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MY LITTLE PONY

Season II – Premises

"Marsipan on the Canterlot Express"

Ponyville Confidential"

"Magic Duel"

Premises by
Lauren Faust and Rob Renzetti

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MARSIPAN ON THE CANTERLOT EXPRESS

Pinkie Pie has been charged by the Cakes with the very important task of transporting their entry in the Nation Baking Competition to Canterlot. "Marsipan Mascarpone Meringue Madness" is the most inventive Cake creation yet. Pinkie has tasted earlier samples and knows how irresistible it is. She is sure that it will win the grand prize. She's even more sure that the competing bakers on the train are sure that it will win. And she's triply sure that they will 'try something funny' and not in the good 'funny ha ha' way. She decides to bring her friends along as her assistants and insists that they all take shifts watching the dessert so that it will be under 24 hour surveillance. But Pinkie is not sure that her friends are taking this as seriously as she is (because they aren't) and she decides to stay up all night as a 'back up guard'. But despite Pinkie's best efforts, she falls asleep and awakens the second morning on the train to find it eaten! Pinkie begins a good old-fashioned mystery investigation with herself as lead investigator and the far more levelheaded Twilight as her lowly assistant. Pinkie makes lots of wild accusations based on nothing and the search for the guilty party turns down many a blind alley. At the same time, many of the other competing desserts suffer the same fate whenever the train goes into one of the many dark tunnels on route to Canterlot. This eliminates the competing bakers as suspects. Twilight gently suggests that they search for actual *clues* but when Pinkie follows the evidence it leads to her friends. Surprisingly, they all end up being partially guilty (except for Twilight). Having heard Pinkie rave about how incredible the Cake's dessert was, none of them could resist taking a little bite. But all their little bites do not add up to the whole dessert being eaten. The final piece of the puzzle is revealed when they emerge from the final tunnel before Canterlot and find Pinkie with her eyes closed and her mouth open over another dessert. Seems Pinkie is a long suffering 'sleep eater' and she was the one who's been eating all the sweets. Pinkie learns that you can't jump to conclusions. You need to rely on facts and evidence to find answers, no matter how uncomfortable those answers may make you.

PONYVILLE CONFIDENTIAL

In their never-ending efforts to get their cutie marks, the Crusaders have signed on as reporters for the school newspaper. When Sweetie Belle accidentally publishes some gossip about another pony in school, the column becomes an overnight success. They soon realize that the public is hungry for this sort of gossip, and start scrambling for new stories. They become public menaces, trying to catch other ponies in embarrassing situations or get gossip on them to feed the beast of the column. Finally they turn to each other for story material and, as best friends, they have some pretty juicy gossip on each other. But seeing themselves as the subject of their column makes them realize how wrong they've been. In the end, they learn that they need to respect other people's privacy, and that spreading rumors can be very hurtful.

MAGIC DUEL

The Great and Powerful Trixie returns to Ponyville and publicly challenges Twilight to a Magic Duel. Twilight is uninterested until Trixie displays some real magical ability and uses it to cause trouble for Twilight's friends and all of Ponyville. Twilight is sure she can best the blowhard Trixie easily. She is over confident, in fact, and spends no time practicing for the showdown. She loses. Big Time. She tries to be a gracious loser but Trixie is anything but a gracious winner. She reveals the key to her success: a rare amulet that amplifies a unicorn's magical power. Twilight is familiar with this relic. It may enhance a unicorn's power but it also corrupts its user. She tries to explain the danger to Trixie but all her rival wants to do is gloat. She challenges Trixie to a rematch with the amulet as the prize.

Twilight is taking things seriously this time and hits the books hard, trying to learn as much new magic as possible before she has to face Trixie again. All of her friends do their best to support her and her training except for Rainbow Dash. She scoffs at the idea that you train for a duel by reading. Twilight doesn't take RD's criticism to heart since the Pegasus knows absolutely nothing about magic. But Rainbow Dash issues a challenge of her own-she bets she can best Twilight in a Magic Duel with that same 'nothing' she knows about magic. The mock duel goes poorly for Twilight. Rainbow Dash is too quick to get hit by the sluggish spells she throws at her. Twilight can hardly keep track of her opponent, as she has to constantly look back at her spell books to cast the new spells she's just learned. Dash easily wins by turning one of Twilight's spells against her when she's not looking. Twilight expects that she will now have to deal with Rainbow Dash's gloating as well as Trixie's.

But her friend wasn't going for bragging rights. She wanted to illustrate a point. Twilight is easily the greater magician, but if she wants to wield more power than Trixie she needs to practice what she has learned. Twilight puts herself in Rainbow's hooves and is put through a Rocky-esque training program. When the rematch comes, Twilight decimates Trixie with her new physical prowess and increased power. She thanks RD for teaching her that 'book learning' is pointless without the ability to put that learning into practice.