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MY LITTLE PONY 6

A Hearth's Warming Tail

608

Premise by: Michael Vogel

Outline: January 30, 2015

A HEARTH'S WARMING TAIL

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TEASER**SC. 1 - EXT. PONYVILLE – HEARTH'S WARMING EVE**

It's Hearth's Warming Eve in Ponyville and everypony is excitedly preparing the town for the festivities. They all join in singing our BIG OPENING NUMBER: "THE SEASON OF FRIENDSHIP." Twilight is extra excited. She's decided to open up her castle this year and invite ALL of Ponyville (and a few out of town guests) over for a truly epic Hearth's Warming Eve dinner. Rainbow Dash, Fluttershy and other pegasi are arranging the clouds around the castle JUUUUST right for some perfect holiday snow. Pinkie Pie is conducting a group of Pony carolers.

SC. 2 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE – CONTINUOUS

Song continues: Applejack and the Apple family are in Twilight's kitchen baking some goodies for Hearth's Warming Eve dinner. Rarity is giving General Patton a run for his money as she orders ponies around Twilight's castle with Hearth's Warming decorations. EVERYPONY (DJ PON-3, Dr. Whooves, Derpy, Octavia, Lyra, Bon Bon, Discord etc. etc). is in full holiday spirit. Everypony except Starlight Glimmer.

END TEASER**MAIN TITLES****ACT ONE****SC. 3 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE – UPSTAIRS – CONTINUOUS**

Starlight is upstairs looking down at all the activity. She is a little overwhelmed by everypony's perfect execution of Hearth's Warming Eve. She has attempted to make her own Hearth's Warming Doll, and it definitely looks a little janky. She never celebrated the holiday growing up and when she founded her town of equality she didn't celebrate ANYTHING. Now she wants so badly to show everypony that she can celebrate just as joyously as they do, but doesn't feel like she really understands how. Twilight sees her looking down at the crowd and asks if Starlight is ready to join the festivities. Starlight plays it cool and says she thinks she might just skip it this year... lots of studying to do. Twilight agrees studying is important, but everypony sure looks like they are having fun down there. Maybe this could be a good opportunity to practice some of the friendship tactics she has been studying? Starlight hesitantly reveals her Hearth's Warming Doll and explains that she only wants to go down there if she can celebrate as well as everypony else. She doesn't want them to see that she doesn't really have a knack for all of the traditions they pull off flawlessly. Most of them only know her as the pony that took other's cutie marks and attempted to unravel the space time continuum. If she's going to make them see her differently she needs to be perfect. Twilight commiserates. She TOTALLY gets the need for perfection. She's a little nervous herself. She is telling a Hearth's Warming Tale to everypony tonight and is worried she might screw it up. She asks Starlight if she can practice on her, you know, before Starlight starts studying. Relieved to be let off the hook, Starlight agrees. As Twilight begins her story....

SC. 4 - EXT. DICKENSIAN CANTERLOT – MORNING

We transition to CANTERLOT many moons ago. But this is Canterlot by way of Charles Dickens and looks more like the streets of 18th century London (with enough visual cues to make it clear that it IS Canterlot). The streets are bustling with all of our favorite pony characters. (No need to justify who would be in Canterlot logically. Like Mickey's Christmas Carol we can just fill the scenes with everypony we want dressed up in Dickensian garb). As Twilight narrates, we push through the city streets (enjoying the cameos) and settle on the imposing home of FROSTBRIGHT GINGER.

SC. 5 - INT. FROSTBRIGHT GINGER'S HOUSE – STUDY – CONTINUOUS

Inside we meet FROSTBRIGHT GINGER (our Dickensian Starlight Glimmer), a very powerful unicorn wizard. She is working on a very delicate spell but the Hearth's Warming singing and celebrating outside causes her to lose focus and botch the measurements, resulting in a colorful explosion. Furious, she uses her magic to shut the window. Her assistant SNOWDASH (Rainbow Dash) rushes in to see if everything is okay. Frostbright complains that Hearth's Warming Eve is a giant distraction that causes everypony in the city to be more of a nuisance than usual (and already she finds them pretty annoying the rest of the year). Snowdash offers up that Hearth's Warming Eve is actually pretty awesome, and a great time to make new friends. "Make friends" scoffs Frostbright, "What you call making friends, I call invading my personal space and trying to force your cheer upon me." As if proving the point, Frostbright's front door bursts open and her nieces FLUTTERHOLLY (Fluttershy) and CHARITY DAZZLE (Rarity) rush in to invite Frostbright to their Hearth's Warming Eve Dinner! Flutterholly nervously asks if she would like to come, while Charity goes on and on about the fabulousness of the guest list and how gorgeous the party will be. Frostbright says she is too busy with her spells to spend time on a frivolous party. Disappointed (but not surprised) Flutterholly and Charity leave. Snowdash cautiously offers up that it might be nice to take a break to get out and get a little dose of good cheer. Snowdash even begins to invite Frostbright to HER Heart's Warming Eve dinner, but Frostbright won't hear it. Hearth's Warming Eve is just an excuse for ponies to act foolish and shirk their responsibilities. Snowdash quickly agrees rather than anger the wizard... then asks if she can leave early to act foolish and enjoy the holiday with her friends. Frostbright rolls her eyes and states that she clearly won't get anything done debating the merits of this silly day so Snowdash may as well head home. "Just be sure to be in all the earlier the next morning!" But Snowdash is long gone (leaving a rainbow trail behind her) before Frostbright can finish her sentence, leaving her alone.

Frostbright sighs and, as she continues to work on her spells she begins to sing our SECOND SONG: "THE GREATEST GIFT." She reiterates her disdain for the holiday, listing off the greatest gifts she would prefer to receive: solitude, quiet, privacy, etc. But as the song goes on it becomes clear that her reasons for not liking the holiday stem from a deep-seated loneliness. She is shutting herself off to the world on purpose.

SC. 6 - INT. FROSTBRIGHT'S – BEDROOM – CONTINUOUS

Song continues: As Frostbright settles into bed and the song ends, she sings (unconvincingly) that she is happy and better off alone with her studies. As she nods off to sleep Frostbright doesn't notice the painting on her wall come to life and turn to look at her with gleaming yellow eyes and a spooky grin –

END ACT ONE**ACT TWO****SC. 7 - INT. FROSTBRIGHT'S – BEDROOM – RESUME**

The figure in the painting stares down at Frostbright. A wheezing voice starts whispering her name. Then a little louder. A little louder... "AWAKE FROSTBRIGHT!" She bolts upright and asks who is there. A ghostly figure slowly steps out of the painting and takes on a menacing (and slightly Draconequis-esque) form. "FROSTBRIGHT, YOUR TIME HAS COME!!!!"

A frightened Frostbright asks who this apparition in her bedroom is. As the smoke clears we reveal that it is the ghost of GRUMPUS THE HORNED (Discord, wearing a silly fake horn in order to play a unicorn), Frostbright's mentor. He looks around the room, chiding Frostbright for the state of her magical artifacts. Frostbright can't believe he is really there and says this must be a bad dream, maybe something bad that she ate earlier. "There's more of toast than ghost about you." Grampus laughs at that one. "TOAST, GHOST HA!!" (As he laughs toast starts falling from the celieng). But then he gets down to business. He is visiting his former student for a very serious reason. Frostbright needs to get out of the house and stop being so much of a loner. Frostbright argues that she learned that from Grampus! He always went on and on about how annoying and insignificant everypony else was. "Yes and look where THAT got me!" He proclaims as he shows the chains wrapped around him. "Each one of these chains is a friend I COULD have made in life but didn't. And now I'm doomed to be friendless and alone! But there is still hope for you oh faithful student of mine! You will be visited by THREE ponies tonight to show you a better way."

Frostbright begins to protest but Grampus shushes her and says she is ruining his big exit. And in a flash of Discordian ridiculousness he disappears. Frostbright scoffs, puts on her sleeping cap and settles back into bed...

SC. 8 - INT. FROSTBRIGHT’S – BEDROOM – LATER

... But as the clock chimes one o’clock a ghostly breeze begins to blow through her window. Frostbright wakes up and powers up her horn in self-defense, but as a mystical wind extinguishes the magic, a gentle (southern) voice whispers “Now, now sugarcube, ain’t no reason to get all worked up.” The window to Frostbright’s room bursts open and standing there is THE PONY OF HEARTH’S WARMING PAST (Applejack). She hops in, introduces herself and tells Frostbright to get a move on, they’ve got a whole lot to do and not a heck of a long time to do it. The Pony heads back towards the window but Frostbright holds firm and asks where they are going. The Pony chuckles, “Now I reckon I TOLD you I was The Pony of Hearth’s Warming Past. Where do you think we’re going?” And with that, she lassos Frostbright and they both soar out of the window and fly over the streets of Canterlot towards a bright shimmering light (the past). As they fly The Pony begins to sing OUR THIRD SONG: “THE SEEDS OF THE PAST.” It’s a song about how the events of our past are the things that shape us into the ponies we are today. For better or for worse...

SC. 9 - EXT. CANTERLOT CITY STREETS – DAY

Song continues: They arrive at a playground in Canterlot. As The Pony of Hearth’s Warming Past continues to sing we see young ponies running around, playing in the snow. ONE little unicorn is more excited than the others. Young Frostbright. She stands on a Merry Go Round and tells the story of Hearth’s Warming Eve to the other ponies.

SC. 10 - SONG MONTAGE

Song continues: In a montage we see Frostbright grow up through several Hearth’s Warming Eve’s, always happy and festive. As the song ends, we see an adolescent Frostbright decorating a classroom for Heath’s Warming Eve and working on her Hearth’s Warming doll. It is simple, but sweet. A few “Mean Girl” Ponies walk in and make fun of the doll, showing off their ornate, fancy Hearth’s Warming Dolls. One of them levitates Frostbright’s doll into the air, and the other ponies use their magic to more or less rip it apart...

“Wait a minute, SERIOUSLY?” (we cut to)

SC. 11 - INT. TWILIGHT’S CASTLE – UPSTAIRS – EVENING

Starlight is giving Twilight a look. “What?” asks Twilight. “Really?” Starlight asks, “A Hearth’s Warming Doll? So this story just HAPPENS to have a character who doesn’t want to celebrate because of their Hearth’s Warming Doll?” She uses her magic to levitate her equally shabby doll for emphasis. Twilight feigns innocence. “Well, that IS quite the coincidence. But I’m relatively sure this IS how the story goes. Now... can I continue?” Starlight looks unconvinced but grudgingly agrees.

SC. 12 - INT. YOUNG FROSTBRIGHT’S CLASSROOM – DAY

We return to adolescent Frostbright staring at the remains of her Hearth’s Warming Doll on the ground. A voice behind her says that that’s the problem with other ponies. If you let them in, you give them the opportunity to tear you down. Better to shut them out and become strong. Frostbright turns and we see a younger Grampus the Horned. This is their first meeting. He says he has been following her studies and feels there is much he can teach her. As they walk off together, The Pony of Hearth’s Warming Past sadly turns to Frostbright and points out that she had some friendship in her heart at one time. It seems a right shame that she let the opinion of other ponies snuff it out. Frostbright sadly replies “Isn’t that what friendship is? Listening to the opinions of others? Better to keep them at a distance where they can’t hurt me.” She turns but the Pony of Hearth’s Warming Past is gone and she finds herself back in...

SC. 13 - INT. FROSTBRIGHT’S – BEDROOM – NIGHT

Frostbright is alone in her room. But in the center is a giant gift, topped off with a bow. It has her name on it. She cautiously approaches it and unwraps it using her magic. In an explosion of confetti, THE PONY OF HEARTH’S WARMING PRESENT (Pinkie Pie) leaps out! “Hiya!” she says, “I’m The Pony of Hearth’s Warming Presents!!!” “I think you mean, of Hearth’s Warming PRESENT!” corrects Frostbright. “Snowflake, Cupcake, whatever. I’m the Pony that is here to show you all the presents in front of you that you don’t even notice because your face is all scrunched up like this!” The Pony makes a very annoyed angry looking face. “How can you even see how wonderfully awesome everything around you is making a face like that? Now let’s get going!” and with that, the Pony breaks the fourth wall and pulls down a background, transporting them both to...

SC. 14 - EXT. DICKENSIAN CANTERLOT STREETS – CONTINUOUS

The Pony of Hearth’s Warming Present launches into our FOURTH SONG: “THE PRESENTS OF THE PRESENT” about how great the world is if you just stop and take a moment to notice. As she bounces through the streets of Canterlot, we come upon a house where a party is in full swing. As The Pony and Frostbright approach and look inside...

SC. 15 - INT. FLUTTERHOLLY AND CHARITY’S HOUSE – CONTINUOUS

Song continues: Hearth’s Warming dinner is in full swing. Several ponies that we know (Octavia, Derpy, etc.) are all at the party. Flutterholly and Charity are talking about Frostbright (the following will all be worked into the lyrics of the song). Flutterholly is saying she just feels awful. Maybe they should have tried harder. It just doesn’t seem right that Frostbright is all alone in her house on Hearth’s Warming Eve. Charity says they did their best and if a pony really doesn’t want any friends there’s nothing they can do. Hearth’s Warming is about spending time with people you like, not begging people who don’t like you to come out of their poorly decorated homes.

SC. 16 - EXT. DICKENSIAN CANTERLOT STREETS – CONTINUOUS

As the song comes to a close, the Pony of Hearth’s Warming Present starts sniffing the air. She smells another party! Like a bloodhound, she takes off, Frostbright right behind her. They come upon a smaller, shabbier house. They both peer in the window.

SC. 17 - INT. SNOWDASH’S HOUSE – CONTINUOUS

Snowdash is inside with a younger pony, SLEIGH RACER (Scootaloo). Sleigh Racer has a slight cough and a limp but is full of good cheer. Their house isn’t much to look at. Their hearth is small and their Hearth’s Warming dolls are pretty pitiful, but they are having a great time. A knock at the door brings the other CMC’s and a few other random ponies in to share their hearth. Snowdash announces that she knows it isn’t much but what they have is thanks to her job working for Frostbright. Sleigh Racer asks what a great and powerful wizard does on Hearth’s Warming Eve. Snowdash sighs and says she has no idea. She invited her to join them, but Frostbright didn’t want to come. Sleigh Racer asks why. Snowdash says she guesses that Frostbright doesn’t really want to be friends with them.

SC. 18 - INT. TWILIGHT’S CASTLE, UPSTAIRS – THE PRESENT

“So wait a minute.” Starlight, interrupts, bothered by the story again. “Basically you’re saying that if you don’t celebrate Hearth’s Warming Eve you miss out on a few parties? How is that the worst thing in the world?” Twilight nods, “You know what? That is EXACTLY what Frostbright said!”

SC. 19 - EXT. DICKENSIAN CANTERLOT STREETS – NIGHT

Frostbright is looking in the window and says to the Pony of Hearth’s Warming Present “Basically you’re saying that if you don’t celebrate Hearth’s Warming Eve you miss out on a few parties? How is that the worst thing in the world?” But she turns and the Pony is gone. Mist fills the streets and obscures everything around Frostbright. A shadow approaches. Frostbright tries to make a joke “Haha, Ghost of Hearth’s Warming Present, are you trying to

play a trick on me? Very funny!” But a different voice says, “No my little pony. My fellow spirit has left. I am here to conclude your journey,” And as she steps out from the shadows, the moon hanging behind her she announces “For I AM THE PONY OF HEARTH’S WARMING YET TO COME!” (LUNA).

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

SC. 20 - EXT. DICKENSIAN CANTERLOT STREETS – NIGHT/CONTINUOUS

Frostbright cowers as The Pony of Hearth’s Warming Yet to Come steps towards her. The Pony begins to sing OUR FIFTH SONG: “PAY THE PRICE.” She echoes some of the things Frostbright said she wanted in her song, but sings of the result of a life lead in solitude.

SC. 21 - INT. FROSTBRIGHT’S – STUDY – CONTINUOUS

Song continues: Outside, a mob of angry ponies marches towards Frostbright’s building. They sing about things that have gone wrong in Canterlot: Bad weather; Ponies who fell on hard times; Food that tasted weird; etc. All of these problems big and small are being blamed on Frostbright.

SC. 22 - EXT. FROSTBRIGHT’S – CONTINUOUS

Song continues: Frostbright sings that she would never do anything like that. How could everypony think so little of her? How could they think she would do any of the things they are accusing her of? The Pony of Hearth’s Warming Yet To Come looks down at her, “How would they know anything about who you really are when you’ve made it a point not to show them.” And on Frostbright’s realization of the mistakes she’s made...

SC. 23 - INT. TWILIGHT’S CASTLE – UPSTAIRS – THE PRESENT

“The End.” says Twilight. Starlight is beside herself, “WHAT DO YOU MEAN THE END?! THAT CAN’T BE THE END!! THAT’S A TERRIBLE ENDING! DOES FROSTBRIGHT CHANGE? DOES SHE LEARN FROM HER MISTAKES?! DOES SHE MAKE FRIENDS?!” Twilight smiles at Starlight expectantly, “I don’t know... does she?” Checkmate. Starlight asks if that is even remotely how the real story goes. Twilight shrugs and admits she may have rearranged a few details. Starlight looks down at all the ponies celebrating. She takes a big breath, levitates her Hearth’s Warming Doll and heads downstairs.

SC. 24 - INT. TWILIGHT’S CASTLE – CONTINUOUS

As Starlight walks down the stairs she sings (a very brief) “GREATEST GIFT (REPRISE)”. But THIS time the verse says that the greatest gift Hearth’s Warming Eve offers is the gift of taking a risk and making new friends. Other ponies all stop what they are doing and watch Starlight hang her doll on the hearth. One by one they all begin hanging their dolls. Each one is unique and none of them are perfect (Well except Rarity’s but come on, it’s Rarity). The Apple family dolls are all super simple. Rainbow Dash is definitely NOT a pro at doll making. Derpy’s is... well... you can imagine. And of course, Pinkie just drops a rock in a bowl of soup. Starlight’s janky doll fits right in. Twilight hangs a very old beat up doll next to Starlight’s and reveals she uses the same doll she made as a filly. Starlight looks annoyed. “You KNEW my doll would fit right in. Why not just TELL me that instead of going on and on with that whole story?” Twilight smiles and says she would NEVER miss an opportunity for a teachable moment! Starlight smiles and thanks Twilight for such a wonderful gift. And as we pull out on Hearth’s Warming Dinner in full swing we begin our FINAL SONG: “SEASON OF FRIENDSHIP (REPRISE).”

SC. 25 - EXT. TWILIGHT’S CASTLE - CONTINUOUS

Song continues: We pull out on a perfectly perfect winter scene as the ponies celebrate inside. In VO, we hear Starlight/Frostbright narrate the end of the story: “Frostbright Ginger became as good a wizard, as good a pony, and as good a friend as anypony in all Equestria. And it was said of Frostbright that she knew how to keep Hearth’s Warming Eve well, if anypony possessed the knowledge. May that be truly said of all of us this season. A Happy Hearth’s Warming to each and every Pony.