Distribution:

Production:
Sarah Wall
Meghan McCarthy
Jayson Thiessen
James Wootton
Angela Belyea
Ridd Sorensen
Lesley Crawford

Discovery/Hasbro:
Donna Ebbs
Carin Davis
Tegan Molloy
Laurence Braun

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

MY LITTLE PONY III

"Games Ponies Play"

Pka "Spa Day"

Episode 312

Written by

Dave Polsky

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TEASER

EXT. LIBRARY - DAY

All of the ponies are about to head out on a trip. SPIKE waves good-bye and TWILIGHT SPARKLE checks with him one last time before they go.

1 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
You're absolutely sure you can do this?

2 SPIKE
Of course. Wouldn't have agreed to it if I couldn't. Piece of cake. Speaking of cake, I've got a little something I need to attend to.

Spike licks his lips as he peers into a bag that is now filled with jewels.

3 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Yes, like, keeping an eye on a house full of critters.

4 SPIKE
Uh, yeah, That was totally what I was talking about.
(then, shooing her away)
Relax. Go do your welcoming thing in the Crystal Empire. Spike's got it all under control.

She suddenly hear the SOUNDS OF CHAOS coming from within the LIBRARY nearby. She pauses, eyebrow raised in concern.

5 RAINBOW DASH
Hurry up, Twilight, we can't miss our train.

Twilight quickly joins her friends as they make their way toward the train station.

6 APPLEJACK
This is gonna be a real treat. Princess Cadence said she's never seen the Crystal Ponies so excited.

7 RAINBOW DASH
Duh. Of course they're excited. They're up for the Equestria Games. It's only <u>the</u> biggest sporting event in all of Equestria.

8 RARITY
Didn’t Cloudsdale host the Equestria Games one year?

9 RAINBOW DASH
No. Cloudsdale *should’ve* hosted the games one year.
(then, somber)
I'll never forget when we got the bad news.

EXT. CLOUDSDALE - FLASHBACK

A pre-school age Rainbow Dash clutches a pennant with a Cloudsale logo on it. Her whole body is clenched, in anticipation for the big announcement.

10 VOICE (O.S.)
The Equestria Games go to... the city of Phillydelphia.

Little Rainbow Dash hurls her pennant to the ground.

11 RAINBOW DASH
WHAT?!
(then, to the heavens)
NOOOOO!!

EXT. TRAIN STATION - THE PRESENT

Rainbow Dash has a determined look on her face.

12 RAINBOW DASH
These Crystal Ponies lost 1000 years to an evil king's curse. They’ve had enough bad news. No way we're letting them experience the pain of losing out on these games.

13 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Exactly. Princess Cadence is counting on us to do our part to convince the Games Inspector to **
choose the Crystal Empire and we are not going to let her down, are we?

Pinkie Pie suddenly screams to the heavens.

14 PINKIE PIKE
NOOOOOO!!!!

She stops, realizing everyone is staring at her.

15 PINKIE PIKE (CONT'D)
(oblivious)
What? I was just answering Twilight's question.

END TEASER

MAIN TITLE

ACT I

INT. TRAIN CAR - LATER

The ponies are all seated together in the car, practicing their cheerleader style welcome chant.

16 PONIES
(chant's big finish)
W-E-L-C-O-M-E, that's the way we spell Howdy! Ungh!

The all strike a pose and hold it for a beat. Then...

17 PINKIE PIE
Okay, everypony. Great job. Sounds like we're ready.

18 PONIES
<CONGRATULATING EACH OTHER WALLA>

19 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
One more time. From the top.

20 PONIES (EXCEPT RD)
<GROANING AND COMPLAINING WALLA>

21 APPLEJACK
But we've run this like twelve times already. I think we've got it.

22 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Cadence said the Games Inspector really puts folks through the ringer on her visits. There is no margin for error here. And this time we need to practice the steps.

23 APPLEJACK
On a train car?

24 RAINBOW DASH
You heard the pony. On your hooves.

The ponies begin a chant accompanied with the pony equivalent of cheerleader moves.

25 PONIES
2-4-6-8 name a place that's really--

Then train suddenly SLAMS to a stop.

26 PONIES (CONT'D)
<YELLING WALLA>

All the ponies go tumbling. (NOTE: This should not play as extreme. No ponies hitting their heads.) A TRAIN CONDUCTOR sticks his head in, barely reacting to the PONIES SPRAWLED EVERYWHERE.

27 TRAIN CONDUCTOR
Crystal Empire, ladies. Watch your step leaving the train.

28 APPLEJACK
(shaking it off)
Probably shoulda watched our step while we were still on it, too.

EXT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE TRAIN STATION - A LITTLE LATER

The ponies exit the train station with their bags, ASTONISHED to see the Crystal Empire spread out before them, GLEAMING like never before.

29 PINKIE PIE
Wow. The Crystal Empire looks crystalier than ever.

ANGLE ON VARIOUS CRYSTAL PONIES, each excitedly doing different things to make the place shine: polishing street signs, sweeping streets, squeegie-ing windows (and pretty much anything else in sight, since it's all made of crystal).

30 APPLEJACK
They must have everypony in the Empire out sprucing it up.

Everywhere they look there's some other Crystal Pony working to make the Empire shine especially bright.

31 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
This must be why were asked us to handle the welcome committee routine. All the Crystal Ponies are busy with preparation that could only be done here.

32 RAINBOW DASH
And it's probably also because we'll be awesome at it.

33 APPLEJACK
Princess Cadence was right. These ponies do look pretty darn excited.

Rainbow Dash smiles and puts a hoof around one of the smiling Crystal Ponies.

34 RAINBOW DASH
Yep. I remember that feeling.

EXT. CLOUDSDALE - FLASHBACK

Little Rainbow Dash, holding her Cloudsdale pennant, does an excited jig with lots of fist pumps.

EXT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE - THE PRESENT

Rainbow Dash shakes her head at the memory.

35 RAINBOW DASH
But not as much as I remember the crushing wave of disappointment that came when things didn't work out.

The Crystal Pony's smile turns into a frown.

36 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
That right there. <u>That</u> is the face I do <u>not</u> want to see.

The other Ponyville Ponies nod in agreement. The Crystal Pony does look pretty pathetic.

INT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE SPA - LATER

PRINCESS CADENCE greets our ponies with hugs.

37 PRINCESS CADENCE
There are my girls!

Meanwhile, Rarity is totally enthralled by the huge open space filled with ponies getting spa treatments of every sort: facials, hair treatments, mud baths... everything the stylish pony would need to relax and beautify.

38 RARITY
Oh my, this is spectacular. Please everypony stand back. I need air.

39 PRINCESS CADENCE
Yes. Pretty nice here, isn't it.`
(then)
Go ahead and try whatever you like. It's all complimentary for the Welcome Committee.
(pointing)
That over there is a mud bath, which relaxes the body and rejuvenates your coat. Now I realize it can be kind of strange to climb into mud, but if you'll just give it a chance I'm sure -

Pinkie Pie takes a RUNNING SWAN DIVE into it.

40 PINKIE PIE
Whoo-hoo!

She goes under... the breeches like a whale... then jumps around, up and down, spattering mud everywhere. Then, floating placidly on her back...

41 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
Aah... so relaxing...

She proceeds to placidly BURBLE DOWN through the surface of the mud and out of sight.

42 PRINCESS CADENCE
(to rest of ponies)
Go ahead. Have a good time while I get my ceremonial headdress done.

43 RARITY
(interest piqued)
Ceremonial headdress?

44 PRINCESS CADENCE
When meeting with important guests, it was tradition for Rulers of the Crystal Empire to weave crystals into their manes in a very specific way. The Games Inspector is know **
for doing her homework.
(MORE)

PRINCESS CADENCE (CONT'D)
She'll certainly be expecting my look to reflect the importance of her visit.

A MESSENGER approaches.

45 MESSENGER
Princess. If I may have a word. I have two pieces of news for you. First, your mane-stylist has the flu and won't be able to make it for fear of you catching it, too.

46 PRINCESS CADENCE
Oh no, I hope she's better soon.
(then)
Do any of the other stylists here know how to do the traditional royal ceremonial headdress?

47 CRYSTAL PONY STYLISTS
<UNCERTAINTY WALLA>

Princess Cadence looks disappointed.

48 PRINCESS CADENCE
Oh... Well... I suppose it's just a small detail.

49 RAINBOW DASH
Whoa. Whoa. Whoa. You're trying to land the Equestria Games. There's no such thing as a <u>small</u> detail.

Princess Cadence's look of disappointment turns to one of genuine concern.

50 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
(softly to Rainbow Dash)
Did you not hear her when she said she was already stressed out.

51 RARITY
I suppose I could give it a shot.

Princess Cadence brightens.

52 PRINCESS CADENCE
Oh, Rarity, you would do that for me?

53 RAINBOW DASH
Way to step up, Rare.

54 PRINCESS CADENCE
Fortunately, I have all the precise instructions right here.

Cadence retrieves a piece of paper from the salon station. Princess Cadence UNFURLS the piece of paper REVEALING an exceedingly long and complex document.

55 RARITY
Oh my...

56 PRINCESS CADENCE
(sensing her trepidation)
You sure you're up to this?

57 RARITY
Working on the hair of royalty on such an auspicious occasion is the opportunity of a lifetime.
(then, firmly)
I'll give it everything I've got.
(then)
Besides, the Games Inspector isn't expected for several hours. I'll have plenty of time to figure out exactly how to do this.

She begins scanning the extremely detailed directions.

58 PRINCESS CADENCE
Oh Rarity, that's wonderful!
(then, to messenger)
You said you had a second bit of news?

59 MESSENGER
Yes, quite. The Games Inspector, Ms. Harshwhinny, will be arriving on the next train.

Every pony reacts with alarm.

60 RAINBOW DASH
What?! That's fifteen minutes from now. You couldn't tell her that news first??

The messenger blushes. Ooops.

EXT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE - LATER

The ponies are all on their way back to the train station.

61 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Okay, we'll be fine. Everypony just be on the lookout for the pony with the flower print luggage.

62 FLUTTERSHY
Ooh, I love flower print.
(then, re: interruption)
Sorry. Go on.

63 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
We bring the Games Inspector back to the castle, put on our big welcome committee how-do-you-do, and then - **
(to Rarity)
How long before Cadence is ready?

64 RARITY
With all my fashion expertise I'm sure to find some short cuts. When do you need her?

65 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Can you have her back at the castle when we're done?

66 RARITY
Done.

67 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Perfect.

68 PINKIE PIE
Easy peasy, puddin' in the freezy.
(then)
Mmm, pudding.

69 RAINBOW DASH
There's just one more thing we have to remember.

70 PINKIE PIE
Put the pudding out to thaw before you eat it or you'll crack a tooth?

71 RAINBOW DASH
I'll just ignore that.
(then)
We need to remember that the Games Inspector arriving early is probably part of a plan to psyche us out.

72 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
What do you mean?

73 RAINBOW DASH
You said yourself she's got a rep for putting ponies trying to land the Games through the ringer. This is probably just an attempt to catch us off guard so she can see if we can handle the kind of massive pressure that comes with hosting the Equestria Games.

74 FLUTTERSHY
Oh no... we're gonna blow it...

75 RAINBOW DASH
Not if we always stay one step ahead and don't fall for any of her mind games. Anything she throws at us, we just need to remember she's testing us and roll with it.

The other ponies nod in understanding.

EXT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE TRAIN STATION - A LITTLE LATER

The ponies look on as a PONY with FLOWER PRINT LUGGAGE steps off of a train.

76 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
There she is.

ANGLE ON the ponies approaching the GAMES INSPECTOR, who's walking along with her flower print luggage. Fluttershy and Applejack bring up the rear, Fluttershy STILL BEING PUSHED ALONG but now BREATHING DEEPLY.

77 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
(tentatively)
Excuse me, ma'am?

She spins around, confrontational.

78 GAMES INSPECTOR
(sharp)
Yes? What is it?

79 FLUTTERSHY
("we're doomed!")
Oh no...

80 RAINBOW DASH
(sotto)
Be cool.

81 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Er, um, well... I know you're not expecting us but we're here to personally welcome you to the Crystal Empire.

82 GAMES INSPECTOR
(still unsmiling)
The whole lot of you came to do that?

83 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Er, um, well... yes.

A beat... then she suddenly breaks into a huge grin.

84 GAMES INSPECTOR
Well, goshdarntootin! Ain't that the cat's meow! Y'all didn't need to do that. Why I hardly expected anything like this.

The ponies all smile at one another, stunned and relieved.

85 APPLEJACK
The Princess wouldn't have had it any other way.

86 GAMES INSPECTOR
The Princess? Princess Cadence?

87 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
None other.

88 GAMES INSPECTOR
Well tie me up and throw me down, this just keeps gettin' better 'n better!

89 FLUTTERSHY
Can we help you with your bags?

90 GAMES INSPECTOR
Don't mind if ya do!

They all head off together like a bunch of old friends.

91 PINKIE PIE
Our first stop is the castle where we've got a big razzamatazzy welcome planned for you.

92 GAMES INSPECTOR
The castle?! Are you kiddin'? Hot diggity dog!

The ponies all smile. This'll be a breeze!

93 RAINBOW DASH
(sotto to Twi)
See that? Just gotta roll with it until the Princess gets there and we'll be just fine.

INT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE SPA - SAME TIME

Rarity, SWEATING PROFUSELY, labors intently over Cadence, who still relaxes serenely (her mane unseen).

94 PRINCESS CADENCE
How's it going so far?

95 RARITY
Oh, I'm so sorry. It's just all so complicated. I can fix it.

96 PRINCESS CADENCE
(alarmed)
Fix what?

97 RARITY
(distressed)
Well, I was looking for shortcuts and thought Step 12 was optional.

Princess Cadence snaps her head up and looks in the mirror. Her mane is a CRAZY JUMBLE OF CRYSTALS AND HAIR.

98 RARITY (CONT'D)
But it's not.

Princess Cadence's eyes go wide as we...

SLAM TO BLACK.

END OF ACT I

ACT II

INT. CRYSTAL PALACE - SITTING ROOM - A LITTLE LATER

The ponies enter with the Games Inspector.

99 GAMES INSPECTOR
My golly, the Crystal Castle! Why I've seen pictures but I never expected to see it from the inside with my very own eyes!

100 FLUTTERSHY
(to Dash)
Oh my gosh, she's so nice!

101 RAINBOW DASH
(sotto)
You're letting her lull you into a false sense of confidence. Watch that. It's all part of the game.

ANGLE ON Twilight leading the Games Inspector to a sofa.

102 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Please have a seat, won't you?

103 GAMES INSPECTOR
Oh my, I'm so excited, Mind if I take a quick run outside first. It was awfully long train ride and my legs could use a stretch.

104 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Oh... well... we were just about to start -

105 GAMES INSPECTOR
(sitting)
Oh never you mind. You go on ahead. I'm listening.

ANGLE ON Dash and Fluttershy.

106 RAINBOW DASH
(sotto to Fluttershy)
She was probably testing us to see if we could remain in control of a complex situation. Looks like we passed. Bump.

She and Fluttershy fist bump.

ANGLE BACK ON Twilight as she and all the other ponies gather in formation for their presentation to the VIP.

107 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
First, on behalf of the entire Crystal Empire, we'd like to thank you for this opportunity to introduce you to this wonderful kingdom.

108 GAMES INSPECTOR
Why the pleasure is all mine.

109 APPLEJACK
Now we know folks from all over...

110 RAINBOW DASH
... be they athletes...

111 PINKIE PIE
... or regular folks...

112 FLUTTERSHY
... are likely to come visit her looking for a wonderful welcoming experience.

113 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
And since we're not even from here ourselves, who better than us to let you know just how welcoming a place this can be?

They begin a synchronized and rhythmic stomping of hooves like the simple beginning to a stepping routine, through...

114 PONIES
(chanting)
2-4-6-8 NAME A PLACE THAT'S REALLY GREAT / 1-2-3-4 AND KEEPS YOU COMING BACK FOR MORE/ 2-7-9-3 THE PLACE WE'D ALL MOST RATHER BE / 4-3-2-1 THE CRYSTAL EMPIRE, THAT'S THE ONE.

115 RAINBOW DASH
Break it down!

The stepping routine breaks into a an elaborate STOMPING INTERLUDE.

Then...

116 PONIES
C-R-Y-S-T-A-L, GIMME THAT CRYSTAL EMPIRE YELL.

117 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
SAY YO!

118 PONIES
YO!

119 APPLEJACK
SAY YO!

120 PONIES
YO!

They ramp up to the big finish...

121 PONIES (CONT'D)
W-E-L-C-O-M-E, THAT'S THE WAY WE SAY HOWDY. UNGH!

... and done!

The Games Inspector bursts into WILD EXUBERANT applause. **

122 GAMES INSPECTOR
<HEARTY CHEERING AND WHISTLING>

The winded ponies are blown away by the response.

123 GAMES INSPECTOR (CONT'D)
I tell ya, I have travelled far and wide, but I have never, ever been welcomed anyplace in the fashion that y'all have done here today.

124 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
That's fantastic. Princess Cadence would be so glad to hear that!

125 GAMES INSPECTOR
Honestly, I'm surprised she knows anything about me at all.

126 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Don't be silly! Of course she does! She's been looking forward to your visit for weeks. In fact, she's dying to see you.

127 GAMES INSPECTOR
Oh goodie! Is she here?

128 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Uhhhhh...

129 APPLEJACK
Where the heck is she anyway? Wasn't she supposed to be here by now?

130 GAMES INSPECTOR
Oh that's alright. Maybe I'll just take my little run outside now.

131 RAINBOW DASH
Or, if you like, we could give you a tour of the castle. That way you could be learning and stretching all at the same time.

132 GAMES INSPECTOR
Ooh! A tour of the Crystal Castle. I'd love that a whole heap!

Twi pulls her aside.

133 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Dash - we don't know anything about this castle. We've hardly ever even been here before.

134 RAINBOW DASH
It's just another test. We gotta roll with it, remember?

135 PINKIE PIE
(bouncing up and down)
Ooh, let me give the tour. I'll do it. Let me, let me!

136 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Fine. You all start giving her the tour and I'll go see what's keeping Cadence.

INT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE SPA - LATER

Twilight enters. Rarity ZIPS over, intercepting her.

137 RARITY
What are you doing here?

138 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
We finished the welcome committee song and just wanted to introduce Ms. Harshwinny to -

139 RARITY
No! Princess Cadence isn't ready! Something's gone horribly terribly wrong!

140 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I need to speak to the Princess.

141 RARITY
You can't. She's in the middle of a delicate conditioning rise that must go perfectly if there's to be any hope for her hair!

142 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Come on. How bad could it be?

143 RARITY
Imagine her mane turned into a porcupine.

144 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Oh.

145 RARITY
With split ends. Please, I'll bring her back from the brink of tragedy but you've got to buy me some time, there's no other way!

INT. CRYSTAL PALACE - MAIN ROTUNDA - MOMENTS LATER

Pinkie Pie's in the midst of leading the other ponies and the Game Inspector in a full-on tour of the palace. **

146 PINKIE PIE
So you see this here... this um... this is the um... big round room. It's known for it's roundness. And bigness. Did I mention that it's round?

147 GAMES INSPECTOR
I think they call it a rotunda.

148 PINKIE PIE
Psht! Whatever. Round is round, am I right?

149 APPLEJACK
(sotto)
Easy, Pinkie. Let's play this safe.
(MORE)

APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
We got her in a good mood, so let's not do anything to ruin that.

150 GAMES INSPECTOR
You know, I love this sort of architecture. I studied up on it before travelling here. I detect a neo-gothic inspiration in the design... would you say that up there is a modified flying buttress?

Pinkie goes blank.

151 PINKIE PIE
(then, thinking fast)
Hey! Look at me!
(making ridiculous faces)
Booga mooga wooga...

Applejack shakes her head in dismay.

Meanwhile, Rainbow Dash sees Twilight entering.

152 APPLEJACK
And not a moment too soon.
(approaching Twilight)
Where's Cadence? Please tell me she's right behind you.

153 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
There's a bit of a problem with her headdress. How's it going here?

ANGLE ON Pinkie still making faces with the Games Inspector watching.

154 PINKIE PIE
Boingie boingie boingie...

155 GAMES INSPECTOR
(fidgets)
I hate to be a bother, but the legs are crampin' up on me with all this standing around...

ANGLE BACK ON Twilight and the other ponies.

156 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
She's getting bored and we have to buy Rarity some more time. There's got to be a way to make this tour more interesting.
(then, an idea)
(MORE)

TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
I'll see if Shining Armor can come help.
(then)
Can't one of you other ponies take over in the meantime?

157 RAINBOW DASH
I got this.

Rainbow Dash crosses to the Games Inspector.

158 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Wanna stretch your legs, huh? Well, whatever you need, I'm sure we can provide. Let's just make our way to the castle's gymnasium. Our tour will now be headed...

Dash scans the various hallways extending from the rotunda.

159 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
... this way.
(leading them all out)
And we're walking... and we're walking...

Twilight frowns and exits as Dash turns to the task at hand.

EXT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE STADIUM - A SHORT WHILE LATER

A bunch of CRYSTAL PONIES IN MATCHING TANK TOPS AND SHORTS stand around on a TRACK AND FIELD STYLE RACE TRACK trying to stay limber and lose while waiting to begin a trial run. Meanwhile, Twilight speaks with SHINING ARMOR. **

160 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Shining Armor, you've got to help me. I left the other ponies behind giving the Games Inspector the worst castle tour ever. **

Shining Armor blows a coach's whistle and the CRYSTAL PONY RUNNERS take off running down the track in their lanes... then REVEAL that the "hurdles" they're approaching are actually fences as in an equestrian steeplechase, complete with HEDGES and little MOATS they need to clear, etc... however they continue to run the race in manner that resembles human track-and-field competitors, through... **

161 SHINING ARMOR **
(then, shouting O.S.)
Come on, gang - are we gonna gallop or are we gonna trot? Let's move!
(MORE)

SHINING ARMOR (CONT'D)
(then, to Twilight)
A castle tour, huh? I'm pretty sure **
I can give you a hoof with that-- **

He stops short as we WIDEN TO REVEAL a Crystal Pony in track uniform rearing up onto it's hind legs.

162 CRYSTAL PONY
<TERRIFIED WHINNY>

163 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Uh oh.

REVEAL Games Inspector leaping by.

164 GAMES INSPECTOR
Ah! Feels so good to stretch the old legs! Yee-hah!

The Games Inspector continues running exuberantly along the steeplechase-style racetrack at full tilt. Meanwhile, Rainbow Dash races over to join Twilight.

165 SHINING ARMOR
What the - ?

166 RAINBOW DASH
Turns out the Crystal Castle doesn't have a gymnasium. I figured it had everything.

ANGLE ON the Crystal Ponies leaping out of the way as the Games Inspector comes running by like mad, FROTHING at the mouth...

167 SHINING ARMOR
Make it stop!

168 RAINBOW DASH
Wait. That's the Games Inspector. **
You gotta give her a minute. Let her do her thing.

169 SHINING ARMOR
So running the track herself is part of her thing now?

170 RAINBOW DASH
She's probably just testing them, too. Seeing how they handle crazy situations.

171 SHINING ARMOR
Why would she do that?

Rainbow Dash considers this for a moment.

172 RAINBOW DASH
I have no idea.
(then)
But that's why she's in charge of choosing who gets the games and we're not.

CRASH! The Games Inspector WREAKS MORE HAVOC, jumping a fence and knocking it over.

173 GAMES INSPECTOR
Yee-HAH!

The Games Inspector takes a big running leap as she approaches one of the hurdles... a really really high leap.

ANGLE ON Shining Armor and Rainbow Dash CRANING to watch her ARC HIGH OVERHEAD.

ANGLE BACK ON the Games Inspector landing far off and running straight through a WOODEN STADIUM WALL - CRASH! - and, without missing a stride, keeps right on running out into the open beyond.

ANGLE BACK ON the stunned Rainbow Dash and Shining Armor.

174 RAINBOW DASH
Yeah. Okay. We need to stop her.

EXT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE - A LITTLE LATER

HIGH OVERHEAD SHOT of the Games Inspector running across the Crystal Empire LIKE A WILD MUSTANG ACROSS THE PRAIRIE.

ANGLE ON Rainbow Dash and Fluttershy FLYING HARD to keep up.

175 FLUTTERSHY
(shouting in the wind)
Where's she going in such a hurry?

176 RAINBOW DASH
(shouting in the wind)
Got no clue, but enough already.
Time to corral that pony.

Fluttershy nods and they accelerate.

They try to round her up from the right and she veers left.

They try to round her up from the left and she veers right.

It’s not working. Rainbow Dash and Fluttershy regroup in the sky.

177 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
(shouting in the wind)
This time you go left and I go right.

Rainbow Dash is gaining ground. So is Fluttershy.

178 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Closer, closer, I think we got her...

Suddenly the Games Inspector stops, on a runner’s high.

179 GAMES INSPECTOR
Hoo-wee! That felt good!

Rainbow Dash FLIES THROUGH FRAME, unable to stop.

180 RAINBOW DASH
YAAAAAAH...

181 GAMES INSPECTOR
Nothing like a great run to shake the cobwebs off these old bones.

Sound of Rainbow Dash “SLAMMING ON THE BRAKES” O.S. as the Games Inspector walks in slow circles to cool down.

Rainbow Dash and Fluttershy both return to frame.

182 GAMES INSPECTOR (CONT'D)
Hey there, Speedy. You’re almost as fast as I am.

183 RAINBOW DASH
(gasping)
Thanks.

184 GAMES INSPECTOR
These wide open spaces y’all got here remind me of home. This is great!

185 RAINBOW DASH
(still gasping)
Oh, so you’re... enjoying you’re visit... oh I’m so... glad.

Shining Armor and some of the other ponies catch up and arrive on the scene, through...

186 GAMES INSPECTOR
Oh, good golly yes. I just love to travel and see new places. Was in one spot so long I felt like seeing as much of this place as I could in as little time as possible. Such a beautiful spot you got here, too, I must say. Gorgeous gorgeous place.

The ponies FACES LIGHT UP, exchanging ENCOURAGED GLANCES.

187 SHINING ARMOR
Why... thank you so much.

Twilight finally catches up to them.

188 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
What's going on??

189 RAINBOW DASH
(smug)
From the looks of it, just locking up the games for the Crystal Empire is all. Ain't no thang.

190 SHINING ARMOR
I'm afraid we have not yet had the pleasure. I'm Shining Armor.

191 GAMES INSPECTOR
(flabbergasted)
The prince? My oh my, I never met me a prince before!

192 SHINING ARMOR
I'm surprised. I'd think in your line of work you'd meet princes all the time.

193 GAMES INSPECTOR
Hardly. Just an ordinary Wild Mustang from Mustangia here to enjoy a little va-cay. We all love to roam back there so I came here to roam a little further... never thought I'd also be meetin' royalty to boot!

A long long beat.

194 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
You <u>are</u> Ms. Harshwhinny, the Equestria Games Inspector. **
(MORE)

TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
(then)
Aren't you?

195 GAMES INSPECTOR
Inspector of what now? **

Twilight and Rainbow Dash look at one another, panicked.

196 TWILIGHT SPARKLE/RAINBOW DASH
We got the wrong pony!!!

Pinkie Pie cries to the heavens again.

197 PINKIE PIE
NOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!

They all look at her.

198 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
I mean yes! WE GOT THE WRONG PONY!

They all exchange looks of panic.

SLAM TO BLACK.

END OF ACT II

ACT III

EXT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE - MOMENTS LATER

Rainbow Dash and Fluttershy fly at top speed toward the train station.

199 RAINBOW DASH
So all this time I've been thinking we were being put through the ringer but we really just had the wrong pony?! How could this happen?!

200 FLUTTERSHY
It's okay. Sometimes ponies make mistakes.

201 RAINBOW DASH
Mistakes that could cost an entire kingdom the chance to host the biggest athletic event of a lifetime?

202 FLUTTERSHY
Well... I suppose some mistakes are bigger than others...

Dash scowls and accelerates through the kingdom. Fluttershy struggles to keep up.

INT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE TRAIN STATION - SOON AFTER

Twilight, Pinkie Pie and Applejack burst in and look around frantically.

203 APPLEJACK
Oh please still be here. Oh please please please.

204 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
There's got to be a another pony with flower print luggage around here somewhere.

Meanwhile, Dash and Fluttershy, who have already been flying around the terminal searching, ZIP back to join them.

205 RAINBOW DASH
Except that there isn't.

206 FLUTTERSHY
She must have gotten tired of waiting.

207 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Oh no, this is awful.

208 APPLEJACK
Horrendous.

209 PINKIE PIE
I know.
(then)
Ooh, look - cinnamon buns.

ANGLE ON Pinkie Pie making a purchase from a VENDOR. Meanwhile...

210 RAINBOW DASH
Okay, here's what we do: we split the empire up into five sectors.

211 FLUTTERSHY
Each of us search a sector.

212 APPLEJACK
From top to bottom.

213 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
We’ve got to find her before
Cadence finds out what a mess we’ve
made of things.

214 RAINBOW DASH
We meet back here in an hour.
(then)
You got that, Pinkie?

215 PINKIE PIE
(eating)
Sectors. Search. Hour. Top.
Bottom. Yeperdoodle.

216 RAINBOW DASH
Let’s roll.

They all ZIP out in opposite directions.

PAN UP to a WALL CLOCK. It shows an hour passing.

PAN BACK DOWN. The ponies all simultaneously reconvene, ZIPPING back into frame.

217 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Nothing.

218 FLUTTERSHY
Nada.

219 RAINBOW DASH
Zero.

220 APPLEJACK
Zilch.

ANGLE ON Pinkie Pie holding a Thesaurus.

221 PINKIE PIE
Nada.
(then)
Wait - you already said that one...

222 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Did everpony check *every part* of
their sector?

223 PONIES
<AFFIRMATIVE WALLA>

224 PINKIE PIE
Well, except for the spa.
(buying a cinnamon bun)
But what's the point of checking there? That's where Cadence is. If Ms. Harshwhinny is there, well, then game over. Right?

The ponies all look at each other, then SULK and walk off glumly to face their fate.

INT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE SPA - SOON AFTER **

CLOSE ON a PONY. As she speaks, it becomes painfully clear that she is none other than MS. HARSHWHINNY. **

225 MS. HARSHWHINNY **
I waited and waited at the train station for someone to greet me. No one came. So finally I carried my luggage, all the way here, by myself, to relax after my long long trip. **
(then) **
Every empire wants to host the Equestria Games. Everyone! And why wouldn't they? So I have to go through the big phoney baloney song and dance about how great their kingdoms are, though of course I'm never getting the real inside scoop. Do you have any idea what a drag that can be? **
And yet, even though it's a huge bore and the bane of my existence, at least they have the decency to try! **
(then) **
The Crystal Empire is one of the least hospitable places I have ever been! **
(then) **
I'd cut your visit early if I were you. **

We WIDEN TO REVEAL that Ms. Harshwinny has been complaining to none other than the Tourist our ponies mistook for her. Their matching flower luggage is between them. **

226 TOURIST **
Golly, I've been havin' a swell time since I got here. I'm actually thinkin' of extendin' my stay. **

227 MS. HARSHWHINNY **
Really? I find that very hard to **
believe. **

228 TOURIST **
I got no reason to lie to ya. **

229 MS. HARSHWHINNY **
I see. And what exactly has made **
your visit so special? **

230 TOURIST **
Gosh, where to start...? **

CUT TO: **

EXT. SPA - A MOMENT LATER **

Our Ponies arrive on the scene and peek through the window. **

INT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE SPA - A MOMENT LATER **

One one side of the room, Cadence is under a towel with **
Rarity working on her. On the other side, they see Ms. **
Harshwhinny under a towel next to some flower print luggage, **
with a different Crystal Pony working on her.

231 RAINBOW DASH
We're in luck! I don't think either
of them knows yet the other one's
here.

Twilight then notices a second set of flower print luggage. **

232 TWILIGHT SPARKLE **
Wait. Why does she have so much **
luggage-- **

ANGLE ON Rarity spotting her friends and waving them inside. **

233 RARITY
Wonderful news! Look! Princess **
Cadence, better than new!

Rarity unveils Cadence with her mane in a traditional
headdress. She looks terrific.

Meanwhile, on the opposite end of the spa...

234 MS. HARSHWHINNY
(sitting bolt upright)
Princess Cadence? Here?

235 RARITY
What a fabulous impression she'll
make on the Games Inspector. **

236 MS. HARSHWHINNY
(striding over) **
So this is where you've been. **

237 PRINCESS CADENCE
The Games Inspector. Here? **

238 PINKIE PIE
Oh goodie. Let's go, girls!

Pinkie Pie breaks into the welcome chant.

239 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
(chanting)
*2-4-6-8 NAME A PLACE THAT'S REALLY
GREAT*

None of the other ponies join in. Pinkie keeps exuberantly **
pressing on.

240 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
(chanting)
*1-2-3-4 AND KEEPS YOU COMING BACK
FOR MORE*

Pinkie is now catching on that this ain't going over so good.

241 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
(chant trailing off)
*2-7-9-3 THE PLACE WE'D ALL MOST
RATHER...*

She gives up.

ANGLE ON the furious Ms. Harshwhinny as the other ponies look
on in despair.

242 MS. HARSHWHINNY
I'll have you know this is by far
the worst welcome I've had in all
my years of visiting empires to
host the Equestria Games.

243 PRINCESS CADENCE
I can't believe it. What - what
was wrong with your welcome?

244 MS. HARSHWHINNY
There wasn't one! **

ANGLE ON the Princess.

245 PRINCESS CADENCE
What is going on??

A contrite Rainbow Dash approaches, followed by the others.

246 RAINBOW DASH
Princess, we gave our welcome to **
the wrong pony, left the right one **
waiting at the station, and
completely ruined everything.

Princess Cadence stares.

A long long uncomfortable beat, then...

247 PINKIE PIE
(offering one)
Cinnamon bun?

248 RAINBOW DASH
When I was a little filly I wanted
so badly for Ponyville to win the
Equestria Games but it didn't
happen. So I thought I could make
up for that disappointment by
helping the Crystal Empire win the
chance to host the games, but it
looks like I ruined your chances
instead.

249 TOURIST (O.S.)
Not so fast, Speedy.

They all look to see Tourist approaching with her luggage. **

250 RAINBOW DASH
You're here too. Oh great. This **
makes things even worse. **

251 MS. HARSHWHINNY
Actually quite the opposite. **

252 RAINBOW DASH
Huh?

253 MS. HARSHWHINNY
(re: Tourist)
I just finished hearing about how this pony came to visit this town with no advance warning and, not knowing a single pony here, was just treated to the warmest, funnest, most fabulous reception she ever had.

254 TOURIST
Darn tootin'.

255 MS. HARSHWHINNY
Courtesy of these fine ponies right here. Which, in my expert opinion, amounts to the first ever unvarnished, unrehearsed, and unbiased appraisal I've ever heard of a potential host empire of the Equestria Games... which can only mean one thing.

256 PINKIE PIE
NOOOOOO!

257 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Hush, Pinkie! Honestly!
(then, to Ms. Harshwhinny)
You were saying?

258 MS. HARSHWHINNY
(annoyed, clearing throat)
Yes, well, I was about to say -

CUT TO:

EXT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE - LATER

Princess Cadence stands next to Ms. Harshwhinny addressing a THRONG OF CRYSTAL PONIES from a stage.

259 PRINCESS CADENCE
Congratulations, Crystal Ponies... the next hosts of the Equestria Games!

Princess Cadence lifts Ms. Harshwhinny's hoof triumphantly in the air and the CROWD CHEERS.

ON RAINBOW DASH and the PONYVILLE PONIES looking very relieved.

Dash sees some YOUNG CRYSTAL PONIES who are excited just like Little Rainbow Dash was in the earlier flashback, holding their Crystal Empire pennants and doing excited jigs with lots of fist pumps, then...

260 YOUNG CRYSTAL PONIES
YAAAAAAAAAY!

261 RAINBOW DASH
(grinning ear to ear)
We did it. We brought the games and happiness to a kingdom that was cursed for 1000 years. Feels good, doesn't it?

262 PINKIE PIE
Yeah. Except Ponyville's still never had the games at all.

263 RAINBOW DASH
(grin frozen on face)
I'm trying not to think about that.

INT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE TRAIN STATION - LATER

A train pulls in and the ponies get ready to board.

264 RAINBOW DASH
You know it feels good to help others get something you always wanted but never had. Almost as good as getting it yourself. Almost.

265 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
We'll still be able to come back here and watch the games when they're played.

266 RAINBOW DASH
Yeah. You're right. That'll rock.

Just then, a cart piled high with luggage topples a few feet in front of them. The ponies react, then shrug off the strange occurrence as they board the train.

INT. TRAIN CAR - A FEW MINUTES LATER

The ponies board the train car.

267 RAINBOW DASH
Bummer Spike had to miss out on all this. He woulda had fun here.

268 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I'm sure he's having a great time watching the critters back at home.

269 APPLEJACK
Think he's still got a handle on things?

270 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I bet he's doing a terrific job.

The ponies are in their seats. Applejack reacts to a <GROWLING SOUND>.

271 APPLEJACK
You all hear that?

The other ponies listen for a beat. Nothing.

WIDEN TO REVEAL SPIKE, the SIDEKICKS, and the CUTIE MARK CRUSADERS hiding in various parts of the train car.

SLAM TO BLACK.

END.