

MY LITTLE PONY
Season 9

A Horse Shoe-In
EP 920

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A HORSE SHOE-IN

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Logline: When Starlight Glimmer has to pick a vice principal, Trixie assumes she'll get the job since they're such great and powerful friends, but when Trixie turns out to be a bad fit for the position, Starlight and Trixie both learn that you shouldn't let friendship get in the way of hiring the right person for a job.

Twilight comes to Starlight Glimmer's office to give her some not exactly surprising news: when she takes the throne in Canterlot, she wants Starlight to take over the school. Starlight agrees, it's not exactly a surprise, but that doesn't make it any less wonderful! Twilight does give her a surprising task: Starlight must find a worthy vice principal. Twilight lists off some qualities she thinks a VP needs: good listener, good-multi-tasker, and someone who the students naturally respect. Starlight tells Twilight she won't let her down! After Twilight exits, we reveal Trixie who'd been napping, unseen, on Starlight's sofa. Trixie is excited – she thinks the VP position sounds perfect for someone as GREAT and POWERFUL as her. She insists she's a great listener, a great multi-tasker (she was able to nap AND eavesdrop at the same time), and she's obviously very intimidating. Starlight tells Trixie she can't just give her the job – she's taking the task seriously and she's not going to give the VP spot to just anybody. Trixie agrees in an over-enthusiastic way, winking at Starlight, but Starlight doesn't understand that Trixie still thinks she's a shoe-in for the job.

Starlight addresses a group of ponies who are candidates for the VP position (Bon Bon, Octavia, Big Mac, etc.). She explains that she's going to give everyone who wants to apply a shot, then she'll make a short list of the most worthy candidates for final consideration. She explains some of the VP's responsibilities – helping to set schedules for the classes, managing the maintenance of the building, and coordinating afterschool activities (like sports and music). Trixie yawns from the back of the room, barely paying attention. For their first test, Starlight has them referee a buckball game (to demonstrate confidence as an authority figure and ability to manage afterschool sports). Trixie is immediately trampled by the students, and ends up hiding under a bench. Bon Bon is much more helpful, and resolves an argument between two students on opposing teams.

Next, Starlight has all the candidates organize a sample schedule based on class sign-up sheets from students. Octavia is able to quickly create complicated algorithms that allow her to calculate the best possible class schedule (maybe using some kind of melodic scale – music/math equivalent). Trixie is not paying attention at all. Making no attempt to put a schedule together, Trixie daydreams about her new fantasy life as vice principal. She imagines being fawned over by the students who give her non-stop tickertape parades and standing ovations before presenting her with so many ice cream cakes that she's able to build an ice cream cake castle.

Later that day, Trixie catches up with Starlight as she's putting up her short list. Trixie is impressed with Starlight's commitment to keeping up appearances when she's obviously going to give her best friend the job. Starlight realizes for the first time that Trixie is

serious. She tells Trixie that she'll continue to consider her, but the qualifying tasks are only going to get harder from here. Trixie just laughs and tells Starlight to remember to put her name at the top of the short list, just so everypony knows where she stands. Trixie leaves, and Starlight (who was planning to cut Trixie from this round) reluctantly adds Trixie's name to the short list.

For the third task, Starlight has everyone on the short list spend the afternoon doing vice principal activities. Quick scenes of: Big Mac at parent-teacher conferences, Octavia setting up for band practice, and Trixie nervously staring at a huge leaking pipe in the attic with the maintenance staff. As the others handle their tasks with varying levels of success, Trixie confers with the maintenance staff on what to do about the leak in the pipe. The maintenance ponies are pretty sure that they can fix the pipe easily. But Trixie, who is convinced that she knows best, even with something she knows nothing about, dismisses the maintenance staff (who leave reluctantly) so she can handle the pipe herself. It goes poorly, and even more water gushes out of the pipe.

As a result, it starts to flood the parent-teacher conferences. Starlight rushes to the scene of the leak, where Trixie continues to be useless. Starlight, annoyed, tells Trixie to wait in her office. Once the leak has been stopped (with Bon Bon's help), Starlight goes to her office to tell Trixie she didn't get the job. But when Starlight arrives at the office, Trixie hugs her – she understands that she'd want to tell her she got the job in private so as not to disappoint the others. She can't wait to work with her best friend in the world. She tells Starlight how grateful she is for her support and confidence, and she assures Starlight that she'll do better dealing with maintenance issues next time. Starlight, staring at her friend's smiling face, is unable to disappoint her and tells her that she got the job.

She takes Trixie with her when she tells Big Mac, Bon Bon and Octavia that they didn't get the job. Starlight tries to let them down gracefully, but Trixie can't help but preen. Trixie then proceeds to terrify the parents at the parent-teacher conferences, messes up the afterschool activities, and accidentally re-breaks the pipe Starlight spent so much time fixing earlier. Starlight getting soaked by the re-burst pip is the last straw – she yells at Trixie, telling her she never wanted to make her VP in the first place. She fires her. Trixie angrily tells her she doesn't work at the school yet. Starlight responds that she's "pre-firing" her. Trixie: "Then I pre-QUIT!" Afterward, Bon Bon and Big Mac encourage a distraught Starlight to make up with Trixie. Meanwhile, Trixie runs into Octavia, who helps her realize that maybe it's okay that she didn't get the VP job. She has lots of good qualities, but probably not the right ones for this job. When Starlight finds Trixie, both ponies apologize – Trixie, for pressuring Starlight into giving her a job because she's her friend, and Starlight for hiring her and then immediately firing her (when she shouldn't have hired her in the first place). Starlight tells Trixie that Big Mac is going to be the VP, but asks Trixie if she would do something else – take over her old position as guidance counselor, which Starlight thinks Trixie would be great at.