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MY LITTLE PONY III

Premise

"Crystal Kingdom"

Ep 301 & 302

(two-parter)

Premise by

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CRYSTAL KINGDOM (Two-Parter)

Twilight and her friends are on their way to visit Princess Cadence and Shining Armor for the first time since their wedding. As the ponies make their way through treacherous terrain, we learn that their visit to Princess Cadence's new home is not a purely social visit. The Princess and Shining Armor have taken over the dark and menacing kingdom the Changeling Queen once ruled over and have asked Twilight and her friends to help them as they try to restore it to its original glory. Twilight is eager to help her filly-sitter with whatever she may need. But as the Ponyville Ponies come around a mountain, they see the most beautiful place they have ever seen. A bright, shining kingdom made of crystal. Twilight is confused. Sure looks like Princess Cadence and Shining Armor have everything under control.

But when the Ponyville Ponies enter the Crystal Kingdom, they notice that the ponies that reside there do not shine as bright as the kingdom itself. They are a dull gray and hold their heads low. Twilight and her friends meet up with Princess Cadence and find out that this is why they have been summoned. Princess Cadence and Shining Armor's magic has returned the realm to its once glorious past. Almost. Despite her best efforts, Princess Cadence has not been able to return her subjects to their true Crystal Pony form. Princess Cadence attributes this to the fact that the ponies of her new kingdom have been oppressed for so long that even her magic isn't enough to fully open their hearts. As long as there is darkness inside them, they will remain susceptible to an attack by the vengeful Queen who once ruled over them. (NOTE: As Cadence tells the story of the Crystal Ponies, we are able to see them in flashback. We can also use this opportunity to see our core ponies as Crystal Ponies. i.e. Rarity daydreams about she and her friends as Crystal Ponies.)

But there is hope. Cadence has learned that prior to the Changeling Queen's arrival, there was an annual Crystal Faire. It was one of the most important traditions of the Crystal Ponies and its dissolution by the Queen was her first act of cruelty. Princess Cadence hopes that if she can recreate this event for her subjects, joy will return to their hearts and they will become Crystal Ponies again. Princess Cadence asks Twilight and her Ponyville Friends to embark on a fact-finding mission to gather info the Princess can use to recreate the Faire for the locals. Twilight is thrilled to be of assistance to Princess Cadence, but soon finds that gathering intel about the Crystal Faire isn't easy. The Changeling Queen was quick to destroy anything that had to do with the history of the place and no one seems to want to talk about it. In fact, the locals are all suspicious of Twilight and her friends, believing them to be spies who are sympathetic to the ousted Queen.

Twilight is ultimately able to prove their good intentions and a few of the locals finally open up about the Faire and their pre-Changeling Queen traditions. Twilight expresses Princess Cadence's desire to recreate the Faire just as it was before the evil Queen took over. But the locals inform her that this is impossible. One of the main events at the Faire was the lighting of the Crystal Heart. The citizens of the kingdom would gather

round and their ruler would use her magic to make it glow so brightly it could be seen for miles around. Soon after her rise to power, the Changeling Queen hid the magical Crystal Heart somewhere in the Crystal Palace. Even if they could figure out where it was, Twilight and her friends wouldn't be able to get to it. The Queen may have been booted from the kingdom, but she has surely left behind numerous traps that will keep them from ever getting to the Crystal Heart.

Twilight vows to retrieve the Crystal Heart. But the locals don't believe it is possible. The despondent ponies tell Twilight that she should just give up now. But Twilight is confident that she and her friends can overcome any obstacle the Changeling Queen might throw at them. The citizens of the Kingdom don't seem to hold out much hope and their coats seem to grow even grayer as they consider the fact that even though the Changeling Queen is gone, she still has power over them.

But just as Twilight promised, she and her friends are able to figure out where in the castle the Changeling Queen has hidden the Crystal Heart. And they get to the secret room where it is hidden with relative ease. The locals were clearly wrong about the Changeling Queen laying booby traps to stop anyone from getting to the Crystal Heart. Twilight reads aloud a sign that hangs over the door that leads to the secret room: Only a pony whose heart shines as bright as the Crystal Heart may enter. The Ponyville Ponies assure Twilight that this is a test she of all ponies can easily pass.

A confident Twilight enters the room to retrieve the Crystal Heart. But as soon as she does so, she knows she has made a terrible mistake. A hidden force field thrusts Twilight out of the room. Twilight doesn't know what has just happened, but grows fearful when she hears Princess Cadence crying out for help. The Ponyville Ponies race off to the throne room where they see Black Crystal shards shooting up out of the floor and surrounding Princess Cadence and Shining Armor, imprisoning them in a solid black crystal cage.

Try as they might, Twilight and her friends cannot find a way to free them. They look out through the windows behind the imprisoned couple to see that the beautiful Crystal Kingdom is slowly transforming back into the dark, desolate wasteland of the Changeling Queen. Twilight realizes that the sign above the door was to be taken literally. Only a Crystal Pony with a glittering heart of his or her own can retrieve the Crystal Heart. But there are no Crystal Ponies in the kingdom. This has been their predicament from the start. Without the Crystal Heart, Twilight cannot bring joy to the hearts of the kingdom's ponies and make them Crystal Ponies. But without a Crystal Pony, she cannot retrieve the Crystal Heart.

Just like the Crystal Ponies, Twilight is losing faith. She came here to help Princess Cadence but instead has created even more trouble. But the Ponyville Ponies rally around her. Surely there must be another solution to the problem. A way to bring just one of the kingdom's citizens out of her sadness so that she becomes a Crystal Pony once again and retrieve the Crystal Heart that will transform the others. The Ponyville

Ponies have all had their moments of despair, but the power of their friendship has always brought them back. If they can find a way to share that power with the locals, maybe one of them will transform.

Buoyed by the support of her friends, Twilight devises a plan. Despite the horrible situation they are in, they will put on the Crystal Faire. If the ponies of the Crystal Kingdom see that the Ponyville Ponies haven't given up hope, perhaps they will join them and their spirits will be lifted. With nothing left to lose, the Ponyville Ponies stage the Crystal Faire and gradually the citizens of the kingdom are drawn to it. Their coats begin to shimmer ever so slightly at the sight of Twilight and her friends carrying out the traditional Crystal Faire festivities.

Still trapped in her cage, Princess Cadence is able to look out upon her kingdom. Seeing her subjects beginning to shine brings hope to her heart as well. Suddenly, Princess Cadence's coat begins to shimmer. There is a flash of white light and suddenly, she is transformed into a Crystal Pony. The shards of black crystal that held her prisoner explode and she is free. She races over to the room that holds the Crystal Heart and now a Crystal Pony, she enters and retrieves the Crystal Heart.

Princess Cadence uses her magic to carry the Crystal Heart down to the Faire and holds it aloft for her subjects to see. Twilight and her friends look on as, their hearts filled with hope and joy, the citizens of the Crystal Kingdom transform into Crystal Ponies. The power of the Crystal Heart is so strong that even the Ponyville Ponies find themselves transformed into Crystal Ponies. The light reflecting off of all of them shines up into the sky creating an Aurora Borealis-like effect. All the way in Canterlot, Princess Celestia and her subjects can see its glow. The light from the Crystal Kingdom will now serve as sign of light, love, and protection through all of Equestria

Having played such an important role in transforming the kingdom, Twilight is invited to stay as an advisor to Princess Cadence. Twilight is honored but feels that it would be best to return to Ponyville. She still has so much to learn from her Ponyville friends. Twilight and the Ponyville Ponies depart for home. Rarity is a little disappointed to see that upon exiting the Crystal Kingdom they revert back to their true form. As Twilight and her friends begin their journey home, Princess Celestia informs Cadence that Twilight's choice is a wise one and is further evidence that Twilight is deserving of the destiny that awaits her. Wink. Wink.