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MY LITTLE PONY
Season 7

Marks and Recreation
Ep 722

Teleplay 1st Draft

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Friendship Lesson: The CMC's learn that their way of doing things isn't the only way, and Rumble learns that you shouldn't let your fear of something get in the way of reaching your full potential.

TEASER

SC 1 - INT. CUTIE MARK CRUSADERS HQ - AFTERNOON

SCOOTALOO, APPLE BLOOM, and SWEETIE BELLE watch as a little blank flank, KETTLE CORN stands before an art easel, holding a paint brush in her mouth. In front of the easel is the basket of fruit that she's painting. A clock <CHIMES>.

1 APPLE BLOOM
Let's see how your still-life's comin'
along, Kettle Corn.

The Crusaders look at Kettle Corn's painting. REVEAL: She's only drawn a CIRCLE.

2 KETTLE CORN
Look how pretty my circle is!

3 SWEETIE BELLE
It certainly is... round.

4 KETTLE CORN
(excited) I can make it rounder.

5 APPLE BLOOM
Sorry, Kettle Corn, that's all the
time we have today.

6 KETTLE CORN
Oh, mud puddles!

7 SWEETIE BELLE
We'll try something else tomorrow.
Perhaps gardening, parasailing, or
rainmaking.

8 KETTLE CORN
But I like circle-painting.

9 SCOOTALOO
Sure, but we need to examine all
possible options for your cutie mark.

Through the open door, we see there's a short line of blank flanks waiting to get in.

10 APPLE BLOOM
Sorry everypony, we're closin' up
shop. We'll have to help you all
tomorrow.

The Crusaders watch as the disappointed little BLANK FLANKS turn
to leave.

11 SCOOTALOO
Will we be able to help them tomorrow?
We only got through two ponies today.
And we already have five appointments
for tomorrow.

12 APPLE BLOOM
I didn't know there were so many blank
flanks in Ponyville.

13 SWEETIE BELLE
Gee, I wish we could help every-pony.

14 SCOOTALOO
If only there was a way we could help
a bunch of blank flanks at the same
time.

15 APPLE BLOOM
Yeah, it'd be fun for 'em to try
activities as a group. They could
motivate and encourage each other.

16 SWEETIE BELLE
Support and inspire fellow blank
flanks!

17 SCOOTALOO
Yeah!

18 SWEETIE BELLE
(wistful) Yeah, it'd be nice.

19 SCOOTALOO
If only such a thing existed...

20 APPLE BLOOM
Yep. Well, I best get home for supper.

21 SCOOTALOO
Me too.

22 SWEETIE BELLE
Me three.

They all exit frame. Beat. The three Crusaders rush back into frame.

23 SCOOTALOO/APPLE
 BLOOM/SWEETIE BELLE
(shouting) Let's start a Cutie Mark
Day Camp! That's what I just said!
Jinx!

24 SWEETIE BELLE
(still shouting) We can spread the
word to every-pony tomorrow!

Apple Bloom and Scootaloo stare at her.

25 SWEETIE BELLE (CONT'D)
Oh... we're not doing the yelling in
unison thing anymore?

END TEASER

MAIN TITLES

ACT ONE

SC 2 - EXT. PONYVILLE STREET - MORNING

Sweetie Belle and Scootaloo stand behind a table with fliers and a sign-up sheet. There are balloons stamped with the Cutie Mark Crusader's cutie marks. Apple Bloom pulls on a rope by a flag pole, proudly raising a CMC flag.

26 APPLE BLOOM
Gather round, blank flanks!

27 SCOOTALOO
And blank flank affiliates!

Ponies gather around. Sweetie Belle blows on a pitch pipe. Then the Crusaders start their rapping sales pitch.

28 APPLE BLOOM
Maybe you make yummy jam!

29 SWEETIE BELLE
Or you bake the perfect ham!

30 SCOOTALOO
Give great mane cuts!

31 APPLE BLOOM
Help ponies out of ruts!

32 SWEETIE BELLE
Find out what you're good at!

33 SCOOTALOO
Try on several different hats!

34 APPLE BLOOM
At the Cutie Mark Day Camp!

36 SWEETIE BELLE
We promise that it won't be damp!

Apple Bloom and Scootaloo stop mid rap song.

37 APPLE BLOOM
Damp?

38 SWEETIE BELLE
It's hard to find a rhyme for camp!

Ponies and little foals stop at the Crusader's table eager to learn more. The three Crusaders are just as eager to tell them about the camp.

39 SCOOTALOO
Come to our Cutie Mark Camp to find
out what you're truly good at.

40 APPLE BLOOM
Any activity you can think of, we'll
give 'er a try.

41 SWEETIE BELLE
Take a flier. All blank flanks
welcome.

RUMBLE appears walking down the street. He stops when he sees the Crusaders and tries to hurry past, but Scootaloo, Apple Bloom and Sweetie Belle step in his path.

42 SCOOTALOO
Hey Rumble!

43 RUMBLE
Uh... hey, ponies. Can't chat. I'm
meeting Thunderlane in front of "If
the Horseshoe Fits."

44 APPLE BLOOM
No problem, (hands him a flier) here.

45 SCOOTALOO
Come to Cutie Mark Camp and we'll help
you find the thing that you're best at
and meant to do for your entire life.

46 SWEETIE BELLE
Neat, huh?

47 APPLE BLOOM
First session's tomorrow! See you
then.

The Crusaders turn to other ponies passing by. When their backs
are turned, Rumble promptly throws the flier in the trash. Just
then, THUNDERLANE comes out from the shoe store.

48 THUNDERLANE
They didn't have my hoof size either.
(re Crusaders) Hey, what's going on
over there?

49 RUMBLE
(quickly) Ah... just some salesponies,
I think. Let's get some lunch. I'm
starved.

Rumble walks off. Thunderlane looks back at the Crusaders.

50 APPLE BLOOM
Remember, Cutie Mark Camp starts
tomorrow!

51 SWEETIE BELLE
Spread the word to every blank flank
you know!

SC 3 - EXT. PONYVILLE PARK - AFTERNOON

Scotaloo, Sweetie Belle and Apple Bloom stand in front of about
half a dozen BLANK FLANKS, including Kettle Corn, PIPSQUEAK,
SKEEDADDLE, and SILLY EYES -- the foals waiting outside the
Crusader's HQ in the teaser.

52 APPLE BLOOM
Welcome Cutie Mark Campers!

53 SWEETIE BELLE
Who's excited to be here?

The blank flanks <SHOUT> with excitement.

54 SWEETIE BELLE (CONT'D)
Well, we're excited to have you!

55 SCOOTALOO
Remember everypony, this is YOUR camp.
You decide what to do with it.

56 APPLE BLOOM
Exactly. So, what activity do you want
to try first?

57 PIPSQUEAK
Hiking! Hang-gliding! Balloon making!
Flower arranging! Line dancing! I want
to do EVERYTHING!

58 SCOOTALOO
Love the enthusiasm, Pip. But let's
focus on one at a time.

59 SILLY EYES
I'm Silly Eyes. I don't like prunes.

60 SWEETIE BELLE
Good to know.

61 KETTLE CORN
Can we try still-life painting?

62 APPLE BLOOM
You already tried painting, Kettle
Corn.

63 SCOOTALOO
I don't think it was exactly your true
calling...

64 THUNDERLANE (O.S.)
Hey there, Crusaders!

Everyone turns to see Thunderlane and Rumble approaching.

65 KETTLE CORN
It's Thunderlane! (gasps) The
Wonderbolt!

The blank flanks start <WHISPERING> with excitement as
Thunderlane greets his adoring fans.

67 THUNDERLANE
Hey there! High-hoof! Pound it out!
Hoof bump!

Thunderlane high-hooves and hoof-bumps with the awestruck foals.
Rumble hesitantly follows behind.

68 APPLE BLOOM
Hey Thunderlane, Rumble, happy you can
join us. We're deciding what activity
to try first.

69 THUNDERLANE
How about Horseshoe Toss?

Thunderlane expertly kicks his hoof tossing his shoe across the
field. It flies out of frame into the horizon.

70 BLANK FLANKS
Wow! / Ooh! / Aaah!

71 SCOOTALOO
Horseshoe Toss... yeah, good idea,
Thunderlane. It tests a bunch of
skills: aim, speed, strength, agility.

72 THUNDERLANE
And the ability to track down your
shoe. Which, admittedly I'm not the
best at. I mean, bo-ring, am-i-rite?

73 SKEEDADDLE
Can you stay to play a game with us?

74 THUNDERLANE
Nay. Just dropping the baby bro off.
Have fun, Rumbs-tums. (to the rest)
Catch you ponies on the flip side!

Since he's missing a shoe, Thunderlane awkwardly trots off,
limping on one leg.

75 SILLY EYES
(in awe to Rumble) Your brother is,
like, the opposite of prunes.

Rumble ignores Silly Eyes and runs to his brother.

76 RUMBLE
Thunderlane! Can't I come with you to
the Wonderbolts practice instead?

77 THUNDERLANE
Nay-gative, Rumbs. You do you, and
I'll do me. (then) And by that I mean
find my shoe.

Thunderlane searches out into the horizon and exits.

78 SWEETIE BELLE
C'mon, Rumble!

The Crusaders have set up a game of Horseshoe Toss.

79 APPLE BLOOM
(to Rumble) Step on up. You're next.

Scootaloo ushers Rumble over to the hay mat. He strikes a pose like Thunderlane did.

80 SCOOTALOO
Good form.

81 KETTLE CORN
(loud whisper) Maybe he's as strong as Thunderlane.

Hearing that, Rumble breaks form and tosses his horseshoe willy-nilly. It flies straight up and lands next to him with a <PLOP>.

82 RUMBLE
(disinterest) Oh well, looks like the Horseshoe Toss isn't my true calling or whatever.

83 SWEETIE BELLE
Don't worry, Rumble. We'll find what you're good at it.

84 APPLE BLOOM
Yeah, there's nothing to be ashamed of.

85 RUMBLE
I'm not ashamed!

86 SWEETIE BELLE
We're not saying you are. We're just saying we understand your frustrations. (to the rest) That goes for all you blank flanks.

87 SCOOTALOO
We'll help you get your cutie marks yet!

The blank flanks <CHEER>. Rumble makes a face.

MONTAGE:

The CMCs and the Cutie Mark Club trying different activities.

SC 4 - INT. RARITY'S HOUSE

The blank flanks work at the sewing machines. Rumble can't sew a straight line.

88 RUMBLE
Oh well.

SC 5 - EXT. PONYVILLE PARK

The blank flanks take turns throwing arrows at a target, a la archery. Rumble's arrows fly everywhere and land no where near the target.

89 RUMBLE
Oh well.

SC 6 - INT. PONYVILLE DANCE STUDIO

MUSIC PLAYS. They start to dance a jig. Rumble immediately trips over his own feet.

90 RUMBLE
Oh well.

SC 7 - INT. PONYVILLE SCHOOLHOUSE CLASSROOM

The Crusaders stand before the blank flanks who are seated at each desk. On each of their table is a piece of parchment. The ponies hold quills in their mouths.

91 SWEETIE BELLE
The first and last lines of a haiku
have five syllables and the middle
line has seven syllables.

The blank flanks start writing their poems. Rumble puts paper to parchment... and his pencil breaks.

92 RUMBLE
Oh well. Looks like this camp isn't
for me. I better go meet my brother.
Catch you ponies on the flip side.

Before anyone can stop him, Rumble exits. The Crusaders look concerned.

SC 8 - INT. CUTIE MARK CRUSADERS HQ - LATER

The Crusaders regroup to discuss their first day of camp.

93 APPLE BLOOM
All in all, our first day of camp was
a success.

94 SCOOTALOO
The look on Kettle Corn's face when
she got her cutie mark was worth all
the hard work.

95 SWEETIE BELLE
And we never even would have tried
haiku writing had Skeedaddle not
suggested it.

96 APPLE BLOOM
The campers were so encouraging. Like
when Silly Eyes wasn't so skilled at
dancing the jig and Pipsqueak
suggested he try ballet.

97 SWEETIE BELLE
Or when Pipsqueak didn't have the
strength to shoot an arrow, but the
others saw he had pretty good aim.

The Crusaders nod, then:

98 APPLE BLOOM
But what about Rumble? The poor pony
wasn't good at anything we tried.

99 SWEETIE BELLE
Maybe not, but do you remember how
long it took us to get our cutie
marks?

100 APPLE BLOOM
I remember the nightmares.

101 SCOOTALOO
Crusaders, we can't let Rumble quit
the camp.

102 SWEETIE BELLE
(agreeing) We'll have to convince him
to come back and we'll try harder to
find what he's good at.

SC 9 - EXT. WONDERBOLTS HQ - LATER

Rumble watches the Wonderbolts practice. Scootaloo, Sweetie Belle, and Apple Bloom enter.

103 SCOOTALOO
Hey Rumble!

104 RUMBLE
How did you know where I was?

105 SCOOTALOO
You said you were gonna go meet your
brother. We figured that meant tagging
along to Wonderbolt practice.

106 RUMBLE
I'm not tagging along! I belong here too!

Rumble tries to go around the Crusaders, but they box him in trying to talk to him.

107 APPLE BLOOM
Please come back to our camp.
We know why you're frustrated.

108 RUMBLE
I'm not frustrated.

109 SCOOTALOO
We've all been there. But you can't give up.

110 SWEETIE BELLE
We're here to help you.

111 RUMBLE
I don't need your help.

112 SCOOTALOO
We know you'll get your cutie mark.
Everypony does.

113 RUMBLE
I'm not everypony! And I don't want to get my cutie mark!

114 ALL CRUSADERS
<GASPS!>

Off the Crusader's shocked faces, we...

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SC 10 - EXT. WONDERBOLTS HQ - SAME

We pick up where we left off. The Crusaders continue to stare, wide-eyed, in shock at what they just heard.

115 SCOOTALOO
I must have wax in my ears because I thought I just heard you say--

116 RUMBLE
I don't want to get my cutie mark.

117 SWEETIE BELLE
(gasp) He said it again! (to Rumble)
Not wanting a cutie mark is like not
wanting to breathe. It makes no sense.

118 APPLE BLOOM
Everypony wants to know what they're
truly meant to do.

119 RUMBLE
Not this pony.

120 SWEETIE BELLE
Why not?

121 RUMBLE
Because... Because Cutie Marks are
dumb! They... they just force you to
do one thing your entire life!

122 SCOOTALOO
That's what you're worried about?

123 SWEETIE BELLE
That's silly. Having a cutie mark
doesn't mean you can't do other stuff.

124 RUMBLE
Oh really?

125 SCOOTALOO
Of course!

126 APPLE BLOOM
Our cutie marks are in helping ponies
with their cutie marks, but I still
like making potions with Zecora.

127 RUMBLE
Uh-huh... and when was the last time
you did that?

128 APPLE BLOOM
Hmm. I think it was last... um...

129 SCOOTALOO
We've been a little busy helping other
ponies lately, but--

130 RUMBLE
You mean doing what your cutie mark is
in? The thing you're stuck doing for
the rest of your life?

131 SWEETIE BELLE
Okay, but we don't mind, we love being
Cutie Mark Crusaders.

132 RUMBLE
Well, I love doing everything and I'm
not gonna be put in a box!

133 APPLE BLOOM
You won't be put in a box.

134 RUMBLE
Oh no? Because I'm feeling boxed in
right now!

With that, Rumble squeezes past the three ponies and trots away.

135 SWEETIE BELLE
He just doesn't understand how
wonderful cutie marks are.

136 APPLE BLOOM
Granny always say, some ponies have to
find their own hay.

137 SCOOTALOO
You sure she didn't mean "find their
own way."

Apple Bloom considers this.

138 APPLE BLOOM
That would also make sense...

139 SCOOTALOO
We have to help him. It's what we do.

140 SWEETIE BELLE
And we love it!

141 APPLE BLOOM
You're right. We can't give up on him.

SC 11 - EXT. PONYVILLE PARK - DAY

Rumble is at the Horseshoe Toss field (similar to a baseball field). He stands at the tossers hay mat, like he did before, in a "tossing stance." He looks out into the field a little worried, but then stops himself and starts singing:

142 RUMBLE
*Maybe you make delicious jam
Or bake the perfect ham*

(MORE)

RUMBLE (CONT'D)

*Give great mane cuts
Or help ponies out of ruts*

*Jam, ham, cuts, ruts
Do them, no if ands or buts*

*Cutie Marks they're great, they say
They make you special in your own way*

*Oh-oh no! Oh-oh no!
Cutie marks must go!*

*Blank Flank is the way to be
Blank Flank means you're free*

*Time to spread the word!
Time to tell the herd!*

*Blank flank forever
That's our new endeavor*

*Oh hay-oh yes!
Oh hay-oh no!
Cutie marks must go!*

*Blank Flank is the way to be
Blank Flank means you're free*

*Blank flank forever
That's our new endeavor!*

With a determined look on his face, Rumble marches off.

SC 12 - INT. SUGAR CUBE CORNER'S KITCHEN - DAY

The Cutie Mark Crusaders watch as the blank flanks make jam. A CLOCK on the wall <CHIMES>.

143 SWEETIE BELLE
*All righty, Cutie Mark Campers, that
wraps up another successful session.*

144 SKEEDADDLE
*Aww, but I wanted to write more
haikus.*

145 SCOOTALOO
*Next time. (to the rest) Let's thank
Pinkie Pie for letting us use her
kitchen to make jam.*

146 BLANK FLANKS
Thanks, Pinkie Pie!

Pinkie Pie beams.

147 PIPSQUEAK
(disappointed) But nopony got their
cutie mark today.

148 SCOOTALOO
No but we'll keep at it. We'll find
what you're good at.

149 PIPSQUEAK
That's what you said yesterday. What
if I'm not good at anything?

150 APPLE BLOOM
Don't give up, Pip. You gotta just
keep on trottin' on.

151 SILLY EYES
Do you all remember when we were
making jam?

152 APPLE BLOOM
Yeah, Silly Eyes -- that was two
seconds ago.

153 SILLY EYES
I liked it. Where's my cutie mark in
fruit squishing?

154 SCOOTALOO
You don't get a cutie mark just
because you like something, but that
doesn't mean you can't keep at it.

155 RUMBLE (O.S.)
Ha!

The turn to see Rumble standing by the opened door.

156 SWEETIE BELLE
Rumble, you came back.

Rumble ignores the Crusaders and turns to the other blank
flanks.

157 RUMBLE
(to Silly Eyes) Say buh-bye to jams.
You'll probably get a cutie mark in
prune juice making.

158 SILLY EYES
(worried) I don't like prune juice.

159 SCOOTALOO
Rumble, if you're not going to be a
part of our camp that's fine. But
don't come here bothering our campers
with your nonsense.

160 APPLE BLOOM
Yeah, everypony knows that's not how
cutie marks work.

But the blank flanks ignore the Crusaders as they bypass them
and approach Rumble.

161 SKEEDADDLE
(to Rumble) So is that how cutie marks
work?

162 APPLE BLOOM
Um, I just said it's not!

163 RUMBLE
It sure is.

164 SILLY EYES
Oh no!

165 APPLE BLOOM
(to Crusaders) Am I speaking "mule"
all of a sudden? Why can't anypony
understand me?

166 RUMBLE
They say cutie marks make you special
but it just forces you to do ONE thing
for the rest of your life. And you
might not even LIKE it.

167 SILLY EYES
I don't like prunes.

Sweetie Belle tries to reassure Silly Eyes.

168 SWEETIE BELLE
You'll find something you LOVE and
that you're good at.

169 SKEEDADDLE
I want to write haikus!

170 RUMBLE
And you can... You'll all be able to
do whatever you want... if you stay a
blank flank forever.

The campers <GASP>.

171 SKEEDADDLE
Stay blank flanks forever? That's a
thing we can do?

172 SCOOTALOO/APPLE
 BLOOM/SWEETIE BELLE
No!

173 RUMBLE
Sure it is! We'll form our own camp --
the Blank Flank Forever camp.

174 SKEEDADDLE
And we can do any activity we want?
Like write haikus?

175 SILLY EYES
And hate prunes?

176 RUMBLE
Yup. It'll be where like-minded blank
flanks come to enjoy being blank
flanks and appreciate our blank-
flankness.

177 SCOOTALOO
Okay, enough! Everypony needs to calm
down.

178 SILLY EYES
I don't like prunes!

179 RUMBLE
I hear you, friend. Without a cutie
mark, we can be anything, do anything.
No pony expects anything from you!

180 BLANK FLANKS
Yeah!

181 SCOOTALOO
No, hold on, everypony.

182 APPLE BLOOM
I'm sorry, Rumble, but you need to
leave. You're stirrin' up all sorts of
trouble with your crazy jibber-jabber.

183 RUMBLE
Wanting to be a blank flank is not
crazy! (chanting) Blank flank forever!
Blank flank forever!

184 BLANK FLANKS
(joins chant) Blank flank forever!
Blank flank forever!

Rumble and the blank flanks march away. Pipsqueak is still there but he heads toward the door.

185 APPLE BLOOM
Pip...?

186 PIPSQUEAK
If I join them, I can be proud of who I am and what I am right now. That sounds pretty good. Sorry, ponies.

Pipsqueak clears.

187 SWEETIE BELLE
What just happened?

188 SCOOTALOO
Has everypony gone mad?

189 BLANK FLANKS (O.S.)
(still chanting) Blank Flank Forever!
Blank Flank Forever!

190 APPLE BLOOM
In a word, "yes."

Off the CMC's looking out the window, watching their campers march away, we...

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

SC 13 - INT. CUTIE MARK CRUSADER HQ - DAY

Sweetie Belle, Apple Bloom, and Scootaloo sit by the window, looking out, waiting.

191 SWEETIE BELLE
Here comes somepony!

They watch for a beat.

192 APPLE BLOOM
That's just the mail.

193 SWEETIE BELLE
Where are all the blank flanks?

194 APPLE BLOOM
We know where they are, Sweetie Belle.
At Rumble's ridiculous Blank Flank
Forever Camp.

195 SCOOTALOO
First he brainwashed our campers and
now he's probably brainwashed every
blank flank from here to the Crystal
Empire!

196 SWEETIE BELLE
How could anypony not want a cutie
mark? It doesn't make any sense.

197 APPLE BLOOM
We've got to do something about him!

198 SCOOTALOO
He must be stopped! At all cost.

199 SWEETIE BELLE
Now calm down, Crusaders. We just need
to try talking to him again.

200 APPLE BLOOM
I don't know, Sweetie Belle.

201 SWEETIE BELLE
The key is to remain calm...

SMASH CUT TO:

SC 14 - EXT. PONYVILLE PARK - LATER

Apple Bloom and Scootaloo watch as Sweetie Belle angrily face
off against Rumble. The Blank Flank Forever campers are with him
doing different activities: Horseshoe toss, sculpting, running,
trotting, still-life painting, etc.

202 SWEETIE BELLE
Cutie Marks make you special!

203 RUMBLE
Puts you in box!

204 SWEETIE BELLE
Special!

205 RUMBLE
Box!

206 APPLE BLOOM
Come on, Sweetie Belle. I think you've
remained calm long enough.

As Scootaloo and Apple Bloom usher Sweetie Belle away, they
notice someone familiar...

207 SCOOTALOO
Kettle Corn?

REVEAL: Kettle Corn's cutie mark is obviously covered up with
paint that doesn't match her skin. She in front of an easel,
working on another fruit still-life.

208 KETTLE CORN
I'm a blank flank again!

209 SWEETIE BELLE
You covered your cutie mark?

210 APPLE BLOOM
But I thought you loved writing
haikus.

211 KETTLE CORN
Nah... Cutie Marks gone...
Love for one activity...
Puts you in a box.

Beat.

212 SWEETIE BELLE
You just made up a haiku right now!

213 RUMBLE
Don't worry about it, Kettle. You're
an open-ended question. Be loud and
proud.

214 BLANK FLANKS
Blank Flank Forever!

215 SCOOTALOO
Ugh, let's go Crusaders.

The Crusaders turn and exit.

216 KETTLE CORN
Blank Flank Forever!
Don't make me choose what to do.
Being loud and proud now.

Rumble and the blank flanks stare at her.

217 KETTLE CORN (CONT'D)
I just haiku-ed again, didn't I?

Meanwhile, Silly Eyes and Pipsqueak are playing horseshoe toss.
Silly Eyes throws horseshoes and they all hit the mark.

218 PIPSQUEAK
Good aim, Silly Eyes.

219 SILLY EYES
Thanks! I like this game. (gasps) Oh
no! What if I get a cutie mark in it?

Skeedaddle stops trimming her bonsai plant.

220 SKEEDADDLE
(worried) We could ALL get cutie
marks.

Suddenly, everypony stops doing their activity. Except for
Kettle Corn who continues to paint her circle.

SC 15 - EXT. PONYVILLE STREET - LATER

The Crusaders enter, upset and angry.

221 SWEETIE BELLE
Well, that was a bust.

222 APPLE BLOOM
We can't talk any sense into that...
that Rumble.

Suddenly, something Scootaloo sees makes her stop walking.

223 SCOOTALOO
We can't but maybe somepony else can.

REVEAL: Thunderlane in the horseshoe store across the street.

SC 16 - EXT. HORSESHOE STORE - MOMENTS LATER

Thunderlane exits.

224 THUNDERLANE
(indignant) Six is not a small hoof
size for a pony of my stature!

The Crusaders stop Thunderlane in his tracks.

225 SCOOTALOO
Thunderlane, you need to talk some
sense into your brother.

226 APPLE BLOOM
He's causing all sorts of trouble.

227 THUNDERLANE
What'd Rumble do now?

228 SWEETIE BELLE
(blurting) Well, it started when he
couldn't toss a horseshoe, or sail a
boat, and his pencil broke in haiku
writing, so we felt bad that he wasn't
good at anything, but now he's saying
he doesn't want a cutie mark because
it'll put him in a box, which is just
crazy-talk. Y'know?

229 THUNDERLANE
No, I don't. You're not making any
sense.

230 SCOOTALOO
Sometimes that happens when Sweetie
Belle gets agitated.

231 THUNDERLANE
No. I mean, the part about Rumble not
being able to toss a horseshoe. I've
seen him chuck one clear across the
field, not as far as me, but you gotta
give the little guy an "A" for effort.

232 APPLE BLOOM
That doesn't make sense, unless he was
pretending to be bad.

The Crusaders all look at each other, realizing something.

233 SCOOTALOO
(realizing) He was pretending to be
bad-- at everything.

234 SWEETIE BELLE
Why would he do that?

235 THUNDERLANE
Well, I'm off to go be awesome.

Thunderlane struts off. Apple bloom points at him

236 APPLE BLOOM
Because that's his older brother. Kind
of big hooves to fill.

237 SCOOTALOO
Well... size six.

238 THUNDERLANE (O.S.)
That's normal for my size pony!

239 APPLE BLOOM
By pretending to be bad at everything,
Rumble didn't have to risk failing.

240 SCOOTALOO
Or finding out he's good at something
that doesn't measure up to being a
Wonderbolt, like his brother.

241 APPLE BLOOM
Oh wow... Rumble's not afraid of being
put in a box. He's afraid of being put
in a smaller box than Thunderlane.

242 SWEETIE BELLE
Maybe Rumble not wanting a cutie mark
isn't so crazy after all.

The Crusaders nod.

SC 17 - EXT. PONYVILLE PARK - LATER

Rumble and the Blank Flankers are sitting around literally doing nothing.

243 SKEEDADDLE
This is boring.

244 SILLY EYES
I'd rather be making prune juice.

245 RUMBLE
If we want to stay blank flanks
forever, we can't risk finding
something we might be good at.

246 PIPSQUEAK
So we're just going to sit here?

247 SKEEDADDLE
What if I get a cutie mark in being
bored?

Just then, the CMC's approach.

248 SCOOTALOO
Hi all. Would anypony like to write
haikus or toss horseshoes or build zen
gardens out of rocks?

249 RUMBLE
Not interested. You're in a Cutie Mark
free zone.

250 APPLE BLOOM
No, cutie mark agenda. We just thought
it'd be fun.

252 PIPSQUEAK
Anything would be better than just
sitting here.

253 RUMBLE
No, ponies. It's probably a trick.

254 SCOOTALOO
Rumble!

255 RUMBLE
(defensive) What?

256 SCOOTALOO
(softens) We're sorry.

257 RUMBLE
(confused) What?

258 SWEETIE BELLE
We shouldn't have said you were crazy
for not wanting a cutie mark.

259 APPLE BLOOM
Just because we wanted our cutie marks
doesn't mean that every blank flank
feels the same way we did.

260 RUMBLE
Yeah...

261 SCOOTALOO
Let's forget cutie marks for today and
just do something fun.

Rumble thinks for a beat.

262 RUMBLE
Sitting around doing nothing is a
little--

263 SKEEDADDLE
Boring?

The blank flanks all stand up, excited.

264 KETTLE CORN
Can I paint more fruit still-lives?

265 SWEETIE BELLE
If drawing circles makes you happy, go
for it.

266 SILLY EYES
I'm gonna make some prune juice!

267 APPLE BLOOM
Really?

268 SILLY EYES
I tried it. Turns out, I LIKE prunes.

Then Rumble picks up a horseshoe with his hoof. He stands on the straw mat like he did earlier and tosses the shoe. It flies across the playground and lands on the target -- direct hit. Rumble glances at his haunch.

269 RUMBLE
No cutie mark.

270 SCOOTALOO
Nope. But you could always just keep
having fun.

Rumble nods and keeps tossing horseshoes. The other blank flanks continue their activities as the CMCs smile and we...

FADE OUT

END