
I mean, *almost* all of us have them already.

35 SILVER SPOON
<GIGGLES>

Twist shoots Tiara an annoyed look. We now see that Twist is also without a Cutie Mark.

36 TIARA
Don't worry you two, you're still totally invited to my Cute-cinera this weekend.

37 SILVER SPOON
It's going to be amazing.

38 TIARA
It's a party celebrating me and my fantastic Cutie Mark. How could it not be?

Tiara and Silver Spoon tap front hooves, nuzzle noses, then give one another a "rump bump" as they chant:

39 SILVER SPOON AND TIARA
Bump. Bump. Sugar lump. Rump.

Apple Bloom rolls her eyes.

40 APPLE BLOOM
(under her breath)
Gimme a break.

Tiara and Silver Spoon start to walk away from Apple Bloom and Twist.

41 SILVER SPOON
See you this weekend...

They share a knowing glance, then look back at Apple Bloom and Twist.

42 SILVER SPOON AND TIARA
...<GIGGLING> Blank Flanks.

Apple Bloom's eyes narrow as Silver Spoon and Tiara gallop off.

<u>EXT. APPLE ORCHARD - LATER THAT DAY</u>

Applejack sorts through a pile of apples, placing the ones she likes in a large basket. An irritated Apple Bloom paces back and forth in front of her.

43 APPLE BLOOM
It's not fair. It's just not fair.

44 APPLEJACK
Don't get your mane in a tangle. You'll get your Cutie Mark. Everypony gets one eventually.

Applejack places another apple in her basket.

45 APPLE BLOOM
But I don't want one "eventually."
I want one right noooooooow. I
can't go to the Tiara's Cute-
cinera without one. I just can't.

46 APPLEJACK
Course you can.
(then)
You know, I was the last pony in
my class to get a Cutie Mark.
And I couldn't be prouder of it.

Applejack shows off the APPLES that adorn her flank.

47 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
I knew my future was to run Sweet
Apple Acres and these bright shiny
apples sealed the deal!

Applejack exhales onto her apple cutie mark and shines it with her elbow as if they were real apples.

48 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
Come to think of it, Granny Smith
was the last one in her class too.
Big McIntosh, too.

Apple Bloom pouts and sullenly kicks at some fallen apples.

49 APPLE BLOOM
I really don't see how that's
supposed to make me feel better.
It probably means being the last
one in your class to get a Cutie
Mark runs in the family.

Apple Bloom considers what she's just said, then brightens a little.

50 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
(an idea forming)
Runs in the family...
(then, excited)
Runs in the family!

Apple Bloom runs in a circle around Applejack.

51 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
(even more excited)
Runs in the family!

Apple Bloom SLIDES to a halt next to Applejack's now full basket.

52 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
You've got apples for your Cutie Mark! Granny Smith has an apple pie! Big McInctosh has an apple half! My unique talent must have something to do with apples!
(then, super excited)
Apples! Apples! Apples!

Apple Bloom KICKS UP her back legs and BAM! knocks over Applejack's basket, spilling its contents everywhere.

53 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
(sheepish)
Apples.

EXT. PONYVILLE TOWN SQUARE - THE NEXT DAY

A handful of PONY VENDORS hawk their wares. Among the ponies perusing the goods for sale are SCOOTALOO and SWEETIE BELLE. (NOTE: Again, they should be posed in such a way that we can't see their flanks.)

ANGLE ON: Applejack and Apple Bloom who stand behind a cart filled with, you guessed it, apples. They are both wearing APRONS with pockets.

54 APPLEJACK
(calling out)
Get your delicious, nutritious apples here.

55 APPLE BLOOM
(calling out louder)
Delicious and nutritious. And sooo many uses... You can eat them...

Demonstrating to passers-by, she takes a bite of an apple, then spits out apple chunks as she continues to speak...

56 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
Play with them...

She retrieves a TENNIS RACKET out of nowhere, runs up to a group of shoppers, kicks an apple in the air and hits it. We hear a CRASH O.S.

57 PONY (O.S.)
Hey! Watch it!

58 APPLE BLOOM
Create fine art for your home with them...

Apple Bloom uses her back hooves to kick an apple at a CANVAS on an EASEL. Several pony patrons have to duck! The apple hits with such force that it splatters, its juice dripping down the canvas.

59 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
You'd have be crazy not to get a bushel of your very own.

Applejack gives the ducking patrons an apologetic smile.

60 APPLE JACK
<nervous laugh> She's so creative...

A MALE PONY passes by the cart. Apple Bloom gallops up next to him.

61 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
You, sir, care to buy some apples?

62 MALE PONY
No, thanks.

The Male Pony tries to continue on to the next vendor, but Apple Bloom pops up in his path.

63 APPLE BLOOM
Why not?

64 MALE PONY
(cheery)
I have plenty at home.

The Male Pony moves to get around Apple Bloom, but once again she pops up in his way.

65 APPLE BLOOM
Are you sure?

The Male Pony humors her aggressive sales pitch.

66 MALE PONY
Yes, I'm pretty sure--

She starts walking towards him, forcing him backwards towards the apple cart.

67 APPLE BLOOM
(cutting him off)
You're "pretty sure".
(MORE)

APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
But you're not absolutely, positively, completely super duper sure, are you?

The Male Pony is starting to get a little uncomfortable. She has him pinned against the cart, she waggles her eyebrows.

68 MALE PONY
(timid)
If I buy some apples will you please leave me alone.

Apple Bloom beams, oblivious that she is achieving success through intimidation.

69 APPLE BLOOM
(excited)
Yes!

The Male Pony quickly turns to Applejack's cart. He grabs an apple, drops some coins in one of the pockets on Applejack's apron and quickly makes his escape.

70 APPLEJACK
(calling after him)
You forgot your change!

Apple Bloom rears into the air victoriously.

71 APPLE BLOOM
Woo-hoo! That is how you sell some apples and get a Cutie Mark!

She tries to get a look at her rump, chasing her own backside like a dog would chase its tail.

72 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
So, what does my cutie mark look like? A shopping bag full of apples? A satisfied customer eating an apple?

Applejack eyes her sister's antics and shakes her head at her foolishness. Apple Bloom stops spinning in circles.

73 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
Hmmm. Maybe I gotta increase my sales figures first.

Apple Bloom notices a PURPLE PONY nosing through a basket of apples.

74 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
(stern)
You touch it, you buy it!
(MORE)

APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
(then sweetly)
We take cash or credit!

Startled, the Purple Pony retreats from the basket.

75 APPLEJACK
I'm sorry, Ma'am? MA'AM!
(to Apple Bloom)
Now Apple Bloom, you can't just--- *

Applejack realizes that Apple Bloom isn't listening. Instead, she's loading apples into the saddle bag of an unsuspecting GREEN PONY.

76 APPLE BLOOM (ALT)
That'll be four bits.

The green pony looks at her saddle bag, confused.

77 GREEN PONY
I didn't put those in my bag.

She gets in the green pony's face.

78 APPLE BLOOM
Likely story. Four bits, lady!

79 APPLEJACK
(admonishing)
Apple Bloom!

Applejack puts a hoof against Apple Bloom's nose and pushes her away from the green pony.

80 APPLE BLOOM
(muffled by AppleJack's hoof)
What'd I do?

Her hoof still on Apple Bloom's snout, Applejack addresses the green pony.

81 APPLEJACK
I am really, really sorry about that. She's new.

Still holding back Apple Bloom, she loads a basket of apples onto the green pony's back.

82 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
Here. Take these. No charge.

The green pony raises an eyebrow -- what else you got? Applejack obliges.

83 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
And these.

Applejack releases Apple Bloom and loads another basket of apples onto the pony's back. The Green Pony still doesn't look satisfied.

84 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
And these.

Appeased, the green pony stumbles off, her knees buckling under the weight of all the apples. Applejack watches her go.

85 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
(calling after her)
Y'all come back now, y'hear!

She turns and shoots Apple Bloom a disapproving look.

86 APPLE BLOOM
(oblivious)
What?

87 APPLEJACK
Sorry, little sis, but your apple selling days are over.

Applejack yanks off Apple Bloom's apron with her teeth.

88 APPLE BLOOM
What?! But how else am I gonna get my cutie mark?

Apple Bloom yanks the apron away from Applejack.

89 APPLEJACK
(stern)
Home. Now.

Apple Bloom spits out the apron and pouts. Not just a lower lip pout, but a full body, front legs crossed, shoulders slumped, brow furrowed pout.

Applejack rolls her eyes, then softens.

90 APPLE JACK
Listen, sugarcube. I know it's hard to wait for your very own cutie mark, but you just can't force it. Besides, you're not that grown up just yet. Ain't there other fillies in your class without one?

Apple Bloom loosens up a little.

91 APPLE BLOOM
Well.... Twist doesn't have hers yet.

92 APPLE JACK
Do ya think you'd feel better if you went to the party with her?

Apple Bloom brightens a bit and nods.

93 APPLEJACK *
Well there ya go! Bet you and Twist would have a great time together. Now run along and find your friend.

Apple Bloom starts to leave, then stops.

94 APPLE BLOOM
You're sure you don't want me to stick around until the end of the market?

95 PONY VENDOR (O.S.)
Hey! Who's been using my racket?!

Applejack looks over to see a pony in a TENNIS OUTFIT angrily holding up a TENNIS RACKET covered in apple bits.

96 APPLEJACK
Yep. I'm sure.

EXT. TWIST'S HOUSE - SOON AFTER

Apple Bloom KNOCKS on the front door. Twist answers, but doesn't open the door all the way.

97 TWIST
Oh. What'th up, Apple Bloom?

98 APPLE BLOOM
So I was thinking, I don't have a Cutie Mark... You don't have a Cutie Mark... Maybe we could go to Tiara's Cute-cinera together.

99 TWIST
Well, um...

Twist opens the door wider and steps outside. The image of a PAIR of CANDY CANES now adorn Twist's once blank rump. Apple Bloom's face falls.

100 TWIST (CONT'D)
Ithn't my cutie mark thwell? I've alwayth loved making my own sthavory sthweeth but it took me sthome time to disthcover that it was my sthuper sthpethial talent.
(then)
Pretty thweet, huh?

101 APPLE BLOOM
(crushed)
Yeah. Pretty... thweet.

102 TWIST
Hey. Thith doethn't mean we can't go to the Cute-thinera together.

Apple Bloom looks like she's had the wind knocked out of her. Twist reads her distraught expression.

103 TWIST (CONT'D)
You're thtill gonna come to the party aren't you?

104 TIARA (O.S.)
Of course she will.

Apple Bloom and Twist look over to see Silver Spoon and Tiara.

105 SILVER SPOON
It's not like being the <u>only</u> pony there without a Cutie Mark will be, like, the most embarrassing thing ever.

106 TIARA AND SILVER SPOON
<GIGGLES>

CLOSE ON APPLE BLOOM

She could not look more devastated if she tried.

FADE OUT.

END ACT I

ACT II

<u>EXT. PONYVILLE STREET - LATER THAT DAY</u>

A forlorn Apple Bloom sulks, head hanging low. Suddenly, RAINBOW DASH zips up behind her.

107 RAINBOW DASH
Whoa. Looks like somebody's got a dark cloud hanging over her head.
(then)
Let me do something about that.

REVEAL: There is literally a DARK CLOUD positioned directly over Apple Bloom. Rainbow Dash takes to the sky, lowers her head and WHAM slams her head into the cloud, knocking it into next week. She returns to the ground. Apple Bloom still looks sad.

108 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
What's the matter, kid?

109 APPLE BLOOM
<A DEEP BREATH>
(then, rapid-fire)
There's a Cute-cinera this afternoon and everypony in my class will be there and they all have their Cutie Marks, and I want to get my Cutie Mark, but I'm no good at selling apples but I really want to go to the party, but how can I go to the party if I don't have my Cutie-Mark, which my big sister says I'm gonna get "eventually", but...
(A DEEP BREATH)
...I want it nooooooooow.

A beat.

110 RAINBOW DASH
Cutie Mark? I can get you a Cutie Mark like that.

111 APPLE BLOOM
But Applejack says these things take time. I have to just wait for it to happen.

112 RAINBOW DASH
Why wait for something to happen when you can *make* it happen?

113 APPLE BLOOM
But Applejack says--

114 RAINBOW DASH
(cutting her off)
Who are you going to listen to? Applejack?
(MORE)

RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Or the pony who was first in her class to get a Cutie Mark?

Rainbow Dash shows off her Cutie Mark. Apple Bloom brightens.

115 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
I always had a need for speed but I was going nowhere in a hurry. Then I figured out that it was my destiny to become a member of the Wonder Bolts and SHAZAM! This sweet baby appeared fast as lightning!

EXT. FIELD - DAY

Apple Bloom does some stretching as Rainbow Dash paces back and forth in front of her. They are now wearing SWEATBANDS. Rainbow Dash has a REFEREE WHISTLE around her neck.

116 RAINBOW DASH
That's right. Stretch those legs. Gotta be nice and loose. The key here is to try as many things as possible as quickly possible. One of 'em is bound to lead to your cutie mark!
(then)
Are you ready?

117 APPLE BLOOM
I'm ready.

118 RAINBOW DASH
I said...
(louder)
ARE YOU READY?!

119 APPLE BLOOM
I'M READY!

Rainbow Dash BLOWS her WHISTLE.

MUSIC WITH A DRIVING BEAT UP as we begin...

A MONTAGE

A) Rainbow Dash places a basket of multi-colored balls in front of Apple Bloom.

120 RAINBOW DASH
Juggling. Go!

She BLOWS her WHISTLE. Apple Bloom tries to keep a half-dozen balls in the air but can only do it for a moment before they come falling down and bounce comically, but harmlessly, on her head.

B) Rainbow Dash stands at the edge of a very steep cliff. Apple Bloom is several yards away wearing an enormous hang-gliding device.

121 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Hang-gliding. Go!

Rainbow Dash BLOWS her WHISTLE. Apple Bloom races toward the edge of the cliff, a determined look in her eye.

She's just about to reach the cliff's edge when she TRIPS and FALLS, landing with her face pressed against the ground and her back hooves in the air. She wobbles in this vertical position for a moment before the weight of the hang-gliding device flips her over and onto her back.

Apple Bloom smiles sheepishly at Rainbow Dash who is now standing directly above her.

C) Rainbow Dash shoves a KITE in Apple Bloom's direction.

122 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Kite-flying. Go!

Rainbow Dash BLOWS her WHISTLE. Apple Bloom tosses the kite up in the air. It catches the wind for a moment. Apple Bloom smiles, then has to jump out of the way as the kite plummets back down, lodges in the ground and then inexplicably BURSTS into FLAME. (Please note that neither pony starts the fire. It happens with no explanation.)

D) Rainbow Dash is dressed as a karate sensei.

123 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Karate. Go!

Rainbow Dash BLOWS her WHISTLE. Apple Bloom, also in a karate get-up, stands next to a HEAVY BAG. She takes a running start and then leaps.

124 APPLE BLOOM
Hyah!

She strikes a flying sidekick pose, still soaring through the air toward her target, a STACK OF BOARDS. Her hoof makes contact but instead of splitting the boards, they bend as if made of rubber. BOING! She bounces off of them and is sent flying back into the HEAVY BAG. BOING!

She bounces off of it and is sent flying back into the boards. BOING! BOING! BOING! She bounces back and forth between the heavy bag and the boards over and over and over again.

E) Apple Bloom is on a SKATE TRACK now wearing a PAIR of ROLLER SKATES and a HELMET.

125 RAINBOW DASH
Ultra Pony Roller Derby. Go!

Another WHISTLE BLOW. Apple Bloom looks behind her to see THREE TOUGH PONIES (in the same GEAR as Apple Bloom) snarling and racing toward her on skates.

126 TOUGH PONIES
<GRRRRRRR>

127 APPLE BLOOM
AAAAHHH!

Apple Bloom tries to skate off but trips over her own hooves. She shields herself as the TOUGH PONIES trip over her and sail off screen on at a time. After each exits, the camera shakes from their off screen impact. After a beat, Apple Bloom smiles sheepishly and, without getting up, scoots backward out of the scene.

<u>EXT. PONYVILLE TOWN SQUARE - LATER</u>

Rainbow Dash looks over a clipboard as a sweaty and exhausted Apple Bloom catches her breath.

128 RAINBOW DASH
Tried that one... Tried that one... Tried that one...

129 TIARA AND SILVER SPOON (O.S.)
<GIGGLES>

Apple Bloom looks over to see Tiara and Silver Spoon exiting the CAROUSEL BOUTIQUE carrying fancily wrapped boxes. She ducks behind Rainbow Dash as they pass.

130 SILVER SPOON
Your new outfit is, like, perfect for the party.

131 TIARA
I know. It totally shows of my new Cutie Mark.
(then, wistful)
I love being special. Can you imagine how embarrassing it must be to be...
(MORE)

TIARA (CONT'D)
(horrified at the thought)
...not special?

132 SILVER SPOON
I don't even want to, like, think about it.

The girls trot off and Apple Bloom emerges from behind the distracted Rainbow Dash.

133 RAINBOW DASH
Tried that one... Tried that one...

134 APPLE BLOOM
I'm doomed. Doomed! I'll never find something I'm good at.

Just then, PINKIE PIE pokes her head into frame.

135 PINKIE PIE
(to Apple Bloom)
You look like you'd be good at eating cupcakes!

136 APPLE BLOOM
(brightening)
Eating cupcakes?

Rainbow Dash looks up from her clipboard.

137 RAINBOW DASH
(dismissive)
Eating cupcakes?

138 PINKIE PIE
(sing-song)
Eating cupcakes!

Pinkie Pie skips off. Apple Bloom watches her go for a moment, then turns to Rainbow Dash.

139 APPLE BLOOM
I really appreciate all your help, Rainbow Dash. You're a really great coach and I've really learned a lot from you and I'm sure I could learn a lot more but...
(then, excited)
I've got some cupcakes to eat!

Apple Bloom trots off after Pinkie Pie.

140 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
Hold on, Pinkie Pie. I'm coming!
(calling back to Rainbow Dash)
See you at the Cute-cinera!

INT. PINKIE PIE'S SWEET SHOPPE - KITCHEN - LATER

Filled with mixing bowls, cake pans, and unopened bags of flour. There is an industrial-size oven in the corner. Pinkie Pie and Apple Bloom enter.

141 APPLE BLOOM
I can't believe I didn't think of this. A cupcake eating Cutie Mark. It's soooo obvious.
(then, salivating)
Now where are those cupcakes? I am ready to chow down!

She darts around the kitchen in search of the baked goods, throwing open cabinets, nosing around counter tops, opening the oven and peering inside...

142 PINKIE PIE
I don't have any cupcakes.

Apple Bloom closes the oven door.

143 APPLE BLOOM
Oh.

144 PINKIE PIE
<EXCITED GASP> But you look like you'd be good at helping me make some!

She puts a CHEF HAT on Apple Bloom's head.

145 APPLE BLOOM
(a hint of disappointment)
I guess a "making cupcakes" Cutie Mark could work too.

INT. KITCHEN - SOON AFTER

Pinkie Pie stands in front of a pristine counter top, stirring food coloring into a bowl of batter.

146 PINKIE PIE
(singing)
All you have to do is take a cup of flour./ Add to the mix something sweet, not sour./
(MORE)

PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
A bit of salt, just a pinch/ Baking these treats is such a cinch/ Add a teaspoon of vanilla and you'll never get your fill- a... Cupcakes! Sweet and tasty! Cupcakes! Don't be too hasty! Cupcakes! Cupcakes! Cupcakes!

She stops singing and very neatly pours the finished batter into cupcake tins.

147 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
Isn't this fun?

WIDEN TO REVEAL: Apple Bloom stands in front of a counterop that is an absolute mess of overturned mixing bowls, spilled ingredients and discarded measuring cups.

A timer DINGS and a frantic Apple Bloom leaves a still WHIRRING, BATTERED-COVERED MIXER behind to make a mad dash across the kitchen. She knocks over a BAG of FLOUR with her tail as she opens the oven and uses her mouth to grab an oven mitt and retrieve a tin of CUPCAKES.

148 APPLE BLOOM
(with a mouth full of oven mitt)
Hot! Hot! Hot!

She drops the cupcake tin. Pinkie Pie looks down at the ruined treats.

149 PINKIE PIE
(cheery)
Those look much better than the last batch.

She motions to a stack of BLACKENED CUPCAKES.

150 APPLE BLOOM
Guess I'm not cut out to be a baker, either. <SIGH> I just have to face it. I'm gonna have a blank flank forever.

Apple Bloom hangs her head. Pinkie points to Apple Bloom's rump.

151 PINKIE PIE
What about that?

Apple Bloom looks up.

152 APPLE BLOOM
What about what?

She tries to take a peek at her backside, once again chasing it like a dog would its tail.

153 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
(excited)
Is there something on my flank? Is there is there is there??

She rushes over to a large overturned mixing bowl and checks her reflection in its stainless steel base. She beams!

154 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
<Gasp!> A Cutie Mark! It's a, uh...

The white mark on her flank doesn't seem to be in the shape of anything specific. Apple Bloom squints her eyes and examines it more closely.

155 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
A measuring cup? No. A mixing bowl? No. Are those cupcakes?
(squinting even more)
A tower of cupcakes maybe?

156 PINKIE PIE
(excited)
Flour! It's flour!

She dusts off Apple Bloom's flank and the "Cutie Mark" disappears. Apple Bloom sinks with utter disappointment.

157 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
Yay! I guessed it! What game do you want to play next?
(then)
Please say Bingo. Please say Bingo.

Apple Bloom hangs her head.

158 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (O.S.)
Whoa. What's been going on in here?

ANGLE ON THE DOORWAY where TWILIGHT SPARKLE is eyeing the very messy kitchen.

159 PINKIE PIE
We've been making cupcakes! Want to try one?

She offers up the plate of Apple Bloom's charred cupcakes. Twilight eyes the still smoking baked goods.

160 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
No, thank you. Not that they don't look...

One of the cupcakes disintegrates in front of her.

161 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
(forced)
...delicious.

Apple Bloom grovels at Twilight's feet.

162 APPLE BLOOM
Twilight! You have to help me!

163 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
What's the matter?

164 APPLE BLOOM
<A DEEP BREATH>
(then, rapid-fire)
Tiara's Cute-cinera is today and everypony in my class will be there and they all have their Cutie Marks, and I want to get my Cutie Mark, but I'm no good at selling apples, or hang-gliding or making cupcakes, but I want to go to the party, but how can I go to the party if I don't have my Cutie-Mark, which Pinkie Pie says I can't just "make appear", but I <u>need</u> it to appear...
(A DEEP BREATH)
...right nooooooooooow.

A beat.

165 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I don't follow. How can <u>I</u> help you?

166 APPLE BLOOM
You can use your magic to make my Cutie Mark appear.

167 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Oh no, Apple Bloom. A Cutie Mark is something a pony has to discover for herself, not something that can just be conjured up out of thin air like confetti.

She tips her horn and FLASH! Brightly colored confetti falls from the ceiling like snow. Pinkie Pie dashes about trying to catch it on her tongue.

168 APPLE BLOOM
Please, Twilight. Just try.

169 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I'm sorry but--

170 APPLE BLOOM
(increasingly desperate)
Please. Please. Please. Please.
Please. Pleeeeeeease.

Twilight Sparkle backs away. Apple Bloom looks a little crazed at the moment.

171 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Alright. Alright.

172 APPLE BLOOM
Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Twilight lowers her head. She aims her horn at Apple Bloom and...

FLASH! An APPLE CART appears on Apple Bloom's rump.

173 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
Yes! I knew you could do it...

Her voice trails off as the image of the apple cart fades away.

174 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I'm sorry sweetie, but I told you--

175 APPLE BLOOM
Try again! Try again!

Twilight aims her horn once more and...

FLASH! A colorful KITE appears on Apple Bloom's rump. Then as quickly as it appeared, it's gone.

FLASH! A tower of CUPCAKES appears, then disappears.

FLASH! A TEDDY BEAR.

FLASH! A TRICYCLE.

FLASH! A FOOTBALL.

FLASH! FLASH! FLASH! FLASH! FLASH! Swirls of color morph into shapes that quickly fade away.

An exhausted Twilight raises her head.

176 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
---told you that not even magic can make a Cutie Mark appear before it's time.

177 APPLE BLOOM
It's hopeless. Hopeless.
(then, decisive)
I just won't go to the party. I can't go.

Apple Bloom exits the kitchen and enters...

INT. SWEET SHOPPE - FRONT ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Twilight and Pinkie Pie trail Apple Bloom.

178 APPLE BLOOM
Everyone will just laugh at me and make fun of me and call me names. It will be the worst night of my life.

179 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I'm sure it won't be as bad as all that.

180 APPLE BLOOM
Forget it. There is no way I'm going to that...

WIDEN TO REVEAL that the front of the store has been decorated with STREAMERS and BALLOONS. Hung above the display counter is a GIANT BANNER that reads:

"Happy Cute-cinera, Tiara!"

Through the front windows we can see several ponies, including Tiara, Silver Spoon and Twist waiting to enter.

181 APPLE BLOOM
...<gulp> party.

Off Apple Bloom's panicked look we...

END ACT II

ACT III

INT. SWEET SHOPPE - SOON AFTER

PARTY GUESTS enter the shoppe, dressed in their best party duds. A still panicked Apple Bloom spots a giant statue of a prancing pony made entirely of chocolate on a nearby display case and ducks behind it, striking an identical pose.

182 APPLE BLOOM
How could I have forgotten the time? How could I have forgotten Pinky Pie was hosting the party?? How could I have forgotten it was at Sugarcube Corner???

Pinky Pie pokes her head into frame.

183 PINKIE PIE
Don't forget your party hat, Forgetty Forgettersen!

She places a PARTY HAT on Apple Boom's head, then ducks back out of frame.

184 APPLE BLOOM
I have to get out of here before anypony sees me.

She makes her move and darts over to a table displaying a MULTI-LAYERED CAKE. She peers out from behind the cake to see that the sweet shop is rapidly filling with ponies. The exit seems miles away.

Just then, Snails (the pudgy young unicorn from "Boast Busters") takes a huge bite of the cake, exposing Apple Bloom.

185 TIARA (O.S.)
Hey!

Apple Bloom's eyes go wide. Snails, mouth still full of cake, turns away from the now exposed Apple Bloom to face Tiara. She does not look happy.

186 TIARA (CONT'D)
It's my Cute-cinera. I'm supposed to get the first bite of cake!

Tiara moves toward the cake and, unknowingly, Apple Bloom. Apple Bloom thinks fast and we PAN with HER as she makes her way toward the exit...

She strikes a pose so that she can conceal herself behind a party guest's ORNATE HAT. The party guest walks off and Apple Bloom...

...strikes another pose so that she can hide behind a BUNCH OF BALLOONS. POP! POP! POP! She has to contort her body into crazier and crazier positions as a DANCING UNICORN accidentally hits the balloons with his horn.

She leaps into the air and strikes another pose so that she won't be seen behind a PONY-SHAPED PINATA.

She lands and quickly DIVES under a TABLE with a PUNCH BOWL on it.

UNDER THE TABLE

Apple Bloom surveys the room.

187 APPLE BLOOM
Okay, Apple Bloom. Almost there.

BACK TO SCENE

Apple Bloom slowly stands up, the table balanced on her back. Its long table cloth conceals all but her hooves. She takes few steps, then drops back down as an oblivious pony gets a sip of punch from the punch bowl.

The pony's thirst satiated, she walks off. Apple Bloom pops back up and takes a few more steps. She drops back down again.

Up. A few more steps. Down until the coast is clear.

Up. Getting closer. Down as another pony gets some punch.

Up. She's right at the exit.

UNDER THE TABLE

188 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
<A RELIEVED SIGH>

Apple Bloom slowly starts to back out from under the table when she runs smack dab into something.

189 APPLEJACK (O.S.)
Apple Bloom, you made it!

AT THE FRONT DOOR

Apple Bloom freezes, then turns to see that she has run into her sister.

Apple Jack, unaware that Apple Bloom was attempting a getaway, pushes her back into the party as she continues:

190 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
After I heard about Twist, I was afraid you wouldn't show up. Sure am glad you came to your senses about this whole Cutie Mark thing.

Apple Bloom looks around nervously.

191 APPLEJACK
It's like I said. These things happen when these things are supposed to happen. Trying to rush it'll just drive you crazy.

Apple Bloom isn't paying attention. Her eyes dart around the room, looking for another way out of this situation.

192 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
I'll let you be. Looks like your friends wanna talk to you.

She motions to Tiara and Silver Spoon who are now looking right at Apple Bloom, smug expressions on their faces. Apple Bloom looks around frantically. Spots the table cloth on the table she'd used to try and make her escape.

WHOOSH! She yanks off the table cloth. Miraculously, the punch bowl remains on the table.

WHIP! She twirls it around her body making a makeshift sarong around her hindquarters.

Just as she finishes fashioning her dress, she hears a familiar voice.

193 TIARA
Well well well. Look who's here.

Apple Bloom turns to face Tiara and Silver Spoon.

194 SILVER SPOON
(insincere)
Nice outfit.

195 APPLE BLOOM
Just something I, uh, pulled together last minute.

196 TIARA
It really shows off your Cutie Mark. Oh. Wait. That's right. You don't have one.

197 APPLE BLOOM
(nonchalant)
I have a Cutie Mark.

198 SILVER SPOON
What? Since when?

199 APPLE BLOOM
Since, um, earlier today.

200 TIARA
(skeptical)
Oh, really? Let's see it.

Apple Bloom makes a big show of starting to remove her tablecloth covering, then stops right before her flank is about to be exposed.

201 APPLE BLOOM
I shouldn't. I couldn't. My Cutie Mark is so unbelievably amazing, I'm afraid that if I show it off everyone will start paying attention to me instead of you.
(then)
Outshined at your own Cute-cinera. Can you imagine how embarrassing that would be?

Tiara considers this. She looks a little nervous.

202 TIARA
Forget it. I didn't really want to see it anyway.

Apple Bloom straightens her tablecloth skirt.

203 APPLE BLOOM
Okay, well, I'm gonna go mingle. Enjoy your party.

Apple Bloom turns away from Tiara and Silver Spoon..

204 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
<SIGH OF RELIEF>

Just then, the corner of her tablecloth skirt accidentally catches on a display cabinet and...

RIIIP! The tablecloth is torn in half! She falls head first into the record player, stopping the music. Everyone stops and turns to look at Apple Bloom-- and her Cutie Mark-less backside. Apple Bloom grimaces.

205 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
(under her breath)
Oh, no.

A beat as she waits for the inevitable.

206 TIARA AND SILVER SPOON
<GIGGLES>

207 SILVER SPOON
(dripping sarcasm)
Wow! That *is* an amazing Cutie Mark.

208 TIARA AND SILVER SPOON
<GIGGLES>

209 TIARA
Nice try...

210 TIARA AND SILVER SPOON
(loud)
...blank flank! HA HA HA HA HA!!

Several YOUNG PONIES sporting Cutie Marks point at her.

211 YOUNG PONIES
<CONSPIRATORIAL WHISPERS>

Apple Bloom lowers her head in shame. She looks up at the sound of a tiny voice coming from the other side of the room.

212 SCOOTALOO (O.S.)
(calling out)
You gotta problem with blank flanks?

The party guests, including Silver Spoon and Tiara, turn to see SCOOTALOO and SWEETIE BELLE making their way over to Apple Bloom.

213 SCOOTALOO (CONT'D)
I said, you gotta problem with blank flanks?

214 SILVER SPOON
The problem is it means she’s like, totally not special.

215 SWEETIE BELLE
No. It means she’s full of potential.

216 SCOOTALOO
It means she could be great at anything. The possibilities are...
(imitating Silver Spoon)
...like, endless.

Scootaloo and Sweetie Belle now stand on either side of Apple Bloom who is as surprised as anyone by the two ponies brash proclamations.

217 SWEETIE BELLE
She could be a great scientist, or an amazing artist, or a famous writer, she could even be Mayor of Ponyville someday!

218 SCOOTALOO
And she's not stuck being stuck-up like you two! *

We hear some snickers from the rest of the party-goers. Tiara is appalled!

219 TIARA
Hey! This is *my* party. Why are you two on *her* side?

220 SCOOTALOO
Because...

Scootaloo and Sweetie Belle share a knowing look then slowly turn to reveal that...

Their flanks are blank just like Apple Bloom's!

221 APPLE BLOOM
<GASP> You don't have your Cutie Marks, either!
(then)
I thought I was the only one.

222 SCOOTALOO
We thought <u>we</u> were the only two.

223 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I for one think you are three very lucky fillies.

224 TIARA
Lucky? How can *they* be lucky?

225 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
"*They*" still get to experience the thrill of discovering who they are and what they are meant to be.

Apple Jack steps out of the crowd.

226 APPLEJACK
And they've got all the time in the world to figure it out.
(then, to Apple Bloom)
Not just an afternoon.

She gives her little sister a nuzzle. Several of the other ponies at the party nod their heads in agreement. The party guests begin to gather around Apple Bloom, Scootaloo, and Sweetie Belle. Some of them brushing past Tiara to do so.

227 BABY PONIES
Wow Apple Bloom!/Do you really think you can be Mayor?/I wish I could be a scientist!/ Maybe I got my cutie mark too soon/ etc...

228 TIARA
Hey! What's everybody doing? This is <u>my</u> party! Everypony's supposed to be paying attention to me!

No one pays her any mind, they are all caught up in meeting the three Cutie Mark free ponies. Silver Spoon calls out over the <PONY WALLA>.

229 SILVER SPOON
Whatever. We still think you're losers. Right, Tiara?

She puts up her hooves to do their "secret handshake."

230 SILVER SPOON (CONT'D)
Bump. Bump.

Tiara isn't participating.

231 SILVER SPOON (CONT'D)
Sugar lump--

232 TIARA
(cutting her off)
Not now, Silver Spoon.

Apple Bloom, Sweetie Belle and Scootaloo share a smile as Tiara storms off with an embarrassed Silver Spoon chasing after her like a puppy. Scootaloo initiates the necessary introductions.

233 SCOOTALOO
Name's Scootaloo.

234 SWEETIE BELLE
And I'm Sweetie Belle.

235 APPLE BLOOM
Apple Bloom.

The three new friends share a smile.

INT. SWEET SHOPPE - LATER

The party is in full swing with ponies DANCING, EATING, and DRINKING punch. Tiara mopes in a corner with Silver Spoon by her side while Twist cuts a rug with a few friends.

236 TWIST
Thisth thsong is stho sthuper!

On the other side of the room, Apple Bloom, Sweetie Belle and Scootaloo are gathered around a table piled high with cupcakes.

237 APPLE BLOOM
So I was thinking. Now that we're friends...
(then, not so sure)
I mean, we are friends, right?

238 SCOOTALOO
How could we not be? We're totally alike. We don't have Cutie Marks... Tiara and Silver Spoon drive us crazy...

239 SWEETIE BELLE
Totally crazy.

The three girls share a <LAUGH>.

240 APPLE BLOOM
Now that we're friends, what if the three of us worked *together* to find out who we are and what we're supposed to be?

Sweetie Belle and Scootaloo's interest is piqued.

241 SWEETIE BELLE
Ooh. Ooh. We could form our own secret society.

242 SCOOTALOO
I'm liking this idea.

243 APPLE BLOOM
A secret society. Yeah.
(then)
We'll need a name for it though.

The three friends think for a moment.

244 SCOOTALOO
The Cutie Mark Three?

245 SWEETIE BELLE
The Cute-tastically Fantastics?

246 APPLE BLOOM
How about... The Cutie Mark Crusaders?!

Scootaloo and Sweetie Belle nod approvingly.

247 SCOOTALOO
It's perfect!

248 SWEETIE BELLE
This is going to be so great.

249 APPLE BLOOM
We're going to be unstoppable!

250 SCOOTALOO
What do you say we celebrate with some of these delicious cupcakes?

Scootaloo is about to take a bite of one of the cupcakes on display. We can now see that they are all burnt to a crisp. Apple Bloom quickly stops her.

251 APPLE BLOOM
Not the cupcakes.

Scootaloo looks at her, confused.

252 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
Trust me.

Scootaloo backs away from the cupcakes.

253 SWEETIE BELLE
Let's see if there are any cookies!

254 APPLE BLOOM
Yeah!

255 SCOOTALOO
Come on!

As the three head off in a search of cookies, we WIDEN to see Twilight watching them with a smile. Over this we HEAR:

256 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (V.O.)
Dearest Princess Celestia, I am happy to report that one of your youngest subjects has learned a valuable lesson about friendship.

ANGLE ON Apple Bloom, Scootaloo, and Sweetie Belle EATING, LAUGHING, and DANCING as they enjoy the party together.

257 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
Sometimes the thing you think will cause you to lose friends and feel left out...

INT. PRINCESS CELESTIA'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Princess Celestia reads aloud from a scroll.

258 PRINCESS CELESTIA
...can actually be the thing that helps you make your closest friends and realize how special you are.

Princess Celestia turns to a mirror. She looks at the unique Cutie Mark that decorates her flank and smiles.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END