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MY LITTLE PONY

Season II – Premises

"Cider Horse Rules"
"A Canterlot Wedding"

Premises by
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CIDER HORSE RULES

Everypony in Ponyville loves the Sweet Apple Cider produced by Sweet Apple Acres. But the season for making it is short and it takes a lot of 'horse power' to produce a small supply. Consequently there is never enough cider to satisfy the ever-growing demand.

Until a Music Man style charlatan named Presto Change-O comes to the farm with a magical machine that he promises will solve the cider shortage and offers his services to the Apple Family. Apple Jack scoffs at the idea of a machine making cider and politely declines. But Presto insists on giving them and the small crowd that has gathered a free demonstration. With just a short burst from his unicorn horn, Presto's new fangled contraption takes a whole apple tree in one end and spits out a barrel of apple cider from the other. No muss, no fuss. The crowd goes wild. The Apples are a bit flummoxed.

Presto again offers his services up to the Apple Family for a very small, very reasonable 75% of the cider profits. Apple Jack not so politely declines. When Presto threatens to go into business independently, Big Macintosh confiscates the barrel of cider. It was made with their apples, after all. Presto assures them that there are plenty of apple trees outside the fences of their farm. He will have no problem setting up shop nearby and putting them out of the cider business.

Proud Apple Jack refuses to concede. She'll stack their cider making abilities up against anypony or anything! Presto takes up the challenge and soon they are locked into an official competition. It's pony versus machine. And whichever team can produce the most barrels will win the exclusive right to sell cider in Ponyville. The whole Apple Family works together as a team and they move at a pretty good clip. But not every apple they gather is deemed good enough for their cider. Meanwhile Presto's machine is tearing through her grove at an alarming rate. AJ can see the writing on the wall and enlists all her friends to help catch up. The expanded Team Apple makes it into a real contest. Rainbow Dash wants to start pressing apples by the tree-full like Presto. But the Apples refuse to lower their standards and it costs them the contest.

But when the assembled crowd gets a taste of the Presto's New and Improved Cider they hate how it tastes. His exclusive cider contract lasts about ten seconds and after that he is 'shutting up shop'. The fact that the Apple Family works together and loves each other comes through in the great taste of their Sweet Apple Cider. Teamwork and Integrity produce better results than a cold, mindless machine.

A CANTERLOT WEDDING

Twilight's older brother, Fire Ball, is getting married in Canterlot. Twilight is naturally going to the event but so are all her friends. Rarity is making the dresses. Fluttershy is providing the music with the help of her bird choir. Pinkie Pie is helping plan the reception that Apple Jack will be catering. And Rainbow Dash is going to try to create a sonic rainboom for the 'I do's'. Spike has put himself in charge of the Bachelor Party.

(He has no idea what a Bachelor Party is.)

When the group arrives in the capitol, they are surprised to find that the wedding will take place in Canterlot Castle with Celestia herself officiating! Seems that Twilight's connection to the Princess has rebounded to her family's benefit. Twilight is anxious to catch up, but her family is in a frantic state preparing a much more prestigious wedding than they had all counted on. She barely manages to get an introduction to her brother's fiancée, Ultra Violet, before the bride whisks her brother away on some wedding related emergency. But there are a couple of distant relatives that are happy to spend time with Twilight at the rehearsal dinner and delighted to dish some gossip that paints Ultra Violet in a very unflattering light. Twilight dismisses it at first but subsequent circumstances seem to point to the gossip being true. Twilight has always been protective of her 'little' big brother and she doesn't want to see him get hurt. Her course is clear: stop the wedding.

She tries to recruit her friends but they are just too busy prepping for the event. And the couple that she can get to listen to her concerns, think she is way off base. Time is running out but stubborn Twilight is determined to save her brother no matter what. She finally goes out on a limb and disrupts the actual ceremony in a scene that mixes her magical powers with plaintive cries straight out of "The Graduate".

Now that everything has come to screeching halt, it doesn't take more than a few minutes for Twilight to realize that none of the horrible rumors are true. Seems those distant relatives were just jealous. And they are invited to make themselves physically distant from the events they helped ruin. Twilight can't apologize enough for the trouble she has caused but Ultra Violet is more than gracious, she's relieved! Truth be told, she and Fire Ball had wanted a simpler wedding. But how do you say 'no' to a Princess? Twilight assures her that Celestia will understand.

A month later, the Town Hall in Ponyville has been decorated for a much smaller ceremony. With just a couple dozen friends and family in attendance, Fire Ball and Ultra Violet have the wedding they've always dreamed of. And they have Wedding Planner Twilight to thank. As everyone waves goodbye to the newly married couple, Spike rubs his hands together and asks Pinkie and Twilight to help him plan the Bachelor Party.