

MY LITTLE PONY
Season 8
The Hearth's Warming Club
Ep 815
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THE HEARTH’S WARMING CLUB

Premise by Brian Hohlfeld

Logline: A prank-gone wrong ruins Hearth’s Warming Eve preparations, and while Twilight tries to figure out which of her students is behind it, the students bond over shared memories of home.

Twilight’s SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP is full of festivity as the MANE 6, SPIKE, STARLIGHT and the STUDENTS decorate the Great Hall in a pre-Hearth’s Warming Break tree trimming party. A giant FIRE OF FRIENDSHIP magically brightens the top of the tree. SANDALWOOD helps explain the preparations and tradition to a skeptical BLAZE; who insists that dragons don’t do pony holidays. SPIKE corrects – MOST dragons don’t, but he LOVES Hearth’s Warming. It’s a time of friends coming together, and hope, and gifts, and family... Which reminds him, shouldn’t the students be heading home now? They’d better get going if they want to make it to their various kingdoms for the holiday break. Sandalwood and Blaze hustle off with the others back to their dorm.

As Twilight, the pony students, and faculty proudly look at the perfect decorations for the school’s first Hearth’s Warming, a shadowy figure creeps along the hall’s rafters and dumps a mysterious powder into the Fire of Friendship. When the powder hits the magic, it changes color and BUBBLES UP (like putting detergent into a fountain), finally exploding in a SPLAT of STICKY PURPLE GOO that covers everything (and everypony) in the Hall! The decorations are ruined! Spike spots the shadowy figure making a getaway, and he and Twilight chase it to...

...The Students’ dorm, where GALLUS, Blaze, Sandalwood, OCELLUS, YANA, and SILVERSTAR are just finishing packing to go home. Twilight knows the shadowy figure ran into the rooms, and Spike confirms nocreature ran out. So the prankster MUST be one of her Friendship students. But the students all plead innocence, so Twilight instead gives them a service task to do before they head home – to clean up the Great Hall. She’ll interview them one at a time to get to the bottom of this mystery. And whichever student is guilty won’t be going home over Hearth’s Warming Break – they’ll be staying at school for some extra friendship lessons. It’s a serious threat for the students, who are eager to get home for the holidays!

Gallus is taken away to be questioned first. As each student gets their turn with Twilight, the others work as fast as they can at the messy clean-up task, worried they’ll miss even one moment of their holiday break. Wistfully, Ocellus tells the others about her favorite memory of Hearth’s Warming (last year, the first time she celebrated), which we see in flashback. Yana tells the others that Yaks don’t have Hearth’s Warming, they have Snow, Snow, and More Snow. The other students (except Gallus) all tell their own tales of the holidays (even Blaze has a suitably festive tale) – and ultimately they illustrate what’s so great about the holiday in general – love, sharing, kindness, togetherness.

But with all the students interviewed, it looks like nocreature is going to get to go home, since Twilight still hasn’t gotten a confession. She tells them she needs a moment to

think about what to do, and leaves them alone. Ocellus gets teary-eyed, Yana is sad, and even the ever-ebullient Silverstar is crushed. Finally, Gallus tells the others his story, revealing that Griffons have their own holiday this time of year. But it’s all about families... And he doesn’t have a family. So he DOESN’T want to go home for the school break. He admits to his friends that HE was the one who sabotaged the Hearth’s Warming decorations – he was hoping the break would be cancelled, and he wouldn’t have to be all alone on the holiday.

His friends are upset, so when Twilight comes back to ask if the students have anything else to tell her, Gallus admits his guilt. But in an “I’m Spartacus” moment, the rest of the students vow to stay over the break with him, and celebrate Hearth’s Warming together. Twilight smiles – she was hoping they’d say that. She admits that she and Spike guessed who the prankster was, but they wanted to give him the chance to tell the truth. And since Hearth’s Warming is about coming together, she’d be honored if the students were all guests at the Mane 6’s table for the holiday. Gallus smiles, finally feeling the true meaning of Hearth’s Warming. And even Blaze has to admit...Maybe this holiday thing isn’t such a bad idea after all.