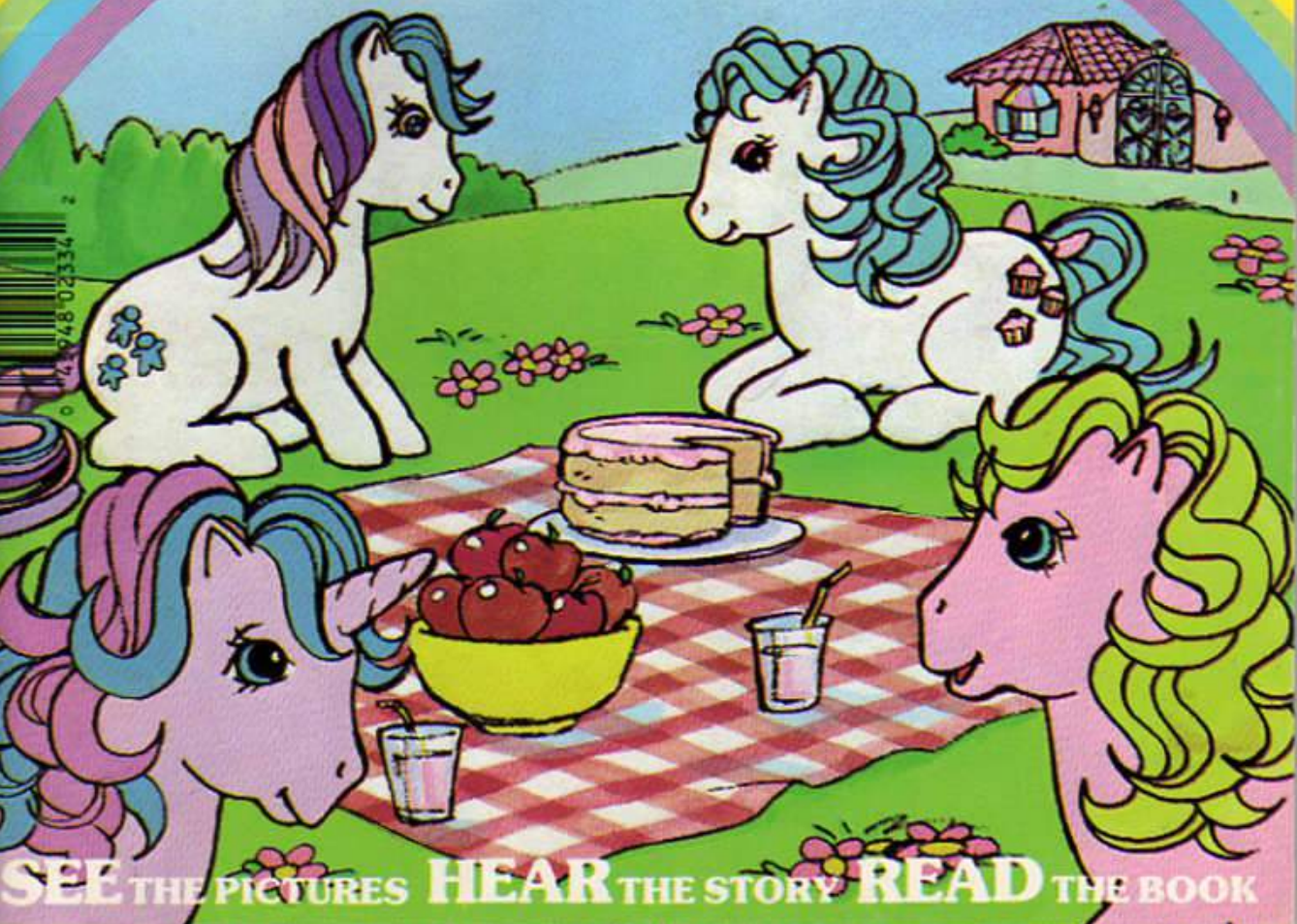


My Little Pony

Picnic at Paradise Estate



SEE THE PICTURES HEAR THE STORY READ THE BOOK

My Little Pony

Picnic at Paradise Estate

Written by John Braden
Illustrated by Parrott Graphics



Hi, everybody, and welcome to your My Little Pony Read-Along Book. Every time you hear this chime . . . it means it's time to turn the page in your storybook. Are you ready to begin? Good! Here we go with "Picnic at Paradise Estate." Don't forget to turn the page every time you hear the chime.

© 1986 Hasbro, Inc. All Rights Reserved.
© 1986 IJE, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Manufactured and distributed by
Kid Stuff Records & Tapes, a division of IJE Inc.
450 North Park Road, Hollywood, Florida 33021



It was summer in Pony Land. Summer came after a long and rainy spring. On those rainy days, the ponies had to play indoors to stay dry. But then came June, and the bright sun changed everything. The summer flowers bloomed bright and strong, covering the hills around the Paradise Estate with blankets of pink and gold blossoms.



The sparkling blue pools of crystal cool water were the perfect spot for the Baby Sea Ponies' frolicking. Sea Shimmer and Beachcomber splashed and played together. Across the wide green glen at the Baby Bonnet School of Dance, Baby Lofty and Baby Heart Throb were practicing their pirouettes so that they could entertain all their pony friends on warm summer evenings.

In the bright sunny sky high above Pony Land, the Flutter Ponies flew gracefully through the blue sky, chasing the few rainbows that still stayed behind after the rain. Although the Flutter Ponies would never say it to their friends, they *did* think they were special. After all, *they* could fly.

Meanwhile, far below the rainbow, Ribbon and all her So Soft Pony friends were dozing in the tall, soft grass. After all, on a day that was so close to being perfect, what better thing was there to do but doze?



Watching this peaceful scene from a hill nearby were Megan and her spirited pony, Sundance. From where Sundance and Megan were standing, they could look down and see most of Pony Land. They had been out since early morning, picking sweet wild berries in the rolling hills. Skipping along behind Megan and Sundance were Megan's sister, Molly, and her very best pony friend, Baby Sundance.



Megan turned to Sundance and asked, "Do you think we've picked enough berries for everyone? We wouldn't want to run short. Today's the day of the picnic at Paradise Estate."

"It looks like plenty to me," answered Sundance. "I think it's time to start back."

"You're right," replied Megan. "There's so much to do to get ready."

For weeks now, the ponies had been planning the picnic. Each group of ponies had a special task to help get ready. Baby Sea Ponies were filling the pool while Flutter Ponies flew around and made sure no one had forgotten the event. But, of course, no one had. Certainly not Megan and Sundance.

"I was so excited last night, I hardly slept," said Megan.

"I know what you mean," answered Molly in an excited whisper. "I had butterflies in my tummy last night too."

"Butterflies in your tummy?" asked Baby Sundance in a surprised voice. "How'd they get there?"

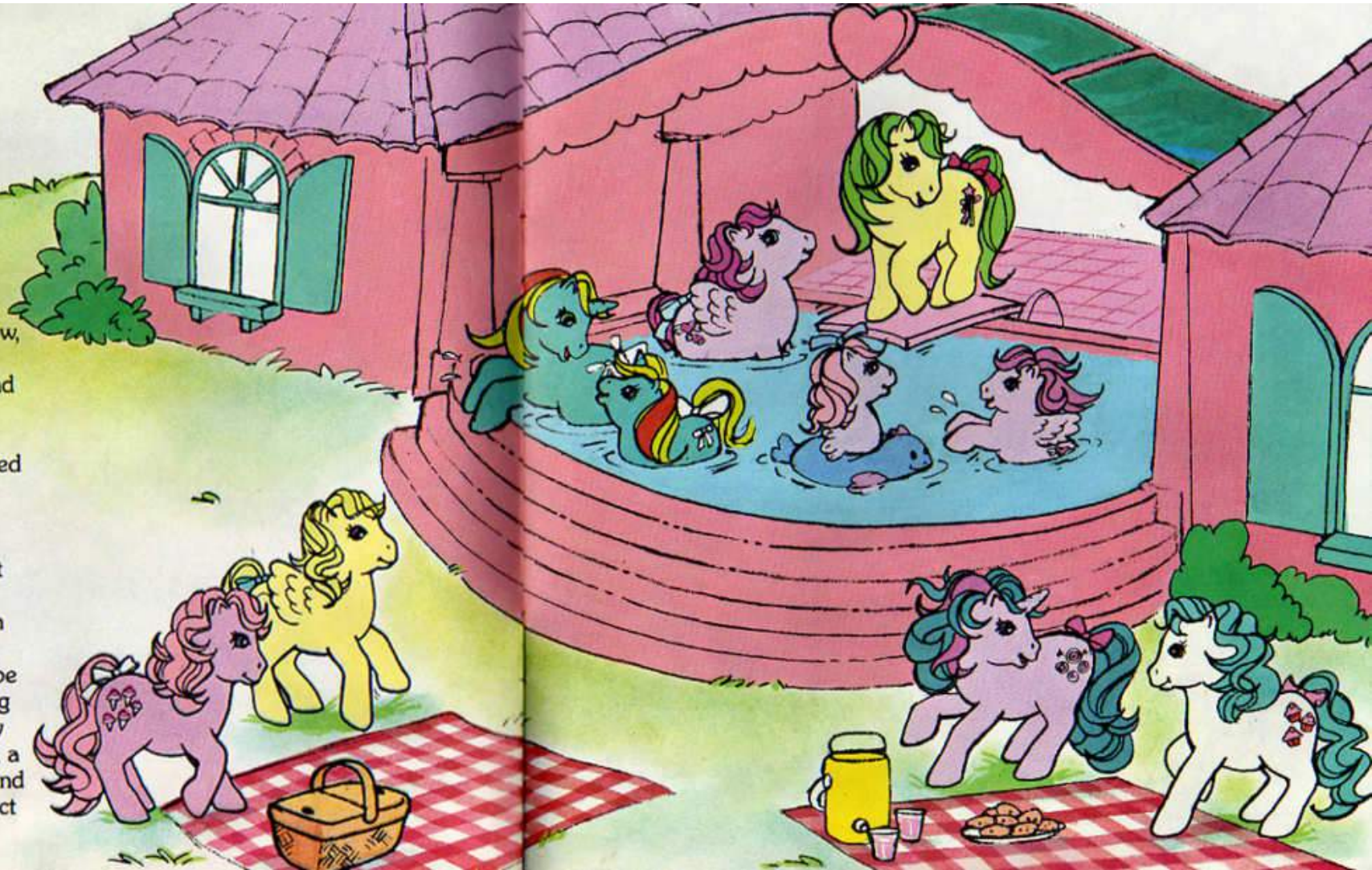
Megan and Molly just laughed.

Then Baby Sundance's mother lovingly said, "That's just an expression, Baby Sundance. You've got a lot to learn."



At the Paradise Estate, everyone was busy. By now, the pool was almost full. From all around Pony Land came ponies of all sizes and colors. They brought blankets and baskets packed to the top with delicious foods. There were honey cakes and lemonade and sweet apple turnovers, just for starters.

The sun was extra warm as it shone down on the Paradise Estate. It would be a perfect day for swimming and sunning, a perfect day for playing and picnicking, a perfect day for galloping and giggling — in short, a perfect day for a picnic.



IT'S A BLUE SKY.
IT'S A SUNNY DAY.
WE'VE PACKED THE BASKETS TO THE TOP
AND NOW WE'RE ON OUR WAY.
SO HURRY UP, EVERYBODY,
WE DON'T WANT TO BE LATE
FOR THE PICNIC WITH THE PONIES
AT THE PARADISE ESTATE.

IT'S A DAY FOR SINGING.
IT'S A DAY FOR FUN.
WE'LL BE SWIMMING IN THE POOL
OR PLAYING IN THE SUN.
WE'RE SO EXCITED,
WE CAN HARDLY WAIT
FOR THE PICNIC WITH THE PONIES
AT THE PARADISE ESTATE.



WHAT IF THE CLOUDS DRIFT BY?
WHAT IF THE SKY TURNS GRAY?
WE'LL RUN INSIDE AND HIDE UNTIL
THE RAINDROPS GO AWAY.

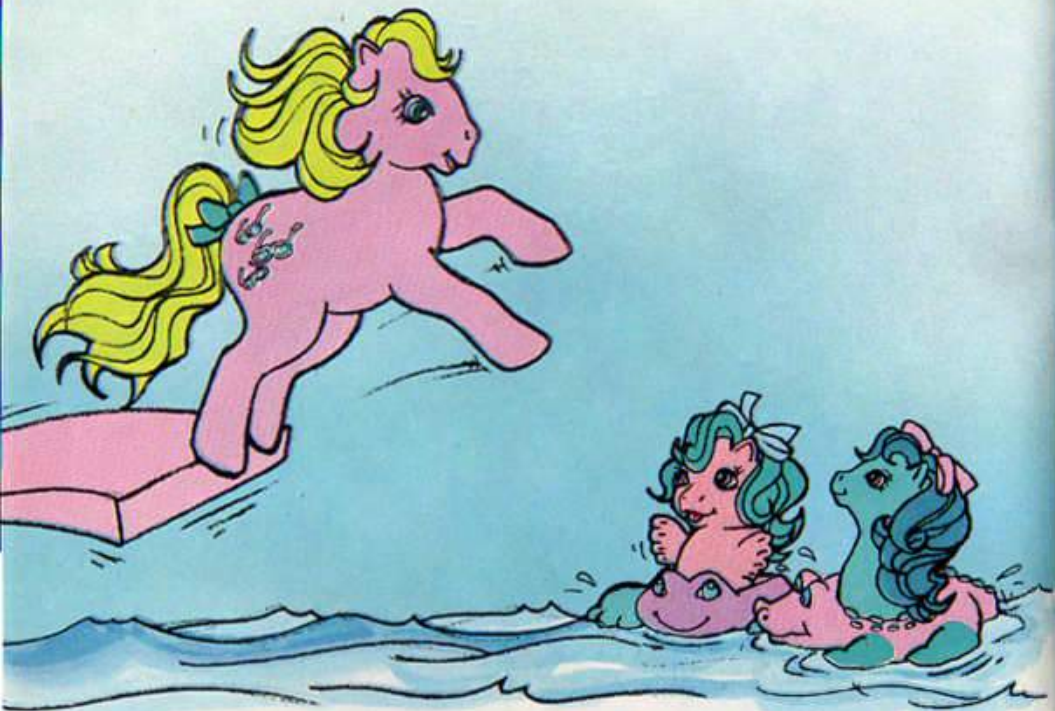
NOW'S THE TIME FOR LAUGHTER.
NOW'S THE TIME FOR SONG.
NOW'S THE TIME TO DANCE AND PLAY
AND BRING YOUR FRIENDS ALONG.



SO, HURRY UP, EVERYBODY,
IT'S GONNA BE GREAT,
FOR THE PICNIC WITH THE PONIES
AT THE PARADISE ESTATE.

WE'RE GONNA PICNIC WITH PONIES
AT THE PARADISE ESTATE.
COME ON AND PICNIC WITH THE PONIES
AT THE PARADISE ESTATE.

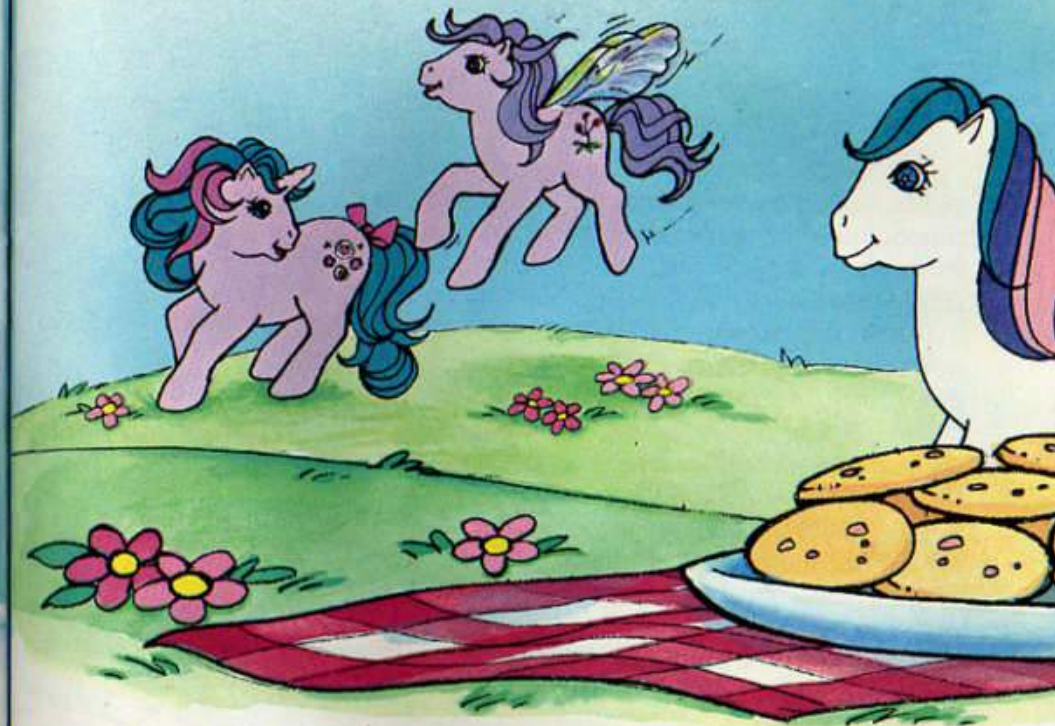




Once all the ponies had gathered at the Paradise Estate, the picnic began.

"Please hold my sunglasses!" Shady called to Paradise as she galloped up to the diving board. Then the pretty pink pony surprised everyone with a picture-perfect swan dive into the pool.

Nearby, in the soft green grass, the Twinkle Eyed Ponies were serving lunch. Gingerbread had baked a special batch of cookies just for the picnic. Sweet Stuff had brought a basket of gumdrops of every flavor imaginable.



And as for the Baby Sea Ponies — well, they loved the water so much that no one could get them out. But then, no one tried. The babies paddled and splashed in the shallow end of the pool, having the very best time in the world.

By now, most of the Flutter Ponies had landed on the ground and were playing games with the So Soft Ponies in the wild flowers which bloomed everywhere around the Paradise Estate.

Just as everyone was getting into the spirit of the picnic, something terrible happened. An echo of distant thunder rumbled across the hillside. In an instant, all the ponies stopped what they were doing and looked up. All they saw was a beautiful blue sky overhead.

Megan turned to her sister Molly and said, "There's not a cloud in the sky and that thunder sounded many miles away. I don't think it's going to rain."

But Megan couldn't have been more wrong. Within minutes, a cool breeze began to blow down through Pony Land valley. Soon after that, big gray clouds tumbled over the hills, hiding the golden sun from view. Then moments later, raindrops began to fall. The first one landed with a splat right on the tip of Megan's pretty nose.

"I guess I was wrong!" exclaimed Megan. "Everyone out of the pool!"

"Do we have to?" asked Water Lily. "We were just starting to have fun."

"When you hear thunder, it means that lightning might be nearby. It's best to play it safe."

"Megan's right!" added Sundance. "We should go inside right away."

So, with big groans of disappointment, the ponies stopped their picnic fun and hurried to get themselves and all their picnic supplies inside the Paradise Estate.

"We must hurry!" shouted Megan. "It may rain harder very soon!"



Dozens of hooves scampered about as all the ponies dashed for the shelter and safety of the Paradise Estate. In moments, they were all inside – not a moment too soon, for just as Megan closed the door, a heavy rain began.

Looking out the window, Lofty murmured to the others, "Listen to the sound of raindrops beating on the roof. Don't you just love it!"

"Yes, but not today," said Masquerade. "This rain could ruin our picnic."

"Summer showers don't often last long," explained Megan, sounding very wise.

None of the ponies seemed impressed with Megan's explanation. And as Megan looked around the Paradise Estate, she saw more sad faces and droopy eyes than she had ever seen in one place. For now, it looked like the picnic was going to be rained out.



"What can we do indoors?" asked Morning Glory. "We have to find some way to pass the time."

"Oh, there's a lot we can do," replied Megan. Because she was the oldest, she felt a need to make her sad friends happy again. "We could sing or dance."

None of the ponies seemed to cheer up at that suggestion.

"I've got it!" exclaimed Megan. "We'll play a game — a word game! The idea of the game is very simple. One of you ponies picks a word — any word will do. Then, one by one, each of you adds another word. The trick is to try not to let your word end the sentence, otherwise you'll be out. Suppose we try it. Sundance will start."



Sundance started with an unusual word. "Hippos —"
Morning Glory went next. "Hippos... sometimes —"
Masquerade added, "Hippos sometimes... enjoy —"
Water Lily went on, "Hippos sometimes enjoy... taking —"
Molly then piped up, "Hippos sometimes enjoy taking... mud —"
Then there was a long pause. It was Ribbon's turn. She batted her pretty green eyes in dismay, for she realized it was almost impossible not to end the sentence. Then she said, "Hippos sometimes enjoy taking mud... um... baths. You got me. I lose."

The idea of hippos taking a mud bath tickled everybody's funny bone, and they began to giggle, then to laugh. Soon, they were laughing so hard and so long that their laughter drowned out the noise of the rain. They laughed so hard and so long that they didn't notice that the rain had stopped.



When Megan stopped giggling, she glanced through a window of the Paradise Estate and saw a beautiful sight. She called to her friends, "Hey, everyone, look! The rain has stopped."

When the ponies saw with their own eyes that this was true, they gave out a cheer which could be heard halfway across the valley. It was still early afternoon and there was plenty of time left to finish the picnic.

A few minutes later, when they were all outside again, Sundance shouted to her friends, "Look, everyone, up there in the sky!"

All the ponies stopped what they were doing and turned to look in the sky where Sundance was looking. There, hanging as if by magic in the clearing blue sky, was a big, bright rainbow.

"Sometimes you have to take the bad with the good," Megan said wisely to her friends. "Without the rain, there would be no rainbow."

