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MY LITTLE PONY V

"The Cutie Map - Part 1"

Episode 501

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TEASER

FADE IN:

SC 1. INT. TWILIGHT SPARKLE'S CASTLE, HALLWAY - DAY

A majestic hallway, solemn and beautiful and epic, with huge gemstones in the walls and a dramatic vaulted ceiling. It is utterly impressive.

APPLEJACK, RARITY, FLUTTERSHY, RAINBOW DASH, PINKIE PIE, and TWILIGHT SPARKLE all step BARELY INTO FRAME and look at the hallway as though they're afraid to enter.

They stand there for a beat in silence. They look like they have no idea what they're supposed to do.

SC 2. INT. TWILIGHT SPARKLE'S CASTLE, DINING ROOM - LATER

The Mane Six once again stand just outside the room looking in. They don't move.

SC 3. INT. TWILIGHT SPARKLE'S CASTLE, LIBRARY - LATER

They stand in the doorway, and once again the room seems entirely too magnificent in its empty splendor.

There's a nice long beat. Then...

1 RARITY
You know, you could put a chair
over there.

2 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Yeah...chair might be good.

And back to silence.

SC 4. INT. TWILIGHT SPARKLE'S CASTLE, THRONE ROOM - LATER

The friends are spread around the room, as though this is the only place in the entire castle where they are at least moderately comfortable. Pinkie Pie lounges in her throne. SPIKE is sound asleep in his throne.

3 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Let's go through this one more
time.

Rainbow Dash plops down in her throne with a GROAN.

4 RAINBOW DASH
We're been over it, like, a million times, Twilight. We found all six keys, defeated Tirek, and got this sweet castle. End of story.

5 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Yes, but why.

6 APPLEJACK
I dunno, sugarcube, maybe it's just your new house, and there ain't nothin' more to it than that.

Now she sits in her throne.

7 RARITY
I must say, speaking strictly on aesthetics...

She runs a hoof along her throne, then sits.

8 RARITY (CONT'D)
...there really doesn't need to be more to it. It's all simply divine.

As Fluttershy sits in her throne, she says...

9 FLUTTERSHY
I agree with Twilight. And Rarity and Applejack and Rainbow Dash and Pinkie Pie. And probably Spike.

Spike SNORES.

10 FLUTTERSHY (CONT'D)
There could be more to it, but there could also not be more to it.

Twilight paces behind her throne, but doesn't sit.

11 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
As princess, I've chosen to spread the Magic of Friendship across Equestria. So why would the Tree of Harmony want us to sit in a castle in Ponyville? It doesn't make any sense.

Frustrated, she plops down in her throne...

Just then, as each of them sits in their throne at the same time, their Cutie Marks start to SHIMMER and GLOW!

The thrones go from gemstone violet to the BRILLIANT SILVERY WHITE OF THE TREE OF HARMONY. The entire room starts to RUMBLE and SHAKE!

Spike SNORES AWAY, oblivious.

TREE ROOTS grow out from the bases of their thrones and start to twist together and layer on top of each other into a CIRCULAR TABLE. As the Mane Six watch in astonishment, a THREE-DIMENSIONAL TOPOGRAPHIC MAP OF EQUESTRIA forms across the surface of the table. The entire thing glows exactly like the Tree of Harmony.

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

There's a beat where nopony says anything, then Spike SNORTLES himself awake.

12 SPIKE
(with a yawn)
Is that new? I like it.

FADE OUT.

END TEASER

MAIN TITLES

ACT 1

FADE IN:

SC 5. INT. TWILIGHT SPARKLE'S CASTLE, THRONE ROOM - DAY

The Mane Six sit in their thrones, incredulous.

13 APPLEJACK
What the hay just happened?

14 PINKIE PIE
Our Cutie Marks started to glow and then the room shook and...wait, you are talking about the map, right?

Spike leans in and looks over the miniature Equestrian landscape.

15 SPIKE
This is incredible! It's got all
of Equestria and a whole bunch
more!

Fluttershy points to Ponyville on the map.

16 FLUTTERSHY
But if this is Ponyville...

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

17 FLUTTERSHY (CONT'D)
...why are our Cutie Marks over
there?

The others study the map. Pinkie Pie smiles down at a
particular section and waves.

18 PINKIE PIE
Hi, Mom and Dad!

The Cutie Marks hover above a mountainous area with a village
nestled into a recession in the middle. The tiny village
looks like two long blocks of buildings with a main street
down the middle (like an EQUALS SIGN).

19 FLUTTERSHY
(off the village)
What is that place? It's on the
other side of Equestria.

20 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I don't know. But it seems like
the map wants us to find out.

21 APPLEJACK
Now hang on, y'all. We just got
through fightin' that Tirek feller.
I can't be gallivantin' across
Equestria just 'cause some glowing
map says to!

22 RARITY
As much as I adore this rather
modern take on rustic design, I'm
afraid I must agree with Applejack.
How can we be sure that's what it
means?

23 RAINBOW DASH
Yeah, and where did this thing come
from, anyway?

24 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I don't know, but it has to be
connected to the Tree of Harmony.
Just look at it! The Tree, the
chest, this castle...and now the
map. It's all related.
(earnestly)
How can we not follow it?

The others are hesitant. The village really is at the
extreme end of Equestria. Rainbow Dash studies the expanse
of land between Ponyville and the village.

25 RAINBOW DASH
You know what? There's a ton of
room for dangerous adventures along
that route. Count me in.

26 APPLEJACK
Aw shoot, I reckon you're right.
Granny Smith can run my plow a
little while longer.

27 PINKIE PIE
Well...I was planning on organizing
my baking sheets, but okay!

28 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 Fluttershy.

29 FLUTTERSHY
Maybe I'll just stay here with
Spike.

30 SPIKE
Awesome! Me and Big Mac have a
huge weekend ahead of us talkin'
hoofball and trading hoofball cards
and arguing about hoofball stats!

Fluttershy grimaces.

31 FLUTTERSHY
On second thought, maybe I'd better
go with them. In case they need
me.

32 SPIKE
Suit yourself. But he's got a Hock
Fetlock rookie card I plan to sweet
talk right into these hot little
claws.

33 RAINBOW DASH
So it's settled? We're all going
to...
(pointing to the map)
...there?

They all nod.

34 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Looks like it's time for a road
trip...

SC 6. EXT. PONYVILLE TRAIN STATION - DAY

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

35 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!

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

Twilight races up with a scroll.

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

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

38 APPLEJACK
Wooo doggies! We best get a move
on.

They board the train and the doors close...

SC 7. MONTAGE

39 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (V.O.)
This train will only get us part of
the way...

The BACKGROUNDS ALTERNATE between day and night as the train
zips past -- open fields, big city, raised tracks over water,
low desert...

40 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (V.O.)
...and there's still a long way to
go once we reach the end of the
line.

DISSOLVE TO:

SC 8. NEW MONTAGE

Again the BACKGROUND CHANGE, but now the Mane Six are on hoof
-- high plains, marshlands, snowy mountain village, and
finally an almost lunar desert. They end up on top of a...

SC 9. EXT. ROCKY BLUFF - DAY

There are giant BOULDERS and strange trees littering the
landscape (think Joshua Tree for reference). Twilight is
consulting her scroll.

41 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I don't understand. According to
my directions, we should be right
on top of it.

42 PINKIE PIE
I hope we weren't reading the map
upside-down or something--

43 APPLEJACK
Look, y'all! Is that it yonder?

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].

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

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

She starts off, but Twilight stops her.

46 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Wait. We don't know why the map
sent us here. We shouldn't just
walk right in, it could be
dangerous.

47 RAINBOW DASH
Yesss!!

48 PINKIE PIE
(deadly serious)
Stay behind me, everypony. I'm on
it.

SC 10. EXT. JUST OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE - LATER

Pinkie Pie crouch-runs and somersaults comically 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...

49 FLUTTERSHY
Oh, it's so cute!

And, indeed, it is cute. It's sort of a 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*].

50 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.

51 APPLEJACK
It don't make a lick of sense!
That's just an ordinary village
full of ordinary folks.

52 RARITY
It could certainly use a few more
architectural flourishes...or any
architectural flourishes.

53 FLUTTERSHY
I think it's lovely.

54 PINKIE PIE
(cold-eyed)
I don't like it. I don't like it
one bit.

They look over at her in confusion.

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

56 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.

57 RAINBOW DASH
Okay, that's weird.

FADE OUT.

END ACT 1

ACT 2

FADE IN:

SC 11. EXT. JUST OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE - DAY

The Mane Six duck down behind their rock to confer.

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

59 RAINBOW DASH
I bet there's some sort of horrific
monster behind it!

60 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Monster? What makes you say that?

61 RAINBOW DASH
I dunno, 'cause fighting a horrific
monster would be super awesome?

62 APPLEJACK
Reckon we oughta just head into
town and talk to some locals. Find
out what's goin' on.

63 RAINBOW DASH
Great idea, AJ, let's go.

64 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Wait. We should all go.
(masking her unease)
Together.

They all nod their agreement. Pinkie Pie sneaks one last
peek around the boulder.

65 PINKIE PIE
Those smiles are baaaad news...

On the cheerful Village Ponies, we go...

SC 12. EXT. VILLAGE MAIN STREET - DAY

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 Glider, sees them and waves with a wide, sunny
smile.

66 NIGHT GLIDER
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.

67 VILLAGE PONY #1
Welcome!

68 APPLEJACK
(with a smile)
Howdy, stranger!

The Village Pony tips her head and smiles even wider. As they enter the village, it looks like a clean, happy, functional utopia.

69 FLUTTERSHY
(in awe)
This must be the most pleasant
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.

70 VILLAGE PONY # 2
Welcome!

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

71 PARTY FAVOR
Welcome!

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

73 PARTY FAVOR
Pardon my forwardness, but...are
you an alicorn?

Twilight blushes.

74 APPLEJACK
That there's the Princess of
Friendship!

75 PARTY FAVOR
(smiling warmly)
Well you've certainly come to the
right place for friendship.

He inspects them closely.

76 PARTY FAVOR (CONT'D)
You all have different Cutie
Marks...

An earth pony, this one white with a white mane, comes toward them. This is Double Diamond, and the urgency in his step goes unnoticed by the Mane Six. Again, very subtly, Party Favor backs away and lets Double Diamond take center stage.

77 DOUBLE DIAMOND
Welcome! What brings you to town?

The Mane Six shift uncomfortably.

78 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
We're not entirely sure.

79 DOUBLE DIAMOND
I see. Well, all are welcome here
in our little village. My name is
Double Diamond and this is Party
Favor.

80 APPLEJACK
Howdy, Double Diamond. I'm
Applejack, and this here's Pinkie
Pie, Fluttershy, Rarity, Rainbow
Dash, and Twilight Sparkle.

81 DOUBLE DIAMOND
(still smiling)
And you all have your own unique
Cutie Marks.

The Mane Six smile back uncomfortably.

82 DOUBLE DIAMOND (CONT'D)
Forgive my manners, please, make
yourselves at home. As I said, all
are welcome here.

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

84 DOUBLE DIAMOND
Trouble?

He laughs, but it feels a bit fake.

85 DOUBLE DIAMOND (CONT'D)
Why, I don't think we've ever had
trouble in our village.

86 PARTY FAVOR
It's true. You'll see.

He smiles wide, proud of his town.

87 DOUBLE DIAMOND
Perhaps you'd care to speak to our
founder, Starlight?

Rainbow Dash finally smiles and whispers to Applejack.

88 RAINBOW DASH
Starlight. Now that's a horrific
monster's name if I've ever heard
one...

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

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

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

She smiles and waves to two Village Ponies.

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

SC 13. INT. STARLIGHT'S COTTAGE - LATER

KNOCK KNOCK, and the door opens.

92 DOUBLE DIAMOND
Starlight? We have some new
visitors!

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.

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

94 STARLIGHT (O.S.)
Welcome!

Starlight enters from an adjoining bedroom. She is sweet-looking, a little smaller than an average pony. She is ghostly magenta with a pale electric-purple mane, a ponyfied aurora borealis. And she has an EQUALS SIGN CUTIE MARK.

95 STARLIGHT (CONT'D)
I'm so pleased to have you here.

96 DOUBLE DIAMOND
This is Applejack, Fluttershy,
Pinkie Pie, Rarity, Rainbow Dash,
and Twilight Sparkle.

Starlight smiles.

97 STARLIGHT
Forgive my bluntness, but I'm
assuming it's Princess Twilight
Sparkle? We don't get many
alicorns around here.

98 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Yes. But Twilight is fine.

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

99 STARLIGHT
So...how did you hear of our little
village?

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

101 PINKIE PIE
Technically it's a tree-chest-
castle-map.

102 STARLIGHT
Well, however you found us, we're
happy to have you. We're happy to
have anypony who wants to
experience true friendship for the
first time.

103 APPLEJACK
Say what?

104 STARLIGHT
Oh, indeed. That's what's so
unique about our village, you see.
Around here, we don't flaunt our
special talents because we don't
have any special talents to flaunt.

105 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Is that why you all have those
Cutie Marks?

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

106 STARLIGHT
Perhaps it would be easier to
understand if I gave you a tour of
the village.

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

108 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
A tour would be...great!

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

SC 14. EXT. VILLAGE MAIN STREET - LATER

Starlight 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.

109 STARLIGHT
*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.

110 STARLIGHT (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!*

Starlight 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...

111 STARLIGHT (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 Starlight, 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.

112 STARLIGHT (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. Starlight walks across the screen, leaving EQUALS SIGN CUTIE MARKS behind, and instantly the bickering ponies become smiling, singing, Stepford ponies.

113 CHORUS
*Our little nook/
Our little nook/
Nopony's better, nopony's worse/
Here we don't suffer Cutie Mark's
curse/
Come take a look!*

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

114 STARLIGHT
*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.

115 STARLIGHT (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.

116 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...

117 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 doooooown!*

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

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

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

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

Random village ponies agree in unison.

121 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
How do you give up a Cutie Mark?

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

123 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.

124 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I'm sorry, I guess we're just a
little confused by all of this--

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

FIND Party Favor -- clearly troubled by all these differing opinions. He glances at Starlight and sees a SMILE OF SUPREME CONFIDENCE.

126 STARLIGHT
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.

127 RAINBOW DASH
Is she for real?

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

128 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
When we were sent to this village,
we assumed it was to help in some
way, but...well, it doesn't seem
like you need any help.

129 STARLIGHT
Have you considered perhaps that
you might have been sent here so we
could help you?

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

130 STARLIGHT (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.

131 STARLIGHT (CONT'D)
(to the Mane Six)
But that is entirely your choice.
Please, enjoy our little corner of
Equestria. We're all quite fond of
it. No doubt you will be as well.

She starts to walk off toward her cottage.

132 STARLIGHT (CONT'D)
Double Diamond, please help our
guests with whatever they might
need.

133 DOUBLE DIAMOND
Of course.

We STAY ON Starlight 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.

134 STARLIGHT
(to herself)
Well this will certainly provide a
boost to our little community...

She pauses and looks back at the Mane Six, shaking her head in disbelief.

135 STARLIGHT (CONT'D)
When the rest of Equestria sees
that a princess gave up her Cutie
Mark to join us, they'll finally
understand what we're trying to
accomplish.

And she walks OFF SCREEN with a smile, leaving Twilight and the others IN FRAME.

FADE OUT.

END ACT 2

ACT 3

FADE IN:

SC 15. EXT. VILLAGE MAIN STREET - DAY

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

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

137 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
A Cutie Mark is a representation of
a pony's unique talents and skills.
How is it possible to give it up?

She looks back and sees Double Diamond trailing behind.

138 DOUBLE DIAMOND
 (helpfully)
Need something?

139 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
No, we're good.

She gives him an awkward smile and keeps walking. He always maintains a respectful distance, allowing them their privacy, yet there is no question his presence is intrusive.

140 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.

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

142 RARITY
Perhaps another time, good sir,
thank you.
 (whispering, to Applejack)
No wonder nopony's wearing
anything.

143 FLUTTERSHY
Really, girls, they may do things a
bit differently than we're used to,
but that's no reason to be
impolite.

They come to the...

SC 16. EXT. VILLAGE CAFE - CONTINUOUS

...and take seats at an outdoor table. Village Ponies at other tables stare at them and smile. Double Diamond takes a position across the street and watches. He's not sinister; he's trying to give them space and yet be there for them, like Starlight asked. He's just not particularly tactful.

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

145 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.

146 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!

147 PINKIE PIE
If we were at the end of Equestria,
we'd be sitting on a big A! Get
it?

148 RARITY
Really, Pinkie, this is hardly the
time for jokes. We've come all
this way and for what?

As the Mane Six start to disagree, their voices rise. Nearby Village Ponies notice.

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

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

151 FLUTTERSHY
We shouldn't be bickering like this
in front of our new friends.
(MORE)

FLUTTERSHY (CONT'D)

Really, Applejack, you're almost as bad as Rainbow Dash!

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

A pink unicorn in an apron approaches. This is Sugar Belle.

153 SUGAR BELLE
Is this a bad time? Is your friendship ending? I can come back later.

154 PINKIE PIE
Are you crazy? We'd never let a disagreement get in the way of food!

155 SUGAR BELLE
(confused)
Okay, well...uh, my name is Sugar Belle. What can I bring you? We have muffins...

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

156 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Then I guess we'll take six muffins.

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

Sugar Belle disappears back inside.

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

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

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

160 SUGAR BELLE
Forgive me for overhearing, but
just a moment ago you were
disagreeing. And now it sounds
like you're agreeing.

161 APPLEJACK
Huh?

162 SUGAR BELLE
Well, you had such differing
opinions. And Cutie Marks.

163 RARITY
We have differing opinions all the
time, darling.

164 SUGAR BELLE
(genuinely confused)
But...you look like friends.

165 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
We are friends. A simple
disagreement wouldn't change
that...

ACROSS THE STREET -- Double Diamond watches the Mane Six talk
to Sugar Belle. His eyes narrow.

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

166 SUGAR BELLE
I'm sorry, I'm just having a hard
time understanding. Different
talents lead to different opinions,
which lead to bitterness and
misery. So, why aren't you bitter
and--

Pinkie Pie SPITS OUT the muffin in a way that is not too
gross. She looks like she just ate something rotten.

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

168 SUGAR BELLE
It's all right, I know I'm not a
very good baker. At least, I'm not
any better than anypony else in the
village.

Out of the corner of her eye, she sees Double Diamond watching her from across the street. HE IS NOT SMILING. Her own smile falters, and she becomes uncomfortable.

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

Pinkie Pie is frantically wiping her tongue with her hooves.

170 PINKIE PIE
We will.

171 SUGAR BELLE
 (quickly, whispered)
Come inside before you go. Meet me
downstairs.

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

172 RAINBOW DASH
Okay, that was weird, too.

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

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

174 RAINBOW DASH
Ya think?

175 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
No, not like that. I mean somepony
here doesn't want us talking to
Sugar Belle.

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

177 PINKIE PIE
 (distraught)
Me? Why me?

178 APPLEJACK
You got a stronger stomach than any
of us and that filly in there might
be our best chance at findin' out
what the hay is goin' on around
here.

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

SC 17. INT. VILLAGE CAFE - MOMENTS LATER

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

179 APPLEJACK
 (loudly and stagy)
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.

180 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Nice work, Pinkie.

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

182 RAINBOW DASH
Come on, this way!

SC 18. INT. VILLAGE CAFE, BASEMENT - MOMENTS LATER

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

183 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Hello? Sugar Belle?

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

184 SUGAR BELLE
Thank you for coming.

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

Sugar Belle steps forward again.

186 SUGAR BELLE
So nopony could see what's about to
happen...

Two others -- Night Glider and Party Favor -- step out from the shadows, both smiling, and start to close in, when...ON A DIME, the mood shifts.

187 PARTY FAVOR
Are you really the Princess of Friendship?

188 NIGHT GLIDER
Do you know Princess Celestia?
What's she like?

189 SUGAR BELLE
(to Pinkie Pie)
I love your Cutie Mark!

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

191 RARITY
I should say not!

192 SUGAR BELLE
(off Fluttershy's Cutie Mark)
Look at this one, this one's great too! I'd love to have my special talent back, even just for a day...make something besides those disgusting muffins...
(self-consciously)
I mean, I love my life in the village, but sometimes...

193 RAINBOW DASH
So what's stopping you? Go get your Cutie Marks back.

The Village Ponies are confused.

194 PARTY FAVOR
Daydreaming is one thing, but you mean...actually having it put back on? That seems extreme.

195 SUGAR BELLE
I'm not sure Starlight would like that. She wants us all to be happy in our sameness.

196 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
How do you take somepony's Cutie
Mark, anyway? I didn't know that
was possible.

The Village Ponies light up.

197 NIGHT GLIDER
The Cutie Unmarking is a beautiful
experience. Starlight uses the
Staff of Sameness to magically take
them away and replace them with
these.

The Mane Six exchange a nervous glance.

198 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
But...no pony should keep you from
your Cutie Mark. It represents
such an essential part of who you
are!

199 NIGHT GLIDER
Oh, we're not kept from them.
They're in the vault, up in the
caves. We can visit any time we
like to remind us of the heartache
of a life with special talents.

200 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Can we visit this cave?

ON THE VILLAGE PONES -- considering...

SC 19. EXT. ROCKY HILLSIDE - LATER

Starlight leads the Mane Six through a hillside littered with
huge boulders, Double Diamond at her side. The equals sign
of the village can be seen behind them at the base of the
hill.

201 STARLIGHT
I'm delighted you're interested in
our Cutie Mark vault! We hope
someday every pony in Equestria
will make a pilgrimage here to our
little village to have theirs
removed, too, and our message of
perfectly equal friendship can
finally spread across the land!

She and Double Diamond guide the way, which gives the others
a chance to whisper to each other.

202 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
This must be the reason we're here.

203 PINKIE PIE
Pilgrimagining?

204 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
No, helping those ponies get their
Cutie Marks back! Couldn't you see
how much they missed them?

205 FLUTTERSHY
Are you sure, Twilight? Maybe they
missed them a little, but even they
didn't seem all that unhappy.

206 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Then why did they want to meet us
in secret? And why did they ask us
not to tell Starlight who told us
about the vault?

207 RARITY
They did seem keen to keep their
distance from us. At least
publicly.

208 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Something's not right...

209 STARLIGHT
Just through here!

She and Double Diamond disappear around a corner. The Mane
Six exchange a look, then follow them into...

SC 20. INT. CAVE - MOMENTS LATER

They enter and their jaws drop...

210 STARLIGHT
Here is our Cutie Mark vault...

211 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I've never seen anything like it...

At the far end of the cave is a huge wall of GLASS
COMPARTMENTS. Each compartment holds a FLOATING CUTIE MARK!
*[NOTE: This could be like a wall-sized bakery case, with each
Mark in its own backlit compartment, so the whole thing
lights the cave with a sterile glow.]*

212 STARLIGHT
And here is the Staff of Sameness.

She approaches a glowing green STAFF resting on a rock alter.
It is carved top to bottom with ancient runes. She picks it
up and examines it lovingly.

213 STARLIGHT (CONT'D)
It was one of the great mage
Meadowbrook's nine enchanted items.
We are incredibly fortunate to have
it here. This is the tool that
allows us to free ourselves from
our Marks.

She notices that the Mane Six are transfixed by the wall of
Cutie Marks and takes advantage...

214 STARLIGHT (CONT'D)
I'm curious, how did the subject of
the vault come up?

215 PINKIE PIE
(distracted)
Some ponies were telling us how
much they missed their Cutie Marks
and--

216 STARLIGHT
(eyes lighting up)
Were they!

217 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
(under her breath)
Pinkie!

218 PINKIE PIE
Oops.

Starlight's perfectly composed demeanor takes on an undertone
of menace.

219 STARLIGHT
Well it seems you inspire all sorts
of free thinking, don't you?

The tension inside the cave is palpable.

220 RARITY
We certainly don't intend to cause
any disruptions to your charming
little village--

221 STARLIGHT
Good. Let's just make sure of
that, shall we?

Double Diamond steps forward menacingly as a dozen VILLAGE
PONIES enter behind the Mane Six.

222 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
It's a trap!

She FIRES UP HER HORN -- but before she can launch a spell,
Starlight waves the staff and a CRACKLE OF PURPLE AND MAGENTA
MAGIC STREAMS ACROSS THE ROOM! The magic is comprised of the
same colors as Starlight 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.

223 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.

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

Starlight'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.

225 STARLIGHT
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.

226 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Let us go!

227 STARLIGHT
(ignoring 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 your Cutie Marks.

ON THE MANE SIX -- horror in their eyes!

ON Starlight -- 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.

END