

Distribution:

Production:

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

Discovery/Hasbro:

Donna Ebbs
Scott Pennington
Chris Mehl

Hasbro Studios:

Stephen Davis
Linda Steiner
Kathy Page
Brian Lenard
Robert Fewkes
Sophia Hussain

Hasbro IP & Brand:

Mark Wiesenhahn
Matt Mattus
Valerie Jurries
Donna Tobin

Hasbro Design:

Liz Knight
Dean Carley

Ed Consult:

Donna Mitroff
Vicki Ariyasu

MY LITTLE PONY

Season II

"Hearth's Warming Eve"

Episode 213

Outline by
Merriwether Williams

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Teaser

Twilight, Rainbow Dash, Pinkie Pie, Fluttershy, Rarity and Apple Jack arrive in the beautiful city of Canterlot by train. The city looks incredible – like a holiday wonderland. Streets are lined with tinsel-clad trees. Jolly wreaths hang in every window and on every door. Colored lights have been strung all over the city.

The ponies marvel at all the sights and sounds, playing a small game of “I spy.” Twilight says, “I spy an eight foot candy cane!” Apple Jack says, “I spy carolers singing.” Pinkie Pie says, “I spy someone eating a gingerbread house.” (We reveal that it’s her and she continues to munch the gingerbread house.)

The ponies all laugh before entering Canterlot Tower with many other ponies streaming in behind them.

ACT I

It is the night of the Winter Solstice and ponies have gathered together in towns and villages across the land to celebrate “Hearth Warming’s Eve”. On this most special of all Equestrian holidays, the three kinds of ponies celebrate their unity by staying together all night long. Each town gathers together inside their Town Hall. They warm their hearts by huddling before three large hearths, exchange symbolic gifts and put on a play reenacting the founding of Equestria.

The most prestigious performance is put on in Canterlot Tower. And this year, Twilight and her friends are performing it. The ponies are gabbing with excitement backstage in Canterlot Tower while they put on their costumes. Twilight reminds them what an honor it is for ALL of them that they have been invited to perform in this play.

Fluttershy would love to feel honored, but right now she is too busy feeling stage fright. She scurries to the corner, jumps into a box of tinsel and buries her head. As the ponies try to get her to come out of the box, Apple Jack notices that all the windows backstage are open. The wind is picking up too. She sets about closing the windows. Just as the others have managed to get Fluttershy to stand upright, Spike enters the backstage area and yells, “Places everypony. Curtain in 2 minutes.” Fluttershy immediately falls to the ground again. Luckily her friends grab her as they all scramble to their places.

Onstage, there is a large decorated hearth. Spike stands before it, addressing the audience as the play’s narrator. He explains that a long time ago before the founding of Equestria and the reign of Princess Celestia, not all ponies were friends. In fact, way back then, unicorns, Pegasi and earth ponies all lived apart. And they did not get along. There is a collective gasp from the younger ponies in the audience.

Onstage, actors show how the three tribes lived apart, trading skills and goods. Spike explains how the Pegasi controlled the weather, the Unicorns controlled the coming of

day and night and the earth ponies grew the food and controlled its distribution. The three tribes needed each other to live, but they did not trust each other. Note: at this point we enter the reality of the play and tell the story with our ponies playing the lead characters.

One day a great and mysterious blizzard swept the land. The earth ponies' village was buried under the snow. They were freezing cold and very angry so they withheld food from the Pegasi and unicorns. The Pegasi insisted that they did not bring about the blizzard! They blamed the unicorns for using their mysterious magic to cause the blizzard, and the earth ponies for withholding food unfairly. The unicorns insisted they were not using their magic and blamed the earth ponies for withholding food and the Pegasi for the blizzard. Where there once was just tension, now there was outright anger.

And the angrier everypony got, the worse the blizzard became. The camera follows the swirling snowflakes up into the clouds and we hear a curious wail in the wind. The faint outline of a misty pony head comes into view with a body made of ghostlike wisps of wind and snow. The wail is coming from this creature, but none of the ponies (not even the Pegasi) notice it.

Down below, the tribe leaders arrange a summit to discuss the increasingly desperate situation. Commander Hurricane (Rainbow Dash) of the pegasi, Princess Platinum (Rarity) of the unicorns, and Chancellor Pudding Head (Pinkie Pie) of the earth ponies hold the proceedings. But the summit is a failure as the three leaders all continue to blame each other. Chancellor Pudding Head can't exactly remember what she's blaming them for, but she knows it's their fault!

Reflecting on the audacity of their neighbors back at their nations' capitals, each leader decides it is hopeless to try to reason with the other tribes and therefore, they must separate from the other two permanently. In a three way split screen, each leader yells, "We must find a new land!"

ACT II

Spike resumes his narration as he explains that the three leaders each set forth to find a new home and that each took an underling with them. Commander Hurricane brought Private Pansy (Fluttershy) with her. Princess Platinum brought a monkish scholar named Clover the Clever (Twilight). And Chancellor Pudding Head brought her secretary along, Smart Cookie (Apple Jack.)

The Pegasi set off with gusto, flying high in the air. Commander Hurricane is very gung-ho to fight anyone they see (even if it's her own shadow, which she tries over and over again.) Private Pansy doesn't want to fight anyone, especially not her shadow, which she happens to be afraid of.

Princess Platinum and Clover the Clever have been traveling a while when they encounter a small stream. Princess Platinum is unwilling to get her gown wet. She has no intention of looking like a bedraggled earth pony. Or worse yet, a rough and tumble Pegasus. No, she must “represent” for the unicorns more refined way of life so the humble Clover the Clever must carry her across the stream.

Chancellor Pudding Head insists on reading her map upside down and inside out so that they have been going in circles for hours. Her assistant Smart Cookie is becoming frustrated while Chancellor Pudding Head is absolutely thrilled with the progress that they are making! Eventually Smart Cookie comments how relieved she is to not be in charge of the map. Chancellor Pudding Head is suddenly indignant – it is the Chancellor who deserves relief! She immediately thrusts the map at Smart Cookie and insists that she navigate from now on.

Finally, each group arrives in Equestria. It is beautiful. Mountains, valleys, clouds, all sunny and warm – it is a picture perfect paradise. Commander Hurricane gushes over the clouds saying, “What a view from up here!” Princess Platinum gushes over the precious gems they find in the mountains saying, “I’m completely bedazzled!” Chancellor Pudding Head gushes over the quality of dirt saying, “This dirt is the dirtiest dirt in the whole dirt world!”

Each of the leaders is thrilled and pulls out their flags. Commander Hurricane plants the flag into the ground and proclaims this new land, “Pegasopolis!” Princess Platinum plants her flag in the ground and dubs the land, “Unicornia!” Chancellor Pudding Head plants her flag in the ground and proclaims this new land, “Ummm...uh...hmmmm.” Smart Cookie suggests that they call this new land, “Earth.” Chancellor Pudding Head immediately agrees and congratulates herself for thinking of it.

We pull out to reveal that the three flags are only feet apart. All three tribes have claimed the same land as their own. For a moment the leaders all just stare at each other blankly and then the fighting begins. The assistants try to get a word in edgewise, but can’t. The leaders are such blowhards that they won’t listen to anyone.

Then Chancellor Pudding Head gets a snowball in the face. The other ponies wonder where the heck the snow came from. Is there snow in paradise?

We pull out to reveal that there wasn’t before, but there is now. Their new land is becoming covered by the same blizzard that they were trying to get away from. Paradise is covered in snow and it’s coming down harder than ever before. What now?

Act III

Once again, Spike resumes his narration of the play explaining how the snow was coming down so hard that everypony was forced to stop their bickering and seek shelter instead. The only shelter for miles was a cave and the three tribes were forced to share

it.

Inside the cave, the leaders resume their bitter bickering. Commander Hurricane insists that Private Pansy use a piece of chalk to outline the boundary of their section of the cave. She doesn’t want any unicorns or earth ponies setting one hoof into their territory! Private Pansy timidly pulls out some chalk and starts to draw a line. Not to be outdone, the other leaders insist that Clover the Clever and Smart Cookie draw lines too.

But this sad attempt to keep the peace with segregation only leads to more unrest. Platinum wants more space so she is far enough away from such lowly company. Chancellor Pudding Head overhears and says, “Who are you calling lowly, sister?” The fighting becomes so petty, that when one of the assistants draws their chalk line around a rock, the leaders get into a yelling match over who owns the rock.

As the leaders continue to argue and the assistants continue to draw their chalk lines, the storm mysteriously seems to creep into the cave with them. The door to the cave freezes over and ice starts to form on the walls and the floor.

The assistants helplessly watch their bosses yelling and notice something scary happening. Their bickering leaders’ feet start to freeze over. Then their legs. Then their bodies and arms. Last to go are the leaders’ head and mouth. Commander Hurricane, Princess Platinum and Chancellor Pudding Head are now completely frozen over!

The three terrified assistants back away from their creepily frozen leaders and into each other in the middle of the cave in an effort to avoid the encroaching ice. Suddenly they hear an eerie sounding wail. The wail is coming from a misty ghostlike pony that is circling the cave above their heads (like a shark.)

The three assistants huddle together, petrified. Private Pansy timidly wonders, “What is that thing?” Clover the Clever knows. It’s a windigo. Her mentor Star Swirl the Bearded taught her about them. They are winter spirits that feed off of hatred.

Smart Cookie remembers how the blizzard started again when they started fighting again. The ponies put two and two together and realize not only what is happening to them now, but what had happened to their homes before. “We did this.” Smart Cookie concedes, taking responsibility for their fate, “Our intolerance of each other attracted the Windigo and caused the blizzards.” Clover the Clever nods in agreement, “And now we will certainly freeze over just as our leaders have, our bodies to become as cold as our hearts. All because we were foolish enough to hate.” For a moment the cave is silent except for the windigo’s wail and the crackling sound of the encroaching ice.

Then Private Pansy quietly says, “Well, I don’t hate you. (beat) I actually hate Commander Hurricane a lot more than I hate you guys.” They assistants all share a laugh. It turns out none of them likes their bosses very much. And none of them hate

each other either.

They smile and clasp hands in acceptance. Suddenly an unexpected magical fire shoots out of Clover the Clever’s horn and into the middle of the cave. It immediately warms the three assistants up. The ice retreats a little. They realize that their acceptance of each other is what caused the magical fire to spark.

Spike resumes the narration as he explains how the assistants kept their fire of friendship alive by telling jokes and singing songs(the first ever winter carols). Eventually, the warmth of the fire reached the leaders, thawing their bodies and (with much effort) melting their hearts.

And in time, as the ponies worked through their differences, the cave entrance opened up and all of the blizzard’s snow melted. The paradise of Equestria was underneath. The three leaders agreed to share the beautiful land and live in harmony from now on.

The curtain closes on the stage and the audience erupts in wild applause. Fluttershy can’t believe she made it through the whole thing! The curtain opens again and all the ponies, including Spike, take their bows while the whole city sings a winter carol together.

When the curtain closes for the last time suddenly a cold wind blows through a high window that had not been shut. Rarity shivers and becomes cross with Apple Jack for not getting it. Apple Jack blames Rainbow Dash – after all she can fly. Rainbow Dash complains that she always has to get the high things, why can’t Twilight use her magic for a change?

Suddenly they all hear the eerie wail of a distant windigo. Rainbow Dash deadpans, “You know what? I got it.” She flies up and closes the window. They all share a laugh as we...

FADE OUT.