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MY LITTLE PONY II
"Pony Confidential"

EP 223

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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
write 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:

INT. PONYVILLE SCHOOL - DAY

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 as the crowd
behind the Crusaders parts to reveal...

*
*

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 everything! 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 her?

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. I bet our
readers would eat up a sweet story
like that!

*
*
*

48 SWEETIE BELLE

Come on, let's go get those Marks!

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

EXT. GROVE OF TREES - DAY

Scotaloo 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.

Network Note- Be sure that CMC's facial expressions sufficiently sell the embarrassment they are feeling in each of the above scenes.

*
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*

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.

Tiara pops her head back in the room.

85 DIAMOND TIARA
What are you three sitting around
for! Get me more Gabby Gums!!!

The Crusaders scramble and race out of the room.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT I

ACT II

FADE IN:

INT. PONYVILLE SCHOOL - DAY

The Crusaders huddle around a table, looking miserable.

86 SWEETIE BELLE
Scootaloo, do you have anything?

87 SCOOTALOO
(flipping through her pad)
Nope.

88 SWEETIE BELLE
Apple Bloom?

89 APPLE BLOOM
Sorry.

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

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

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

92 SCOOTALOO
 And another Cutie Mark crusade
 bites the dust.

They head for the exit.

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

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.
 (MORE)

RARITY (CONT'D)
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 juicier 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)
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!!
(MORE)

RARITY (CONT'D)
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 **are trying** to get our Cutie Marks for being gossip columnists.

*

*

187 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?

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

189 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.

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

191 RARITY

Do you really think that writing
nasty things and making everypony
feel horrible is your 'destiny'?

*
*
*
*

192 SWEETIE BELLE

Well, when you put it that way...

*

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.

193 APPLE BLOOM

Golly, I feel just awful about how
we made Rarity feel.

*

194 SCOOTALOO

I feel awful about how we made
everypony feel.

*
*

195 SWEETIE BELLE

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

196 SCOOTALOO

She's not gonna be happy.

197 SWEETIE BELLE

Yeah, but we will be.

INT. PONYVILLE SCHOOL - MOMENTS LATER

198 DIAMOND TIARA

NO!!

She's on her hind legs, furious.

199 DIAMOND TIARA (CONT'D)

I won't let you quit!!

200 SWEETIE BELLE

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

201 DIAMOND TIARA

FEELINGS?! I DON'T CARE ABOUT
FEELINGS!!

She stomps around the room.

202 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!

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

204 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.

205 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.

206 APPLE BLOOM
What are they?

She drops the on the table.

207 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.

208 DIAMOND TIARA (CONT'D)
I told Miquetoast to document
everything. And that's exactly
what he did.

209 SCOOTALOO
Gimme those!

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

210 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.

211 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.

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

213 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.

214 APPLE BLOOM
Rainbow Dash! Hey, Rainbow Dash!

She peers over the edge of the cloud.

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

216 SWEETIE BELLE
You heard too, huh?

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

218 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.

219 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>.

220 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.

221 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.

222 SCOOTALOO
Hey, what gives?

Spike appears in an upper window of the Library.

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

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

225 SPIKE
(snarkily)
Me? Mad?

<SLAM>!! He throws the window shut.

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

227 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.

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

229 APPLEJACK
Yup.

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

231 APPLEJACK
Nope.

232 BIG MCINTOSH
(rapidly)
You should be ashamed of yourself,
humiliating your sister and me 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.

233 APPLE BLOOM
This is just awful y'all!

234 SCOOTALOO
Yeah, nopony will even look at us.

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

236 APPLE BLOOM
This is the worst day ever.

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

238 APPLE BLOOM
So what do we do?

239 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...

240 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.

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

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

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

243 INK-STAINED PONY
Yes, ma'am.

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

244 SWEETIE BELLE
STOP THE PRESSES!!

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

246 DIAMOND TIARA
But they're just about to.

247 SCOOTALOO
We have a Gabby Gums column!

248 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.

249 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.

250 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.

251 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.

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

She throws the paper to the ground.

253 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:

254 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.

255 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.

256 SCOOTALOO (V.O.)

As the popularity of our column grew, we got swept up in the hype. 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.

257 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.

258 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.

259 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.

260 CHEERILEE (CONT'D)
And for the next editor of *The Horse's Mouth*, we're going to have a more traditional choice. Our old editor, Namby Pamby, did a great job 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.

261 DIAMOND TIARA
Him?! But what about me???

*

The Ink Stained Pony hooks her up to the printing press.

*

262 INK-STAINED PONY
Here ya go. I've been promoted to Staff Photographer!

*
*
*

The Crusaders share a LAUGH.

*

FADE OUT.

THE EN