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MY LITTLE PONY

Season II - Premises

"Lesson Zero"
"Sissy Fit"
"Smothered Brother"
"Luna Eclipsed"

Premises by
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LESSON ZERO

Ever since she moved to Ponyville, Twilight has been sending Princess Celestia lessons about friendship. No more than a week has ever gone by without a letter being sent to Canterlot. (Hyper-organized Twilight keeps careful track of these sorts of things.) Well, her week is up today and if she can't learn something new by sundown, Twilight will be tardy! When little things go wrong, Twilight leaps to outrageous conclusions. In this case, she fears that she will be sent back to Canterlot if she does not send the Princess a letter by the end of the day. Twilight scrambles from friend to friend, trying to find a problem that will lead to some sort of lesson. But for once, nothing much is wrong in Ponyville. Her friends don't see what the problem is with there being no problems. But as the day progresses and her time runs short, Twilight gets more and more desperate. She starts causing conflict just so it can get resolved and, when her five friends have had enough, she widens her circle to include Cheerilee, Big Macintosh, Granny Smith, Zecora, the Mayor, the Crusaders, their classmates and everyone's pets! Shunned by everyone but Spike, who refuses to get into a fake fight with her, Twilight tries to make up some sort of false story but her panic causes writer's block. The sun has set and no lesson has been sent. Confirming her worst fears, Celestia herself lands on her balcony! Twilight bows before her and pleads for clemency. At the same moment, her pony friends rush in. They plead with the Princess to not take Twilight away and apologize to Twilight for not taking the whole thing seriously. They now realize that you should always listen to your friend's worries no matter how silly they might sound. Finally allowed to speak, the Princess congratulates the other ponies on the lesson about friendship that *Twilight* has taught *them*. But she also lets them know that she is only there because Spike sent an earlier message about Twilight's dilemma. Celestia assures Twilight that there is no strict schedule she needs to adhere to and welcomes the other ponies to write to her as well when they have a lesson to share. The other ponies are proud to be bestowed with such an honor. And poor, neurotic Twilight is happy to have some of the burden lifted from her shoulders.

SISSY FIT

Against her better judgment, Rarity has allowed her little sister Sweetie Belle to 'help' her out at Carousel Couture once again. And once again, everything Sweetie's hooves touch turns into a fashion nightmare. No matter how closely she mimics her sister, Sweetie somehow screws up. Rarity tries to be patient but is slowly losing her cool. After a long day of continuous calamities, things take an unexpected turn for the better when Sweetie Belle discovers she has an aptitude for tying ribbons. But Sweetie's enthusiasm gets the better of her. When Rarity returns from a short break, she discovers that her sister has smothered each and every dress in a dozen ribbons. Rarity is furious and makes no effort to hide it, kicking Sweetie out of her shop and tossing the ruined dresses out with her. Apple Bloom spots her fellow Crusader moping on the curb and wanders over with *her* big sister Applejack. When AJ sees how tidy and tight Sweetie has tied her ribbons, she recruits her to help out around Sweet Apple Acres. (There are always plenty of things that need a good fastening!) Soon Sweetie is spending all her

time with her new 'big sister' Applejack. On the surface, Rarity couldn't be more relieved but secretly she misses Sweetie Belle. Without her sister around all the silence is stifling! It takes a while but Rarity is finally able to swallow her pride and ask Sweetie Belle to come back. But now Sweetie Belle is too proud to accept. That is, until Rarity puts her ribbon covered dresses for sale and places them in the display window. Sweetie Belle swells with pride.

SMOTHERED BROTHER

Big Macintosh is, literally and figuratively, the workhorse of Sweet Apple Acres. He handles all the heavy lifting and never raises a fuss. He's been so docile for so long that his family has started taking advantage of his good nature. Applejack bosses him around with nary a 'please' or 'thank you'. Apple Bloom knows that if she just whines loudly enough, Macintosh will do the smallest, simplest task for her. And no matter what strange, illogical request Granny Smith makes, her grandson is only too happy to oblige without complaint. In fact, no matter how much the others jabber at him he hardly utters a word outside of 'yup' and 'nope.' The women's worst behavior is on display one morning when the clan is gathered for breakfast. While Big Macintosh tries to eat his oats in piece, Applejack is detailing what he'll need to do to complete the large order they just received for a batch of 'Granny Smith's Triple Apple Apple Pie'. Apple Bloom interrupts every few seconds to ask him to get something off a shelf that's well within her reach. And Granny keeps reciting the recipe for her pie over and over and over again. Finally, Big Macintosh tosses down his feedbag and declares that he's 'had enough'. The Apple women are the speechless ones for once as they watch Macintosh stomp out and leave the farm. Applejack is furious at her brother's insubordination and is determined to show him that they can get along fine without him. But things don't go very smoothly when they try to complete the pie order. Applejack is not afraid to get her hooves dirty, but she's been bossing Mac around for so long that her pie making skills are a little rusty. Apple Bloom's initial enthusiasm quickly wanes and she starts to whine, continually asking, "Are we done yet?" Granny's only contribution is too keep forgetting and reinventing the recipe so that any pies they do complete are quickly tossed aside as unacceptable. By the end of the day, they are all wrecks and when Big Macintosh returns, all three throw themselves at his hooves and beg for him to come back. Mac is unsure what they are talking about. He is 'back'. He went to buy an oversized cart in the next County for the pie order and now he's 'back'. When they recall his declaration that he 'had enough' of them, he makes it clear that he meant he had had enough of breakfast and was ready to work. He already had made all the pies and stored them in the cellar so all he needed to do was get a cart to deliver them in, which he'll do first thing tomorrow. As they fuss over him and swear they'll never take advantage of him again, Big Macintosh turns to camera and winks.

LUNA ECLIPSED

It's All Hallows Eve and the celebration is in full swing with dancing, games and contests. (All organized by Pinkie Pie, of course.) Zecora is explaining to the youngest ponies the meaning behind the traditional rituals. Ponies dress up in frightening costumes to keep the legendary Mare in the Moon at bay. At the same time they offer sweet treats to a statue of her on the edge of the Everfree Forest as a way to placate the Mare. While Nightmare Moon enjoyed these rituals, they rub the reformed Luna the wrong way. She comes to Ponyville in an effort to show the other ponies that there is no reason to be scared of her anymore. Twilight and her friends do their best to make her feel welcome but the younger ponies all run away whenever they see her. The more they run, the harder Luna turns on the sugary charm, which isn't easy for a pony who's Goth by nature. The others also try their best to calm the little ones down but nothing works. Only Pinkie has the insight to see that the little ponies *want* to be scared by Luna. She leads the ponies to the Everfree Forest so they can bring an offering to the statue of the Mare in the Moon. Luna rises from behind the statue, tells them that their offering is accepted and then scares them with a harmless light display. The kids scream with delight and run back into town. Luna admits to Pinkie that she kind of enjoyed 'playing her part' in the annual festival. And, chowing down on their 'offering', Luna discovers that she's got a hardcore sweet tooth, as well!