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MY LITTLE PONY

Season II

"It's About Time"

Episode 220

Outline by
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TEASER

Spike sputters out of a sound sleep (and an amazing dream about ice cream!) when he hears the steady clop of hooves. He finds Twilight Sparkle awake and pacing in the middle of the night, a bundle of anxiety. "It's awful! It's horrible! It's tragic!" Overcome with concern, he tries to comfort her and find out what's causing her worry, but nothing he says can stop her distressed pacing. Finally, he gets her to open up about the problem.

Her grandfoals.

"Your *what*?!"

Twilight explains that she can't sleep because she so worried about the future fate of her future grandfoals. What school will they get into? How can they avoid having Rainbow Dash's grandfoals bully them? Will they be prepared if dragons decide to invade Equestria?

Spike slaps his forehead. When will he finally learn to ignore worried, middle-of-the-night pacing?

ACT I

Twilight Sparkle sits at her desk surrounded by piles of scrolls, happily studying away. Suddenly, a vortex of rippling timespace and sparkles forms in the middle of the library! Her hair is blasted back as the vortex crescendos, then dissipates, leaving...

Another Twilight Sparkle!! She's dressed in a black, full-body catsuit, with an eye patch and a bandaged head. Her mane is a spiky, punky mess, and she has a scar across her cheek. She's also completely freaked out. "I have an important message for you from the future!" Current Twilight speculates as to the dystopian, distant future she must have come from to look like that. "Actually, I came from next Tuesday."

But Future Twilight Sparkle can't get her important message out because she's immediately barraged with questions about time travel by Current Twilight Sparkle. She tries to get a word in, and is finally forced to cut Current Twilight off because she only has a limited amount of time. "Whatever you do, don't—" Just like that, Future Twilight evaporates into thin air, sucked back to the future. Current Twilight speculates that, judging by the ragged appearance of Future Twilight, the important message must have been about some sort of impending disaster! And she only has until next Tuesday to stop it!

For a worrywart like Twilight, this is the worst problem to have. Not knowing what the disaster will be, she leaps into action, mobilizing the citizens of Ponyville to try to prevent any possible problems around town. They find a small crack in the dam and repair it. They find a loose bolt in the bridge and tighten it. Any little thing that could

end in disaster is fixed. At the same time, she sends pegasi out across Equestria to look for problems outside of town, but they turn up nothing that could lead to catastrophe. Fastidious Twilight soon devolves into fixing ridiculous repairs: leaky sinks, misspelled signs, bad haircuts.

With her disaster checklist completely ticked off, Twilight wracks her brain. She must have missed something! Future Twilight looked like she had been through the ringer; surely her warning must be about something bigger than loose bolts and leaky pipes! But she soon finds it hard to concentrate as enormous, monstrous ROARS echo through Ponyville!

Cerberus, a giant three-headed dog, has left his post guarding the Gates of Tartaros! If he doesn't return to the Gates, all the ancient evil creatures that have been imprisoned there will escape and destroy Equestria!

"This is great!" shouts Twilight, over the terrified screams of her friends. She steps forward, confident that all she has to do is stop Cerberus and she will have averted Future Twilight's disastrous prediction. The huge dog roars and snarls, thick slobber glooping over Twilight's head. She digs in, ready to use her magic to do battle with the vicious beast, when the roaring suddenly stops. Cerberus rolls happily onto his back, leg twitching with joy as Fluttershy scratches the giant dog's belly. "Who's the cute w'iw three-headed dog?" Fluttershy explains that Cerberus isn't a horrible monster; he's just a big, dopey dog who got out of his yard. Twilight's ecstatic! All she needs to do is get him back to the Gates of Tartaros and there will be no disaster! She borrows a ball from Pinkie Pie and lures the giant dog back to his home.

The next day, Twilight returns from her journey, having successfully deposited Cerberus back at the Gates. She heads into the Library to clean off all the slobber, feeling quite pleased with herself for solving the mystery and saving the town. As she towels herself off, clean and happy, Spike suddenly belches up a scroll! It flies right into Twilight's face!

"Oh no!" she shouts, panic rising. Spike doesn't understand what the big deal is. The scroll is nothing but a belated "lost dog" flier for Cerberus. Twilight says the scroll isn't the problem. She points to her cheek, to a paper cut she got when Spike belched the scroll into her face. The paper cut is in the exact same spot as the scar on Future Twilight's cheek! And that means the disaster is still coming!

ACT II

Twilight is freaking out. Spike points out that she's such an obsessive worrier that she's actually worn a groove into the floor from all her pacing. But she doesn't have time to listen to Spike's lectures! ("My lectures?!") She's too busy trying to save the world. She goes back to the problem at hand. She did everything she could think of to change the future, and that didn't work. How else can she alter time? Then it hits her; maybe it's

not what she does, maybe it's what she doesn't do! She's going to stand perfectly still, not doing anything until next Tuesday. That way, if the disaster is caused by her actions, and that's what Future Twilight wanted to warn her about, she won't do the thing that causes it! Perfect plan!

Spike, meanwhile, tests her. She's really not going to move until next Tuesday, huh? Then maybe she won't mind if he... eats an entire tub of ice cream! Twilight urgently shouts, "Don't do it, Spike! Think of the stomach ache!". Spike happily digs his spoon in and cockily replies, "That's Future Spike's problem."

Rainbow Dash pops by with another report from her pegasi (and to complain about all the extra work, of course). She laughs when she finds Twilight frozen in place. Rainbow Dash and Spike bring out the most mischievous in each other, so they immediately set to messing with her, to seeing who can get her to move first. Even when Rainbow Dash chops off Twilight's mane and styles it in more of a Rainbow Dash fashion, she doesn't move. Until she sees herself in a mirror. "Oh no!!" Rainbow Dash has given Twilight the spiky punk haircut that Future Twilight had! It's another sign that disaster is coming!

Twilight becomes increasingly frantic. Doing everything didn't work. Doing nothing didn't work. So what's she going to do now? If only she knew what she was trying to stop, then she could stop it. But how? How can she possibly see the future? Idea! Pinkie Pie has the ability to see the future with her Pinkie Sense! Maybe she can help!

Pinkie leads Twilight and Spike into a gypsy tent. She's dressed like a fortune teller, and has adopted a bizarre accent. As they stand in front of a crystal ball, Pinkie says she's starting to get a vision... of the future! Twilight waits and watches, breathless with anticipation. Finally, Pinkie reveals what she sees...

"You will marry a tall, blue pony with a good job, maybe as a plow horse or—"

"PINKIE!" shouts Twilight. She's not interested in fortune telling and visions about whom she's going to marry! She needs the Pinkie Sense to find out what the impending disaster is! Pinkie explains that she can't predict future events, only vague and immediate events. Like this. CRASH! A flower pot smashes over Twilight's head. "See?" Twilight does a slow burn as Spike asks Madame Pinkie Pie whom he's going to marry.

A few days later, Pinkie Pie decides to head to the Library. She hasn't seen Twilight since the flower pot incident. She opens the door to find...

MADNESS!! Twilight, head wrapped in a bandage, hasn't slept in days, and the Library is a total mess! With bloodshot eyes and not making a lot of sense, she starts to rant to Pinkie Pie about the bandage on her head from the falling flower pot. Another sign from the future! Pinkie Pie looks around the Library at all the strange thermometers,

barometers, telescopes, Richter scales, and various other bizarre measuring devices scattered everywhere. “Wow, cool stuff!” Every bare surface is covered in flow charts and logarithms and calculations. Manic, Twilight darts from one monitoring device to another, making notes as she goes. Spike, meanwhile, is kicked back in a chair happily eating more ice cream. Pinkie joins him, saying she can't believe how much trouble Twilight is going through just to find out whom she's going to marry. Spike agrees, but he's happy it keeps her busy because he's free to eat all the ice cream he wants. “Sorry, Future Spike!”

As Twilight races from station to station, she explains that doing things didn't work, not doing things didn't work, and she can't predict the future to find out what goes wrong, so she only has one other alternative: she's going to monitor EVERYTHING. She explains that she thought she might have found something when she was watching the stars, but she can't be sure. And there are only three days left until next Tuesday! Pinkie and Spike exchange a look. “Twilight, you've been awake too long. Tuesday's not three days from now; it's tomorrow.”

Twilight panics, checking her stations double-time. She accidentally looks into a telescope that's aimed straight at the sun! “My eye!” Pinkie tells her not to worry; she always carries something for just such a circumstance. She puts an eye patch over Twilight's injured eye. Another sign!!

Twilight's panic goes into hyperdrive. Almost all the signs from Future Twilight have come to pass! To avert the disaster, she's going to need to buy more time...

“But you can't buy more time! Tuesday's not in the future! Tuesday's tomorrow!”

“Then I guess I'll just have to... STOP TIME!”

ACT III

Twilight, Pinkie, and Spike sneak through Canterlot at night, all dressed in black catsuits. If Future Twilight came back in time to deliver the warning, then she must have used a time travel spell, and all the time spells are housed in the most secure parts of the Canterlot archives: the Star Swirl the Bearded wing. When Spike asks why they have to sneak in (his catsuit keeps riding up, making him a little surly), Twilight explains that the time spells are very closely guarded so they aren't abused. Pinkie Pie just doesn't understand how this is going to help Twilight find out whom she's going to marry.

The three least qualified characters on *My Little Pony* have a completely inept break-in sequence, where they Laurel-and-Hardy their way through the Canterlot archives, narrowly avoiding being seen by the guards, and continuously ending up in exactly the same spot, no matter which way they go. Finally, they try sneaking into the Star Swirl wing through the ceiling, *Mission: Impossible* style. Needless to say, they end up in a heap on the floor, landing right in front of one of the guards!

“Oh, hey, Twilight. Haven’t seen you in awhile.” He happily opens up the Star Swirl wing and lets them in. Wah-wah...

Now that they’re inside, Twilight’s mania reaches a fever pitch. Their catsuits are completely destroyed... just like Future Twilight’s! All of the signs have come true! Disaster will strike as soon as the sun comes up!

With one eye on the giant hourglass in the middle of the Star Swirl wing, Twilight, Pinkie, and Spike frantically search for the right spell. Finally, they find a spell that will allow Twilight to go back in time. Unfortunately the time travel only lasts a few minutes!

Besides it’s too late... the hourglass is empty and the first beam of sunlight has started to pour in through the window.

“INCOMING!!!!” shouts Twilight, shoving Pinkie and Spike to safety and covering her head to brace for disaster!

There’s a nice, loooooong beat of absolutely nothing happening. Then...

Pinkie and Spike cautiously crawl out from under a desk. Ignoring Twilight, still holding her duck-and-cover position, they go look out the window. Everything seems fine out there.

Princess Celestia passes through the room to return a scroll. “Good morning, Twilight! Love the new hairstyle. Well, happy Tuesday!” And she goes merrily on her way. Slowly, nervously, Twilight lowers her hooves. Nothing happened. No disasters, no catastrophes, no nothing.

Everything starts to come together in Twilight’s mind. She’s been making herself crazy over nothing. Delirious with joy that nothing bad has happened, she realizes that all of her worrying doesn’t ever solve anything. She vows that from now on, she’s going to relax and let the future take care of itself, solving problems as they come instead of worrying herself sick. If only she had learned that lesson a week ago.

But wait! She’s got the time spell right there in her hooves. All she has to do is go back in time and warn Past Twilight that she doesn’t need to worry. She reads the scroll, fires up her horn, and gets sucked into a spacetime vortex...

...and spit out the other side! There’s Past Twilight, happily studying away in the Library. It’s a replay of the opening scene, only this time we see it from the perspective of Future Twilight. And gosh is Past Twilight annoying! Every time she tries to warn herself not to waste so much time and energy worrying, she’s interrupted by Past Twilight with another inane question about time travel or the future. She finally has to interrupt her

past self so she can say what she came to say. But before she can get it out...

She's sucked back into the present! And now she sees what the whole thing was all about in the first place! Future Twilight didn't come back in time to warn Past Twilight about some sort of horrible disaster. She came back to tell Past Twilight to stop worrying so much!

Spike tries to console her, saying it's Past Twilight's problem now. In the meantime, can she help him to the doctor? Spike has become Future Spike, and all the ice cream he's been gorging on is now coming back to haunt him...