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MY LITTLE PONY IV

Episodes

401 & 402

Premise by

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401/402 PREMISE

Princess Twilight is in the Crystal Empire for her first Princess Summit. She does not yet have a kingdom, but this does not mean she won't have important new duties. (We can briefly reference that the summit's start had been delayed a bit by the arrival of Sunset Shimmer and the battle for Twilight's crown that followed.) Celestia, Luna, Cadance, and Twilight have gathered to discuss the upcoming Summer Sun Celebration that will be held in Canterlot. Now that Twilight has become a Princess, she will have a more regal role in the celebration. Twilight is honored to play a part in this important event but we sense that she is disappointed that she won't get to celebrate with her friends who already have big plans back in Ponyville. Applejack assures Twilight that she won't be missing anything, but Twilight doesn't seem so sure. Twilight expresses to Spike her worry that her relationships with her friends can't help but change now that she is a Princess.

As her friends depart for Ponyville, Twilight begins practicing for her role in the Summer Sun Celebration. But her rehearsal is cut short when she realizes something strange is happening. The sun should be setting and the moon should be rising, but instead the two heavenly bodies are side by side in the sky. Twilight is horrified to learn that the sun and moon aren't moving because the two Princesses who control them are missing!

Princess Celestia and Princess Luna's absence and the strange location of the sun and moon are having a terrible effect on the ponies of Equestria. Pegasus can no longer control the weather, the Unicorns' magic is on the fritz, and strange weeds that no amount of pulling will get rid of are attacking the Earth Ponies crops. As if that weren't bad enough, Twilight gets word from Ponyville that the Everfree Forest is now growing wild and threatening to take over!

Princess Celestia and Princess Luna must be found, but Twilight has no idea where to even look. But as she witnesses the chaos that is being caused by the ponies' loss of their usual abilities, she starts to guess who might be responsible – Discord! Twilight retrieves the Elements of Harmony, returns to Ponyville to find her friends, and summons the Draconequi. Discord admits that he is enjoying the events that have transpired, but insists that he isn't the one who is responsible. He's reformed, don't they remember?

Just then, Zecora arrives on the scene. The zebra reveals that the Everfree Forest has become too wild and dangerous even for her and that she has been forced to flee. Twilight threatens Discord with the Elements of Harmony if he doesn't return Celestia and Luna. But Zecora tells Twilight that the solution to the problem does not lie in the present. "To find the answers that you seek, into this cauldron take a peek," Zecora tells Twilight as she mixes up a strange brew.

As the steam from the boiling cauldron rises up around her, there is a FLASH of LIGHT and Twilight realizes that she has been transported into the middle of the epic battle between Princess Celestia and Nightmare Moon!

The Castle of the Two Sisters is destroyed around Twilight as Nightmare Moon blasts magic at her sister. Twilight looks on as Princess Celestia uses the Elements of Harmony to banish Luna to the moon. Twilight emerges from the steam more confused than ever. What does Celestia and Luna's battle have to do with their current predicament? Zecora encourages her to look a little deeper. Rainbow Dash tells Twilight to be quick about it. The Everfree Forest is growing even wilder by the minute and Ponyville is in real jeopardy.

As her friends rush off to provide assistance to their fellow Ponyville citizens, Twilight peers back into the cauldron. There is another FLASH of LIGHT and Twilight finds herself witnessing Luna refusing to lower the moon. Another FLASH and Twilight sees the Castle of the Two Sisters restored and Luna and Celestia using the Elements of Harmony to defeat Discord. Another FLASH and Twilight finds herself watching Princess Luna and Princess Celestia standing in front of an enormous glowing tree in the Everfree Forest that they refer to as the TREE of HARMONY. Twilight is surprised to see that along with the Cutie Marks of Celestia and Luna, her own Cutie Mark is emblazoned upon its trunk. Hanging from its branches are the Elements of Harmony. Twilight watches as Princess Celestia and Princess Luna use their magic to pluck the Elements from the tree's branches, then FLASH! Twilight is returned to the present.

Twilight is suddenly overcome by the strangest feeling and tells her friends that she thinks she knows what they must do. Princess Celestia and Princess Luna took the Elements from a tree in the Everfree Forest to defeat Discord. She believes that in order to restore order to the Everfree Forest, the Elements of Harmony must be returned to the Tree of Harmony.

Fluttershy tells her "good friend" Discord to stay behind and keep the other Ponyville Ponies safe from harm. Discord reluctantly agrees to do his part as Twilight and her friends enter the Everfree Forest – which is now more dangerous than ever before! As our heroines head off into the woods, Twilight comments that this is where it all began for them. Their search for the Elements of Harmony is what brought them all together and she thought the Elements would always unite them. We sense her sadness as she realizes that if they are successful in their endeavor and relinquish the Elements to the Tree of Harmony, this will no longer be true.

After working together to fight off the increasingly agitated creatures and now sentient and angry plant life that reside in the forest, our Mane 6 reach the ruins of the Castle of the Two Sisters. Twilight locates the Tree of Harmony and finds that it has been almost completely overtaken by strange vines. Whatever light and magic had resided inside it

has been almost completely squeezed out by the snake-like plant. Suspended in mid-air and trapped in the same evil vines are Luna and Celestia!

Our heroines produce their Elements and Twilight uses her magic to give them over to the Tree of Harmony. The Elements of Harmony reconnect to the tree's branches and a beam of light travels through them, and forms a RAINBOW of HARMONY! The vines that were choking the life out of the tree are suddenly turned to dust and the Tree of Harmony regains control of the rest of the Everfree Forest. Citizens rejoice and Discord pouts a bit as the wild creatures and sentient foliage retreat from Ponyville.

Now that Celestia and Luna have been set free, their powers have been restored. The Moon passes over the Sun and the Rainbow of Harmony encircles the newly formed Eclipse like a multi-colored corona. The Rainbow of Harmony shoots down and forms a ring around our Mane 6. It then swirls around a GOLDEN CHEST that has suddenly appeared in front of the Tree of Harmony. Upon the chest are 6 LOCKS, each representing one of the colors of our Rainbow.

Once our heroines have recovered from the experience of this magical event, Celestia explains that the chest is meant for Twilight. Once she finds the six keys to unlock it, her kingdom will be revealed. Twilight and her friends are no longer connected to the Elements of Harmony, but they are forever bound by friendship. In fact, it is only through her relationships with her friends that Twilight will be able to find the keys to her kingdom. "Let the Rainbow of Harmony be your guide on this new journey," Celestia adds cryptically.

Upon the friends' return to Ponyville, a sly Discord reveals that he may have had something to do with all of this after all. Twilight peers into the steam of Zecora's cauldron once again and sees the Draconequi moments before Celestia and Luna defeated him. Right as he is being turned to stone, he drops a black seed into the Everfree Forest. The tiniest snake-like sprout pops up next to the Tree of Harmony. An angry Twilight confronts Discord who informs her that he'd planted the seed so long ago that he'd forgotten all about his dastardly plan to destroy the Tree of Harmony and cause the Everfree Forest to go crazy long after he was captured. Oops.

In the end, Twilight joins Celestia, Cadance, and Luna in Canterlot for the Summer Sun Celebration while her friends celebrate in Ponyville. Just as Princess Twilight goes to perform her role in the celebration, the Rainbow of Harmony appears just for a moment over the crowd. Twilight smiles. What the future holds for her as a Princess is a mystery, but her friends are definitely going to continue to be an important part of her journey.