

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 307

"Spike at Your Service"

Outline by

Dave Polsky

Outline: August 26, 2011

Notes Due: August 29, 2011

TEASER

RARITY is in her shop checking herself in the mirror, trying out different looks, one after another, not quite satisfied with any of them. She calls out, "Ribbon." WIDEN to reveal SPIKE in the room with her, snapping into action to search for a ribbon. Rarity does her best to remain patient while he rummages. Finally Rarity can stand it no more... what on earth could be taking so long to find a simple ribbon? But then we see that Spike hasn't just found one ribbon, but half-a-dozen ribbons all of different colors, and he's absolutely torn as to which one could possibly be best. To Rarity it's obvious: she has on a turquoise hat, maroon pantaloons, and an aqua sash... of course a cobalt ribbon would be best! But Spike protests that she would look amazing no matter what ribbon she wore, if she wore a red ribbon, her eyes would still sparkle like cream soda. If she wore an orange ribbon, her mane would still have the silky gloss of fancy pajamas. Rarity rolls her eyes... she'll just get the cobalt ribbon himself. Spike: "No, no, no! Let me, let me!" Spike blocks her path and runs to the box of bluish ribbons, pulling one out. Rarity: "No, that's azure." Spike offers another one: "Nope. That's indigo. Here's let me get it." Spike: "I got it, I got it!" He keeps trying... "Nope, cerulean. Nope, cornflower. Nope, beryl." You can practically hear Rarity grinding her teeth.

ACT I

APPLEJACK is in Rarity's shop trying on a new pair of rubber boots Rarity made. As Applejack stomps around in them to test them out, she speaks enthusiastically about how she can't wait to get back to working the land with these babies on. Applejack then throws some mud on the new boots, to Rarity's horror - they're brand new! - but Applejack protests -- what good's a pair of workboots if they aren't a total mess, regardless of how new they are. Rarity nods mutely in an effort to convey agreement, though she's clearly dying inside.

Spike returns to the shop, upbeat as ever, announcing he hasn't found them yet, but no need for Rarity to worry, he'll keep looking till he finds them. Rarity responds that that's wonderful... now run along and keep trying. When Applejack asks what Spike's looking for, Spike responds: "Crinkleberries." He explains that Rarity uses them to dye her fabrics and needs some right away, but not to worry, Spike's on the job... and at that, he darts away. Applejack admits to Rarity that she's never heard of crinkleberries before, to which Rarity responds that that's hardly surprising, since she just made them up. She explains that she would never have finished Applejack's boots in time with Spike lurking around... so she sent Spike on a little errand, that's all. Applejack (accusingly): "For something that doesn't exist." Rarity wonders where's the harm... this way Spike's happy searching, Rarity's happy working, and she can rest assured that the break will last a good long time. Applejack insists that it ain't right to trick a body like that. But Rarity says it also gave her time to work on her new look... didn't Applejack notice? Applejack examines Rarity but can't see anything different. Rarity tells her to keep looking, it's kind of obvious. Applejack looks again... still nothing. Stung, Rarity says her eyelashes are a full quarter-inch longer... honestly, how could Applejack miss that?

Applejack, noting that Rarity's changing the subject, presses her point about Spike. Rarity sighs, and promises to tell Spike the truth about the crinkleberries the next time she sees him.

Spike is all over Ponyville, searching high and low for crinkleberries. He sees FLUTTERSHY seated in a meadow and asks her to stand so he can look under where she was sitting... for crinkleberries. He sees TWILIGHT and takes the book she's holding, giving it a good shake, to see if anything berry-like falls out from between the pages. He asks RAINBOW DASH if, when flying around the clouds, she ever sees anything resembling a berry. Spike gets lots of strange looks, but – since he never mentions it's crinkleberries he's looking for – none of them suspect that he's on a fools errand.

Meanwhile, Rarity's out for a walk with PINKIE PIE and trying to be subtle about getting Pinkie to mention if she notices anything different about her. Rarity keeps fishing, to no avail, until Pinkie Pie has to go. Just then, Spike ZOOMS over to give Rarity a full update on the crinkleberry search... but then stops short: "Your eyelashes, they're like about quarter-inch longer, aren't they?" Rarity pretends she forgot all about them, but clearly is relieved somebody finally noticed. Rarity then takes a deep breath and begins to tell Spike about the crinkleberry ruse, but Spike interrupts... mentioning some other tiny thing about Rarity that's different... then another.... then another... until Rarity is so frustrated with all the interruptions that she gives up on calling off the ruse and sends Spike off to continue questing for crinkleberries.

Spike's ongoing search for the elusive crinkleberry has now brought him to Sweet Apple Acres, where Applejack is happy-as-can-be scooping cider muck from the bottom of a cider barrel. Applejack quickly discerns that Spike's still looking for crinkleberries, and, dismayed, asks if Rarity hasn't told him the truth about crinkleberries yet. Spike: "Of course she has. They're used for dying wool, sometimes calico, and – " Applejack stops him right there, and breaks the news to him – there's no such thing as a crinkleberry... but any notion Applejack may have about this being the noble thing to do is quickly dispelled by Spike's reaction. Spike's completely crushed – why would Rarity make something up like that? He takes so much pride in being dutiful... could Rarity actually be capable of something like this? He feels like such a fool!

Spike's so heartbroken that Applejack quickly backpedals... what she *meant* was that they're so hard to find it's almost like they don't exist. Thinking fast, Applejack mentions a place in the Everfree Forest where she thinks she may have seen one once. Immediately, Spike is off like a shot.

Applejack tries to get back to work and put the matter out of her mind, but her conscience eats at her – she should've told Spike the truth, no matter how hard to swallow. Applejack then hurries off to find Spike, and when she finds him – right where she said to look – she discovers he's about to be attacked by a GIANT BEAR!

ACT II

Applejack, bravely jumping into harm's way, rescues Spike from the rampaging bear. In the aftermath, Spike is grateful. Really grateful. Really really grateful. But Applejack dismisses it. After all, it was the least she could do after sending Spike here for nothing..."Er, well, not *nothing*... but... well, maybe crinkleberries aren't quite in season just yet..." Applejack then hurries off to get back to her work on the farm.

Back at the farm, Applejack is in the zone, happier than a pig in mud (literally... there's a pig in the mud right next to her who doesn't look nearly as happy as Applejack.) She then hops out to get to work pressing apple cider – one of her favorite chores. She's eager to start – but then Spike races past her and starts doing it first. There's only one lever on the apple press, so two ponies can't do it at the same time. Applejack tells Spike it's okay for him to step out of the way and let her take over. But Spike won't hear of it. Applejack did something amazing: she saved Spike's life. This is the least Spike can do! As a matter of fact, it's his duty. Applejack shrugs, thanks Spike, and moves along... after all, there's plenty more on the farm that still needs tending to.

But when Applejack turns her attention to the next chore – clearing out wormy rotten apples – Spike zips ahead of her to do that chore for her as well. Applejack insists that she's really fine doing this herself, but Spike won't hear of it. Though reluctant to "go there", Applejack wonders aloud if maybe possibly Rarity still needs help with that crinkleberry thing, but Spike says he's done with that. He's happy to help Rarity when he can, but repaying Applejack now is far more important... after all, Spike owes Applejack his life!

Applejack struggles to reason with Spike, mentioning that she really likes doing these chores herself, but Spike says he's not falling for that one. No one could possibly enjoy these incredibly disgusting chores, oblivious to the fact that he's just sorely missed the very same chores that Applejack genuinely loves. Nope, Spike concludes, there's no way Applejack can convince Spike that she'd really and truly rather do these chores herself. Applejack now sees that if she's to have any hope of getting her chores back at all, she'll have to try a different approach.

Applejack sneaks off to roll hay. But Spike somehow tracks her down and starts rolling the hay for her. Applejack then, incognito, brings a shovel to work on the compost heap but, after a brief struggle, Spike manages to wrest the implement away from Applejack and, urging her to relax and enjoy herself, he takes over doing the job himself.

Applejack's efforts now get more elaborate. In a series of deceptive moves worthy of Oceans 11, Applejack arrives to start mashing apples into applesauce, but Spike is already there doing the job! Applejack is baffled: how could Spike have possibly known to be here? Spike mentions that it's his duty to anticipate. Applejack begins to develop a twitch... she's starting to lose it. How much longer will this go on?

Spike says that since Applejack saved his life it seems only right that it should go on for at least the rest of Spike's life. If not longer. Applejack has reached the end of her rope – she's going to lose her mind if she doesn't somehow get rid of Spike.

Meanwhile, Pinkie Pie bounds along happily through Ponyville. Seeing Rarity sitting around glumly, Pinkie cheerfully asks Rarity how she's doing, to which she responds: "Terrible." Pinkie asks what's wrong, to which Rarity responds with a question of her own: "Doesn't anybody notice anything different about me?" Pinkie: "I do... your eyelashes." Rarity: "No! That's not different! They've been this way for days now, so that's not new, and I told you about them already so it doesn't even count!" Rarity presses her again... notice anything different? Pinkie hems, haws, hems, hems some more, haws... till Rarity can't take it anymore: "My mane! It's parted on the other side! Two days! Two days I've had it like this and not a word from anyone!" Pinkie: "Ooh, I notice something new... you're having a hissy fit. That's kind of new." Rarity: "Go away!" Pinkie bounds off... lalalalala. CUT TO:

Applejack in peril, pleading for help: "Someone... save my life... someone please... Spike? You there? Can you come save me please?" Applejack is hanging off a cliff. Spike, at the top of the cliff, walks over casually... he knows this is probably some stunt Applejack's pulling to get him to "save" Applejack so the debt is repaid, which is awfully nice of Applejack, but getting Spike off the hook simply won't be that easy. He's determined to honestly pay the debt he owes Applejack and to not look for an easy way out. Spike walks off... and we reveal that the "cliff" Applejack was hanging from is actually a very short cliff, and she was standing on a couple of boxes anyway. Frustrated, Applejack realizes she's going to need to see someone with a little more expertise in dealing with Spike.

Applejack shows up at Rarity's door, saying she needs Rarity's help.

ACT III

Applejack tells Rarity her tale of woe, and how she needs help getting Spike to think he saved Applejack so his debt is repaid and Applejack can get back to living her life in peace. Rarity, realizing that she does miss Spike's lavish attention after all, cops to the fact that she wants to make this happen now almost as bad as Applejack does.

Rarity hatches a plan that involves getting Applejack as close to actual peril as possible. Rarity says she will also "just happen" to be there to help make sure that Spike jumps into action to save Applejack as quickly as possible and boom - their plan will be complete. Sounds good to Applejack... but Rarity says there's one more piece of the puzzle: Applejack, to help sell it, needs to be a convincing "damsel in distress." Rarity, seeing how lousy Applejack is at this, begins giving her lessons... clearly there's lots of work to be done here!

Later, Rarity is in the Everfree Forest, near the same place where Applejack originally rescued Spike. She's prepping two ponies – Rainbow Dash and Fluttershy – to be the front and back halves of a bear costume she made. The plan is for

Applejack to pretend she has her foot stuck, and for the two ponies to come out in the (fairly convincing) bear costume like they're about to attack Applejack. Rarity will then make sure that Spike jumps in to "save" Applejack in time. Applejack arrives with her workboots on, meaning Spike can't be too far behind. Rarity hustles the bear-costume ponies off to hide.

Sure enough, Spike arrives, wondering what kind of chore Applejack has in mind out here... getting leaves for the compost pile, maybe? Spike's happy to see Rarity, mentioning that this might be a good spot for crinkleberries, but Rarity might have to look for them herself, because Spike's kind of busy devoting the rest of his life to Applejack right now. Suddenly, Applejack is "stuck" and asking Spike to come free her, in case the bear comes back: "Correct me if I'm wrong, but isn't this where the bear almost got you, Spike? Spike?" Spike's still not falling for it, and as long as Applejack's up for playing games instead of getting actual work done, Spike will just hang back and flirt with Rarity. Rarity subtly cues Rainbow Dash and Fluttershy, and the "bear" starts closing in on Applejack... but, despite Rarity urging Spike to intervene and "save" Applejack, Spike's still not buying it.

That's when the REAL bear appears on the scene. Rainbow Dash and Fluttershy yell "Run!" and everyone starts to flee... but Applejack is really stuck! And the bear is coming! But, now that it's obvious the first "bear" was fake, Spike's supposed to believe the second "bear" is real? Puh-lease! Rarity, however, seeing that the danger is indeed real, waits as long as she can ... but then, finally, has to jump in and save Applejack herself. The plan is ruined.

Rarity is dejected. She had hoped Spike would hang around more again like he used to, but he's probably going to be mostly with Applejack from now on. Spike tries his best to console her, but his duty is his duty. That's when Applejack comes up with a plan of her own... since Rarity saved Applejack and Applejack saved Spike, maybe they can do sort of a "trade" and have Spike devote himself to Rarity instead. It takes a little convincing, but Spike accepts the deal. It's a win-win-win.

Applejack writes Princess Celestia about how sometimes friends feel indebted to one another, but all they ever really owe each other is their friendship. Meanwhile, Spike returns to unintentionally pestering Rarity, who is no longer taking it for granted.

END.