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MY LITTLE PONY V

"The Cutie Map - Part 1"

Episode 501

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TEASER

FADE IN:

SC1. INT. ????? - DAY

ON RARITY -- too close to see much, except that she's got cucumbers over her eyes.

1 RARITY
Oh, darling, this is just what I
needed.

ON RAINBOW DASH -- again, really only seeing her face as she takes a sloppy bite from a sandwich.

2 RAINBOW DASH
Me too.

ON TWILIGHT SPARKLE -- looking O.S. at her friends with a contented smile.

3 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
It almost feels like the old days,
doesn't it?

ON FLUTTERSHY -- just her happy, smiling face.

4 FLUTTERSHY
It has been so long since we've
been able to spend time together
just as friends.

ON APPLEJACK -- trying Rarity's cucumber thing, but they keep sliding off.

5 APPLEJACK
You said it. It's good to be back
to normal. Even if we are back to
normal in our very own thrones.

WIDER -- and we're in...

SC2. INT. TWILIGHT SPARKLE'S CASTLE, THRONE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

...where they each sit on their own thrones [*NOTE: PINKIE PIE's is empty*].

6 RARITY
In Twilight's fabulous new castle.

WIDER -- and we see the scope of the cavernous throne room, as well as many doorways to other parts of the castle.

7 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I guess some things may have
changed a little.

8 RAINBOW DASH
A little?

She polishes off her sandwich and rubs her crumby hooves on her throne.

9 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
We haven't seen Pinkie Pie for
hours but this place is so big I'm
afraid to go look for her!

10 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
(embarrassed)
It's not that big.

11 PINKIE PIE (O.S.)
(echoing distantly)
WHERE AM I??

12 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
PINKIE?

13 PINKIE PIE (O.S.)
*COME TO MY VOICE! I JUST FOUND THE
COOLEST THING!*

SC3. INT. TWILIGHT SPARKLE'S CASTLE, HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

The ponies follow Twilight's lit horn down a dark hallway. Suddenly, they come upon PINKIE PIE.

14 PINKIE PIE
Ah, here I am!

15 FLUTTERSHY
Where are we?

16 PINKIE PIE
I call this Dark Hallway Number
Seventeen. Come on, you have to
see this!

They follow her into...

SC4. INT. TWILIGHT SPARKLE'S CASTLE, MAP ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Twilight uses her magic to light torches in the sconces.

17 RAINBOW DASH
An empty room? What's so cool
about that?

18 PINKIE PIE
Look!

She points at Rainbow Dash's flank. Her Cutie Mark is
SHIMMERING WITH RAINBOW LIGHT!

19 RAINBOW DASH
Whoa!

All six of their Cutie Marks are doing the same.

20 PINKIE PIE
Pretty cool, huh?

21 APPLEJACK
Ya know, maybe we are a might
different than we thought.

As the Mane Six stand in awe of their glowing Cutie Marks,
we...

FADE OUT.

END TEASER

MAIN TITLES

ACT 1

FADE IN:

SC5. INT. TWILIGHT SPARKLE'S CASTLE, MAP ROOM - DAY

The Cutie Marks continue to shimmer.

22 RARITY
I didn't think my Cutie Mark could
be more fabulous, but look!

23 FLUTTERSHY
Does anypony else think this is a
little...strange?

Suddenly, the entire room starts to RUMBLE and SHAKE!

24 FLUTTERSHY (CONT'D)
What's happening??

A CRACK breaks through the stone floor! A SILVER-BLUE GLOW emanates from below [*NOTE: This is the same color as the Tree of Harmony*].

The ponies back up against the wall as TREE ROOTS emerge from the crack. They spread across the floor and form into a ROUND TABLE with a huge, three-dimensional MAP on its surface!

The RUMBLING and shaking stop, but the table continues to glow blue.

25 PINKIE PIE
It's even cooler than I thought!

Suddenly, the shimmering rainbow light from their Cutie Marks SHOOTS OFF of their flanks and SPIRALS AROUND THE ROOM! The swirls of light zero in on one section of the map and turn into HOLOGRAMS of the Mane Six's Cutie Marks floating just off its surface.

26 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
EVEN MORE COOLER!

27 APPLEJACK
What the hay just happened?

28 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I don't know! But look at the map!
It's glowing just like the Tree of Harmony!

29 PINKIE PIE
You mean I found the Map of Harmony? Or is it the Tree of Map?

Fluttershy looks at the surface of the map.

30 FLUTTERSHY
Oh dear. This is Ponyville right here.

She looks alllllll the way across the map to where the Cutie Marks are hovering.

31 FLUTTERSHY (CONT'D)
So why are our Cutie Marks over there?

The others step forward and study the map. The Cutie Marks hover above a mountainous area with a village in the middle. From the crude map, the tiny village looks like two long blocks of buildings with a main street down the middle, sort of like an EQUALS SIGN [*NOTE: If this isn't subtle enough, it's not necessary*].

32 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Do you think it wants us to...go there?

33 APPLEJACK
Now hang on, y'all. We just got through fightin' that Tirek feller. I can't be gallivantin' across some glowing map.

34 RARITY
I must agree with Applejack. As much as I love this map's *nouveau naturelle* design, I'm not inclined to simply do what it says.

35 RAINBOW DASH
Yeah, and where did it come from, anyway?

36 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
But girls, if this map is connected to the Tree of Harmony, how can we not follow it?

The others are hesitant.

37 RARITY
I don't know, Twilight. What does it...want from us?

38 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
The Elements of Harmony are part of the tree now, and the tree has something to do with this map.
(imploring)
Isn't that enough?

Rainbow Dash points from Ponyville alllllll the way across to the Cutie Marks.

39 RAINBOW DASH
There's a ton of room for dangerous adventures along that route. Count me in.

40 APPLEJACK
Aw shoot, I reckon you're right.
Big Mac can handle the farm a
little while longer.

41 RARITY
Very well. But I'm treating this
as a research trip. I have no idea
what ponies on that side of
Equestria are wearing.

They all look at Pinkie Pie and Fluttershy.

42 PINKIE PIE
I already said this is the coolest
thing ever. Of course I'm going!

43 FLUTTERSHY
Well I'm not staying in this creepy
castle by myself.

44 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Hey!

45 FLUTTERSHY
Sorry.

Rainbow Dash holds out a hoof.

46 RAINBOW DASH
All right, everypony! Road trip!

The others put theirs on top.

SC6. EXT. PONYVILLE TRAIN STATION - DAY

Applejack, Pinkie Pie, Rainbow Dash, Fluttershy, and Rarity
wait at the train station next to a particularly long TRAIN.

47 CONDUCTOR (O.S.)
All aboard for Manehattan,
Greenlawn, Pinelawn, Little Gallop,
East Hoof Harbor, Horseshoe Falls,
Fillydelphia, Locust Valley, Bronco
Bay, Near Stirrup, Far Stirrup, Far
Far Stirrup, Really Far Far
Stirrup, and all points beyond!

48 RAINBOW DASH
Where's Twilight? We're gonna miss
our train!

Twilight races up with a scroll.

49 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Sorry I'm late! I had to write
down the directions.

The scroll unfolds...all the way to the ground.

50 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
The train will only get us part of
the way.

51 APPLEJACK
Well, let's not miss that part!
Come on, y'all!

They board and the doors close.

SC7. MONTAGE

The BACKGROUNDS CHANGE as the train zips past -- open fields,
big city, mountain village, raised tracks over water, high
desert, thick jungle...

52 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (V.O.)
This train will take us across most
of Equestria. But there's still a
long way to go once we reach the
end of the line...

SC8. EXT. REMOTE TRAIN STATION - DAY

The ponies disembark. They're the only ones to get off.
There seems to be nothing in any direction. The train starts
to steam away, leaving them completely alone.

53 FLUTTERSHY
Maybe that castle wasn't so bad.

54 RAINBOW DASH
Come on! I can't wait to see why
that map brought us here! Where do
we go now, Twilight?

She consults her giant scroll.

55 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
From here, it looks like we...

DISSOLVE TO:

SC9. EXT. PLAIN - LATER

A vast plain with mountains in the distance. The ponies trudge along in single file.

56 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (V.O.)
...continue on by hoof...

SC10. EXT. RAGING RIVER - LATER

The ponies WHITE WATER RAFT down a roiling river.

57 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (V.O.)
...then by boat...

58 RAINBOW DASH
(hooves in the air)
WOO-HOO!!

SC11. EXT. MOUNTAIN - LATER

The ponies ski down a powdery mountain.

59 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (V.O.)
...then by skis...

Applejack looks shaky and tentative on her skis. Rarity, a pristine snow bunny, skis up and washes her in snow. Applejack scowls and shakes it off.

SC12. EXT. ROCKY BLUFF - LATER

The ponies stand atop a steep drop. There are giant BOULDERS and strange trees littering the landscape (think Joshua Tree for reference). Twilight is consulting her scroll.

60 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
...and from here we...oh no!

We see that the bottom of the scroll has been torn away.

61 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
I lost the end of the scroll!
We'll just have to go back and find it.

62 FLUTTERSHY
Great!

63 RAINBOW DASH
No way! Do you know how far we've gone? It could be anywhere! And besides, there's gotta be some big adventure right around the corner. I can feel it!

64 APPLEJACK
We may not even need to go around the corner. Look!

She points down the bluff to...

A VILLAGE -- two long, parallel blocks of structures bisected by a main street *[NOTE: The ponies should not notice that it looks like an equals sign]*.

65 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
That's it! That's the place on the map!

66 RARITY
Well let's get down there and find the spa.

She starts off, but Twilight stops her.

67 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Wait. What if it's dangerous?

68 RAINBOW DASH
You're right. I better go first.

69 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
But we don't know why the map sent us here. Maybe we should go slowly and check things out.

70 PINKIE PIE
 (deadly serious)
I'm on it.

SC13. EXT. JUST OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE - LATER

Pinkie Pie crouch-runs and somersaults between boulders. She gives elaborate hoof signals to the others, who race along behind her. Finally, they all end up behind a giant rock at the edge of the village. They peek up over the top and see...

71 FLUTTERSHY
Oh, it's so cute!

And, indeed, it is cute. It's sort of bland version of Main Street, USA, where every building is architecturally the same, differentiated only by signs or little details. For instance, a CAFE on one side of the street has tables outside. Several VILLAGE PONIES go about their day *[NOTE: The Village Ponies are a variety of races and color schemes, but they are always SMILING, though this Stepford quality should be subtle here]*.

72 RAINBOW DASH
This is where that map sent us? It looks like the most boring place in Equestria!

They continue to watch as the Village Ponies enjoy their town, still not quite picking up on the artificial sameness of it all.

73 APPLEJACK
Doesn't make a lick of sense, does it? Everypony here looks completely fine.

74 RARITY
It could use some architectural interest, but it seems perfectly pleasant.

75 FLUTTERSHY
I think it's lovely.

76 PINKIE PIE
 (Clinton Eastwood)
I don't like it. I don't like it one bit.

They look over at her in confusion.

77 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
I know smiles. And those smiles? They're just not right.

78 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Forget the smiles...look at the Cutie Marks!

ON TWO VILLAGE PONIES -- as they cross the street, we get a clear view of their flanks. Both ponies have the SAME CUTIE MARK. It looks like an EQUALS SIGN.

FIND OTHER VILLAGE PONIES -- at the outdoor cafe...coming out of the grocery store...chatting on the corner...ALL HAVE THE SAME EQUALS SIGN CUTIE MARK.

79 RAINBOW DASH
Okay, that's weird.

FADE OUT.

END ACT 1

ACT 2

FADE IN:

SC14. EXT. VILLAGE - DAY

The Mane Six are conferring behind their rock.

80 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
An entire village with the same
Cutie Mark? How can that be?

81 RAINBOW DASH
There's gotta be some horrific
monster behind it!

82 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Monster? What makes you say that?

83 RAINBOW DASH
I dunno, 'cause it would be super
awesome?

84 APPLEJACK
Reckon we oughta just head into
town and talk to some folks. How
else are we gonna find out what's
goin' on?

85 RARITY
Oh, I don't know about that,
Applejack. There's something
quite...odd about all of this.

86 RAINBOW DASH
But what else can we do? Sit here
behind this rock all day? Come on,
AJ, let's go check it out.

87 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Wait. I think we should all go.

88 RARITY
Oh, all right. We certainly
shouldn't split up.

They all stand and get ready to move out.

89 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Whatever happens, we just have to
stick together.

They all nod their agreement. Even, after a gulp,
Fluttershy. Pinkie Pie sneaks one last peek around the
boulder.

90 PINKIE PIE
Those smiles are no good...

And they all move out.

SC15. EXT. VILLAGE MAIN STREET - MOMENTS LATER

The Mane Six move toward town. They are still trying to hide
behind the rocks, but not doing a great job of it. A black
pegasus, NIGHT FLIGHT, sees them and waves with a wide, sunny
smile.

91 NIGHT FLIGHT
Welcome!

The Mane Six, feeling foolish for sneaking around, awkwardly
straighten up and pretend they still have their dignity. As
they enter the main street, another Village Pony walks past,
fixing them with a wide-eyed smile.

92 VILLAGE PONY #1
Welcome!

93 APPLEJACK
(with a smile)
Welcome yerself, stranger!

The Village Pony tips her head and smiles even wider.

94 FLUTTERSHY
(in awe)
This is the nicest place in
Equestria!

They take a few more tentative steps into town. Everypony
keeps going about their business, but there is no doubt the
Mane Six have been noticed. They are met with Stepford
smiles from everypony they see.

95 VILLAGE PONY # 2
Welcome!

A silver unicorn with a blue mane -- BUBBLE BURST -- comes toward them. There is the subtle hint of something else behind his smile...

96 BUBBLE BURST
Welcome!

97 RAINBOW DASH
 (to herself, sulking)
Thanks a lot, map.

98 BUBBLE BURST
Pardon my forwardness, but...are
you an alicorn?

Twilight blushes.

99 APPLEJACK
That there's the Princess of
Friendship!

100 BUBBLE BURST
 (smiling warmly)
Well you've certainly come to the
right place.

He inspects them closely.

101 BUBBLE BURST (CONT'D)
You all have different Cutie
Marks...

An earth pony, this one white with a white mane, comes toward them. This is SNOW DRIFT, and the urgency in his step goes unnoticed by the Mane Six.

102 SNOW DRIFT
Welcome! What brings you to town?

Again, very subtly, Bubble Burst backs away from the Mane Six and lets Snow Drift take center stage.

103 PINKIE PIE
A tree! Well, a tree that used to
be a box. I mean a map that
magically came from a tree.

104 SNOW DRIFT
I see. Well, all are welcome here
in our little village.
(MORE)

SNOW DRIFT (CONT'D)

My name is Snow Drift and this is
Bubble Burst.

105 APPLEJACK

Howdy, Snow Drift. I'm Applejack,
and this here's Pinkie Pie,
Fluttershy, Rarity, Rainbow Dash,
and Twilight Sparkle.

106 SNOW DRIFT

(still smiling)

And you all have your own Cutie
Marks.

The Mane Six smile back uncomfortably.

107 SNOW DRIFT (CONT'D)

Forgive my manners, please, make
yourselves at home. As I said, all
are welcome here.

108 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

If you don't mind...has there been
any sort of trouble here lately?

109 SNOW DRIFT

Trouble?

He laughs, but it feels a bit fake.

110 SNOW DRIFT (CONT'D)

Why, I don't think we've ever had
trouble in our village.

111 BUBBLE BURST

It's true. You'll see.

He smiles wide, proud of his town.

112 SNOW DRIFT

But perhaps your question is better
put to our founder, Aurora Glimmer.

Rainbow Dash finally smiles and whispers to Applejack.

113 RAINBOW DASH

Aurora Glimmer. Now that's a
monster's name if I've ever heard
one...

Applejack rolls her eyes, and the Mane Six follow Snow Drift
down the main street. Everypony they pass stops what they
are doing to watch, all with big smiles on their faces.

114 FLUTTERSHY
I wish everypony in Equestria was
as friendly as these ponies are.

115 PINKIE PIE
I've got my eye on them...

She smiles and waves to two Village Ponies.

116 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
Something's rotten in...whatever
the name of this village is that
we're in right now.

SC16. INT. AURORA GLIMMER'S COTTAGE - LATER

KNOCK KNOCK, and the door opens.

117 SNOW DRIFT
Aurora? We have some new visitors
in town!

He enters, followed by the Mane Six. The cottage is spare --
a basic table and chair, a fireplace, a few paintings of just
solid colors.

118 RAINBOW DASH
(quietly)
Be ready to fight. We don't know
what's gonna come through that
door...

119 AURORA GLIMMER (O.S.)
Welcome!

AURORA GLIMMER enters from an adjoining bedroom. She is
sweet-looking, but plain, a little smaller than an average
pony. She is electric purple with a ghostly green mane and
tail (like the aurora borealis). And she has an EQUALS SIGN
CUTIE MARK.

120 AURORA GLIMMER (CONT'D)
I'm so pleased to have you here.

121 SNOW DRIFT
This is Applejack, Fluttershy,
Pinkie Pie, Rarity, Rainbow Dash,
and Twilight Sparkle.

122 RAINBOW DASH
Wow, good memory.

Snow Drift smiles.

123 AURORA GLIMMER
Please, make yourselves at home.
Forgive my bluntness, but I'm
assuming it's Princess Twilight
Sparkle? We don't get many
alicorns around here.

124 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Yes. But Twilight is fine.

There's something uncomfortable about the scene. Aurora
Glimmer doesn't offer them drinks or a seat. They all just
sort of stand there facing each other.

125 AURORA GLIMMER
So...how did you hear of our little
village?

126 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
It's sort of a long story. Let's
just say we found it on a map.

127 PINKIE PIE
Technically it's a tree map.

128 AURORA GLIMMER
Well, however you found us, we're
happy to have you.

129 APPLEJACK
Say, Ms. Glimmer, you mind if I ask
a question?

130 AURORA GLIMMER
Of course. And Aurora, please.

131 APPLEJACK
How come y'all got the same Cutie
Marks? We ain't never seen nothin'
like that before.

Aurora smiles and lowers her head, as if to say, "Now this is
a long story."

132 AURORA GLIMMER
Perhaps it would be easier to
understand if I gave you a tour of
the village.

133 RAINBOW DASH
A tour? It's just one street,
right?

134 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Rainbow Dash!
(to Aurora Glimmer)
That would be...great!

MUSIC UP. It's a happy, high energy song in the style of "Be Our Guest" from BEAUTY AND THE BEAST.

SC17. EXT. VILLAGE MAIN STREET - LATER

Aurora leads the Mane Six from building to building (residence or commercial building, all look basically the same). Around her, the Village Ponies do a knee-bend dance to the beat. Their choreography is as basic as it gets.

135 AURORA GLIMMER
*Life's a smile in our small town/
For every frown gets turned around/
Show those shining pearly whites/
Don't let yourself be down.*

She runs past Village Ponies and leaves a trail of wide smiles in her wake.

136 AURORA GLIMMER (CONT'D)
*Our Cutie Marks may look the same/
Because we aim to make our name/
As the one and only place/
Where we don't seek acclaim.*

*Our little nook/
Our little nook/
No pony's better, no pony's worse/
Here we don't suffer Cutie Mark's
curse/
Come take a look!*

Aurora Glimmer struts down the street and it CROSS DISSOLVES into a RUNNING TRACK. As she sings, we see a RUNNER PONY with headband and GOLD MEDAL CUTIE MARK. A Village Pony steps up next to him, and the two begin to race...

137 AURORA GLIMMER (CONT'D)
*We have the same capacity/
And he's like she and she's like
he/
No heartache and no bitterness/
In sameness we are free.*

Runner Pony leaves Village Pony in the dust. But as he runs past Aurora Glimmer, his Cutie Mark changes into an EQUALS SIGN. It begins to GLOW, magically slowing Runner Pony down until Village Pony pulls even.

Despite Runner Pony's best effort, the two cross the finish line at exactly the same time.

138 AURORA GLIMMER (CONT'D)
*Your difference ends in argument/
But we don't vent, we don't resent/
So you may fuss and you may fight/
It's friendship you'll lament.*

A Brady Bunch style grid of ponies, each angry and yelling at one another. Aurora Glimmer walks across the screen, leaving EQUALS SIGN CUTIE MARKS behind, and instantly the bickering ponies become smiling, singing, Stepford ponies.

139 CHORUS
*Our little nook/
Our little nook/
No pony's better, no pony's worse/
Here we don't suffer Cutie Mark's
curse/
Come take a look!*

Aurora Glimmer continues to sing as behind her, two BABY PONIES AGE PROGRESS. They are happy and smiling, but as they grow bigger, Cutie Marks appear.

140 AURORA GLIMMER
*When ponies feel superior/
They might prefer to cause a stir/
They show off, boast, and put you
down/
And friendship won't occur.*

As they become full-grown adult ponies, one is clearly superior, LOOMING OVER THE OTHER, who cowers on the ground.

141 AURORA GLIMMER (CONT'D)
*Can't you see your lives are
stark?/
Your Cutie Marks make things so
dark/
Come join in our utopia/
And give your hearts a spark!*

BACK TO REALITY -- and now the Village Ponies start to line up behind her as the song builds.

142 CHORUS
*Our little nook/
Our little nook/
No pony's better, no pony's worse/
Here we don't suffer Cutie Mark's
curse/
Come take a look!*

The whole village sings directly to the Mane Six, building toward a big finish...

143 CHORUS (CONT'D)
*Join our cause, join our way/
Lose your Mark and you may stay/
Then we'll all be perfect friends
with no more gifts/
Come on and be our friend/
You've got to comprehend/
That in our nook/
In our burg/
In our town/
You'll settle dooooooown!*

END MUSIC. Aurora Glimmer and the Village Ponies hold their poses. After an extended beat, Rainbow Dash ERUPTS IN LAUGHTER.

144 RAINBOW DASH
You're kidding, right? Give up our
Cutie Marks? No way!

145 FLUTTERSHY
Rainbow Dash, don't be so rude!

146 APPLEJACK
So lemme get this straight. Y'all
gave up your Cutie Marks so you
could be the same?

147 RANDOM VILLAGE PONIES
(all smiling)
That's right! / That's right! /
That's right!

148 FLUTTERSHY
I don't think we should judge them.
They all seem perfectly happy with
their choice.

149 PINKIE PIE
Don't believe their smiles,
Fluttershy.

The Village Ponies' Stepford smiles start to falter. They seem utterly perplexed to see a group of friends having differing opinions. They look at one another in confusion.

150 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I'm very sorry for my friends. I
think they're just a little
confused by all of this--

151 RAINBOW DASH
 (still laughing)
I'm not confused! They want us to
trade in our Cutie Marks!

152 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Rainbow Dash!

FIND BUBBLE BURST -- clearly troubled by all these differing
opinions. He glances at Aurora Glimmer and sees a FLASH OF
ANGER behind her smile. This confuses him even more.

153 AURORA GLIMMER
We have no judgments here in our
village. Each of us was confused
once, as well, blinded by the false
promise of our Cutie Marks.

154 RAINBOW DASH
Is she for real?

Twilight scowls at Rainbow Dash, then turns back to the
Village Ponies.

155 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Sorry about her. To be honest,
we're a little confused. We were
sent to your village to help in
some way, but...well, it doesn't
seem like you need any help.

Aurora Glimmer's smile morphs into pure smug satisfaction.

156 AURORA GLIMMER
Have you considered perhaps you
weren't sent here to help us?
Perhaps you were sent here so we
could help you.

Twilight doesn't know what to say. Aurora Glimmer steps
forward, her words intended as much for the Village Ponies as
the Mane Six.

157 AURORA GLIMMER (CONT'D)
After all, nopony has ever come to
our village and wanted to leave.
Why should you be any different?

She turns her back to the Mane Six and smiles at her fellow
Village Ponies. They smile back.

158 AURORA GLIMMER (CONT'D)
 (to the Mane Six)
But that is entirely your choice.

She starts to walk off toward her cottage.

159 AURORA GLIMMER (CONT'D)
Snow Drift, please help our guests
with whatever they might need.

160 SNOW DRIFT
Of course.

We STAY ON Aurora Glimmer as she leaves the scene. Behind her, the Mane Six stand awkwardly before the Village Ponies. Neither side seems to know quite what to do next.

As we go with Aurora down the main street, we see her expression change from a phony smile to one of SIMMERING RAGE.

FADE OUT.

END ACT 2

ACT 3

FADE IN:

SC18. EXT. VILLAGE MAIN STREET - DAY

The Mane Six stroll down the street, looking in shop windows and passing by smiling Village Ponies.

161 VILLAGE PONY #3
Welcome! Hope you decide to join
us!

162 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I'm so confused. How is it even
possible to give up a Cutie Mark?

163 RARITY
 (aghast)
What in the name of Equestria is
that?!

She pulls up short outside a boutique. The SHOPKEEPER stands outside with a big smile. Several racks of cloaks hang outside. They look like plain burlap sacks.

164 SHOPKEEPER
Welcome! Care to sample some local
fashion? We've got cloaks this
month!

165 RARITY
Perhaps another time, good sir,
thank you.

(whispering, to Applejack)
No wonder nopony's wearing
anything.

166 FLUTTERSHY
Really, girls, they may do things a
bit differently, but that's no
reason to be rude.

They come to the...

SC19. EXT. VILLAGE CAFE - CONTINUOUS

...and take seats at an outdoor table. Village Ponies at
other tables stare at them and smile.

167 RAINBOW DASH
(quietly)
No, the reason to be rude is that
they all keep staring at us like
that.

168 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Fluttershy's right. If we're going
to get to the bottom of why the map
sent us here, we'll need the help
of these ponies.

169 APPLEJACK
You wanna know what I think? I
think we ran off to the end of
Equestria before we even knew what
that map was!

As the Mane Six start to disagree, their voices rise.

170 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Maybe you're right, but we're here
now. And it sure feels like
something's wrong.

171 APPLEJACK
That and two bits'll get you a cup
of cider.

172 FLUTTERSHY
You sound just as rude as Rainbow
Dash!

173 RAINBOW DASH
Hey, don't drag me into this.

A pink unicorn in an apron approaches. This is SUGAR
SPRINKLES.

174 SUGAR SPRINKLES
Welcome! I'm Sugar Sprinkles.
What can I bring you today? We
have muffins...

The Mane Six wait for the rest of the options, but they never
come.

175 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Oh, uh, well...I guess we'll take
six muffins.

176 PINKIE PIE
Make that twelve muffins.
(off Twilight's look)
What? I'm hungry.

Sugar Sprinkles disappears back inside.

177 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Come on, girls, we've got to stick
together. It doesn't matter what
happened before; we're here now.

178 APPLEJACK
I guess you're right. And the
sooner we figure out why, the
sooner we can go home.

Sugar Sprinkles reappears and sets down the muffins. She
looks confused.

179 SUGAR SPRINKLES
Forgive me for overhearing, but...
how did you just agree with each
other like that?

180 APPLEJACK
Huh?

181 SUGAR SPRINKLES
You had such differing opinions.
And Cutie Marks.

182 APPLEJACK
Oh, we disagree all the time.

183 SUGAR SPRINKLES
 (genuinely confused)
But...you look like friends.

184 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
We are friends. That doesn't mean
we always agree...

ACROSS THE STREET -- Snow Drift watches the Mane Six talk to
Sugar Sprinkles. His eyes narrow.

BACK ON THE MANE SIX -- Sugar Sprinkles is still smiling, and
very curious to hear what they have to say.

185 SUGAR SPRINKLES
How can ponies with different
talents be friends? That only
leads to bitterness and heartache--

Pinkie Pie SPITS OUT the muffin. She looks like she just ate
something rotten.

186 PINKIE PIE
 (super forced)
Mmm...good...

187 SUGAR SPRINKLES
It's all right, I know I'm not a
very good cook. None of us are.

Out of the corner of her eye, she sees Snow Drift watching
her. HE IS NOT SMILING. Her own smile falters, and she
becomes uncomfortable.

188 SUGAR SPRINKLES (CONT'D)
Well, I hope you enjoy our little
village!

Pinkie Pie is frantically wiping her tongue with her hooves.

189 PINKIE PIE
We will.

190 SUGAR SPRINKLES
 (quickly, whispered)
Come inside before you go.
Downstairs.

And she smiles widely once more -- for Snow Drift's benefit --
then goes back inside.

191 RAINBOW DASH
Okay, that was weird, too.

192 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Let's all sit here and eat these
muffins. I think we're being
watched.

MANE SIX P.O.V. -- everywhere they look, Village Ponies are
watching them and smiling.

193 RAINBOW DASH
Ya think?

194 APPLEJACK
I got an idea. But you gotta eat
all them muffins, Pinkie.

195 PINKIE PIE
(distracted)
Huh?

196 APPLEJACK
The sooner we find out what's goin'
on here, the sooner you'll be back
in Ponyville eatin' frosting.

Pinkie Pie studies the eleven muffins sitting before her.
She looks like she might cry...

SC20. INT. VILLAGE CAFE - MOMENTS LATER

The Mane Six enter, Pinkie Pie holding her stomach and
looking a bit green.

197 APPLEJACK
(loudly)
I can't believe you ate all our
muffins, Pinkie Pie! We best go
inside and get some more!

The door closes and they are alone.

198 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Nice work, Pinkie.

199 PINKIE PIE
I've accidentally eaten cardboard
tastier than that.

200 RAINBOW DASH
Come on, this way!

SC21. INT. VILLAGE CAFE, BASEMENT - MOMENTS LATER

The Mane Six enter the creepy basement. A single candle lights the room. Sugar Sprinkles is barely visible in the shadows.

201 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Hello? Sugar Sprinkles?

She steps forward, but in this light her Stepford grin looks much more sinister.

202 SUGAR SPRINKLES
Thank you for coming.

203 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Why did want us to come down here?

She steps forward again.

204 SUGAR SPRINKLES
So nopony could see what's about to happen...

Two others -- Night Flight and Bubble Burst -- step out from the shadows, both smiling.

205 RAINBOW DASH
All right!

She shoves Fluttershy behind her and puts up her dukes.

206 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Stay back, Fluttershy, I got this!

The three Village Ponies are closing in, when...ON A DIME, the mood shifts.

207 BUBBLE BURST
Are you really the Princess of Friendship?

208 NIGHT FLIGHT
Do you know Princess Celestia?
What's she like?

209 SUGAR SPRINKLES
(to Pinkie Pie)
I love your Cutie Mark!

210 NIGHT FLIGHT
How can you be friends with
different Cutie Marks? Don't you
end up hating each other?

211 BUBBLE BURST
What I wouldn't give to have mine
back, just for a day.
 (self-consciously)
I mean, I love it here in the
village, but...

212 RAINBOW DASH
So why don't you go get it back?

The Village Ponies are confused.

213 BUBBLE BURST
Get it back? Once Aurora Glimmer
frees us from them, they're gone.
 (to the other two)
Aren't they?

214 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
No pony should keep you from your
Cutie Mark. We'll go talk to her
and see if we can find out where
they are.

Now the Village Ponies' curiosity is tinged with fear.

215 BUBBLE BURST
Oh no, you mustn't do that.

216 APPLEJACK
Come on, y'all, if she can take 'em
off, she can put 'em back on.

The Village Ponies look at each other with worry. Night
Flight looks the most worried of the three.

217 NIGHT FLIGHT
I don't like this at all.

218 FLUTTERSHY
But if it's only for a day, even an
hour or two, what's the harm?

219 BUBBLE BURST
It would be so nice, wouldn't it?
But maybe we should...wait here.

220 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
No problem! You stay here and
we'll take care of it!

The Mane Six turn to leave.

221 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
This is why we were sent here! To
help them!

And they head up the stairs...

SC22. EXT. ROCKY HILLSIDE - LATER

Aurora Glimmer leads the Mane Six through a hillside littered with huge boulders. The equals sign of the village can be seen behind them at the base of the hill.

222 AURORA GLIMMER
Of course they can have their Marks
back! Our village is based on
choice, and all have chosen to have
a life free of misery. It's just
through here...

She disappears around a corner.

223 RAINBOW DASH
Is anypony else getting a bad vibe
here?

224 RARITY
She was surprisingly open to the
idea of returning the old Cutie
Marks.

225 AURORA GLIMMER (O.S.)
Come along! Just through here!

SC23. INT. CAVE - MOMENTS LATER

The Mane Six enter and their jaws drop...

At the far end of the cave is a huge wall of GLASS
COMPARTMENTS. Each compartment holds a FLOATING CUTIE MARK!

226 PINKIE PIE
Woowow...do they make these for
cookies?

Aurora Glimmer approaches a glowing green STAFF resting on a
rock altar. It is carved top to bottom with ancient runes.

227 AURORA GLIMMER
All of our friends' Marks are kept
here. And I use this to remove
them.

She lifts the staff.

228 AURORA GLIMMER (CONT'D)
Or, in this case, to put them back.

229 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I've never seen anything like this.

230 AURORA GLIMMER
You're welcome in here any time...
 (suddenly menacing)
...to visit your Cutie Marks.

Suddenly, Snow Drift enters behind the Mane Six. He is flanked by a dozen VILLAGE PONIES.

231 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
It's a trap!

The Village Ponies close in menacingly!

Twilight FIRES UP HER HORN -- but before she can launch a spell, Aurora Glimmer waves the staff and a CRACKLE OF PURPLE AND GREEN MAGIC STREAMS ACROSS THE ROOM! The magic is comprised of the same colors as Aurora Glimmer herself, and could look something like what came out of the Ghostbusters' proton packs.

ON TWILIGHT'S CUTIE MARK -- as it PEELS RIGHT OFF HER BODY, leaving an EQUALS SIGN! Twilight fires her magic, but all it does is trip one of the Village Ponies. He gets right back up and GRABS HER.

232 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
My Cutie Mark! My magic!

Her Cutie Mark sails across the cave and into a waiting compartment of the vault.

Meanwhile, Rainbow Dash flies a tight swirl around two other Village Ponies.

233 RAINBOW DASH
Time to take out some bad guys--

Aurora Glimmer's magic staff BLASTS HER and STEALS HER CUTIE MARK, leaving an EQUALS SIGN. Her tornado-like spiral slows to nearly nothing, allowing the Village Ponies to easily grab her.

Applejack rears back to deliver an applebuck to a Village Pony, when the magic STEALS HER CUTIE MARK and leaves an EQUALS SIGN.

She KICKS OUT, but it only barely knocks the Village Pony back. He keeps coming and, along with another, subdues her as well.

The staff BLASTS AGAIN AND AGAIN -- one Cutie Mark after another FLOATS INTO THE VAULT! Finally, our Mane Six are all left with EQUALS SIGN CUTIE MARKS! And all are being held by the Village Ponies.

234 AURORA GLIMMER
I don't blame you for what you
tried to do here today. You've
spent your whole lives thinking
those Marks are a good thing.

235 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Let us go!

236 AURORA GLIMMER
 (ignore her)
Well now you can spend the rest of
your lives here with us. And we'll
teach you just how much better life
can be without a Cutie Mark.

ON THE MANE SIX -- horror in their eyes!

ON AURORA GLIMMER -- standing above them, glowing staff in hand, backlit by a wall of imprisoned Cutie Marks. And right there in the middle, the Cutie Marks of the Mane Six!

FADE OUT.