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MY LITTLE PONY II

"Luna Eclipsed"

Episode 204

Outline by
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TEASER

Spike paces near the Library's front door waiting for Twilight Sparkle to finish getting ready. They're already late for Night Mare Night, Equestria's version of Halloween, and one of the most beloved festivals of the year. Finally, Twilight emerges wearing a strange collection of multicolored robes, a false beard, and a pointy hat, like Copernicus mixed with Merlin. "*Ta-da!*" "What in Equestria is that?" "Come on, Spike! You don't know who I am? Star Swirl the Bearded? Father of the amniomorphic spell?" Just as Twilight launches into a dry recitation of Star Swirl the Bearded's resume...

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK! Spike is saved by a group of younger ponies in costumes. Twilight starts to distribute sweets into the kids' feedbags, remarking on all the great costumes. A miniature pony dressed like a pirate steps up for some candy. He's half the size of the others. "Is that you Pip Squeak?" "Sure is! Check it out, I'm a pirate!" Despite his miniscule size and generally timid demeanor, Pip Squeak really does want to be brave, so he tries to impress Twilight with his pirate skills. But his wooden sword is just too heavy, pulling him into a heap at Twilight's hooves. "Pip Squeak the Pirate, at your service!" She helps him up and hands him some candy, taking pains to show off her strange pseudo-wizard costume. "You like my costume, Pip? Spike couldn't tell who I'm supposed to be, but you get it, right?" He looks her over. "Uh, I dunno, some kind of waiter or something?" Offended, Twilight testily says, "I'm not a waiter, I'm a very famous wizard. You and Spike really need to hit the books. Everypony knows Star Swirl the Bearded." "Thanks for the sweets!" says Pip innocently as he struggles to haul away his sword and sweets. "You're the best waiter ever!"

The last pony steps forward, towering over the other kids. "Pinkie Pie? Aren't you a little old for this?" Pinkie Pie, dressed like a giant chicken, giggles, "No way! You're never too old for Night Mare Night! Wow, what a great costume, Twilight!" "You mean you really know who I am, Pinkie?" "No idea, but I was totally gonna wear that if I hadn't found this great chicken costume." She helps herself to Twilight's candy and races off to join her little friends. As Twilight and Spike head out, closing up the Library behind them, he says, "Maybe you should take off the beard so people don't confuse you for the real thing." "Real funny, Spike, real funny."

ACT I

Twilight and Spike make their way to the bustling town square, where the Night Mare Night Festival is in full swing. Big McIntosh, dressed like an undertaker, pulls a wagonload of ponies on a hayride. The Crusaders dance in a spirited hoedown. The Cakes sell treats. Everyone's having a wonderful time with the games, costumes, activities, and music.

As they make their way through the festival, Twilight starts to grow frustrated that nopony know what she's supposed to be. "Everypony in my Magical Appreciation Class loved this costume when I wore it last year!" Still, even with her failure of a costume,

Twilight has a great time mingling with the other partygoers. She comes across Pinkie Pie, Pip Squeak, and the rest of the kids, their feedbags overflowing with candy. “Twilight! Look at our haul! Can you believe it?” Meanwhile, nopony notices Rainbow Dash sneaking up behind them pushing a small cloud. She silently puts it right over Pinkie Pie’s group, then slams it with her hooves. An explosion of lightning bolts flies out, causing the kids to scream and scatter in all directions as Pinkie Pie screeches like a chicken. “Rainbow Dash, that wasn’t very nice!” says Twilight. Rainbow Dash, who can’t stop laughing, tells Twilight to lighten up. “What? It’s Night Mare Night, the best night of the year to startle little ponies! It’s all in good fun, Oooh, there’s another group over there!” She takes her cloud and races off.

They continue on and find Applejack, dressed like a scarecrow, showing little ponies how to bob for apples. “Hey Twilight! Hey Spike! Y’all want to bob for an apple?” “Maybe later. The Mayor’s supposed to say something any minute now. Have you seen Rarity or Fluttershy?” “I’m guessing Rarity’s still working on her costume, and you know Fluttershy. The only pony in Ponyville who doesn’t like Night Mare Night. She’s probably barricaded herself inside her cottage and is waiting for morning to come.”

Twilight and Spike hear the hoedown band take a break as the Mayor comes onstage. She welcomes everypony to the Night Mare Night Festival, one of the most popular holidays in all of Equestria. She tells everypony to have a wonderful time and continue partying. The younger ponies, meanwhile, should head to the edge of town where their friend Zecora will tell them the legend of Night Mare Night. Pinkie Pie crows like a rooster, leading the charge to hear Zecora’s ghost stories. “Are you guys sure it’s not too scary?” asks Pip. “Guys? Wait for me!”

Twilight and Spike join the others at the edge of the Ever-Free Forest, where Zecora captivates the little ponies with her creepy, dramatic telling of the history of Night Mare Night. One night every year, the Mare in the Moon comes down to Equestria to gobble up as many little ponies as she can get her hooves on. That’s why everypony wears costumes on Night Mare Night: so that when the Mare in the Moon arrives, she won’t be able to find any ponies; she’ll only see witches, princesses, and pirates.

“Miss Zecora?” asks Pip Squeak. “How come we have to leave our candy for the Mare in the Moon?” Zecora explains that the only way to get her to leave is to offer her something to munch instead of ponies: candy. That’s why youngsters go door to door collecting candy, and then leave a piece at the foot of the statue near the Ever-Free Forest. “M-m-maybe we should put our candy there b-b-before she comes,” says Pip Squeak. “I don’t even want to see her. That would be way too scary...”

Just then, a dark figure with a flowing mane and a carriage pulled by black, bat-winged pegasi descends to the ground. It’s Celestia’s sister, Luna, Princess of the Night! In the distance, thunder cracks! The little ponies scatter into the night, Pinkie Pie behind them clucking in fear!

ACT II

Princess Luna, sullen and slightly hostile, like an angsty, moody teenager, has come to Ponyville to put an end to Night Mare Night once and for all! When she was Night Mare Moon, she enjoyed the terror she struck in the population, but she's not like that anymore. She's reformed, and frankly, the whole thing just annoys her.

While most of the residents of Ponyville cower in awe, Twilight tells Spike she's going to go talk to Luna, to find out what this is all about. Spike thinks she's crazy, but Twilight sees something in Luna. She's not angry; she's just hurt.

Twilight steps out of the terrified crowd. "Princess Luna! We're so happy to have you here for our Night Mare Night Festival! Are you sure you don't want to have a look around before you shut it down?" Luna recognizes Twilight from when she and her friends used the Elements of Harmony to turn her from Night Mare Moon. "Oh, hey. You're the one who saved me from being evil. Thanks for that."

Twilight explains that Night Mare Night is very special to ponies, that it's one of the most beloved Festivals of the year. Maybe instead of ending the festival, Luna just needs to show everypony how she's changed. "Fine, whatever," she says. "Great!" says Twilight. "Come on, I'll show you all the fun stuff ponies do in honor of you!"

But as Twilight leads the morose, grumpy Luna through the crowd of costumed ponies, there's no fun to be seen anywhere. The kids run and scream at the sight of her ("She's gonna gobble us up!!") and the older ponies bow and scrape, averting their eyes from the dark Princess. "Wow, you were right. This sure is fun," says Luna sarcastically. Twilight sees her plan falling apart. "Trust me, Princess, I had a lot of trouble making friends when I first came here, but I've learned so much since then. All you have to do to make friends is to give a little bit of an effort and everybody will relax and have a good time."

But it's just not in Luna's nature to relax. And her moody glares don't put anypony at ease. So Twilight decides to call in reinforcements, taking Luna to Fluttershy's cabin for a lesson on softening her image. At first, she opens the door happily. Although she doesn't know what Twilight's costume is supposed to be, she thinks Spike's "Luna" costume is outstanding. By the time she realizes Luna is actually Luna, she's so terrified of being gobbled up that she has no choice but to help her. It's an incredibly awkward lesson as Fluttershy, twice as scared as she normally is, tries to teach Luna, with her bad attitude, to smile. Each time Luna's lip curls up ("Smiling is hard. Why would anypony want to do this?"), Fluttershy dives for cover. Twilight scrambles to keep the student and teacher engaged, and finally Luna appears to make some progress. She forces her mouth into an awkward, uncomfortable shape resembling a smile. Before Twilight can encourage her, Chicken Pinkie Pie and her little friends show up to ask Fluttershy for candy. She sees Luna's teeth, and screams at the top of her lungs. "LOOK AT HER PONY-EATING TEETH!" "What do we do?" squeaks Pip. "RUN!!" Fluttershy's lesson is

officially a failure.

Next, Twilight drags Luna to the Carousel Boutique, where Rarity is still hard at work on her elaborate princess costume. She bows at the sight of Luna, who ignores her, walking around the shop and making fun of all the frilly, girly things. Twilight explains to Rarity that Luna is really eager to change her image. Luna just rolls her eyes. Rarity, meanwhile, springs into action. She's always adored the "goth" look, so dramatic and sophisticated, but to less fashion-forward ponies it could come across as intimidating. "I'd recommend we try to soften your look a bit." Luna sighs. "Whatever you say."

When Rarity is finished, Luna's fur has been dyed a soft pink and she's all dolled up in the elaborate princess costume: flowing, frilly gown, gaudy tiara, and girly jewels. It's the opposite of Luna's usual dark, brooding look. "So, Princess Luna, what do you think?" asks Twilight. "What do I think? I think there's no way I'm going out in public like this." Affronted, Rarity says, "I don't understand. I've made you approachable, understated, and utterly charming." "No, I think you just made me pink." Just then, Pinkie Pie's crew shows up and sees Luna standing there in the gorgeous princess getup. "LOOK! SHE GOBBLED UP A PRINCESS PONY! RUN!!" Twilight sighs. Strike two.

While Twilight has been busy trying to rehab Luna's image, the Night Mare Night Festival has tentatively resumed, thanks in large part to Applejack, who is now busy helping Pip Squeak learn to bob for apples. He teeters precariously on the edge of the barrel, his rear hooves flailing as he struggles to reach his tiny head toward the water. "Careful, pardner." Twilight and Luna show up, and despite the gasps and frightened stares of the Ponyvilleians, Applejack happily agrees to help Luna fit in. "It's easy! All you gotta do is change your attitude! Try being friendly and positive. Play some games and loosen up." Luna tries Applejack's advice, halfheartedly playing the Spider Toss game, where contestants toss big hairy spiders and try to land them on a nearby web. Her first throw misses. "You can do it, Princess!" Gaining confidence, she tries again, and this time, she nails it, getting a small round of applause. "I guess this is sort of fun. What should I try now?" Next, she moves to the Punkin Chunkin game, where she launches a pumpkin from a trebuchet and fires a perfect shot, nailing the target! Her cheering section erupts. Luna is in a great mood as Applejack takes her to the apple bobbing barrel, and the mood of entire festival seems to have lightened, too. As Luna dunks her head into the barrel, Twilight thanks Applejack for her great advice. Looks like they may have saved the Night Mare Night Festival after all!

Pinkie Pie wanders in, head bobbing like a chicken. "Anypony seen Pip? We lost him last time we had to run for our lives." Just then Luna pulls her head out of the barrel holding a soaking-wet Pip Squeak in her mouth! "SHE'S GOBBLING PIP SQUEAK! RUN!!" For Luna, this is the last straw. Nothing works, nothing's ever going to work, and nopony's ever going to like her, so she's shutting down Night Mare Night FOREVER!

ACT III

All hope is lost at the Night Mare Night festival. While Luna is off by herself sulking, the rest of the ponies are miserable that their favorite night of the year is ending forever. Twilight can't bear to see so much misery. "Don't worry, everypony! I'll talk to her!" Twilight makes an impassioned plea to Luna, who doesn't want to hear any of it. But Twilight says she knows Luna is hurt. She knows how painful it was to live in Celestia's shadow, and how hard she's worked to reform herself. Luna seems to let down her guard just a bit. It hasn't been easy. These silly ponies actually think she wants to eat them! Gross! Twilight says everypony's so used to being afraid of her that it's just going to take a little time for them to come around. But they will come around. "Come on, I'm sure once Pinkie Pie meets you, she won't be so afraid."

Luna reluctantly agrees, but just then, Rainbow Dash sneaks in with her thundercloud and bashes it. Lightning sparks fly everywhere! Pip and the others scream in terror, while Chicken Pinkie Pie cackles, "IT'S THE MARE IN THE MOON! RUN!!" Now Luna's just plain steamed. "See?" says Luna, "I don't even have to do anything and they dislike me! That pink one's causing all these problems! That's the one I need to talk to!" Luna charges after Pinkie Pie, "Hey! Stop! Come back here!" But Pinkie Pie and her friends just shriek in terror. Luna chases the clucking Pinkie Pie all through the Festival, scaring everypony they pass. Twilight watches in horror as her last hope of saving Night Mare Night fades away. "This is a disaster! I've got to stop this!" Twilight joins the chase, and finally manages to run down Pinkie Pie. "Pinkie Pie, you've got to stop this! Luna's changed! She's not actually going to gobble you up!" Pinkie Pie smiles broadly. "I know that, silly. It's just really fun to be scared sometimes!" Something dawns on Twilight. "Pinkie, you're a genius!" Pinkie, confused, looks at her costume. "No I'm not. I'm a chicken." Pinkie clucks in fear and takes off as Luna slams into Twilight, the two tumbling to a stop in a pile. "Princess Luna, wait! I've finally figured it out!" "Oh great," says Luna. "I can't wait to hear this." Twilight helps her to her feet. "Come on! I'll explain everything on the way!"

As the Festival-goers see Luna running away from the party, a sense of relief washes over everypony. The music starts back up and the Festival swings back into gear. Zecora tries to get things back to normal by telling the little ponies (and the frightened Pip in particular) that they still need to make their candy offering to the Mare in the Moon so she won't try to gobble them up.

She leads the timid ponies into the darkness at the edge of town. There, near the Ever-Free Forest, is a stone statue of Night Mare Moon. The little ponies cautiously take their candy over to the statue, placing it at the base. It's spooky and creepy, but nopony expects what happens next.

Eerie glowing lights start to flash from behind the statue as the wind kicks up. Suddenly, the horrifying figure of Night Mare Moon rises from behind the statue (actually it's Luna in disguise). She laughs evilly, causing the little ponies to scream and recoil in fear. In

her best, booming, fearsome voice, she says she will accept their candy, and will eat it instead of... GOBBLING THEM UP!!

The little ponies squeal with delight and race back to the safety of the town. Luna, meanwhile, lowers back to the ground, laughing with Twilight at the trick they've played. "You were right, Twilight! That was fun! That was really fun!" Luna feels a tug at her tail and turns to find little Pip Squeak at her feet. "Princess? Will you come back next year and scare us again?" Luna's heart melts as she agrees. "See?" Twilight says "Like Pinkie Pie said, sometimes it's fun to be scared!" Fluttershy, peering out from the safety of her cottage, shouts, "That's it, Princess Luna! That's a smile!"

Over a fast-paced montage of Night Mare Night fun, where we get to see everypony in town in costume and enjoying the Festival, we hear Twilight dictating her letter to Princess Celestia. She says she's learned so much from the friends she's made during her time in Ponyville that she was actually able to help somepony else to make friends. And it just happened to be Celestia's sister! Though it took awhile for the others to get to know her, Twilight learned something valuable in the process. No matter how different somepony may seem, if you look close enough you can find some aspect of them that you like So even though nopony knew who her awesome costume was, this still turned out to be the best Night Mare Night ever!

The montage ends on a shot of Twilight finishing dictating the letter to Spike, too distracted to notice Rainbow Dash sneaking in behind her with the thundercloud. She suddenly smashes it, causing lightning bolts to fly and Twilight to scream. As Rainbow Dash roars with laughter at her prank, Luna appears behind her in Night Mare Moon form and scares the daylights out of her. After Rainbow Dash hightails it, Luna joins Twilight and Spike and shares a good laugh with her new friends.