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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, playing with her key necklace. 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 got all six
keys, defeated Tirek, and found
this 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 chest
want us to sit in a castle in
Ponyville? It doesn't make any
sense.

Frustrated, she plops down in her throne...

Suddenly, each of their Cutie Marks starts 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 all of Equestria! *

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 our Cutie Marks want 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 the 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 and the guys have Changeling War reenactment practice this weekend and we need a new Pinkie Pie! *

Fluttershy grimaces. *

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

32 SPIKE *
Suit yourself. But Pinkie Pie gets *
all the best lines. *

33 PINKIE PIE *
Woo-hoo! *

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

They all nod. *

35 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.

36 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!

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

Twilight races up with a scroll.

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

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

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39         APPLEJACK
Wooo doggies! We best get a move
on.
```

They board the train and the doors close...

SC 7. MONTAGE

40 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...

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

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

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

44 APPLEJACK
Look, y'all! There it is 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*].

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

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

She starts off, but Twilight stops her.

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

*
*
*
*

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

SC 10. 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...

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.

They 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
Okay...but I'm telling you those
smiles are bad news... *

ON THE CHEERFUL VILLAGE PONIES, we... *

FADE OUT. *

END ACT 1 *

ACT 2 *

FADE IN: *

SC 11. 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 FLIGHT, sees them and waves with a wide, sunny
smile.

66 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.

67 VILLAGE PONY #1
Welcome!

68 APPLEJACK
 (with a smile)
Howdy, stranger!

*

The Village Pony tips her head and smiles even wider.

69 FLUTTERSHY
 (in awe)
This **must be** 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.

70 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...

71 BUBBLE BURST
Welcome!

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

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

Twilight blushes.

74 APPLEJACK
That there's the Princess of
Friendship!

75 BUBBLE BURST
 (smiling warmly)
Well you've certainly come to the
right place **for friendship**.

*

He inspects them closely.

76 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. Again, very subtly, Bubble Burst backs away and lets Snow Drift take center stage.

*
*

77 SNOW DRIFT
Welcome! What brings you to town?

The Mane Six shift uncomfortably.

*

78 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
We're not entirely sure.

*
*

79 SNOW DRIFT
I see. Well, all are welcome here in our little village. My name is Snow Drift and this is Bubble Burst.

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

81 SNOW DRIFT
(still smiling)
And you all have your own Cutie Marks.

The Mane Six smile back uncomfortably.

82 SNOW DRIFT (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 SNOW DRIFT
Trouble?

He laughs, but it feels a bit fake.

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

86 BUBBLE BURST
It's true. You'll see.

He smiles wide, proud of his town.

87 SNOW DRIFT
Perhaps you'd care to speak to our
founder, Aurora Glimmer?

*
*

Rainbow Dash finally smiles and whispers to Applejack.

88 RAINBOW DASH
Aurora Glimmer. Now that's a
horrific 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'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 12. INT. AURORA GLIMMER'S COTTAGE - LATER

*

KNOCK KNOCK, and the door opens.

92 SNOW DRIFT
Aurora? 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 AURORA GLIMMER (O.S.)
Welcome!

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

*
*

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

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

Aurora Glimmer smiles.

*

97 AURORA GLIMMER
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. Aurora
Glimmer doesn't offer them drinks or a seat. They all just
sort of stand there facing each other.

99 AURORA GLIMMER
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 AURORA GLIMMER
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 AURORA GLIMMER
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?

*
*
*

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

106 AURORA GLIMMER
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
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.

SC 13. 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.

109 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.

110 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...

111 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.

112 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.

113 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.

114 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.

115 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.

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. Aurora Glimmer 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?*

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

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 very sorry for my friends. I
think they'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 BUBBLE BURST -- clearly troubled by all these differing opinions. He glances at Aurora Glimmer and sees a SMILE OF SUPREME CONFIDENCE.

*
*

126 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.

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 AURORA GLIMMER
Have you considered perhaps that
you might have been 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.

130 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.

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

133 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 that her
satisfied smile...

*
*

134 AURORA GLIMMER
I've never taken a Cutie Mark from
a princess before.

*
*
*

...turns decidedly devious.

*

135 AURORA GLIMMER (CONT'D)
This should be fun.

*
*

And she walks OFF SCREEN leaving Twilight and the others IN
FRAME.

*
*

FADE OUT.

END ACT 2

ACT 3

FADE IN:

SC 14. 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
I don't understand any of this.
How is it even possible to give up a Cutie Mark?

*

She looks back and sees Snow Drift trailing behind.

*

138 SNOW DRIFT
(helpfully)
Need something?

*

*

*

139 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
No, we're good.

*

*

She gives him an awkward smile and keeps walking. He maintains his pace behind them.

*

*

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 15. EXT. VILLAGE CAFE - CONTINUOUS

*

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

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. 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 SPRINKLES.

153 SUGAR SPRINKLES
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 SPRINKLES
(confused)
Okay, well...uh, my name is Sugar
Sprinkles. 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 Sprinkles 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 Sprinkles reappears and sets down the muffins. She looks confused.

160 SUGAR SPRINKLES
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 SPRINKLES
Well, you had such differing
opinions. And Cutie Marks. *

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

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

165 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.

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

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 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.

169 SUGAR SPRINKLES (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 SPRINKLES
(quickly, whispered)
Come inside before you go. Meet me
downstairs.

*
*

And she smiles widely once more -- for Snow Drift'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 Sprinkles.

*
*
*
*

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

177 PINKIE PIE
(distracted)
Huh?

178 APPLEJACK
That filly in there might be our
best chance at findin' out what the
hay is goin' on here.

*
*
*

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

SC 16. 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 17. 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.

183 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Hello? Sugar Sprinkles?

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

184 SUGAR SPRINKLES
Thank you for coming.

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

She steps forward again.

186 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, and start to close in, when...ON A DIME, the mood shifts. *

187 BUBBLE BURST
Are you really the Princess of
Friendship?

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

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

190 NIGHT FLIGHT
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 SPRINKLES
(off Fluttershy's Cutie
Mark)
Look at this one, this one's great
too! I'd love to have mine 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
What's stopping you? Go get it
back.

The Village Ponies are confused.

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

195 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I still don't understand, how can
you remove a Cutie Mark?

The Village Ponies light up.

196 NIGHT FLIGHT
The Cutie Unmarking is a beautiful
experience. Aurora uses the Staff
of Sameness to magically take them
away and replace them with these.

The Mane Six exchange a nervous glance.

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

198 NIGHT FLIGHT *

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. *

199 TWILIGHT SPARKLE *

Can we visit this cave? *

ON THE VILLAGE PONES -- considering... *

SC 18. EXT. ROCKY HILLSIDE - LATER *

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

200 AURORA GLIMMER *

I'm delighted you're interested in *

our Cutie Mark vault! We hope *

someday every town in Equestria *

will have one. *

She and Snow Drift guide the way, which gives the others a chance to whisper to each other. *

201 TWILIGHT SPARKLE *

This must be the reason we're here. *

202 PINKIE PIE *

Vault shopping? *

203 TWILIGHT SPARKLE *

No, to help those ponies get their *

Cutie Marks back! Couldn't you see *

how much they missed them? *

204 FLUTTERSHY *

I don't know, Twilight, everypony *

here seem perfectly happy without *

their Marks. *

205 TWILIGHT SPARKLE *

Then why did they want to see us in *

secret? And why did they ask us *

not to tell Aurora Glimmer who told *

us about the vault? *

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

207 TWILIGHT SPARKLE *
Something's not right... *

208 AURORA GLIMMER *
Just through here! *

She and Snow Drift disappear around a corner. The Mane Six *
exchange a look, then follow them into... *

SC 19. INT. CAVE - MOMENTS LATER *

They enter and their jaws drop... *

209 AURORA GLIMMER *
Here is our Cutie Mark vault... *

210 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.] *

211 AURORA GLIMMER *
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. *

212 AURORA GLIMMER (CONT'D) *
It was one of the great mage *
Jasmine Flower'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... *

213 AURORA GLIMMER (CONT'D) *
I'm curious, how did the subject of *
the vault come up? *

214 PINKIE PIE *

(distracted) *

Some ponies were telling us how *

much they missed their Cutie Marks *

and-- *

215 AURORA GLIMMER *

(eyes lighting up) *

Were they! *

216 TWILIGHT SPARKLE *

(under her breath) *

Pinkie! *

217 PINKIE PIE *

Oops. *

Aurora's perfectly composed demeanor takes on an undertone of *

menace. *

218 AURORA GLIMMER *

Well it seems you inspire all sorts *

of free thinking, don't you? *

The tension inside the cave is palpable. *

219 RARITY *

We certainly don't intend to cause *

any disruptions to your charming *

little village-- *

220 AURORA GLIMMER *

Good. Let's just make sure of *

that, shall we? *

Snow Drift steps forward menacingly as a dozen VILLAGE PONIES *

enter behind the Mane Six. *

221 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

It's a trap!

She 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.

222 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.

223 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.

224 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.

225 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Let us go!

226 AURORA GLIMMER
(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 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.