Distribution:

Production:
Lauren Faust
Chris Bartleman
Rob Renzetti
Sarah Wall
Jayson Thiessen
James Wooton
Angela Belyea
Ridd Sorensen
Lesley Crawford

Discovery/Hasbro:
Donna Ebbs
Scott Pennington
Tegan Molloy
Laurence Braun
Stephen Cramer

Hasbro Studios:
Stephen Davis
Linda Steiner
Kathy Page
Robert Fewkes
Sophia Hussain

Hasbro IP & Brand:
Mark Wiesenhahn
Matt Mattus
Valerie Jurries
Donna Tobin

Hasbro Design:
Liz Knight
Dean Carley

MY LITTLE PONY II

"Pony Confidential"

EP 223

Written by

Mitch Larson

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TEASER

EXT. PONYVILLE SCHOOL - DAY

The bell <RINGS> and EXCITED PONIES pour out. SWEETIE BELLE and SCOOTALOO, however, are in low spirits.

1 SWEETIE BELLE
Can you believe Milquetoast got his Cutie Mark? Milquetoast! Before us!

2 SCOOTALOO
I know. We've got to be the oldest blank flanks in all of Equestria.

Just then, MILQUETOAST, a frail little pony with a brand new CAMERA CUTIE MARK, races happily past, his friends <CHEERING> him on.

3 SNIPS
Great Cutie Mark, Milquetoast!

4 SNAILS
Lookin' good!

Sweetie Belle and Scootaloo <SIGH>.

5 SWEETIE BELLE
I give up...

Just then, APPLE BLOOM races in waving the SCHOOL NEWSPAPER.

6 APPLE BLOOM
I've got it! The answer to all our problems!

7 SWEETIE BELLE
The Horse's Mouth? How's the school paper gonna get us our Cutie Marks?

8 APPLE BLOOM
Easy! All we have to do is--

An ear-splitting <WHISTLE> echoes through town.

9 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
Uh oh, that's Granny Smith! Gotta run!

She bolts, leaving the newspaper fluttering in the air. Scootaloo snatches it.

10 SCOOTALOO
Maybe there's something to this newspaper idea.

11 SWEETIE BELLE
I guess it's worth a shot...

INT. CRUSADER CLUBHOUSE - DAY

Sweetie Belle and Scootaloo are covered in sloppy strips of newspaper. Nearby sit various PAPIER-MÂCHÉ boots and saddles. They check their rears. Nothing.

INT. CAROUSEL BOUTIQUE - DAY

RARITY gently places a TIARA in a shipping box. She nods to the girls, who happily shove crumpled newspaper into the box as packing. Rarity tapes it up as the girls check their blank flanks, the only parts of their bodies not smeared in newsprint.

EXT. RIVER - DAY

The girls stand in a small boat on a gentle stream. They wear newspaper TRICORN HATS, reminiscent of George Washington crossing the Delaware. PINKIE PIE stops to salute. Still, they remain frustrated by their blank flanks.

EXT. FLUTTERSHY'S COTTAGE - DAY

Sweetie Belle and Scootaloo stand beneath a tree holding out strips of newspaper. Birds swoop down and gather them, bundling them into their nests. Once the strips are gone, the girls check for Marks. No luck yet again.

EXT. PONYVILLE, TOWN SQUARE - DAY

Covered in smudged newsprint, sticky glue, feathers, and dirt, the two Crusaders walk dejectedly through town. Apple Bloom races to catch up.

12 APPLE BLOOM
There you two are!

13 SWEETIE BELLE
Apple Bloom, your newspaper idea was nothing but a big bust!

14 SCOOTALOO
We tried everything from papier-mâché to making birds' nests and nothing worked.

Apple Bloom tries to stifle her laughter, but she just can't. She erupts in <GUFFAWS>, rolling on the ground.

15 SWEETIE BELLE
What's so funny?

16 SCOOTALOO
Yeah, what are you laughing at?

17 APPLE BLOOM
What I meant was that we should <u>write</u> for the paper! We can get our Cutie Marks as journalists!

Sweetie Belle and Scootaloo give each other a look. They simultaneously slap their foreheads with their hooves.

FADE OUT.

MAIN TITLES

ACT I

FADE IN:

<u>INT. PONYVILLE SCHOOL - DAY</u>

CHEERILEE paces in front of the class, finishing a lecture.

18 CHEERILEE
...so, if you take three...
(stomps three times)
...to the third power...
(three more stomps)
...and then multiply by--

The bell <RINGS>, cutting her off. Instantly, excited ponies grab their saddlebags and head for the door.

19 CHEERILEE (CONT'D)
Okay, class, see you tomorrow. For those of you who want to join the newspaper staff, stay here because we're meeting right now!

As the chaos of the end of school subsides, the Crusaders gather together.

20 APPLE BLOOM
Cutie Marks in journalism! What could be cooler?

21 SCOOTALOO
Such a good idea!

They take spots in the front, looking studiously up at Cheerilee. The other newspaper kids settle in behind them.

22 CHEERILEE
Welcome, everypony. It's great to see so many prospective reporters.

The Crusaders exchange ecstatic looks.

23 CHEERILEE (CONT'D)
Now, as you know, our editor-in-chief graduated last year--

24 SWEETIE BELLE
(hoof in the air)
Ooo! Ooo!

25 CHEERILEE
Yes?

26 SWEETIE BELLE
What's an editor-in-chief?

27 CHEERILEE
Good question, Sweetie Belle. I like those reporter's instincts!

Sweetie Belle beams.

28 CHEERILEE (CONT'D)
The Horse's Mouth is a student-run paper. I'm only involved as an advisor, so the editor-in-chief is the pony in charge, from choosing the stories to making sure it gets to press on time. Now, as I said, we have a new editor this year...

A <MURMUR> rushes through the newspaper staff...

29 CRUSADERS
Diamond Tiara?!

Sure enough, DIAMOND TIARA heads to the front of the classroom, a smug expression on her face.

30 CHEERILEE
Okay, everypony, I'll be around if you need me, but Diamond Tiara is in charge, so all your stories should run through her.

Diamond Tiara SMIRKS at the Crusaders.

31 CHEERILEE (CONT'D)
I'll leave you alone now to discuss everypony's assignments. Have fun!

She exits, leaving the floor to Diamond Tiara.

32 DIAMOND TIARA
All right, listen up! Your new leader's got something to say!

The Crusaders give each other a look: "Is she serious?"

33 DIAMOND TIARA (CONT'D)
The Horse's Mouth is a joke. Nopony at this school takes it seriously. Well I, the editor-in-chief-in-charge, am going to deliver us to newfound glory!

A RANDOM PONY <CHEERS>, then realizes he's alone.

34 DIAMOND TIARA (CONT'D)
First things first. Where's the staff photographer?

The frail little pony from earlier, Milquetoast, tentatively raises his hoof. Diamond Tiara grabs him and yanks him to the front, shoving a CAMERA into his hooves.

35 DIAMOND TIARA (CONT'D)
Get out there and document <u>everything</u>! I'll decide what's important. Got it?

He <GULPS>, nodding frantically.

36 DIAMOND TIARA (CONT'D)
Good!

She shoves him out the door, then turns her attention to the rest of the staff.

37 DIAMOND TIARA (CONT'D)
The rest of you, I want hard-hitting news and interesting think pieces. No more namby-pamby stories like last year's editor.

38 RANDOM PONY
But Namby Pamby was a great editor!

39 DIAMOND TIARA
Well there's a new regime now. And I want juicy stories, the juicier the better! Now get out there and report!

As ponies head for the door, the Crusaders huddle up.

40 SCOOTALOO
Let's get outta here, girls. Maybe we can try packing boxes again.

41 SWEETIE BELLE
But this could be our last chance to earn our Cutie Marks!

42 APPLE BLOOM
What about <u>her</u>?

43 SWEETIE BELLE
If we really are supposed to be journalists, isn't it worth a little grief? You know what they say, no pain, no Cutie Marks.

44 SCOOTALOO
I guess you're right. We can take a little bit of Diamond Tiara for a lifetime of Cutie Marks.

45 SWEETIE BELLE
That's the spirit! My first story's gonna be an exclusive interview with Rarity about her new hat design!

46 APPLE BLOOM
That's a great idea! I reckon I'll do a piece on the history of Ponyville. Granny Smith has all sorts of great stories.

47 SCOOTALOO
I saw a brand new nest of baby birds the other day. That would be a great equine-interest piece!

48 SWEETIE BELLE
Come on, let's go get those Marks!

Fast-paced, upbeat <MUSIC> starts to play.

EXT. GROVE OF TREES - DAY

Scootaloo clings to a shaking branch, observing a nest full of BABY BIRDS. She's trying to write with her teeth without falling out of the tree. Finally, she finishes and tries to inch back down the branch, but she's too scared. She flaps her little wings, but they're useless. She grimaces when a small group of KITTENS gathers down below to laugh at her. Much to her chagrin, she's stuck.

INT. CAROUSEL BOUTIQUE - DAY

We see Sweetie Belle ask Rarity a question about a hat prototype sitting nearby. Rarity doesn't answer, however. She moves in and starts futzing with Sweetie Belle's outfit, taking measurements and pinning adjustments. Sweetie Belle struggles to continue writing as Rarity completely redesigns the outfit.

INT. SWEET APPLE ACRES, FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

Apple Bloom is in agony. She sits next to GRANNY SMITH behind a huge pile of photo albums. Granny finishes telling a story about the last photo in one of the books and closes it, revealing a picture of APPLEJACK on the front cover. Apple Bloom says something to Granny Smith, indicating her blank notebook. Granny smiles dismissively and cracks open a photo album with Apple Bloom herself on the cover. She buries her head in her hooves.

INT. PONYVILLE SCHOOL - MORNING

Apple Bloom, Sweetie Belle, and Scootaloo race in, <CHATTERING> excitedly. Diamond Tiara is already there reading over other stories.

49 DIAMOND TIARA
I hope you've got something, because everything so far is unusable!

50 SWEETIE BELLE
Don't worry, Ms. Editor. Your three best reporters are here to save the day.

Diamond Tiara quickly scans the Crusaders' stories, her face growing angrier by the second.

51 DIAMOND TIARA
"Baby Birds Born?!" "Rarity's Hot New Hat?!" "Ponyville: The Early Years?!" I don't know what you call this, but it sure isn't news!

52 SWEETIE BELLE
We just thought--

53 DIAMOND TIARA
Get something else on my desk by the end of the day! And it better be JUICY!!

EXT. PONYVILLE SCHOOL - MOMENTS LATER

The Crusaders stand in the schoolyard as more ponies start to filter in to begin the day.

54 SCOOTALOO
Now what? Do you know what I had to do to get that story?

55 APPLE BLOOM
You don't even want to know what I had to sit through.

Sweetie Belle <SIGHS>.

56 SWEETIE BELLE
I'm going to get a drink.

As Scootaloo and Apple Bloom continue to wallow, Sweetie Belle heads off to the drinking fountain. There, she hears something that piques her interest.

57 SNIPS (O.S.)
Get it off me, Snails!

58 SNAILS (O.S.)
You get it off me, Snips!

59 SNIPS (O.S.)
Stop it, you're making it worse!

60 SNAILS (O.S.)
How could I make it worse when you're making it worse?

Sweetie Belle peeks around the corner to see SNIPS and SNAILS literally joined at the hip by chewy, sticky BUBBLE GUM.

61 SNIPS
Who chews gum in the morning anyway?

62 SNAILS
Well who tells jokes in the morning that make ponies spit out their gum, huh?

Snips tries to push Snails away, but only ends up getting his hoof stuck in the gum.

63 SNIPS
Oh great!

64 SNAILS
I'll get it.

Snails tries to pry them apart by head-butting Snips. Bad idea. Now his mane is stuck in the mess.

65 SNAILS (CONT'D)
Get it off! Get it off!

Sweetie Belle covers her mouth to stifle her laughter at the pony-pretzel.

66 SWEETIE BELLE
(stage whisper)
Hey, Milquetoast! Come here!

He trots over.

67 SWEETIE BELLE (CONT'D)
Take a few pictures of this, then meet me during lunch.

She leaves him to his work and races back to join the others, still in the midst of their discussion.

68 SWEETIE BELLE (CONT'D)
Girls, I have our story.

CLOSE ON A PATCH OF DIRT

A stack of NEWSPAPERS drops into frame. It's *The Horse's Mouth* with a big picture of Snips and Snails stuck together on the front. A hoof grabs the top copy.

69 RANDOM PONY #1 (O.S.)
(reading the headline)
"Snips and Snails and Bubble Gum Fails!"

EXT. PONYVILLE SCHOOL - DAY

The Horse's Mouth is everywhere! Ponies are LAUGHING and pointing toward Snips and Snails as we catch snippets from the column:

70 RANDOM PONY #1
(reading)
"...and that's when the biggest jokester in school really stuck his hoof in it... literally!"

71 RANDOM PONY #2
(reading)
"...so what did Snails decide to do? Why, use his head, of course!"

72 RANDOM PONY #1
This is so funny!

73 RANDOM PONY #2
I know! *The Horse's Mouth* is usually just boring news and stuff.

As we TRACK across the schoolyard, past other <SNICKERING> ponies, we find Snips and Snails. But rather than embarrassed, the guys are instant celebrities, loving their newfound fame and signing copies of the paper.

74 SNIPS
Our mothers always told us we'd end up in the papers some day.

75 SNAILS
Yeah, and look! We finally got the gum out!

They reveal their shaved backsides. Other parts of their bodies are shaved as well, such as Snails's mane and Snips's leg. Snails goes to grab another copy of the paper, but his stack is gone.

76 SNAILS (CONT'D)
Gee, I sure hope they're printing more...

INT. PONYVILLE SCHOOL - CONTINUOUS

Diamond Tiara and the Crusaders stand next to an old-fashioned printing press where an INK-STAINED PONY turns a giant drum. She grabs a paper fresh off the press.

77 DIAMOND TIARA
Your column is a sensation! I don't want you doing news anymore; I want more columns like this. Columns about ponies and their private lives, the things they do when they think they're alone. You three are my new gossip columnists!

The Crusaders share an ecstatic smile.

78 DIAMOND TIARA (CONT'D)
And I love the way you signed it.

CLOSE ON the paper. It reads, "xoxo, Gabby Gums".

79 DIAMOND TIARA (CONT'D)
"Gabby Gums." That was a stroke of genius.

80 SWEETIE BELLE
We couldn't fit all of our names, so we decided to create one for all three of us.

81 DIAMOND TIARA
Well I want more Gabby Gums. Nice work, girls!

She exits. The Crusaders can barely contain their joy.

82 SCOOTALOO
We may not be any good as reporters, but we sure seem to have a gift for gossip!

83 SWEETIE BELLE
If we can write a few more of these Gabby Gums columns, we'll earn our Cutie Marks for sure!

84 CRUSADERS
Woo-hoo!

Their hooves meet in a three way high-hoof.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT I

ACT II

FADE IN:

INT. PONYVILLE SCHOOL - DAY

The Crusaders huddle around a table, looking miserable.

85 SWEETIE BELLE
Scootaloo, do you have anything?

86 SCOOTALOO
(flipping through her pad)
Nope.

87 SWEETIE BELLE
Apple Bloom?

88 APPLE BLOOM
Sorry.

Scootaloo walks to the window and looks out at the schoolyard where Snips and Snails are again stuck together with gum.

89 SCOOTALOO
Been there, done that.
(facing the girls)
Let's face it. Nothing very "juicy" happens at this school.

90 SWEETIE BELLE
We're doomed. This school is good for one gossip column! I knew Gabby Gums was too good to be true.

91 SCOOTALOO
And another Cutie Mark crusade bites the dust. Should we tell Diamond Tiara that we're out of ideas?

92 SWEETIE BELLE
(closing her notepad)
Nah, she'll find out when we miss our deadline tomorrow.

They head for the exit, miserable.

93 APPLE BLOOM
Maybe we can get our Cutie Marks in being depressed...

INT. CAROUSEL BOUTIQUE - DAY

Sweetie Belle trudges through the empty boutique, absently dropping her saddlebag. A beat later, Rarity hurries in carrying a pile of fabric so big she can't see over it. She TRIPS on the saddlebag, fabric flying everywhere!

94 RARITY
OOF!! What in Equestria...

She picks up the saddlebag.

95 RARITY (CONT'D)
(to herself)
Sweetie Belle! Was she raised in a barn or something?

She prepares to yell...

96 RARITY (CONT'D)
SW--

Then stops. She furtively glances around before opening the saddlebag and snooping inside.

97 RARITY (CONT'D)
You really shouldn't be snooping, Rarity. Oh, but it's so much fun, Rarity. Too true, Rarity, too true. Hello! What's this?

She pulls out a copy of *The Horse's Mouth*. Her eyes move back and forth as she reads the column. She can't stop <LAUGHING> at what she sees.

98 RARITY (CONT'D)
"Gum on their bum?" Ha! Look at them! His head... stuck to the other's rump! Too rich!

Sweetie Belle enters.

99 SWEETIE BELLE
Can you please keep it down with all the laughter? I'm trying to be miserable back here--HEY!!

Rarity tries to hide the saddlebag behind her back, but it's too late. She's busted.

100 RARITY
I was just--

101 SWEETIE BELLE
Are you snooping through my saddlebag? How dare you!

102 RARITY
Oh, all right, yes! Yes, I was snooping! But I couldn't help myself. This Gabby Gums column is so funny!

Sweetie Belle's anger has completely dissipated.

103 SWEETIE BELLE
You actually like the school paper?

104 RARITY
It's so much <u>juicier</u> than anything in the boring old *Ponyville Express*. Could I borrow this to show to my friends?

105 SWEETIE BELLE
Your friends would want to read *The Horse's Mouth*?

106 RARITY
Oh, they'd just love Gabby Gums. Who is she, anyway? I've never heard of her before. Is she a new--

Sweetie Belle BOLTS past Rarity and out the door!

INT. CRUSADER CLUBHOUSE - DAY

Sweetie Belle paces in front of the other two, bubbling over with energy.

107 SWEETIE BELLE
We gave up too quickly, girls. Forget trying to squeeze stories out of this school. We need to expand!

108 APPLE BLOOM
Expand?

109 SWEETIE BELLE
Picture it: Gabby Gums takes on all of Ponyville!

Huge smiles form on the others' faces as realization dawns.

110 APPLE BLOOM
We could find all kinds of great gossip out there in Ponyville!

111 SWEETIE BELLE
We'll need to tell Milquetoast to start working overtime...

112 SCOOTALOO
Sweetie Belle, you're a genius! Cutie Marks, here we come!

TRANSITION

A spinning newspaper appears with a photo of THE CAKES. Each of them carries a bawling BABY PONY. The headline reads: *"Pound and Puddin' Cake: Trip to the Store Ends in Tears!"* with a Gabby Gums byline.

INT. PONYVILLE SCHOOL - DAY

Diamond Tiara holds a copy of the same paper.

113 DIAMOND TIARA
"Pound and Puddin' Cake: Trip to the Store Ends in Tears!" Gabby Gums comes through again!

The Crusaders stand happily nearby as the Ink-Stained Pony works the printing press nonstop in the background. Another SCHOOLPONY enters, out of breath.

114 SCHOOLPONY
The Ponyville newsstand wants to carry *The Horse's Mouth*! Ponies keep coming by and asking for it!

115 DIAMOND TIARA
Send 'em twenty copies! And if they run out of those, we'll give 'em twenty more!

The Schoolpony races out as Diamond Tiara turns to face the Crusaders.

116 DIAMOND TIARA (CONT'D)
Gabby Gums has gone viral! You three are doing a great job for this paper! Keep those columns coming!

She exits, and the Crusaders huddle together, huge smiles on their faces.

117 SCOOTALOO
This is great! We've finally found our purpose!

118 APPLE BLOOM
Come on, y'all! We've got more stories to write!

QUICK SHOTS

Over the sounds of <CLICKING TYPEWRITERS>, we see stacks of papers disappearing... random ponies reading the paper on the street... more newspaper stacks disappearing... the Ink-Stained Pony wiping sweat off his brow... and finally, with a <TYPEWRITER BELL>, another stack of papers disappearing...

INT. LA-TI-DA SPA - DAY

Rarity is in the spa for some much-needed pampering, along with APPLEJACK, PINKIE PIE, FLUTTERSHY, TWILIGHT SPARKLE, and SPIKE. Most of them are reading *The Horse's Mouth*.

119 RARITY
This is the life, isn't it girls? Best hooficure I've ever had...

Applejack, getting a massage, talks through the hoof-chops of the MASSEUSE.

120 APPLEJACK
Y-y-you s-s-said it.

Spike lies under a towel on a massage table, cucumbers over his eyes.

121 SPIKE
I don't know if I've ever been so relaxed--

Suddenly, RAINBOW DASH bursts in holding a copy of the paper. Spike shoots up with a <SHOUT>, the cucumbers flying off his eyes.

122 RAINBOW DASH
You guys! The new Gabby Gums just came out! *"The Great and Powerful Trixie's Secrets Revealed!"*

123 RARITY
We already read that one, Rainbow Dash. Come on, relax and have a hooficure. It feels *amazing*...

124 RAINBOW DASH
Did you forget who you're talking to? The day I get a hooficure is the day I turn in my daredevil license. Besides, I haven't read this Gabby Gums yet.

Spike collects his cucumbers and tries to calm down.

125 SPIKE
Well do it quietly, will you? Some of us are trying to unwind.

Twilight Sparkle, meanwhile, is having her tail colored. A STYLIST puts bits of foil in her hair.

126 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I like Gabby Gums, too, but don't you think she can be a little mean?

127 APPLEJACK
She's not mean, Twilight, she's a hoot!

Twilight Sparkle holds up a copy of the paper with an embarrassing candid photo of PRINCESS CELESTIA in WORKOUT SWEATS after a hard run.

128 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
"Celestia: Just Like Us!" You don't think it's mean to print a picture of the Princess in her workout clothes? Gabby Gums doesn't value anypony's privacy.

129 RARITY
Oh, lighten up, Twilight. It's nothing but harmless gossip.

She shows Twilight her copy.

130 RARITY (CONT'D)
"Zecora: Stripes Soooooo Last Season!" What's wrong with that?

Pinkie Pie, who sits under one of those old-fashioned hair driers, chimes in.

131 PINKIE PIE
Yeah, Twilight, I mean, listen to this one: *"Mayor: Not Naturally Gray!"* The Mayor in a mane-dying scandal? Who wouldn't want to read that?

132 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I just can't help feeling sorry for the ponies featured in her columns. It's got to be a little embarrassing.

133 RAINBOW DASH
Are you kidding? You know how awesome it is to get your name in the paper?

Rarity is almost melting into her chair from bliss.

134 RARITY
Rainbow, why don't you join me in one of these delicious hooficures?

135 RAINBOW DASH
It's that good, huh? Well, maybe just one little hoof.

Rainbow Dash settles in next to Rarity. The STYLIST gently runs a file over her hoof.

136 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
AH! Forget it, I don't like ponies touching my hooves.

She leaps away from the hooficure station and grabs a paper.

137 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Man, I'd love it if Gabby Gums did a story on me.

138 SPIKE
She did one on me.

139 ALL
What?!

Spike shoots up again, losing his cucumbers.

140 RAINBOW DASH
Tell us who she is!

Frustrated, Spike once again gathers them up.

141 SPIKE
Sorry. The whole thing was done with utmost secrecy. I never even saw Gabby Gums.

142 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
So when's the article going to come out, Spike?

143 SPIKE
I don't know. I guess she's probably putting the finishing touches on it right now...

INT. PONYVILLE SCHOOL - DAY

The Crusaders are showing the layout of their newest column to Diamond Tiara. It features a photo of Spike wearing a smoking jacket and looking pompous.

144 APPLE BLOOM
"Exclusive: Local Dragon Tells All! Spike Opens Up About Canterlot, Naps, and his Favorite Gems!"

145 SCOOTALOO
It's our best column yet!

But the Crusaders' smiles fade when they see the anger on Diamond Tiara's face.

146 DIAMOND TIARA
More like your *worst* column yet! Gabby Gums didn't become the biggest thing in Ponyville with namby-pamby stories like this!

She storms out, leaving the Crusaders to consider their column.

147 APPLE BLOOM
She's right. This column is a little softer than our usual gossip.

148 SCOOTALOO
That's why I liked it so much.

149 APPLE BLOOM
Yeah, me too.

150 SWEETIE BELLE
Were you guys feeling guilty about all the gossip, too? Like maybe we could be hurting other ponies' feelings?

151 APPLE BLOOM
Yeah, I didn't want to say anything because everypony loves Gabby Gums so much, but I was sorta hoping we could start writing more stories like this one.

152 SCOOTALOO
(depressed)
Me too.

Sweetie Belle looks down at the Spike column, her expression steeling. She swipes the layout into the trash can.

153 SWEETIE BELLE
If we're going to get our Cutie Marks, we've got to give the ponies what they want.

154 APPLE BLOOM
But what about all the... guilt?

155 SWEETIE BELLE
That's just the price we have to pay to earn our Cutie Marks.

Scootaloo stands and joins Sweetie Belle.

156 SCOOTALOO
We have to keep our eyes on the prize. Making Gabby Gums as edgy as possible is the only way to get our Marks.

Apple Bloom considers for a beat, she stands and joins them. They all put their hooves in for a "high-hoof," but it's less enthused than it was last time.

INT. SUGARCUBE CORNER - DAY

The ponies have gathered to discuss Gabby Gums. Various newspapers are strewn about. The Cakes sit quietly behind the counter watching as the others rant and rave. Rarity, meanwhile, sits casually back, popping the occasional bonbon.

157 APPLEJACK
Can y'all believe this?

CLOSE UP on the newspaper: it features of a photo of Applejack happily napping on a hammock.

158 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
"Applejack: Asleep on the Job: Exclusive Photos!" And this one:

CLOSE UP on a photo of Big McIntosh, who, judging by his confused expression, has clearly been surprised by the photographer.

159 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
"Big McIntosh: What's he Hiding?" Who the hay does this Gabby Gums think she is?

160 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Listen to this one: *"Twilight Sparkle: I was a Canterlot Snob!"*
(reading)
"A well-placed, scaly source close to the prissy pony says Twilight Sparkle thinks Ponyville is nothing but muddy roads and low-class rubes!"
(to Spike)
(MORE)

TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
Spike! How could you say such a thing!

161 SPIKE
I didn't! Gabby Gums made that up! I never said anything like that!

162 RARITY
Everypony, please! She's just a harmless schoolpony engaged in a little idle gossip. You're really making too big a deal out of this.

163 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
But it's all lies! Gabby Gums prints whatever she wants and everypony in town believes it. She doesn't care whose reputation she destroys!

Twilight flips through some headlines.

164 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
Fluttershy has tail extensions!

165 FLUTTERSHY
Oh!

She covers her eyes in humiliation and races out.

166 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Pinkie Pie is an out-of-control party animal!

Pinkie Pie snatches the paper away. CLOSE UP on the photo: It's just an innocent picture of her having a fun time at a birthday party. But she has a huge, dramatic reaction, dropping to her knees.

167 PINKIE PIE
IT'S TRUE!! I DO HAVE A PROBLEM!!

Twilight holds up another paper. CLOSE UP on the photo: It's a happy photo of the Cakes, but it's been Photoshopped to look like it's torn in two.

168 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Look! According to this one the Cakes are breaking up!

169 CAKES
(confused)
We are?

Suddenly, Rainbow Dash shoots through the window and <CRASHES> on the floor with an explosion of newspapers.

170 RAINBOW DASH
Well, my life is over! Gabby Gums has made it to Cloudsdale!

She holds up a copy of *The Horse's Mouth*. It shows Rainbow Dash getting a hooficure at the La-Ti-Da Spa.

171 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
"Rainbow Dash: Speed Demon or Super Softie?"

172 RAINBOW DASH
I grabbed as many copies as I could, but it was too late! I'm a laughing stock!

173 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
See, Rarity? Your so-called harmless gossip can be very hurtful!

Rarity casually picks up a paper.

174 RARITY
Honestly, you ponies have no sense of humor. So she tweaks a few ponies every now and then, maybe they deserve--I'LL DESTROY HER!!

The latest issue contains a picture of herself.

175 RARITY (CONT'D)
"The Drama Queen Diaries: Part 1 in a 6-part Series!" She's reprinted my diary!! How did Gabby Gums possibly get access to my private diary?!

176 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
We've got to put a stop to this once and for all! Sweetie Belle's on the newspaper staff, maybe she knows who Gabby Gums is.

Rarity slams the paper down dramatically, placing a hoof across her forehead as though she might faint.

177 RARITY
My sister would never associate with someone as beastly as Gabby Gums! I resent you even suggesting such a thing, Twilight! Why, she's the most innocent, most lovely...

INT. CAROUSEL BOUTIQUE - DAY

178 RARITY
MOST EVIL PONY IN EQUESTRIA!!!

She's snooped through Sweetie Belle's saddlebag again and discovered her own diary hidden inside.

179 RARITY (CONT'D)
How could my own sister steal my private diary?! How could my own sister be...

TIGHT ON RARITY:

180 RARITY (CONT'D)
Gabby Gums?!

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT II

ACT III

FADE IN:

INT. CAROUSEL BOUTIQUE, SWEETIE BELLE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Rarity storms into Sweetie Belle's bedroom.

181 RARITY
Et tu, Gabby Gums?!

182 SWEETIE BELLE
You know? How'd you find out?

Rarity thrusts the diary in the air.

183 RARITY
The gilded pages of your betrayal!

184 SWEETIE BELLE
(sheepishly)
Oh yeah.

185 RARITY
How could you do this to me? You stole my sacred diary and published it for all the world to read!

186 SWEETIE BELLE
I'm sorry, Rarity. Apple Bloom and Scootaloo and I just wanted to get our Cutie Marks for being gossip columnists. We thought for sure Gabby Gums was the key, but...

She turns her flank. Still blank.

187 SWEETIE BELLE (CONT'D)
... we're still blank.

188 RARITY
Like I always say: Gossip can be a very hurtful thing. It's an invasion of privacy, just like when I snooped through your saddlebag. You didn't like that much, did you?

189 SWEETIE BELLE
No. Hey, speaking of which, how'd you find that diary? Were you snooping again?

190 RARITY
That's not important right now. What's important is that you understand how your column makes the ponies that you're writing about feel.

191 SWEETIE BELLE
I do understand, and we've all been feeling guilty, but we just want our Cutie Marks so badly.

192 RARITY
(off the diary)
This is not the way.

193 SWEETIE BELLE
You're right. Guess I better go tell the girls that Gabby Gums is finished.

Sweetie Belle heads to the door. A beat later, she pops back in and swipes her saddlebag out of Rarity's hooves.

EXT. PONYVILLE SCHOOL - DAY

The Crusaders head toward the schoolyard. They all have a bit of a hangdog look about them.

194 APPLE BLOOM
Golly, I feel just awful about how we made everypony feel.

195 SCOOTALOO
Me too.

196 SWEETIE BELLE
We have to tell Diamond Tiara that we're resigning as Gabby Gums.

197 SCOOTALOO
She's not gonna be happy.

198 SWEETIE BELLE
Yeah, but we will be.

INT. PONYVILLE SCHOOL - MOMENTS LATER

199 DIAMOND TIARA
NO!!

She's on her hind legs, furious.

200 DIAMOND TIARA (CONT'D)
I won't let you quit!!

201 SWEETIE BELLE
But the gossip we've been printing is hurting everypony's feelings!

202 DIAMOND TIARA
FEELINGS?! I DON'T CARE ABOUT FEELINGS!!

She stomps around the room.

203 DIAMOND TIARA (CONT'D)
Gabby Gums is my bread and butter, and I'm not going to let you goody-two-horseshoes take that away from me!

204 SWEETIE BELLE
We're sorry, Diamond Tiara, but we've made our decision.

205 SCOOTALOO
Yeah. You can't force us to keep gossiping.

Diamond Tiara stops, struck by inspiration. She races over to a work table and starts throwing papers and photos everywhere until she finally finds what she was looking for.

206 DIAMOND TIARA
You're right, I can't force you to keep writing Gabby Gums. But when you see these, you may not want to quit after all.

207 APPLE BLOOM
What are they?

She drops the on the table.

208 DIAMOND TIARA
See for yourself.

The Crusaders' eyes pop out. They <GASP> dramatically.

CLOSE ON the photos:

-One depicts Scootaloo stuck in the tree from Act I. She clings desperately to the branch and the group of kittens sits down below laughing.

-The next photo shows Sweetie Belle standing in the Carousel during her Rarity interview. But she's in an embarrassing pose as Rarity is busy pinning up her outfit.

-The final photo shows a close up on Granny Smith's photo album, and a humiliating, goofy baby photo of Apple Bloom.

209 DIAMOND TIARA (CONT'D)
I told Miquetoast to document <u>everything</u>. And that's exactly what he did.

210 SCOOTALOO
Gimme those!

She tries to grab the photos, but Diamond Tiara casually snatches them up first.

211 DIAMOND TIARA
Sorry, girls. Property of *The Horse's Mouth*. And if Gabby Gums really does go into retirement, I'll need something to fill that empty column space.

She <SLAMS> her hooves down on the table.

212 DIAMOND TIARA (CONT'D)
Now get out there and bring me more Gabby Gums!!

The Crusaders have no choice but to turn tail and walk out.

EXT. PONYVILLE, OUTSKIRTS - DAY

The Crusaders walk heavily on the outskirts of town.

213 SWEETIE BELLE
We'll find a way out of this, girls, but for now, we have to be Gabby Gums for awhile longer.

214 SCOOTALOO
Maybe Rainbow Dash will have a story for us. She's always good for some gossip.

They notice her overhead napping on a cloud.

215 APPLE BLOOM
Rainbow Dash! Hey, Rainbow Dash!

She peers over the edge of the cloud.

216 RAINBOW DASH
(coldly)
Well. If it isn't Gabby Gums.

217 SWEETIE BELLE
You heard too, huh?

218 RAINBOW DASH
Are you kidding? Everypony in town knows it's you three!

219 SCOOTALOO
Don't suppose you'd let us write a column on you, huh?

Rainbow Dash zips out of the cloud, pushes it over their heads, and KICKS IT. RAIN pours down on the Crusaders as Rainbow Dash flies away.

EXT. FLUTTERSHY'S COTTAGE - DAY

The Crusaders, still shaking out the water, approach Fluttershy's cottage.

220 SWEETIE BELLE
Maybe we can get a little gossip from Fluttershy...

But before they can even knock on the door, it opens. It's ANGEL, and he looks furious. Behind him, the girls can hear over-the-top <CRYING>.

221 SWEETIE BELLE (CONT'D)
Oh, hi, Angel. Is Fluttershy home?

He folds his arms disapprovingly and shakes his head in disgust. Finally, he <SLAMS> the door in their faces.

EXT. GOLDEN OAK LIBRARY - DAY

The Crusaders approach the Library.

222 APPLE BLOOM
Twilight probably won't talk to us either, but maybe we can get Spike to tell us something--OOP!!

She SLAMS into an invisible wall. The other Crusaders SMASH into it, too.

223 SCOOTALOO
Hey, what gives?

Spike appears in an upper window of the Library.

224 SPIKE
Ah ha! Twilight thought you might try to show your faces around here, so she put up a force field!

225 SWEETIE BELLE
Spike! Are you mad at us, too?

226 SPIKE
(snarkily)
Me? Mad?

<SLAM>!! He throws the window shut.

227 SWEETIE BELLE
What are we gonna do, girls? Everypony hates us.

228 APPLE BLOOM
Let's go talk to my sister. If anypony'll help us, Applejack will.

EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES, FARMHOUSE - DAY

Applejack stands with her nose in the air, refusing to even look at the Crusaders. BIG MCINTOSH stands next to her, scowling.

229 APPLE BLOOM
Aw, come on, Applejack! You're not mad at us, too, are you?

230 APPLEJACK
Yup.

231 APPLE BLOOM
You're not even gonna talk to us?

232 APPLEJACK
Nope.

233 BIG MCINTOSH
(rapidly)
You should be ashamed of yourself, humiliating your sister and I like that. We don't want to talk to any of y'all right now, so take your little gossip column and your embarrassing photographs and just GO AWAY.

EXT. PONYVILLE, VARIOUS - DAY

The Crusaders wander through Ponyville looking depressed. Everywhere they go, they're shunned.

-A door <SLAMS> shut.

-Shutters <SNAP> closed.

-OPEN signs are flipped to CLOSED.

-Curtains are drawn.

-Ponies hustle off the streets as the Crusaders trudge miserably through the middle of town.

INT. CRUSADER CLUBHOUSE - DAY

Apple Bloom and Scootaloo sit dejectedly while Sweetie Belle paces.

234 APPLE BLOOM
This is just awful y'all!

235 SCOOTALOO
Yeah, nopony will even look at us.

236 SWEETIE BELLE
We've ruined all of our friendships, and we still don't have our Cutie Marks!

237 APPLE BLOOM
This is the worst day ever.

238 SCOOTALOO
Oh yeah? Wait 'til tomorrow. Our most embarrassing moments are about to be published for everypony to laugh at.

239 APPLE BLOOM
So what do we do?

240 SWEETIE BELLE
I don't know, but we're not leaving this clubhouse until we think of something!

EXT. CRUSADER CLUBHOUSE - TIMELAPSE

The sun sets, but a light remains lit inside the Crusader Clubhouse. Finally, as the sun begins to rise...

241 SWEETIE BELLE (O.S.)
I'VE GOT IT!!!

Roosters <CROW> and dogs <BARK> at her sudden outburst.

INT. PONYVILLE SCHOOL - DAY

Diamond Tiara stands next to the Ink-Stained Pony watching the final sands run out of an hourglass.

242 DIAMOND TIARA
That's it. Gabby Gums is out of time. Run these instead.

She hands the humiliating photos to the Ink-Stained Pony.

243 DIAMOND TIARA (CONT'D)
I want this paper on every street corner in Ponyville.

244 INK-STAINED PONY
Yes, ma'am.

Just then, the Crusaders <BURST> into the school.

245 SWEETIE BELLE
STOP THE PRESSES!!

246 INK-STAINED PONY
Uh, they haven't started yet.

247 DIAMOND TIARA
But they're just about to.

248 SCOOTALOO
We have a Gabby Gums column!

249 APPLE BLOOM
Yeah, it took the whole night, but we finally got something.

Diamond Tiara snatches a piece of paper away and hands it to the Ink-Stained Pony, taking back the embarrassing photos.

250 DIAMOND TIARA
You're lucky I'm nice.

The Crusaders exchange a look of pure relief. Until Diamond Tiara waves the photos in their faces.

251 DIAMOND TIARA (CONT'D)
And you three. This better not happen again. Or else.

She storms off, shoving past the Crusaders on her way.

EXT. PONYVILLE SCHOOL - AFTERNOON

PAN THE SCHOOLYARD to see that everypony in school is buzzing over the latest edition of *The Horse's Mouth*. Diamond Tiara strolls out of the school, looking pleased with herself.

252 DIAMOND TIARA
Well done, Diamond Tiara, you've averted yet another crisis with your amazing diplomatic skills.

Suddenly, her eyes bug out and she snatches the paper away from a schoolpony.

253 DIAMOND TIARA (CONT'D)
"An Open Letter to Ponyville by Gabby Gums?!" What is this?!

She throws the paper to the ground.

254 DIAMOND TIARA (CONT'D)
They're not going to get away with this! I'll publish those photos tomorrow! They messed with the wrong pony!

Her threats trail off as she races back inside.

EXT. PONYVILLE, VARIOUS - DAY

Over various images, we hear the Crusaders narrating the latest Gabby Gums column:

255 SWEETIE BELLE (V.O.)
To the citizens of Ponyville. For some time now, you've been reading this column to get the latest dirt and the hottest buzz. But this will be my final piece.

-The Crusaders stand under a downpour, holding newspapers over their heads. Rainbow Dash takes a look at the headline. Realization dawns on her and she kicks the raincloud away and tosses them some towels.

256 APPLE BLOOM (V.O.)
You see, I'm not really a columnist named Gabby Gums. I'm actually three little fillies -- Sweetie Belle, Apple Bloom, and Scootaloo.

-They hand the furious Angel a copy of the paper. He scans the headline, then disappears inside. A moment later, Fluttershy zips out and gives the Crusaders a hug.

257 SCOOTALOO (V.O.)
As the popularity of our column grew, we got swept up in the hype.
(MORE)

SCOOTALOO (V.O.) (CONT'D)
We knew that what we were doing didn't feel quite right, but we ignored the guilt because everypony seemed to want to read what we were writing.

-The Crusaders hand Twilight and Spike the latest issue, and they embrace the girls as well.

258 SWEETIE BELLE (V.O.)
We want to apologize for the pain and embarrassment we've caused. From now on, we promise to respect everypony else's privacy, and we won't engage in hurtful gossip anymore.

-Pinkie Pie blows a noisemaker and slaps party hats on the Crusaders heads after reading the latest headline.

259 APPLE BLOOM (V.O.)
All we can do is ask for your forgiveness, Ponyville. Signing off for the very last time, xoxo Gabby Gums.

-Applejack nuzzles Apple Bloom.

-Rarity nuzzles Sweetie Belle.

INT. PONYVILLE SCHOOL - DAY

The newspaper staff has gathered inside the school once again. Cheerilee stands next to a chastened Diamond Tiara.

260 CHEERILEE
Well, staff, I guess I gave a little too much authority to a first-time editor. I'm sorry, Diamond Tiara, but your recent behavior leaves me no choice. I have to strip you of your title.

Diamond Tiara scowls angrily.

261 CHEERILEE (CONT'D)
And for the next editor of *The Horse's Mouth*, we're going to have a more traditional choice.
(MORE)

CHEERILEE (CONT'D)
Everypony loved our old editor, Namby Pamby, so I'm hoping her younger brother will do just as well. Here's your new editor-in-chief, Milquetoast!

The class <CHEERS> as the scrawny little staff photographer steps forward.

262 DIAMOND TIARA
Him?!

Scootaloo turns excitedly to the others.

263 SCOOTALOO
Hey, maybe now I can get my baby birds story published!

FADE OUT.

THE EN