

Distribution:

Production:

Devon Cody
Meghan McCarthy
Jayson Thiessen
Jim Miller
Angela Belyea
Lesley Crawford
Melinda See

The HUB:

Tegan Molloy
Laurence Braun
Allegra Newman
Linda Shima Tsuno
Wayne Winstead

Hasbro Studios:

Stephen Davis
Kathy Page
Michael Vogel
Brian Lenard
Gabriel Monje
Lauren Solomon
Robert Fewkes
Sophia Hussain
Finn Arnesen
Nina Scales

Hasbro Brand:

Donna Tobin
You Sun Hwang
Samantha Lomow
Gretchen Forrest
Dori Santos
Anne-Marie Horne
Marissa Mansolillo

MY LITTLE PONY 5

Cutie Markless

Part 2

Episode 502

Written by: Meghan McCarthy

Outline: Dec. 30th, 2013

TEASER

A recap of our amazing previous episode.

ACT I**EXT. CAVE – DAY**

Princess Twilight and her friends are marched deeper into the woods by Aurora Glimmer's blank flanked supporters. Aurora Glimmer informs Snow Drift and Night Flight that the "traitors to the cause" have given her no choice but to move the vault. The village cannot risk them trying to ruin their peaceful existence by returning the Cutie Marks to the villagers. "We must protect our friends from these outsiders' bad intentions," she tells them. Snow Drift and Night Flight heartily agree.

As the Mane 6 are marched further away from the village, they look back to see Snow Drift and Night Flight removing the vault that contains their Cutie Marks out of the cave.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. VISTA OVERLOOKING THE VILLAGE – LATER THAT NIGHT

The Mane 6 have set up camp and lament their current predicament. A distraught Fluttershy can't understand a chirp a nearby bird is saying. Rainbow Dash keeps trying to zoom away from the campsite but finds herself magically pulled back to fly at a slower speed. Rarity examines two garments and expresses her absolute horror that she can't tell if one of them is tacky. (One of them is *clearly* tacky.) Princess Twilight tries to start a campfire with her magic but finally has to resort to rubbing two sticks together. A stoic Pinkie Pie congratulates her on her success at getting a fire going but adds that, like most things, it is nothing to celebrate.

The Mane 6 aren't sure what to do. They've failed the villagers and lost their Cutie Marks in the process. They can't return to Ponyville until they've gotten them back. "Home is overrated anyway," Applejack says with a shrug. But Princess Twilight isn't giving up so easily. There must be a way to gain access to the vault and get their Cutie Marks back. Rainbow Dash reminds Twilight that they don't even know where the vault is now. Aurora Glimmer had Snow Drift and Night Flight move it and they are never going to tell them where it is. They're clearly loyal to Aurora Glimmer and her "cause".

If they're going to find out where Aurora Glimmer has had Snow Drift and Night Flight take the vault, they need to gather some intel. Spike volunteers to sneak in and spy on Aurora Glimmer. He's small and stealthy and up to the challenge. The others agree that this is the right course of action.

"Congratulations on doing the right thing. What do you want -- a party?" Pinkie Pie asks. "Because I wouldn't know the first thing about how to throw a really good one," Pinkie Pie says, her hair starting to droop. Twilight eyes her distraught friends and tells Spike he should hurry.

EXT. VILLAGE – NIGHT

Spike creeps through the dark village to...

EXT. AURORA GLIMMER'S COTTAGE – CONTINUOUS

Spike, a rope over his shoulder, silently scrambles up to the roof.

INT. AURORA GLIMMER'S COTTAGE – NIGHT

Aurora Glimmer organizes her collection of glass jars and earthen vases as she speaks to Night Flight and Snow Drift. She is completely unaware that Spike is dangling outside her window with his ear to the glass. Aurora

Written by: Meghan McCarthy

Glimmer tells Snow Drift and Night Flight that they have done right by everypony in the village and she hopes they are not questioning their decision. She is depending on their friendship and loyalty in these troublesome times.

Night Flight and Snow Drift agree that they must keep the Cutie Marks safe. No doubt the so-called Princess of Friendship and her “friends” are plotting a new way to get their hooves on them as they speak. Aurora Glimmer sends her loyal followers on their way. Through the window behind her we can see Spike trying to pull himself back up to the roof. Unfortunately, his claw has become entwined in the rope he used to lower himself down. He swings back and forth behind the still oblivious Aurora Glimmer.

He stops trying to free himself as something through the window catches his eye. Aurora Glimmer is wiping off her flank with a cloth to reveal – a Cutie Mark!

Off Spike’s shocked expression we...

END ACT I

ACT II

INT. AURORA GLIMMER’S COTTAGE – CONTINUOUS

A still shocked Spike looks on as Aurora Glimmer sponges on make-up to cover up her Cutie Mark. Spike disentangles himself from the rope and drops out of sight mere seconds before she turns to the window.

EXT. CAMPSITE – SOON AFTER

Rainbow Dash is still desperately (and unsuccessfully) trying to take to the sky at lightning speed when an out of breath Spike comes running up to the campsite. “Aurora Glimmer is hiding something besides that vault!” Spike declares. “She still has her Cutie Mark!” he tells his friends.

The Mane 6 react to the news that Aurora Glimmer is not the blank flank she’s claimed to be. Princess Twilight comments that she should have guessed as much. When they were in the cave, she got the strangest feeling that the “magical orb” was just for show. She couldn’t sense any real magic coming off of it.

The fact that Aurora Glimmer still has her Cutie Mark makes perfect sense. The ability to use her magic to collect Cutie Marks is something that makes Aurora Glimmer unique. She’s convinced everyone in the village to abandon their own unique qualities, but has held onto what makes her special! Rarity isn’t sure how this information helps them. They still don’t know where Night Flight and Snow Drift have hidden the vault.

Princess Twilight tells Rarity she thinks she knows how to get them to show the Mane 6 where it is. Her friends are all ears.

EXT. VILLAGE - THE NEXT DAY

A smiling Aurora Glimmer, flanked by Night Flight and Snow Drift, proudly walks through her peaceful village. Everything is perfect and perfectly uniform. But as Aurora Glimmer passes Bubble Burst, her smile to her is anything but genuine. “I assume you have come to your senses?” Aurora Glimmer asks. Bubble Burst forces a smile. “Good,” Aurora Glimmer continues. “Because we simply cannot let those who don’t support our goals remain here in our village,” she says. “It’s a cruel world, I’d hate to have to send you out into it alone and friendless,” she adds.

A smug Aurora Glimmer continues her stroll with Night Flight and Snow Drift. But as they walk, they find their path blocked by a wayward apple cart, and are forced to change course. Every time they head one way, something seems to force them to turn and go another way. What they don’t realize is that Princess Twilight and her friends are working together to create these obstacles to redirect the three to the center of the village.

Once Aurora Glimmer reaches the center of town, Princess Twilight, Pinkie Pie, Fluttershy, and Rarity reveal themselves. Aurora Glimmer glares at the ponies and loudly declares that she thought she made it clear that they were not to return to the village. “Don’t worry, friends, I will protect you from those who wish to do you harm!” Aurora Glimmer declares to the villagers.

All eyes are on Aurora Glimmer as she stares down Twilight and her friends. “Now!” Princess Twilight commands. Rainbow Dash and Applejack suddenly emerge from their hiding places and pull on a pair of ropes. Aurora Glimmer looks up to see that she is standing beneath a large bucket of water. It overturns and spills its contents all over her.

Aurora Glimmer is furious. She looks around to see that the villagers, including Night Flight and Snow Drift are staring at her. Then it dawns on her what has happened. She glances down to see that the water has washed away the make-up and her Cutie Mark is now exposed for all to see.

Aurora Glimmer struggles to explain her actions. She had to keep her Cutie Mark! It is her magical talent for collecting and not the “magical orb” that was making it so the Cutie Marks could be removed! She’s carrying this burden so that others don’t have to suffer! Can’t they see that?!

Princess Twilight and her friends look hopefully to Night Flight and Snow Drift. A beat before it becomes clear that they have been stung by Aurora Glimmer’s betrayal. Their friendship with Aurora Glimmer is based on a lie. “Come with us!” Snow Drift commands the Mane 6.

EXT. WOODED AREA – SOON AFTER

Night Flight and Snow Drift lead Spike and the Mane 6 through the forest. They pull away some branches to reveal the hidden vault. They pry open the doors and inside are the glass containers filled with the glowing light of the Cutie Marks. The Mane 6 open them and the globes of light that had been held within suddenly take flight.

EXT. VILLAGE – A MOMENT LATER

Like comets falling from the sky, the orbs of light descend upon the village and find their rightful owners. As the lights make impact with the ponies, they turn into Cutie Marks. Aurora Glimmer looks on as the villagers celebrate the return of their unique gifts and talents. Her eyes narrow in anger and she rushes back toward her cottage.

EXT. WOODED AREA – AT THE SAME TIME

Princess Twilight and her friends open the last of the containers and realize something. There are six Cutie Marks missing – their own! Snow Drift and Night Flight are as shocked as they are to make this discovery.

INT. AURORA GLIMMER’S COTTAGE – AT THE SAME TIME

Aurora Glimmer hastily pulls a crate from under her bed and opens it to reveal the six containers that hold the Mane 6’s Cutie Marks. Off her sinister expression we...

END ACT II

ACT III

EXT. AURORA GLIMMER’S COTTAGE – A MOMENT LATER

Aurora Glimmer emerges from her cottage and tosses the crate into the back of a cart. The sky is still aglow with balls of Cutie Mark light as she rushes through the village, pulling the cart behind her. The villagers are too caught up in getting their Cutie Marks back to notice her hurrying past them.

EXT. WOODED AREA – AT THE SAME TIME

Night Flight, Snow Drift, Spike, and the Mane 6 realize what has happened. “Aurora Glimmer has our Cutie Marks!” Princess Twilight exclaims. They race back to...

EXT. VILLAGE – A MOMENT LATER

The Mane 6 frantically search for Aurora Glimmer but quickly discover that she’s long gone. Snow Drift spots the tracks of Aurora Glimmer’s cart heading down a dirt path and out of town.

EXT. RAVINE - CONTINUOUS

Aurora Glimmer pulls her cart as fast as she can through the ravine. She smiles, thinking she is home free. But her demeanor changes as she hears the thundering sound of hooves. She is suddenly hit in the rump by an ornately decorated cupcake. She turns to see where it has come from and finds the Mane 6 and a small posse of villagers, including Snow Drift, Night Flight, and Bubble Burst are now giving chase. (Think bandits going after a stagecoach only in this case the bandits are the good guys and instead of using pistols, they’re using their newly re-acquired abilities.)

A talented KNITTING PONY finishes an incredibly long scarf and gives it to a RODEO PONY who uses it as a lasso to retrieve the container holding Applejack’s Cutie Mark from the back of Aurora Glimmer’s cart. The glass container is opened and Applejack’s Cutie Mark is returned to her.

A TENNIS PLAYER PONY aces a serve that takes out the back wheel of Aurora Glimmer’s cart and sends the glass container holding Pinkie Pie’s Cutie Mark falling out. Its lid falls off and the Cutie Mark and it finds its way back to Pinkie Pie who throws confetti in the air in celebration.

Night Flight, who it turns out has a gift for PARASAILING, swoops down and is able to scoop up the container holding Rarity’s Cutie Mark. She opens it and the Cutie Mark returns to Rarity’s flank. Rarity thanks the parasailing pony then comments that her parasail would look even better with a few cerulean accents.

A ROLLER DERBY pony jumps over a series of dirt moguls and catches up with Aurora Glimmer. She bumps the cart with her rump and the glass jar holding Fluttershy’s Cutie Mark tumbles out. Its contents spill out onto the ground and then find their way to Fluttershy. She responds to the caws of a nearby eagle, “I *am* happy to have my Cutie Mark back!”

Aurora Glimmer looks over her shoulder, noting that it looks like her pursuers have given up the chase. She turns back around and slams into a web constructed entirely out of balloons. She bounces off and hits the ground with a thud. Her cart overturns and the last two glass containers containing Rainbow Dash and Princess Twilight’s Cutie Marks tumble out, releasing their contents.

Aurora Glimmer looks up to see Bubble Burst looming over her and blowing up another balloon that she fashions into a pony that looks a lot like Aurora Glimmer. She smiles and then pops the balloon.

Aurora Glimmer makes one last desperate attempt to get away, but now that Princess Twilight’s Cutie Mark has been returned, she is able to use her powerful magic to detain her. “You’ve ruined everything!” seethes Aurora Glimmer.

“I know you see it that way, but it isn’t true,” Princess Twilight calmly replies.

“I had a group of friends when I was young,” Aurora Glimmer tells Twilight. “Everything was perfect before we got our Cutie Marks,” she adds. “We became different from each other and those differences only lead to trouble. Lead to me losing those friends forever.”

“I founded this village so that nopony would have to experience that pain,” she continues. “I took their Cutie Marks and I made their friendships perfect. Now you all have doomed them to lives of misery!” she continues.

The ponies that helped the Mane 6 retrieve their Cutie Marks look to Princess Twilight with a hint of concern. “That’s what you don’t understand. Friendships aren’t meant to be perfect,” Princess Twilight says to Aurora Glimmer. “But with every friendship problem you’re willing to tackle together, you learn something new. Not only about your friends, but about yourself,” Princess Twilight says.

“If I were to stop my friends from being true to themselves, I would lose out as much as they would,” she adds. Twilight’s friends give her an appreciative smile. Twilight then releases Aurora Glimmer. “Someday I hope you’ll see things the way I do,” she tells her. Aurora Glimmer only scowls and rushes off, vowing that Princess Twilight and her friends will someday understand her pain.

Princess Twilight turns and heads back toward the village. “You’re just gonna let her go?” Rainbow Dash asks in surprise. “There was a time when I didn’t understand friendship,” Princess Twilight replies. “Perhaps someday she’ll be lucky enough to find friends who will help her become the pony she is meant to be,” she adds with a hopeful smile.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. VILLAGE - LATER THAT DAY

Spike and the Mane 6 look on as the villagers joyfully showcase their talents and express their amazement at how extraordinary each and every pony in the village is. “Now *those* are real smiles,” Pinkie Pie declares happily. “Our work here is done,” Fluttershy happily declares. “I don’t know about y’all, but I’m ready to head home,” Applejack says.

“Not without our traveling cloaks!” Rarity declares. She produces a trunk with new cloaks that are now different colors and sport the individual Cutie Marks of our Mane 6. She even has one for Spike with a little claw emblazoned on it.

“We are representatives of the Princess of Friendship now,” Rarity says. “And it is our diversity which has made it so,” she adds with a smile. Rainbow Dash grins as she dons her cloak and then takes to the sky for a celebratory Sonic Rainboom.

DISSOLVE TO:

CLOSE ON – SPIKE AND THE MANE 6

“Are we there yet? Are we there yet?” asks Pinkie Pie bouncing along behind her road weary friends. “We’re there,” answers Twilight. We WIDEN to REVEAL.

EXT. TWILIGHT’S CASTLE – ESTABLISHING - CONTINUOUS

INT. CASTLE – MAP ROOM – A MOMENT LATER

Spike and the Mane 6 enter and the holograms projected from the map disappear. The friends agree that their first “mission” has been a success. “Would you expect anything less from Princess Twilight Sparkle and the Royal Guardians of Friendship?” Rarity asks. “Royal Guardians of Friendship?” Applejack replies.

“After all we’ve been through, a regal sounding title is certainly in order. Don’t you agree?” Rarity says hopefully. “Royal Guardians of Friendship,” Rainbow Dash says, mulling it over. “Yeah. I could live with that,” she adds with a smile.

As the Mane 6 eye the map, wondering what challenge it has in store for them next we...

FADE OUT.