

Distribution:

Production:

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

Discovery/Hasbro:

Donna Ebbs
Scott Pennington
Chris Mehl

Hasbro Studios:

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

Hasbro IP & Brand

Mark Wiesenbahn
Matt Mattus
Valerie Jurries
Donna Tobin

Hasbro Design:

Liz Knight
Dean Carley

MY LITTLE PONY

Season II - Premises

"Christmas Special"
"Put a Stork in it"
"Sweetie and Elite"
"The Masked Avenger"

Premises by
Lauren Faust and Rob Renzetti

Premises: September 3, 2010
Notes Due: September 9, 2010

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

It's Solstice Eve and everypony in Ponyville is getting into the holiday spirit. Everypony except for Twilight and Spike, that is. The poor baby dragon has a nasty cold and Twilight has been stuck inside tending to him. Their dreary holiday is brightened by some early gifts: a medicinal herb called Dragon Root from Zecora and some 'real' gifts (as Spike puts it) from the other five ponies. With each sip of his Dragon Root Tea and each rip of wrapping paper, Spike seems to regain his strength. While Twilight joins the others for some caroling around town, Spike stays behind and pours himself another cup of tea. He hugs his gifts closely while his eyes drift over to the still wrapped gifts under their Solstice Tree. Since he believes opening presents is 'aiding in his recovery' he sees no problem with opening a few of his other presents early. Before he knows what he has done, all the presents (including the ones he got for Twilight and the others) have been opened. When Twilight returns, Spike is under the blankets, giggling and gripping his 'precious' presents. Before she can scold him, Spike makes his blanket into a sack with the gifts inside, grabs the pot of tea and runs out into the night. Twilight is too shocked to follow because Spike is now twice as tall as he should be and his voice is much, much lower. She decides to head to Zecora's, hoping she has some insight into Spike's strange condition.

While the rest of Ponyville sleeps, Spike sneaks from house to house, sliding down each chimney, grabbing all the gifts and growing ever larger. The Carousel Boutique is last on his list but once inside he is accosted by Rarity, who gets on her haughtiest high horse to shame him for his unseemly behavior. For the first time since he's started transforming, Spike feels contrite. But that feeling vanishes when he spots Rarity's horde of precious gems. He grows to full adult dragon size at the sight of them.

When Twilight reaches Zecora's and tells her what has happened to Spike, Zecora is not pleased. She shows Twilight a small warning label on her bag of Dragon Root. It reads, "Never take in combination with gift giving". Zecora explains that Dragon Root bolsters a Dragon's health and that healthy adult dragons are naturally greedy and gain power by hoarding. But baby dragons like Spike don't have this greedy tendency *unless* they take too much Dragon Root *and* are allowed to start hoarding. Unfortunately, Zecora only knows *not* to do this. She has no idea what to do now that it *has* happened.

By the time Twilight has returned to town, all matter of mayhem has broken loose. Ala King Kong, Spike has climbed the tallest building in Ponyville (which isn't very tall). He holds on tight to his bag of gifts and gems and even tighter to Rarity. Rainbow Dash and Fluttershy circle him and dodge his flaming breath. Twilight tries every spell she knows but nothing has any affect. It's up to Spike to save himself, the Solstice Holiday and Ponyville. Will he allow the Solstice Spirit of giving back into his heart or has his Dragon's Greed iced it over forever?

PUT A STORK IN IT

This premise is in response to a Brand Team request to integrate baby ponies into Second Season.

A point of pride with Pinkie Pie is her unofficial position in the Sweet Shoppe as Taste Tester. Once a week, she spends the morning trying all of Cup Cake's experimental creations. Though they both sample everything, it's up to Pinkie to decide what gets a spot on the menu and what goes in the garbage. Pinkie loves the sweets and loves the time with Cup Cake, who is like a surrogate Mom. But on one Taste Test Tuesday, Cup Cake is really 'off her game'. First she combines a bran muffin with peanut butter and pickle. Then she ruins a perfectly good chocolate brownie by dipping it in mayonnaise! The strange behavior continues and what's worse is that Cup Cake is spending less and less time with Pinkie! Carrot Cake explains that Cup Cake has less time for Pinkie because she "has a bun in the oven" but that doesn't ring true---- when Pinkie looks in the oven it's full of soufflés, not buns! Cup Cake continues to blow her off for the strangest reasons but no one else seems to notice anything's wrong. Instead, they give her a "shower" because she is "with child". This really frustrates Pinkie Pie. "What child? Apple Bloom? Why is she spending time with Apple Bloom and not me?!" Pinkie tries to be patient, but the final straw is when Carrot Cake tells her that Taste Test Tuesday will have to be suspended for the foreseeable future. Pinkie freaks out! How can Cup Cake abandon her like this? Doesn't she miss the time they spend together? Carrot Cake tries to explain that somepony in Cup Cake's condition needs lots of rest and Pinkie should not expect to see much of her until 'the delivery'. Pinkie seems to calm down, putting her feelings of frustration and abandonment aside, but when the Cakes come down that evening for dinner, Pinkie has run away!

Twilight organizes a search party and they go out to find Pinkie. They're having no luck finding her in the obvious places so Twilight suggests that they need to 'think Pink' and look in *unobvious* places. The team exhausts themselves looking on top of roofs, under bridges and inside trees. Everypony returns to the Sweet Shop feeling defeated and worried. Just then Pinkie comes in, dragging a horse from the Pony Express behind her. The others are dumbfounded. They're not sure whether to scold Pinkie for running away, be grateful she's returned or make her let go of the poor Pony Express guy. Pinkie apologizes for making everypony worry. She just went out to find the deliveryman so she could make him 'deliver' whatever he's got to give to the Cakes and finally spend time with Cup Cake again. For the first time, Carrot Cake puts in plainly to Pinkie: Cup Cake is going to have a baby. Pinkie seems to get it.... Until she starts rummaging in the deliveryman's satchel looking for a baby. Pinkie was the youngest in her family and she really doesn't understand how babies get 'delivered'. Big sisters Rarity and Apple Jack take her aside to explain...

Later on, Pinkie narrates a letter to the Princess as she works busily in the Sweet Shop kitchen. "If your friends aren't spending time with you, find out if they have a good reason before you jump to the conclusion that they don't like you anymore." And lucky

for Pinkie Pie, the temporary loss of time with Cup Cake means she'll end up with another new friend! As the letter wraps up, Pinkie delivers a triple-decker brownie topped with peanut butter, pickle and mayo to Cup Cake's bedside. As she digs in, Pinkie puts her head by Cup Cake's belly. "Eat up Baby Cakes!"

SWEET AND ELITE

Rarity is in Canterlot on one of her shopping trips and (thanks to her association with Twilight) has been invited by the Princess to stay in Canterlot Tower, the guest suite in the highest spire of the castle reserved for honored guests. In return, Rarity is creating a special outfit to surprise Twilight with for her upcoming birthday. Rarity ADORES life in Canterlot! The society, the culture, the courtyards full of modern, sophisticated citizens! Rarity's life long suspicion that she truly belonged in Canterlot instead of a small town like Ponyville seems to be confirmed.

Recognizing her and seeing her emerge from the Tower impresses Hoity Toity, one of the fixtures of the Canterlot social scene. He invites her to a small dinner he's hosting that very evening. Hoity introduces her to other 'important' ponies and they are charmed by Rarity's avant garde fashion sense and impeccable table manners. She's invited by one of the other guests to an art opening for the following night. She's makes an even bigger splash at the gallery and receives several invites to other shindigs. Rarity decides to extend her stay, though she should really get back to Ponyville to work on Twilight's outfit. Over the course of the next few days, she becomes the toast of Canterlot and scores an invite to THE formal dinner of the social calendar. BUT it means she will miss Twilight's birthday back in Ponyville. She lies to her friends about being too sick to travel and starts preparing for the dinner.

But on the day of the dinner, all of her friends show up in Canterlot! They decided to move the party to the capitol so that Rarity could attend. Rarity tries to 'have it all' by reserving a room for Twilight's birthday party at the banquet hall where the society dinner is being held. She runs herself comically ragged dashing back and forth between the two parties. Hoping none of the 'important' ponies spot her hanging with her friends, who are having a great (but boisterous and uncouth) time. Finally she is discovered and forced to admit that she knows the 'weirdos' from Ponyville or risk hurting her friends' feelings. She valiantly declares that she is proud of her friends. That *they* are the most 'important' ponies she has ever met. She braces herself for the harsh judgment of the society ponies but they are charmed all over again by Rarity's bracing honesty. They ask if they might join the birthday party. (The cake looks better than anything on *their* table.)

While saying goodbye to her gracious host, Princess Celestia, Rarity relays to her the lesson she learned: No matter where you go in life, never forget that you are the product of your home and your friends, and that is something to always be proud of, no matter what!

THE MASKED AVENGER

Rainbow Dash has always been Ponyville's 'Go To Girl' when disaster strikes, and though she routinely saves the day with inspiring awesomeness, the praise that comes with her hero status is swelling her head more than usual. The other girls are getting a little sick of RD's cocky behavior and try to downplay the praise the next time she saves the day. But turning off the accolades does nothing to stop RD from praising herself. Plus the younger ponies (especially Scootaloo) are still in full hero-worship mode. Rainbow Dash is holding court in front of these younger ponies when the latest crisis breaks out. She takes her time gearing up. (She doesn't want to miss any last minute compliments from her groupies.) Before she's gotten around to saving the day, it's saved for her by a mysterious stranger dressed from head to hoof in black!! Rainbow Dash is LIVID that somepony else stole her thunder!

Over the course of the next few days the Masked Avenger shows up again and again and steals RD's thunder. The Avenger seems to be everywhere at once! This strange pony is athletic, can do magic and seems to have a sixth sense about when trouble will strike. Rainbow Dash doesn't try very hard to hide her jealousy but, whenever anybody calls her out on it, she stubbornly refuses to admit that she's bothered by her rival. Instead she starts 'saving the day' for ponies with the smallest problems that do NOT need heroic action. Instead of the usual thanks, Rainbow starts getting scorn and requests to 'buzz off'. The final insult is delivered when the young ponies form an Avenger Fan Club. And Scootaloo is the president!

While wallowing in her troubles on a storm cloud, she spots the Avenger and vows to learn the stranger's identity. A madcap chase ensues with the Avenger appearing and disappearing in illogical ways. Somehow Rainbow Dash ends up catching the Avenger and unmasking the pony to reveal...Pinkie Pie! But then *another* Avenger reveals herself to be Applejack. And before RD can react, Twilight also comes out in an Avenger costume. They teamed up to teach RD a lesson about humility. Rainbow Dash is contrite and goes off to make amends to all of PV for her bad behavior.

In a letter to the Princess, Rainbow Dash reflects on the importance of humility when you outshine others, and grace when you are the one who is outshined.