MLP: 24

          Episode 2: 01:00AM - 02:00AM

                              SPIKE (O.S)

                    Previously, on My Little Pony:

          An army of pegasi led by Gilda the Griffon attacks a

          military base off the coast of Stableside.

          The Equestria Counter Terrorist Unit, ECTU are mobilized in

          Manechester to assess the threat and find a way to get the

          bomb back.

                              SPIKE (O.S.)

                    The following takes place between

                    1AM and 2AM. Events occur in real

                    time.

          INT. ECTU HQ - MANECHESTER - NIGHT

          01:03

          Fluttershy is at her work station, she is on the phone.

                              FLUTTERSHY

                    Alright, thank you. Thank you. By

                    now!

          She puts the phone down.

                              FLUTTERSHY

                    Umm... Spike?

          Spike is walking passed. He goes over to Fluttershy’s desk.

                              SPIKE

                    What is it?

                              FLUTTERSHY

                    Manechester City PD reported a bank

                    robbery that happened almost an

                    hour ago.

                              SPIKE

                    What?

                              FLUTTERSHY

                         (reading data on screen)

                    Four suspects were critically

                    wounded, one dead and one in

                    custody.

                              SPIKE

                    You say it went down an hour ago?

          Fluttershy nods.

          Spike turns and hollers:

                              SPIKE

                    Pinkie Pie!

          Pinkie Pie appears out of nowhere.

                              PINKIE PIE

                    Somepony call my name?

                              SPIKE

                    Bank robbery went down in

                    Manechester same time as the bomb

                    went missing. Seems the entire

                    Manechester police department

                    responded to it. Coincidence?

                              PINKIE PIE

                    Nuh-uh.

                              SPIKE

                    Had to be a distraction technique.

                    Fluttershy, do you have any idea

                    where the suspect they arrested is

                    being held?

                              FLUTTERSHY

                         (typing and searching)

                    Umm... that would be... Ponyville

                    Precinct.

          Spike nods.

                              SPIKE

                    I’ll get on down there and find out

                    what he knows, Rainbow, you coming?

          Rainbow Dash looks up from a plan of the military base.

                              RAINBOW DASH

                         (shakes her head)

                    Sorry, Spike. I need to investigate

                    this bunker. I’m heading out in a

                    few.

                              SPIKE

                    Alright. I’ll keep you in the loop.

          Spike leaves.

                              PINKIE PIE

                    Have fun!

          Pinkie turns back to Fluttershy.

                              PINKIE PIE

                    Any progress on finding out who

                    knew about the bomb?

                              FLUTTERSHY

                    Umm... I’m working on it. I’ll work

                    faster.

                              PINKIE PIE

                         (hyperactive, getting up close

                         and personal)

                    We need it super-duper pronto. So

                    fast that it blazes through the

                    air, leaving a trail of fire behind

                    it! So fast that it MELTS YOUR FACE

                    and TURNS YOU INTO A PENGUIN.

          Applejack has placed her hands on a hyperventilating Pinkie

          Pie’s shoulders. Fluttershy is terrified.

                              APPLEJACK

                    I think she gets the idea, Pinkie.

          She winks at Fluttershy, who nods slowly. She leads Pinkie

          away.

          In the background, Rainbow Dash checks in with Fluttershy

          and then leaves through the open window.

                              APPLEJACK

                    Rarity’s on with Celestia trying to

                    get the scoop. She’s pretty pissed

                    off at not being kept in the loop.

                              PINKIE PIE

                    I know, I mean what’s up with that?

                    Ya think ya know somepony! All this

                    time I thought she was best friends

                    with the Hoity-toities and the

                    Fancypantses up in Canterlot.

                              APPLEJACK

                         (serious face)

                    I’ve a feeling that over the next

                    few hours, we’re going to learn who

                    our friends really are.

          01:06

          EXT. OVER EQUESTRIA - NIGHT

          01:09

          Rainbow Dash bolts through the air, leaving a rainbow trail

          behind her. She is flying high up, but just under her

          maximum speed, so as to not generate a Sonic Rainboom and

          blow her cover. It is raining heavily, but as she flies

          through clouds, they break up. The stars of the night sky

          shine through. The city lights below look pretty, but soon

          she leaves Manechester and is flying over a mountain range.

          She is heading for the coast.

          01:11

          INT. SWEET APPLE ACRES - NIGHT

          01:17

          Sweetie Belle and APPLEBLOOM are in Applebloom’s bedroom.

          Sweetie Belle is sat by the window. Neither speak.

          Applebloom sighs and gets up.

                              APPLEBLOOM

                    Look, you wanna tell me what’s up?

                              SWEETIE BELLE

                    Not really.

                              APPLEBLOOM

                    What happened to us, Sweetie Bell?

                    Was it something I said?

                              SWEETIE BELLE

                    No it’s just...

                              APPLEBLOOM

                    It’s been hard for me as well, you

                    know. Especially without you.

                              SWEETIE BELLE

                    Yeah but I-

                              APPLEBLOOM

                         (getting angry)

                    You have no idea what it’s been

                    like. You’ve been living the high

                    life in Canterlot.

                              SWEETIE BELLE

                    That’s not true!

                              APPLEBLOOM

                         (ignoring her)

                    Since Granny passed and Applejack

                    moved on, I’ve had to take care of

                    this farm with Big Mac all by

                    myself. I didn’t mind so much when

                    I had you and Scootaloo but...

                              SWEETIE BELLE

                         (breaks down, crying)

                    I thought we said we wouldn’t talk

                    about that!

                              APPLEBLOOM

                    Yeah, well maybe I want to talk

                    about it? Maybe talking about it

                    would make us both feel better? God

                    knows we need to.

          Neither pony says anything for a few seconds.

          Then:

                              APPLEBLOOM

                    Let’s go and sit outside. It’s

                    stopped raining now.

                              SWEETIE BELLE

                         (sniveling)

                    I don’t want to.

          Applebloom takes a large bottle out from under her bed.

                              APPLEBLOOM

                    Not even if I offered you some of

                    the Apple family’s best homemade

                    cider?

          Sweetie Belle turns around immediately.

          Applebloom smiles.

          01:20

          INT. ECTU HQ - MANECHESTER - NIGHT

          01:27

          Rarity approaches Pinkie Pie who is wandering around the

          floor, checking people’s progress. She is carrying a piece

          of scroll.

                              RARITY

                    This just in from Fancy Pants.

                              PINKIE PIE

                         (puzzled look)

                    I thought you were talking to

                    Celestia?

                              RARITY

                    Fancy Pants oversaw the bomb’s

                    construction. He was the main

                    source of funding. He gave me a

                    list of people who knew about it.

          She passes the list on to Pinkie Pie.

          Pinkie Pie’s eyes scroll down the list, nodding and raising

          her eyebrows until they get to a name she recognizes.

                              PINKIE PIE

                         (in disbelief)

                    Fluttershy?

          In the background, Fluttershy is working on her desk.

                              RARITY

                         (nods)

                    Apparently she knew about it.

                              PINKIE PIE

                    Why didn’t she say anything?

                              RARITY

                    She must have known we would find

                    out eventually. Also, go down

                    further.

          Pinkie Pie continues to read.

                              PINKIE PIE

                    Shining Armour.

                              RARITY

                    Twilight seemed to know a lot about

                    how a magi-nuclear bomb worked.

                              PINKIE PIE

                    Yeah but she’s super smart, isn’t

                    she? And anyway, she’s not on the

                    list.

                              RARITY

                         (cocks her eyebrow)

                    That doesn’t mean she doesn’t know

                    about it. Her brother certainly

                    does. Right now, all of these

                    people are suspects.

                              PINKIE PIE

                    Awww c’mon Rarity. You think

                    Fluttershy could have had

                    something to do with this?

          Rarity shrugs.

                              RARITY

                    We have to view this objectively,

                    Pinkie Pie. Right now everypony on

                    this list needs to be accounted

                    for. I’m afraid to bring Twilight

                    and Fluttershy in the loop on this.

                              PINKIE PIE

                    But we need them, or we’ll never be

                    able to gather the intelligence in

                    time. You really expect ME to do

                    this on my own? Give Twilight the

                    benefit of the doubt at least. We

                    don’t know that she knows anything

                    about it. For all we know,

                    Fluttershy might have just

                    consulted on it. She’s a tech

                    wizard after all.

          Rarity considers.

                              RARITY

                    Alright. We’ll bring Twilight in,

                    but keep Fluttershy at a distance

                    until we can learn more.

          Pinkie Pie nods and goes off to find Twilight Sparkle.

          01:32

          EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES - NIGHT

          01:38

          Applebloom and Sweetie Belle are sitting outside Sweet Apple

          Acres passing a bottle of cider between them.

                              SWEETIE BELLE

                    Remember when we used to sit out

                    here, looking up at the stars and

                    talking about getting our cutie

                    marks?

                              APPLEBLOOM

                         (nodding)

                    It was all we ever cared about.

          Sweetie Belle looks at her flank. There are a pair of

          intertwined musical notes resting on it. Applebloom has a

          hammer crossing over a sickle.

                              SWEETIE BELLE

                    At least we both got there in the

                    end.

          Applebloom drinks a mouthful of cider and nods.

                              APPLEBLOOM

                    At least yours looks alright. Mine

                    makes me look like I’m with the

                    Soviet Union Ponies.

          Sweetie Belle giggles.

                              SWEETIE BELLE

                    I’ve missed this, Applebloom.

                              APPLEBLOOM

                    Me too. I just wish...

                              SWEETIE BELLE

                         (suddenly sad again)

                    Don’t say it.

                              APPLEBLOOM

                    Look, we need to start talking

                    abou-

          Suddenly standing up.

                              SWEETIE BELLE

                    Let’s go into town?

                              APPLEBLOOM

                         (puzzled)

                    You mean like... out?

                              SWEETIE BELLE

                    Yeah, like... out into town, out.

                              APPLEBLOOM

                    Sweetie Belle, we’re not old

                    enough. And everypony in town knows

                    me.

                              SWEETIE BELLE

                    You’re also the sole provider of

                    Apple family cider, which they sell

                    in every club from here to

                    Trottingham.

                              APPLEBLOOM

                    Well... I guess we could... but you

                    can’t tell anyone?

                              SWEETIE BELLE

                         (miming)

                    Of course not. Cross my heart and

                    hope to die, stick a cupcake in my

                    eye.

          They finish the cider together.

                              APPLEBLOOM

                    Let’s go.

          As they leave for town, they don’t notice the pony lurking

          in the shadows, watching them.

          01:42

          INT. PONYVILLE PRECINCT - PONYVILLE - NIGHT

          1:43

          Spike approaches the desk where a pony CUSTODY OFFICER is

          sitting on her computer. She acknowledges him.

                              CUSTODY OFFICER

                    Can I help you?

          Spike produces his ECTU badge.

                              SPIKE

                    Special Agent Spike, Counter

                    Terrorist Unit. I need to speak to

                    the prisoner that was brought in

                    earlier this evening.

                              CUSTODY OFFICER

                    One moment please.

          She works on her computer.

                              CUSTODY OFFICER

                    He’s in cell B3. His name is Teddy

                    Picker. He has a history of petty

                    crime and antisocial behaviour.

                              SPIKE

                    Thanks.

          Spike heads towards Teddy Picker’s cell.

                              CUSTODY OFFICER

                    You’re wasting your time, darlin’.

                    He wouldn’t talk to the arresting

                    officers.

                              SPIKE

                    He’ll talk to me.

          Spike reaches holding cell B3. The duty officer opens the

          door and shuts it behind Spike. TEDDY PICKER looks up at

          him.

          Spike stares down at Teddy Picker for several seconds before

          speaking.

                              SPIKE

                    Who are you working for?

          Teddy grins slightly. He turns his head away.

                              SPIKE

                         (getting angry)

                    I asked you a question, Picker.

                              TEDDY PICKER

                    Take a hike, dragon. I ain’t sayin’

                    a word to you.

          Spike nods, smiling slightly and looks around. A beat.

          Spike seizes the surprised pony and slams him against the

          wall of his cell. He punches him twice in the stomach,

          knocking the wind out of him and making him cough heavily.

          Spike presses his face against Teddy Picker’s baring his

          fangs.

                              SPIKE

                    I’m going to ask you one last time

                    before I start hurting you. Who put

                    you up to the robbery?

                              TEDDY PICKER

                         (coughing weakly)

                    Screw you, man.

          Spike throws Teddy Picker against the cell wall. The Pony

          tries to stand up, but Spike slams his head against the

          wall.

          As the pony slumps, dazed, Spike bares his claws and swipes

          them across the pony’s face, cutting three deep gashes into

          it. He screams in pain and covers his face with his hooves.

          He breaks down on the ground, crying his eyes out.

          Spike yells over his screams.

                              SPIKE

                    Who are you working for?

                              TEDDY PICKER

                         (moaning and crying)

                    They’ll kill me, man. They’ll kill

                    me!

          Spike seizes a sheet from the minimalistic little bed and

          winds it around his hand, playing with it, holding it in

          front of Teddy Picker’s face.

                              SPIKE

                    You probably don’t think that I

                    could force this sheet all the way

                    down your throat, but trust me, I

                    can. All the way. Except I’d hold

                    onto this one little bit at the

                    end. When your stomach starts to

                    digest it, I pull it out, taking

                    your stomach lining with it. For

                    most ponies it would take about a

                    week to die. Its very painful.

                              TEDDY PICKER

                         (terrified)

                    You wouldn’t. You can’t.

          Spike bends down and holds his face very close to Teddy

          Picker’s.

                              SPIKE

                    Believe me, I can and I will if I

                    have to. Talk to me or I’ll kill

                    you myself.

          He steps back and watches Teddy. The helpless pony is

          cowering in fear of the large, purple dragon.

                              SPIKE

                    This is your final warning before I

                    start losing my temper. Who are you

                    working for?

          The pony blubbers and snivels.

          Spike lets out a roar and grabs the pony by the throat. He

          holds the sheet close to his mouth and bellows into his

          face:

                              SPIKE

                    WHO ARE YOU WORKING FOR?

                              TEDDY PICKER

                    Some army pegasus. I don’t know

                    their name! I swear!

                              SPIKE

                    That’s not good enough. I need

                    more.

                              TEDDY PICKER

                    They paid me and my crew one

                    million bits to do the job. Break

                    in and rob a particular safe.

                    Except the safe they wanted us to

                    rob was empty.

                              SPIKE

                    What do you mean, "empty"?

                              TEDDY PICKER

                    Like empty. As in it had nothing in

                    it. Soon as we realized we’d been

                    set up, an army of cops showed up

                    and we had no choice. Just started

                    shooting. Everyone in my crew is

                    dead or halfway there except me.

                              SPIKE

                    Do you remember the number of the

                    safe you were asked to empty?

                              TEDDY PICKER

                         (trying to recall)

                    Uhh... it was 1-958.

                              SPIKE

                    One-nine, five-eight?

                              TEDDY PICKER

                    Yeah.

          Spike nods.

                              SPIKE

                    This had better pan out. Or I’m

                    coming back for you.

                              TEDDY PICKER

                    I’ve told you everything I know,

                    man.

          Spike looks at him for a long time, trying to decide if he

          is lying or not. Eventually, he nods, satisfied. He walks

          out of the cell and allows the duty guard to close it on his

          behalf. The duty guard looks in and shakes his head at Teddy

          Picker.

          01:56

          EXT. PONYVILLE - NIGHT

          01:57

          Spike is outside the Precinct, talking to Rarity on his

          phone.

                              SPIKE

                    This was definitely an inside job.

                    Picker said that some "Army

                    Pegasus" put him up to the robbery,

                    then set them up to fail. All they

                    were was a distraction and they

                    were all supposed to die in the

                    shootout.

          Split screen with Rarity in ECTU.

                              RARITY

                    Good work, Spike. I'll find out who

    owns that safe. Meainwhile, I’ve got

    another lead I want you to chase up.

                              SPIKE

                    What’s that?

                              RARITY

                    We received a list of ponies who

                    knew about Higaldo. One of them

                    lives in Ponyville.

                              SPIKE

                    Who?

                              RARITY

                    A scientist called Doctor Whooves.

                    Apparently he was one of the major

                    consultants for the Higaldo

                    Project. We couldn’t get through to

                    him via phone so I want you to

                    check up on him, Twilight will send

                    the address to your phone.

          Spike feels his phone vibrate. He pulls it away and checks.

                              SPIKE

                    Alright, I’ll let you know what I

                    find.

          He hangs up.

          01:58

          EXT. MILITARY BUNKER OFF THE COAST OF STABLESIDE, SOUTH

          EQUESTRIA - NIGHT

          1:58

          Rainbow Dash lands on the military bunker. Immediately, she

          is met by the corpses of pegasi guards. Her stomach churns.

                              RAINBOW DASH

                    Oh my God...

          She inspects some of the dead ponies and notices huge gashes

          on their bodies that look like claw marks.

          As she walks inside, she sees the pony whose head has been

          severed. Congealing blood is still seeping from the neck

          stump. There is a small white feather lying next to the

          body.

          She reaches down and picks it up. Twilight Sparkle’s voice

          comes through on he radio.

                              TWILIGHT SPARKLE (O.S)

                    Rainbow Dash, what’s going on with

                    the bunker? Have you learned

                    anything?

          Rainbow Dash talks through her radio.

          Split screen with Twilight Sparkle.

                              RAINBOW DASH

                    Twilight, what sort of creature has

                    claws that are powerful enough to

                    tear off a pony’s head?

                              TWILIGHT SPARKLE

                         (alarmed)

                    What do you mean?

                              RAINBOW DASH

                         (nervously)

                    Well there are a lot of dead guards

                    here with claw marks all over their

                    bodies. It’s horrible.

                              TWILIGHT SPARKLE

                    My God...

                              RAINBOW DASH

                    What sort of creature could do

                    that?

                              TWILIGHT SPARKLE

                    Well... a very large wolf? A

                    chimera? Ursa?

                              RAINBOW DASH

                    It has to be able to fly.

                              TWILIGHT SPARKLE

                    Well then... a manticore maybe?

                              RAINBOW DASH

                    Sentient creatures?

                              TWILIGHT SPARKLE

                    Well uhh... you’re probably looking

                    at a dragon then, or a griffon.

          Upon hearing the word "griffon", she freezes, a horrified

          expression forming on her face.

                              RAINBOW DASH

                    Oh.

                              TWILIGHT SPARKLE

                         (worried)

                    Rainbow? Rainbow are you alright?

                              RAINBOW DASH

                    I’m fine... just... need some air.

          Rainbow Dash flies up and out of the military bunker. When

          she emerges, it is raining heavily outside. A flash of

          lightning crackles through the sky followed by the

          tremendous roar of thunder.

          Rainbow Dash looks back towards the mainland with a

          perplexed expression. She holds up the white feather she

          picked up from the ground and looks at it.

                              RAINBOW DASH

                    A griffon...

          Fade to clock.

          01:59:56

          01:59:57

          01:59:58

          01:59:59

          02:00:00

          END OF TRANSMISSION