

Distribution:

Production:

Sarah Wall
Meghan McCarthy
Jayson Thiessen
James Wooton
Angela Belyea

Discovery/Hasbro:

Donna Ebbs
Carin Davis
Tegan Molloy
Laurence Braun
Stephen Cramer

Hasbro Studios:

Stephen Davis
Linda Steiner
Kathy Page
Robert Fewkes
Sophia Hussain

Hasbro IP & Brand:

Mark Wiesenbahn
Matt Mattus
Valerie Jurries
Donna Tobin

Hasbro Design:

Liz Knight
Dean Carley

MY LITTLE PONY III

Episode 305

"Magic Duel"

Outline by
Mitch Larson

Outline: August 5, 2011

Notes Due: August 9, 2011

TEASER

A hooded figure races through rain-soaked cobblestone streets in an unknown pony city, finally ducking into a nondescript door with a wooden sign bearing only a question mark. Inside, a small fire illuminates a cramped curio shop jam-packed with odd trinkets. The hooded figure makes her way through the cluttered shop, searching frantically through the bizarre artifacts for something specific. "Where is it? I know it's here!" A grizzled old shopkeeper emerges from the back and asks what the strange pony seeks, but she doesn't answer, just keeps scouring the piles of stuff until she finds what she's looking for: a small, red amulet with a star in the middle. The shopkeeper offers a dire warning. "The Agimat contains a very powerful, very mysterious magic." The enigmatic figure lowers her hood to reveal... the Great and Powerful Trixie! As the glow of the crimson amulet reflects in her eyes, she breaks into peals of evil cackling. The shopkeeper, intrigued, asks what her evil intentions are. Change the tides? Eternal winter? Taking over all of Equestria? Trixie replies, "Nope, just getting some Ponyville ponies back for embarrassing me." She drops some bits in the shopkeeper's hoof, then races back out into the rain, leaving him to wonder how someone with such a fantastic evil laugh can have such a boring evil plan.

ACT I

Fluttershy can barely watch as Twilight Sparkle uses her magic to levitate dozens of animals, twirling them through the sky in a choreographed Cirque du Soleil style mid-air routine. Even though the animals are having the time of their lives, Fluttershy starts to hyperventilate. As Twilight lowers the creatures gently to the ground, Spike comments that her magic has really improved since she came to Ponyville. "I hope you're right, Spike. I'll need to be at the top of my game next week since Princess Celestia has given me such a great honor." Twilight has been asked to provide the entertainment when the Princess hosts a delegation of Arabian ponies from the far-off kingdom of Saddle Arabia. It's a big responsibility, but with the command Twilight has had over her magical skills lately, she feels pretty confident she'll do a good job. Even if Fluttershy, who has passed out, isn't so sure. Just then, Rainbow Dash zooms in, laughing hysterically. "You won't believe it, Twilight! Follow me!" She won't explain what's happening, just that she wants to be there to see Twilight's face...

Twilight and Spike follow Rainbow Dash into town, where a crowd of curious ponies has gathered. Snips and Snails dance around, saying they always knew this day would come. Finally, Twilight sees the reason for all the fuss. The Great and Powerful Trixie has returned to Ponyville! And just like last time, she's bragging and carrying on about what an extraordinary magician she is. Applejack and Rarity remind her what happened last time she came to town boasting like this, but Trixie's not hearing it. Her skills have improved so much since then, and what better way to prove it than to have a Magic Duel with Twilight! Twilight politely declines, saying she really needs to focus on her performance for the Princess, but Trixie won't take no for an answer. Trixie explains what she's been through since Twilight exposed

her as a fraud. She bounced from town to town, doing odd magic jobs to get by. She was ridiculed and ostracized, and couldn't wait for the right moment to get her revenge. That moment is now.

Twilight still doesn't want any part of the duel, but everypony else keeps egging her on. They saw how easily she was able to defeat the Ursa Minor when Trixie was powerless against it. (We see a quick flashback of this.) Spike reminds Twilight how much her magic has improved since then. She's got this Magic Duel in the bag. Despite Twilight's protestations, the other ponies start making side bets with Trixie ("If Twilight loses, you can have all the apple pie you can eat!" "I'll give you whatever weather you want on command!") Twilight reluctantly agrees to the duel. She really needs to get back to preparing for her performance for Princess Celestia and her guests and won't be able to until she's dealt with this Trixie nonsense.

Trixie conjures up an unbreakable Magic Bond (a sort of magic contract), which, once agreed upon, must be followed. Whoever loses must leave Ponyville and never return. Those stakes seem awfully high for Twilight, especially with a Magic Bond, but the rest of the townponies won't let her back out, pressuring her into signing the Magic Bond. "Don't worry, Twilight," says Spike, "you can beat that blowhard with your horn tied behind your back." He makes a good point.

The Magic Duel begins! Twilight displays some of her better tricks, and everypony is confident they've won their bets. Twilight really is good! But Trixie matches everything Twilight does, spell for spell. Then she fires off a few new spells that Twilight just can't do. Everypony's hearts sink as Trixie shows off her spectacular new magic skills. Time spells, gravity spells, you name it, Trixie can do it. Twilight is good, but she's not even close to Trixie's level.

Trixie roars with evil laughter as the townponies try to backtrack on their bets, but she simply points to the Magic Bond and laughs some more. She gleefully watches as magical forces drag Twilight to the Ponyville city limits. Try as she might to fight it, an invisible magic barrier keeps her out. Trixie gleefully exults in her revenge, ignoring the others' pleas to let Twilight back in. The Great and Powerful Trixie has just proven she's the greatest and most powerful magician in all of Equestria, and there's no way she's letting Twilight back from exile! Twilight, stunned by this turn of events, has no choice but to turn and walk away from her home and friends...

ACT II

Twilight's head is spinning. How could Trixie have possibly gained that much power? Nobody studies magic harder than Twilight, but somehow Trixie surpassed her by a mile. It just doesn't make sense. Ordinarily, she'd get together with her friends to figure out how to handle the problem. But now she's been exiled from Ponyville, too! Should she go to Canterlot and ask the Princess for help? But she's so busy preparing for her important guests, Twilight couldn't possibly bother her. Then she remembers another friend who lives outside Ponyville. Someone who just might be able to help...

Meanwhile, the Great and Powerful Trixie has made herself right at home. Backed by the power of the Magic Bond, she turns Ponyville into her own personal fiefdom. She demands applesauce facials from Applejack. She forces Fluttershy's animals to build statues of her. She bullies Pinkie Pie to perform as a sort of court jester. All of Ponyville is under her thumb, intimidated into servitude by her powerful magic spells. Even Snips and Snails wish Twilight was back in town...

Twilight explains what has happened to Zecora, who agrees to help. She will teach Twilight new kinds of magic, giving her the skills she needs to defeat Trixie. She simply needs to follow the training regimen and listen to Zecora, no matter how strange it may seem. Like Luke and Yoda on Dagobah, Zecora takes Twilight into the Ever-Free Forest and starts to train her in magic she has never seen before. Zecora speaks in riddles, which frustrates Twilight, who just wants to get back to Ponyville. Still, she starts to accept Zecora's wisdom, and sure enough, her magic gets even better. But there is one particular lesson Twilight just doesn't understand. Zecora repeatedly tells her, "If Trixie's tricks have you in a fix, just nix your magic and use the six." She becomes frustrated when she can't figure out the riddle, but Zecora refuses to explain.

Back in Ponyville, Trixie has become drunk with power. She locks down the town with a magic force field, isolating it from the rest of Equestria... nopony in or out. When Spike tries to get a message out, she casts a spell that automatically douses him with a bucket of water. As Trixie delights in toying with the Ponyvillians who once laughed at her, Spike, Applejack, Rainbow Dash, Pinkie Pie, Fluttershy, and Rarity organize a secret resistance, putting their hooves together to develop a plan. Nopony has more knowledge of magic than Twilight, and where does she get her knowledge? The Library! Maybe the secret to Trixie's power is hidden in one of Twilight's books! They scour her shelves for answers, despite Pinkie Pie getting distracted by all the yummy pancake spells ("Pinkie, that's not a magic book, it's a cookbook!").

Twilight's training, meanwhile, is progressing well. She has integrated some of Zecora's exotic magic techniques, and her skills have really improved. But as good as she's getting, she's still not sure she'll be able to take on Trixie. What will the Princess think when she brings the Saddle Arabian delegation to Ponyville for a magic show and finds the corrupted Trixie instead? Will she assume Twilight abandoned her friends? Twilight fears she'll never be able to show her face in Equestria again. Zecora, meanwhile, keeps repeating the same riddle, the one that Twilight just can't seem to get: "If Trixie's tricks have you in a fix, just nix your magic and use the six."

Exhausted, the ponies make their way through the last of Twilight's books with nothing to show for it. As they start to contemplate leaving Ponyville to become traveling carnival workers, Fluttershy shouts out that she's found something. She shows them a picture of the amulet around Trixie's neck. That's it! The amulet is called the Agimat, and whoever uses it is blessed with untold magical powers.

Unfortunately, the user becomes more and more corrupted with each use. The more Trixie uses the Agimat, the more thirsty for power she will become. So all they have to do is get the amulet off Trixie's neck, and her power will be gone!

The ponies try to get close enough to Trixie to grab the amulet, but each attempt ends in failure. To make matters worse, now she knows what they're up to, and casts a spell on herself so that only her own hooves can undo the clasp. Now they'll never get it off! If only Twilight was still there, she might have some answers. Rainbow Dash suggests they try to get out of Ponyville to talk to Twilight. But how? She's exiled outside Ponyville's borders, and nopony can leave without Trixie immediately knowing. Applejack has an idea. And it's going to be up to Fluttershy to accomplish the dangerous mission...

ACT III

Trixie is in full control of Ponyville. Everypony has to do exactly what she wants, or suffer some sort of magical spell. Snips and Snails burst into the Sweet Shoppe, which Trixie has turned into her own private throne room, to tell her somepony has tried to breach the magic barrier surrounding Ponyville. She goes to investigate, but finds only a team of beavers hauling logs. She casts a spell on Snips and Snails for disturbing her, then goes back to the Sweet Shoppe. Once outside the city limits, Fluttershy emerges from one of the hollow logs and thanks her beaver friends for helping her sneak out. She uses information from her network of animals to learn that Twilight has been spotted deep in the Ever-Free Forest. Fighting back her own fears, Fluttershy heads into the forest and discovers Twilight and Zecora practicing magic. She explains what she found in Twilight's book, and that Trixie has been using the Agimat to generate all her magical powers. Of course! Twilight should have guessed from the start that Trixie was using some kind of trickery to appear better than she really is. Twilight's wheels start to spin and finally sees the wisdom in Zecora's strange riddle. "If Trixie's tricks have you in a fix, just nix your magic and use the six." Twilight, armed with the knowledge of the amulet and the lessons she has learned from Zecora, knows what she must do...

Meanwhile, back in town, Rainbow Dash is exhausted from constantly rearranging the sky according to Trixie's every whim. Pinkie Pie can't dance a single step more, and Rarity's hooves are sore and throbbing from all the royal gowns she's been forced to create. All of Ponyville is miserable. Even Trixie, who now pretty much has everything she's ever wanted, is unhappy because she only wants more. Just then, she's alerted that somepony is trying to breach her magic barrier around Ponyville. She's about to chastise Snips and Snails for bothering her again, when they tell her that this time somepony's trying to get *in* to the town. It's Twilight Sparkle!

Trixie says she thought she was finished with Twilight, but Twilight replies that Trixie cheated. She used the magic amulet of Agimat to win the duel. Well, now Twilight has her own amulet. And it's waaaaay more powerful than Trixie's. Hamming it up, she starts to boast and brag about how great of a magician she is,

mirroring Trixie in Act I. Trixie laughs maniacally. There isn't a more powerful amulet than the Agimat! "Oh no?" says Twilight. "Then you won't mind a new bet." Trixie happily agrees, relishing the opportunity to defeat Twilight once again. A new Magic Bond is drawn up and the two square off in another magic duel. As Twilight gets started, Trixie can't quite believe what she's seeing. Twilight's magical skills have increased dramatically since the last duel. They've increased so much that Trixie's amulet can't even compete!

Just as Twilight begins to claim victory, and to tell the Ponyvillians that they are free, Trixie uses her magic to snatch the amulet right off Twilight's neck! She unclasps the Agimat, which is useless next to this new amulet. She erupts into evil laughter. With her new power, she'll be able to take over all of Equestria! Mwa-ha-ha-ha-ha-ha!!

Twilight fires up her horn and literally pulls the rug out from under Trixie, who collapses in a heap. "You dare to take on the awesome power of the Great and Powerful Trixie?!" She tries to unleash her formidable magic on Twilight... but nothing happens. Trixie realizes she's been duped and lunges for the Agimat, but Rainbow Dash swoops in and grabs it first, tossing it to Zecora, who races into the Ever-Free Forest to hide it once again.

Twilight explains that this is what Zecora's riddle meant. She couldn't possibly take Trixie on in a head-to-head magic duel, not with the Agimat there. So she was going to have to use a different power. Brain power! Twilight had to get Trixie to remove the Agimat herself, but in order to pull that off, she needed to "use the six". In a series of quick flashbacks, we see that Twilight's impressive magic was actually her friends doing things behind the scenes to make it look like big-time magic.

Trixie is devastated. All of her powers are gone, and so is her magic amulet. The citizens of Ponyville cheer and mob Twilight, thanking her for saving them. Trixie, meanwhile, slips right back into her old boasting mode, going on about how awesome she was as an evil pony and that her wicked spells were pretty darn impressive. Everypony turns on her with an evil eye and she immediately shuts up.

Later, as Princess Celestia and the Saddle Arabians watch, Twilight performs her magic demonstration, levitating Fluttershy's animals through the beautifully choreographed routine. With intense focus, she whirls the floating animals into the big climax... and colored lights explode in the background! Standing next to Twilight is Trixie, and she's helping with the show! As everypony gives them a raucous standing ovation, Trixie apologizes to Twilight for all the trouble she's caused and tells her how much she appreciates the opportunity to display the magic skills she really does possess. Even in the face of massive amounts of applause, Trixie displays her newfound humility.