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MY LITTLE PONY

Season II – Premises

"Giving Dangerously"
"Oh Brother"
"Pip Speak"

Premises by
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GIVING DANGEROUSLY
(aka DEFINITELY NOT THE CHRISTMAS SPECIAL)

It's a few days before Spike's birthday but the poor baby dragon has a nasty cold and is in a foul mood. He just knows he won't get well in time for his birthday! Twilight tries to inject a dose of optimism into the dreary atmosphere but her spirits are down as well since she has been stuck inside tending to him. Things start to look up when Zecora drops by with a medicinal herb called Dragon Root. But Spike really perks up when the other five ponies (led by Pinkie) decide to throw an impromptu It's Almost Your Birthday Party complete with some early gifts. With each sip of his Dragon Root Tea and each rip of wrapping paper, Spike seems to regain his strength. Twilight cuts the festivities short. She's excited to see Spike improve but she still wants him in bed early. Twilight pours him some more tea, tucks him in tight and heads to bed herself. Spike hugs his gifts closely while his eyes drift over to the still wrapped gifts that await his actual birthday party. Since he believes opening presents is 'aiding in his recovery' he sees no problem with opening a few of his other presents early.

Twilight awakens early the next morning to find a floor full of wrapping paper. ALL of Spike's gifts have been opened! 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 of the Library. 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.

As Ponyville residents go about their morning, Spike slithers and sneaks through town grabbing whatever he can get his grubby hands on and adding it to his 'gift bag'. As he grows ever larger, he grows ever bolder until her is openly snatching things out of others' hooves. The Ponies put up little resistance because everpony is frightened of this strange 'adolescent' dragon that has wandered into town. Everypony but Rarity, that is. When she finds the unrecognizable Spike pawing through her buttons and baubles inside the Carousel Boutique she 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 would never have given Spike her medicine if she knew it was his birthday. 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 hording. But baby dragons like Spike don't have this greedy tendency *unless* they take too much Dragon Root *and* are allowed to start hording. 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, his upcoming birthday and Ponyville. Will he allow generosity back into his heart or has his Dragon's Greed iced it over forever?

OH BROTHER!
(*We've revised so that the Apple women do not become helpless the minute Macintosh leaves.)*

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. The women folk's inconsiderate behavior is on display one morning when the clan is gathered for breakfast. While Big Macintosh tries to eat his oats in peace, 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 speechless 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.

Things go smoothly at first. Granny recites the recipe on a regular basis so that Applejack can keep it straight in her head. (It's been awhile since she's done the pie making herself.) Apple Bloom acts as her 'sous chef', delivering more ingredients to the 'production line' whenever AJ calls for them. She's also more than happy to take on the job of official taster. After a very successful morning, the crew takes a well-deserved lunch break.

But after the break, things start to break down. Apple Bloom is done 'playing' chef. She wants to go play with her friends. AJ tries to explain that the order is only a third complete but in the end she has to round her sister up, rodeo-style. Once she has Apple Bloom corralled, she finds that Granny has retired to her rocker for her all-afternoon nap. Now Applejack has to haul Granny back into the kitchen and try to keep her awake since she can't remember the recipe without her help. Unfortunately, Granny's so sleepy that she keeps forgetting and reinventing the recipe. She gets crankier the longer she goes without sleep. Why can't AJ keep the recipe in her head like her grandson does? In the meantime, Apple Bloom continually asks, "Are we done yet?" without

doing anything to help. If Macintosh were here, *he'd* let her go play! Applejack tries to boss them like she does Big Macintosh but they won't stand for it. She wishes they both had a 'thick hide' like her brother!

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. They've realized that he's more to them than just a work horse. They're incomplete without his calm, helpful influence to keep the Apples balanced. What they *really* need him for is his special place in their family. 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.

PIP SPEAK

Fluttershy likes to volunteer at the Ponyville Animal Hospital where she helps nurse injured animals of all stripes and sizes back to health. Pip Squeak, a very shy younger boy pony, likes to help out at the hospital as well and he and Fluttershy have struck up an acquaintance over their mutual fondness for fuzzy bunnies and cute kittens. However, they part ways over the Hospital's latest patient - a harmless but very large spider with a sprained ankle. Fluttershy just can't help but be creeped out, (she's so disappointed in herself!) while Pip Squeak is fascinated by the creature.

One afternoon, Spike comes in to the hospital. Covered in cat scratches from his most recent attempt to cuddle with Opal, he's looking to adopt a new cat as a gift (or rather, an Opal replacement) for Rarity. When he spots the spider, he freaks out. In a calamitous series of mishaps, he ends up releasing the spider from its cage, causing a panic in the ward and getting covered in webbing from the frightened arachnid. Only Pip Squeak has the presence of mind to calm the spider and corral it back into its cage. When the hospital staff arrives and sees Spike covered in cobwebs, they assume that *Spike* saved the day. Spike is about to correct the misunderstanding when Rarity shows up and learns of his heroic action. She is very impressed by his 'manly' behavior and Spike can't help himself from taking credit. Fluttershy knows that Pipsqueak was the real hero and urges him to speak up. But Pip is too shy. He insists that Fluttershy tell the truth. But Fluttershy has a hard time speaking in front of crowds. She wants Pip Squeak to speak for himself.

It looks like they both might be spared the pain of public speaking when Rarity tries to hire Spike to take care of a bug infestation at the Boutique. Surely this will force him to admit the truth. But Spike, though nervous at the thought of dealing with bugs, is reluctant to relinquish the machismo points he scored with Rarity. Instead, Spike takes the job and begs Pip Squeak to pose as his assistant! With the young pony's 'help', Spike

successfully completes the job. Rarity raves about his abilities and soon the whole town is hiring Spike's Pest Control Service. Fluttershy tries to set things right but the stern looks she throws Spike's way are having no effect! And Pip Squeak still refuses to speak up.

All the while, Spike's legend grows. The dragon gets so enthralled by the town's hero worship (especially from Rarity) that he forgets that it is all based on a lie. But he remembers the truth very quickly when a truly ginormous, poisonous spider wanders into Ponyville. He panics and runs along with everypony else. Everypony but Pip Squeak, of course. While the others look on from their hiding places, the shy young pony shows the same talent with this spider as he did with the other. Soon the spider is on its way back out of town. Spike fesses up. He's learned that taking credit you don't deserve is no way to impress others. Pip Squeak gets the praise he deserves. In fact more than he wants, as Spike leads the shy pony through Ponyville, singing his praises through a megaphone.