

Distribution:

Production:

Devon Cody
Meghan McCarthy
Jayson Thiessen
Ashley Irving-Scott

The HUB:

Donna Ebbs
Carin Davis
Tegan Molloy
Laurence Braun
Patrick Callan

Hasbro Studios:

Stephen Davis
Michael Vogel
Brian Lenard
Kathy Page
Robert Fewkes
Sophia Hussain

Hasbro Brand:

Mark Wiesenbahn
Matt Mattus
Valerie Jurries
Donna Tobin

MY LITTLE PONY IV
"Twilight Time"
Episode 415
Written by: Dave Polsky

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MLP 415 – TWILIGHT TIME
Outline by Dave Polsky

TEASER**INT. TWILIGHT'S LIBRARY – DAY**

SWEETIE BELLE concentrates deeply, about to attempt a magic trick with TWILIGHT offering encouragement and the other Cutie Mark Crusaders – APPLEBLOOM and SCOOTALOO – looking on. But then, when she attempts the trick it goes completely haywire. Sweetie Belle exclaims in frustration that she should just give up as there's clearly no hope of a cutie mark for her in this. Twilight laughs this off. You don't just get good at things that you know will get you a cutie mark. Didn't Sweetie Belle say she'd like to learn magic? Twilight declares that reason enough to keep at it and get better little by little, whether it leads to a cutie mark or not. With Sweetie Belle now feeling better, Twilight turns her attention to Scootaloo, who has the pieces of a unicycle dissembled on the floor. She's an aspiring "gearhead" but now that she's taken the unicycle apart, she can't for the life of her figure out how to put it back together. Twilight smiles, referring Scootaloo to the many books on her shelves, assuring her the assembly instructions are available if she'll just apply the research techniques Twilight's been teaching her. Scootaloo grumbles, but begins her research nonetheless. Meanwhile Applebloom is learning to mix potions, though the resulting explosion indicates she doesn't quite have the hang of it yet. Dismayed, she wonders if there's maybe a potion for getting good at making potions. Twilight encourages her to keep at it – adding that you never know where things might lead. Scootaloo: "Like the hospital." Scootaloo chuckles, but then, noticing the withering looks she now gets from Twilight, Sweetie Belle, and Applebloom, suddenly gets very very very interested in her research.

ACT ONE**EXT. SCHOOL PLAYGROUND – NEXT DAY**

The CMCs look on as DIAMOND TIARA and SILVER SPOON do a bunch of stunts for their classmates and get plenty of attention. Well, they don't really do the stunts themselves – their hired help performs the stunts on their behalf - but Diamond Tiara and Silver Spoon still manage somehow to get all the credit and praise. The CMCs think that's not especially fair, especially since they themselves are working so hard to get good at things. Sweetie Belle then gets the idea that if maybe they can each get really good at the thing they're working on with Twilight, then even if it doesn't lead to them getting their Cutie Marks, it could lead to similar adulation. We then see them each in turn indulge in a FANTASY POP of being a master magician, potion maker and gearhead – respectively – and basking in the admiration of a crowd. They all look forward to the day when they all develop enough ability to earn this sort of recognition from their peers.

Just then, Diamond Tiara and Silver Spoon happen by. Diamond Tiara asks Sweetie Belle if her sister Rarity will be taking her to Manehattan because if so maybe she can meet up with them while they hang out with a bunch of famous celebrities there. Sweetie Belle, taken aback by the unexpectedly kind gesture, admits that actually Rarity hasn't offered to take Sweetie Belle on a trip to Manehattan anytime soon. Diamond Tiara: "Yeah, we figured." Silver Spoon: "Psych." They bump hooves. Sweetie Belle stews: "Oh yeah, well I don't have to go all the way to Manehattan to hang out with the famous and super-cool. Me and my friends hang out with Princess Twilight all the time." DT & SS are floored: "Did you say you know Princess Twilight? For real? In person?" The CMCs explain they see her once a week for Twilight Time where she helps them explore their talents. DT & SS, now beside themselves with excitement, beg the CMCs to let them come along next time so they too can meet the Princess. Sweetie Belle and Scootaloo don't see why not. Applebloom pulls them aside.

The CMCs have a mini-private-conference. Applebloom isn't so sure she wants to open up their private time with Twilight to others, especially since she's still not so good at mixing potions and is

afraid of others seeing her struggle. But Sweetie Belle is excited at this terrific opportunity to gain the upper hoof on the most popular ponies in their class. Scootaloo isn't sure which is the best way to go, but then proposes that letting these two ponies come with them just this once shouldn't cause any harm, especially if they are there to learn something, too. After all, wouldn't Twilight be glad to have the opportunity to help even more ponies than just the CMCs, and wouldn't DT & SS benefit from being able to do actual stunts of their very own? Applebloom reluctantly allows herself to be persuaded, so the threesome returns to DT & SS to say they can come along next time.

INT. TWILIGHT'S LIBRARY – LATER

The CMCs arrive for their next session with Twilight with DT & SS in tow. DT & SS try to play it cool at first but are soon completely star-struck in the presence of the princess. Twilight graciously welcomes the new additions, though truth-be-told she would have preferred to know in advance that there would be two more guests today. She quickly puts this behind her, however, as she turns to the pleasurable task of helping the CMCs excel at their respective interests. Hoping to include DT & SS in the proceedings, Twilight becomes inquisitive about the visitor's interests, but the only thing they seem interested in is Princess Twilight. DT & SS behave like superfans in overdrive - asking questions, begging for autographs, etc. – completely disrupting the intended purpose of this time the CMCs and Twilight spend together. Eventually, Twilight sees no other option but to cut the visit short. As the CMCs and their guests exit, Twilight tells the CMCs she looks forward to next time, but perhaps from now on they should just keep these visits to themselves. The CMCs agree.

EXT. PONYVILLE/SCHOOL – NEXT MORNING

The CMCs walk together to school. They all feel badly about their mistake and resolve to keep stuff like that from happening again. They turn the corner to arrive at school where they're suddenly greeted by a clamoring throng of fellow students. It seems DT & SS have told everyone who would listen about their visit with the Princess. Now every pony at school eagerly wants a turn to meet Princess Twilight, too. Uh-oh.

ACT TWO

EXT. SCHOOL – CONTINUOUS

The ponies gathered around all clamor for their own chance to join in on Twilight Time. The stressed CMCs realize they can't invite ALL these ponies into Twilight Time! It would be the same mistake they made before all over again, only many times worse! They huddle for a mini-conference, but get interrupted by their many admiring peers who yearn to be the CMCs new best friends. Some even angle to become CMCs themselves! (Despite the fact that they actually have Cutie Marks.) The CMCs admittedly all enjoy this elevated status, but how are they going to handle it without upsetting Twilight? Sweetie Belle, getting an idea, assures her fellow CMCs she's got it all figured out.

Sweetie Belle addresses the crowd: she'll look into getting them in for some Twilight Time, but in the meantime, how would they like a tip on where they can spot Princess Twilight hanging out? The crowd eats this up – would they ever! Sweetie Belle tells them where to be – the Sweet Shoppe - and when. As excitement shoots through the crowd, Sweetie Belle turns to wink at her friends. Applebloom and Scootaloo react: but that's the same time as their next Twilight Time session! Twilight won't be at the Sweet Shoppe... she'll be back at the library with the CMCs! Sweetie Belle assures them there's nothing to worry about if, when the time comes, they simply follow her lead...

EXT. / INT. TWILIGHT'S LIBRARY – DAY

Twilight greets the CMCs as they arrive for their regularly scheduled Twilight time. Before they begin, however, Sweetie Belle mentions they're kind of hungry and proposes as a change of pace that they maybe make a quick stop at the Sweet Shoppe together first (while the nervous Applebloom and Scootaloo try to act natural). Twilight agrees it might be nice to mix things up a bit, plus a little something sweet with her sweet little friends sounds like fun. The CMCs all smile.

INT. / EXT. SWEET SHOPPE – A LITTLE LATER

As they order their sweets, Twilight says she's glad they did this; she's really enjoying her time out and about with the CMCs. The CMCs are enjoying it too, but for a somewhat different reason. Somehow unnoticed by Twilight, a HUGE CROWD of the CMC's classmates have gathered outside the Sweet Shoppe window – as planned - to gawk at Princess Twilight with her CMC friends. CUT TO outside the Sweet Shoppe, where the gawkers jockey for better window-viewing position while arguing over which of them know the CMCs better. CUT BACK INSIDE as the CMCs do their darndest to keep Twilight from turning around. All the while, the CMC's attempt to strike poses and sometimes wave for all the pictures being taken without arousing Twilight's suspicion of what's really going on. Finally, Twilight does turn around and sees the crowd. She wonders what could be going on out there. The CMCs claim to have no idea, but start sweating bullets when Twilight finishes her food to go out and see.

Outside the Shoppe, Twilight exits and gets mobbed by autograph-hungry little fans. She obliges by signing and honoring requests, but then – just as she's finishing – one of the fans says all this time they had no idea the Sweet Shoppe was her regular hang out. As she wanders off, Twilight remarks that it isn't really. She only came because her friends the CMCs wanted to. Just like that, the CMC's stock suddenly goes through the roof.

INT. SCHOOL – VARIOUS

A MONTAGE: the CMCs savor the perks and advantages of being the undisputed Big Ponies on Campus. Everywhere they go, ponies fawn over them and offer to do them favors, and the CMCs lap it up. Who knows? Maybe they'll get their CMs for being friends with a Princess? As great as this is, Applebloom reminds the others that all of these distractions have caused them to fall behind on practicing their skills. The CMCs have to be clever about eluding their fans to sneak off to find some practice time.

Once the CMCs escape, DT & SS assure their fellow groupies that all these favors are sure to make the CMCs feel sufficiently indebted to them that they'll invite them all to join them on their next Twilight Time session for sure.

EXT. PONYVILLE – VARIOUS

As the CMCs try to sneak in some practice time in an “undisclosed location” they get found and disrupted. All three agree that despite the hassle their newfound quasi-celebrity is pretty awesome. Applebloom, however, frets that maybe accepting all the gifts and favors maybe isn't such a good idea. Sweetie Belle, however, wonders where's the harm in letting ponies do nice things for them if they want. If their classmates really want to be best friends with the CMCs, who are they to say that they aren't entitled to give it their very best shot? Right?

The school-wide adulation of the CMCs grows more and more over the top (autographs, ribbon-cutting ceremonies, etc.). Again they sneak off to practice, but Applebloom notes that it's just about time for them to meet with Twilight again. They're all stunned how quickly this crept up on them – these last few days have been such a whirlwind! They admit the amount of practice they got in is approximately zilcho, but hopefully Twilight won't mind too much. As they head outside toward Twilight's place, they discover...

... the entire class waiting there for them. DT & SS, already aware of their usual time to meet Twilight, announce they're all ready to come and share in the magic! The CMCs phumper: but, but, but, they never said they could come to Twilight Time. DT & SS counter: "But why did you think we were doing you all those favors?" Another CMC mini-conference: what are they to do? Twilight asked that they not bring anyone else to Twilight Time. They certainly can't drop in unexpectedly with the whole class! Sweetie Belle, as usual, assures her fellow-CMCs she knows just how to handle this... and then shouts: "Run!!" And they do. Like the wind.

ACT THREE

EXT. PONYVILLE – VARIOUS

The CMCs know an elaborate shortcut to Twilight's place, and they run it in a panic as fast as they possibly can, fretting all the while how horrible it would be if they ended up disappointing Twilight. That would be the worst. They have to get there first to explain!

EXT. TWILIGHT'S LIBRARY – MOMENTS LATER

The CMCs arrive, relieved and out of breath, only to find that the entire crowd of their tenacious classmates has arrived just ahead of them. Twilight comes to the door to greet them. The CMCs frantically try to come up with an apology for bringing guests unannounced – again – to their time together, but Twilight just waves this off. She assures them that she only suggested that they keep Twilight Time exclusive to the CMCs purely for the CMC's own benefit... so the time might be better used for them to learn quickly. But if they wish to include their classmates, that's certainly fine with her. At that, she promptly invites everyone inside.

INT. TWILIGHT'S LIBRARY – MOMENTS LATER

Spike does his best to accommodate the unexpected and enormous crowd as Twilight attempts to help the ponies all learn as much as possible with the time they have. The classmates all go along with this... and it appears, to the CMCs great relief, that everything's going to be just fine. Then one of the smallest, most adorable of the classmates asks Twilight if she can be a Cutie Mark Crusader herself someday. Twilight informs the little classmate that she doesn't think that's possible since she already has a Cutie Mark. The filly is devastated. Twilight asks why she's so disappointed to which the little classmate responds: "Because if I was a CMC, I could collect favors from all my other classmates and become a big star all because everyone knows I get to hang with you."

Dead silence as the CMCs freeze in their tracks. Twilight confronts them, wondering if that's what's been going on this whole time; that they've been using their time together purely as a way to gain status. The CMCs assure her that's not it at all! Twilight then asks them to show her how their practice has been coming – surely if they've been taking this seriously they'd be good at their new skills by now. It dawns on the CMCs that they have arrived completely unprepared: no potions, no magic paraphernalia, no unicycle parts. So this is what they call "taking things seriously?" Twilight scowls, whispering discreetly that she's unable to believe how far she's gone above-and-beyond on behalf of the CMCs only to discover they've been essentially using her all this time as a way to impress their friends! Her look says it all, and the mortified CMCs realize they were right: disappointing Twilight is the worst.

INT. TWILIGHT'S LIBRARY – LATER

Twilight speaks with Spike as he cleans up in the party's aftermath. Spike expresses surprise that Twilight didn't just end her special time with them on the spot when she found out what the CMCs had been up to. Twilight sighs, she didn't want to embarrass them in front of all their friends. Spike asks if Twilight Time will continue, and she says she's still figuring that out. At that

moment, they hear a piece of paper being anonymously slid under the front door. Picking it up, they see that it's announcing a special performance where the CMCs will publicly display their talents for the first time. Twilight, heartened, sees that perhaps the CMCs have been working to learn their new skills after all, and makes plans to attend the performance.

EXT. STAGE – NEXT DAY

The CMCs are all ready to put on a big show. Their classmates have shown in force, but only because they've been assured that Twilight will also be in attendance. Sure enough, Twilight shows and the CMCs must calm the excited hubbub to start their show. First Applebloom offers a potion, which somehow fails atrociously. Then Sweetie Belle's magic trick demo fails just as badly. And finally, when Scootaloo rides the unicycle she's just reassembled in promptly falls completely to pieces. Twilight is outraged, and scolds them publicly for the first time: this is what happens when you don't take practice seriously! When the classmates hear this, they conclude the CMCs are now officially on-the-outs with Twilight and immediately take this as their cue to shun the CMCs and exit in droves.

Twilight glares at the CMCs throughout and is the last to exit... but just before she leaves Sweetie Belle does some incredible magic in the otherwise empty space... and Twilight stops in her tracks. Then, turning around, Twilight sees Applebloom do an amazing potion demonstration. And then Scootaloo, with unicycle pieces strewn about, explains why they all did this: they wanted to show Twilight that even though they made things fall completely apart between them, they would do whatever it took to put all the pieces of their relationship back together. Scootaloo then puts the unicycle back together in a flash and rides it masterfully, adding that they went to all this trouble in order to drive home the most important point: that they were willing to sacrifice their newfound status as her entourage to get her friendship and mentorship back.

INT. TWILIGHT'S LIBRARY – NEXT DAY

The CMCs and Twilight resume having Twilight time together. Twilight congratulates them for all getting so good at their respective talents. The CMCs are so proud! Twilight then wonders if maybe they've gotten so good that Twilight time isn't really necessary anymore. At that, the CMCs immediately fall over themselves pointing out all the ways they still need improvement. Twilight smiles mischievously.

END.