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MY LITTLE PONY
Season 7

Celestial Advice
Ep 701

Teleplay 1st Draft

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Friendship Lesson: Twilight learns you can let someone you love spread their wings and still have a place in their life.

TEASER

INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - HALLWAY - DAY

We OPEN ON SPIKE knocking on STARLIGHT GLIMMER'S door. Starlight answers.

1 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Hey Spike. What's up?

2 SPIKE
Just, uh, wanted to make sure you're ready for your big ceremony today.

3 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Yup. I still can't believe my friends and I are getting medals of honor.

As they talk, we see TWILIGHT teleport in behind Starlight's back, give Spike a wink, and quietly measure a blank spot on Starlight's wall.

4 SPIKE
Are you kidding? You totally deserve it! (stalling) After all, you saved Equestria... from Queen Chrysalis... with the help of Trixie, Thorax, and Discord...

5 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Um, yeah. I know what happened. I was kinda there?

6 SPIKE
Right. Uh, so what are you wearing?

7 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
(looks down) Just this. Why, am I supposed to dress up?

8 SPIKE
No. I mean, you could. I mean I'm not, but you don't have to do what I do. You're you, I'm me, and that's a spider on your wall...

Starlight turns to look.

9 SPIKE (CONT'D)
No, don't look--!

But Twilight teleports out just in time.

10 SPIKE (CONT'D)
Cuz it's a spider but it's gone now
sooo... Thanks Starlight byeee!

Spike walks off. Starlight looks confused, but shrugs it off.

INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - TWILIGHT'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Twilight is writing measurements on a scroll. Spike walks in with a cocky swagger.

11 SPIKE
Heh heh. She had no idea. We're a good team, Sparkle.

12 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Sparkle? (laughs) Yeah we are. So, do you think she'll like it? I mean I want this present to say "I'm so proud of you, both as a mentor and a friend. Equestria is safer thanks to you."

13 SPIKE
Oh. I thought you were getting her a mirror, like yours.

ANGLE ON a mirror in Twilight's bedroom. It's framed with cute pictures of Twilight and all her friends.

14 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I am.

15 SPIKE
Maybe you should get her a card, cuz I don't think the mirror will say all that. But I think she'll like it.

16 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
It's just what her room needs. The first thing she'll see when she wakes up is herself surrounded by all her friends!! I plan on giving it to her after the ceremony.

17 SPIKE
About that. Don't you need to get the castle ready for the celebration?

18 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Nah. Pinkie Pie's got that covered.

CUT TO:

INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - DINING HALL - SAME

PINKIE PIE is in the bare, undecorated dining hall. She sets off a party cannon. CONFETTI WIPE - then it's instantly decorated! Pinkie wipes sweat off her brow like it was super hard to push that one button.

END TEASER!

MAIN TITLES

ACT ONE

INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - DINING HALL - DAY

PONIES (including our Mane 6, SUNBURST, and DIGNITARY PONIES), CHANGELINGS, and EMBER are gathered. Twilight is making a speech at the front of the room with PRINCESS CELESTIA and PRINCESS LUNA at her side. Starlight, TRIxie, THORAX, and DISCORD are standing proud.

19 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
...Starlight, Trixie, Thorax, and
Discord were brave in the face of
danger, resourceful when things got
challenging, and proved that the bonds
of friendship, no matter how unlikely,
are stronger than any adversity. By
stopping Queen Chrysalis, not only did
they save Equestria, they set the
changelings free from her reign.

ANGLE ON the crowd. The ponies and changelings smile big. Discord poofs himself into the audience, dressed as a sports fan rooting for team Discord.

20 DISCORD
Go Discord!

He poofs back on stage.

21 PRINCESS CELESTIA
That's why we're proud and honored to
give them these medals of honor.

Celestia and Luna magic the medals over to Starlight and her friends. Everypony starts to cheer, but Discord bows his head, then pulls it up, making Luna struggle to get the medal around his head. ON Pinkie trying to cheer:

22 PINKIE PIE
YAAA--oh--oh--nope--no--okay there it
is. (beat) YAAAAAY!

Luna finally gets the medal on.

23 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
We are so proud of all of you.

Twilight's gaze lingers on Starlight for just a beat more. They share a smile as the crowd CHEERS.

INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - DINING HALL - LATER

The celebration is underway. Starlight and her friends are gathered, surrounded by changelings and Sunburst. Trixie is eating up the attention.

24 TRIxie
It was the Great and Powerful Trixie's pleasure to save you from your imminent doom.

25 DISCORD
Yes. Because you did it all by yourself.

26 SUNBURST
I can't believe you managed to do it without magic.

27 CHANGELINGS
It was amazing! / No one's ever stood up to Chrysalis like that.

Off to the side, Twilight watches like a proud mama.

28 PRINCESS CELESTIA
It's a wonderful feeling, isn't it?
Watching your student shine the way you always knew they could.

29 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
My cheeks are sore. I don't think I've ever smiled this much in my life.

30 PRINCESS CELESTIA
I can only imagine what that feels like.

Celestia winks at Twilight and leaves. Then Discord poofs up next to her.

31 DISCORD
Yes, Starlight is student of the year, isn't she? She has so much potential. So, what are we going to do with her? And by "we" I definitely mean you.

Being her mentor and all, her destiny falls squarely on your shoulders.

32 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Oh don't you worry. I've planned enough friendship lessons to cover the next three years.

Discord just starts laughing.

33 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
What's so funny?

34 DISCORD
Clearly Starlight is beyond basic friendship lessons. She just won a medal, for Equestria's sake! I thought you were joking. (beat) You are joking, right?

35 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
<LAUGHS NERVOUSLY> Of course I was.

36 DISCORD
Obviously you should have a grand master plan for her, the same way Princess Celestia set you on a path that eventually made you a princess.

37 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
...Yup.

38 DISCORD
Oh good. I'm sure she can't wait to hear all about it. Where is she?

ANGLE ON Starlight with Thorax.

39 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
So how's the whole ruling-a-kingdom thing going?

40 THORAX
It's a bit... overwhelming. But we're adjusting.

He gestures over to some changelings with Rarity and Applejack.

41 CHANGELING GIRL
(confused) So you can't have friendship without makeovers?

42 RARITY 42A APPLEJACK
She gets it. Not Exactly

43 DISCORD (O.S.)
Oh Starlight!

44 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Would you excuse me for a second?

Starlight approaches Discord and Twilight.

45 STARLIGHT GLIMMER (CONT'D)
Hey! What's up?

46 DISCORD
Twilight here was just about to reveal
her grand master plan for you.

47 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Really?

48 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
NO. I mean I will, I do have one,
obviously, but now's clearly not the
time to do it. You have a long line of
ponies waiting to congratulate you.

Twilight nods her head in the direction of a line of ponies and
Ember.

49 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Oh, actually I think that's the line
for food.

50 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Nope. Definitely for you. (calling
out) Ember! Have you met Starlight?

Ember walks over to them.

51 EMBER
So you're Starlight? I hear you pulled
a fast one on the Queen of the changey
ponies. Pretty bold attack strategy.

52 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
(laughs) Sure. I guess you could say
that. I hear you earned Dragon Lord by
winning a gauntlet-y thing.

53 EMBER
(laughs) I guess you could say that.

As Ember and Starlight talk, Twilight "subtly" tries to back away. She's almost to the door when a mini Discord pops up on her shoulder.

54 DISCORD
PSST. I see what you're doing.

55 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
You do?

56 DISCORD
Yes. You already planned the perfect moment during the party to tell everypony about your plan! Such a planner. Brava, Twilight.

57 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Yup. You got it. I just have to go cross my T's and dot my I's!

Twilight swats mini Discord away and rushes out.

INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - LIBRARY - A FEW MOMENTS LATER

58 SPIKE (O.S.)
Twilight? Are you reading during a party again?

Spike opens the door and walks in. REVEAL Twilight is pacing back and forth, pouring over a very long list (that's starts to tangle the more she paces).

59 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
No, no, no. She's already good at that. She mastered this. She taught *me* about this one!

60 SPIKE
Wild guess: something's wrong.

61 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Spike, I'm a terrible mentor. Why didn't I come up with a path for Starlight? Princess Celestia had it all figured out for me-- <GASP> That's it!

CUT TO:

INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - LIBRARY - A MOMENT LATER

Princess Celestia is patiently seated while Twilight again paces with her list.

62 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

I had years worth of friendship lessons ready to go, but when we were captured by Chrysalis, Starlight took charge and really stepped up. I don't think friendship lessons are enough for her anymore.

63 PRINCESS CELESTIA

So you have an overachieving student? Sounds familiar.

64 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

That's why I had to talk to you. You of all ponies would know what to do. I mean, you were me and I was Starlight. But for now, I need you to pretend you're you and I'm me.

65 SPIKE

Huh?

66 PRINCESS CELESTIA

(smiling) Go on.

67 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

When I was your student and you were in this place, you... (dawning on her) oh no.

Twilight looks at Celestia, who just gives a grim nod.

68 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)

You sent me to Ponyville. Which means, it's time for me to send Starlight Glimmer away!

Off Twilight's sad face we...

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - LIBRARY - SAME

Celestia and Spike are as they were. Twilight looks bummed.

69 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

I can't believe it. It really is time for Starlight to go, isn't it?

Celestia comes over to comfort her.

70 PRINCESS CELESTIA
Only you can make that decision. It's
a difficult one, but your heart knows
what's right. Even as it hurts.

71 SPIKE
Where are you going to send her? (off
Celestia's look) Too soon?

Twilight stops her sulking and gets a determined look.

72 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
No. This is something I have to do.

Twilight looks at a map of Equestria.

73 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
(dread) Oh boy.

INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - DINING HALL - SAME

Discord is talking with Rarity, Fluttershy, Rainbow Dash
Applejack and Pinkie Pie.

74 FLUTTERSHY
(excited) Oh boy.

75 DISCORD
I know! Whatever Twilight's planning
for Starlight is going to be so
exciting!

76 APPLEJACK
Wonder why she didn't tell any of us
about it?

77 DISCORD
Probably because you're not as close
as you think you are. Just kidding.
She wanted it to be a surprise. Just
between us, I think she's getting
ready to make a big announcement!

78 PINKIE PIE
Eeeee. That's so exciting! And
surprising. Usually you tell your
party planner about all your plans for
your party.

79 RAINBOW DASH
Well, she definitely has one. I mean
when has Twilight not had a plan?

INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - LIBRARY - SAME

Twilight is still silently looking at the map. Spike is bored and picking at a scale. Celestia has drifted off a bit. Then:

80 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I GOT IT! Since defeating Chrysalis,
Starlight's given the changelings an
opportunity to revolutionize their
society. Maybe I can send her there...

As Twilight imagines what it would be like, she uses magic to visualize her fantasy around them:

INT. CHANGELING HIVE - THRONE ROOM - FANTASY

We transition into Twilight's "fantasy" world. Starlight is with Thorax and some other changelings. A spectral Twilight, Spike, and Celestia watch from the side. Spike waves his hand in front of a changeling, who doesn't react.

81 SPIKE
Cool spell.

82 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
If Starlight goes to the changeling
hive, she can help them adjust to
their new way of life.

83 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Since you don't feed on love anymore,
I thought you might like some
cupcakes.

Starlight magics over a table full of cupcakes. The changelings tentatively take bites.

84 CHANGELINGS
Mmmm! / This is good! / This tastes
way better than love!

85 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Everypony will love her.

Twilight's horn glows and the fantasy around them shifts:

INT. CHANGELING HIVE - DINING ROOM - FANTASY

Starlight is dining with the changelings.

86 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
...and then I said, "You just have to
see things my way." And Thorax changed
into me and said "I still think you're
wrong."

The table roars with laughter. Spike walks in.

87 SPIKE
I don't know. That doesn't sound like
Starlight...

88 PRINCESS CELESTIA
This is Twilight's fantasy, Spike.
There is no wrong way to fantasize.

89 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Thank you.

With that, all the changelings rush over to Starlight and hoist
her up in her chair.

90 CHANGELING #1
Starlight Glimmer is a most jocular
and congenial pony!

91 SPIKE
Yeah, definitely a Twilight fantasy.

The changelings cheer and carry Starlight off.

92 PRINCESS CELESTIA
This seems like a lovely path for
Starlight. The Changelings have so
much to learn about how to enjoy love
through friendships. Starlight would
be busy for a very long time, but her
work there would be very rewarding.

Twilight's face falls a bit.

93 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Or dangerous. It would only take one
changeling to deviate from the pack...

Her horn glows as the fantasy takes a dark tone and changes
around them. Off to the side, a GOOFY CHANGELING sees Starlight
Glimmer and changes into her, giggling.

INT. CHANGELING HIVE - COMMON AREA

As Starlight, the Goofy Changeling goes around to other
changelings and insults them.

94 GOOFY CHANGELING (AS
STARLIGHT)
Hi, I'm Starlight Glimmer. What's your
name?

95 CHANGELING #2
Cornicle.

96 GOOFY CHANGELING (AS
STARLIGHT)
PFFFT! HA! What kind of name is that?
(turns to another changeling) Your
wings are soooo... um, see-through.

The changelings self-consciously look at their wings. As
"Starlight" walks out of the room she announces loudly:

97 GOOFY CHANGELING (AS
STARLIGHT) (CONT'D)
I'm so glad I'm a pony. Are you like
bugs or what?

INT. CHANGELING HIVE - HALLWAY - LATER

Actual Starlight walks out of her room and sees a group of
changelings. They turn on her and glare.

98 CHANGELING #2
There she is! Get her!

The changelings chase after Starlight. They run past Spike,
Celestia, and Twilight, who looks horrified. She dissolves the
fantasy until we're back to:

INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - LIBRARY

Everything's back to normal.

99 SPIKE
Um, that probably won't happen.

100 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
But it could. I can't just send her
off to Celestia-knows-where without
thinking it through!

101 PRINCESS CELESTIA
Huh. I was not aware that I was an
expression.

Twilight smiles sheepishly. Celestia doesn't seem to mind.

102 PRINCESS CELESTIA (CONT'D)
An appropriate one, of course, for
even I don't know the answer. This is
a momentous decision. You must
consider all the possibilities.

Twilight starts pacing again.

103 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Rethink, rethink... What about the
dragons?

104 SPIKE
Say what now?

105 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I can send Starlight to the Dragon
Lands. She and Ember have already hit
it off!

Her horn glows as the magical fantasy starts to take shape...

EXT. DRAGON LANDS - THRONE CLIFF

Ember is at her throne. Starlight goes up to greet her. Again,
Twilight, Spike, and Celestia stand by. [NOTE: In the fantasy,
Starlight and Ember sound like bros.]

106 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Emberrrrr!

107 EMBER
Starliiiiight!

They do a bro-hug high five.

108 EMBER (CONT'D)
You ready to do some death-defying
dragon stuff?

109 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Totally.

110 SPIKE
That doesn't sound like Ember or
Starlight.

111 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Who knows what their dynamic would be,
Spike?

EXT. DRAGON LANDS - SHOOTING RANGE - LATER

Starlight, Ember, and a couple other DRAGONS stand in front of targets made of rocks. Ember breathes fire and knocks a target down. Starlight does a magic blast that shoots down three of them! Ember gives Starlight a fist bump. Twilight's horn glows and the fantasy shifts to:

EXT. DRAGON LANDS - SKY - LATER

Ember is flying with other dragons. Starlight is riding on TORCH'S back, having a blast. Twilight, Celestia, and Spike float nearby.

112 SPIKE
(looking down) Freaky.

113 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Starlight will love it. She'll probably be invited to the Feast of Fires, the Dragon Bowl, and Boulder Dash...

114 SPIKE
Wait, how do you know about that stuff?

115 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I've been writing letters to Ember. You can read all about it in the book I plan on publishing, called "101 Facts About Dragons".

116 SPIKE
You wrote her 101 letters? No wonder she never answered any of mine.

As Starlight and the dragons do another loop...

117 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Turns out, dragons do a lot of fun things. Starlight could be there for a really long time.

Then Twilight's face falls. Her horn glows and the fantasy begins to shift:

118 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
But then again, not all dragons like ponies as much as Ember does.

In the sky, we ANGLE ON GARBLE glaring at Starlight Glimmer.

EXT. DRAGON LANDS - CLIFF

Starlight walks by a bunch of dragons (no Ember) lined up at a cliff and jumping off. GARBLE calls out to her.

119 GARBLE
Hey, Twinkle Star!

120 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
It's Starlight Glimmer.

121 GARBLE
Star-kle Light-star?

122 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Starlight Glimmer.

123 GARBLE
Whatever. You wanna hang with us?

124 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Uh, sure?

125 GARBLE
Come on!

Garble grabs her and dives off the cliff. As they fall:

126 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
What are we diving into?

127 GARBLE
Lava!

128 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
WHAT?!

REVEAL they're heading straight for a pit of lava. From the ground, Twilight, Celestia, and Spike watch. Spike shakes Twilight out of it.

129 SPIKE
Twilight!

With Starlight inches away from the lava, Twilight closes her eyes and the fantasy dissolves.

INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - LIBRARY - BACK TO SCENE

CLOSE ON: Twilight panting, horrified by her vision. Spike looks less horrified.

130 SPIKE
Um, Starlight's pretty good with magic. She could just stop herself from falling into a pit of lava.

131 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
What if she didn't realize it was happening? (off Spike's look) You just never know, Spike!!

Celestia and Spike exchange a knowing smile as Twilight paces.

132 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
I just need to think of someplace safe to send her. Some place safe, some place safe.

She looks around.

133 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
Here. A library. That's it! I could send her to the Crystal Empire to continue her magical studies with Sunburst!

Twilight's horn lights up as fantasy takes shape around them:

INT. CRYSTAL KINGDOM LIBRARY - FANTASY

A spectral Twilight, Spike and Celestia watch as Starlight slathers a plain hunk of wood in a pink ooze. Sunburst has a pile of spell books open all around him.

134 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
It'll be perfect! Sunburst's knowledge of magic is only matched by Starlight's abilities.

135 SUNBURST
I've got it! Try placing your horn directly on the potion and picture the clock you wish to make.

136 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
They could challenge each other into becoming the most talented unicorns Equestria has ever seen!!

Starlight closes her eyes and touches her horn to the pink potion. The wood underneath it transforms into a beautiful ornate Cuckoo clock with an adorable little bird. Sunburst and Starlight smile at each other.

137 STARLIGHT
We did it! Quick, what's next?

138 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Of course, the study of magic is a
life long pursuit and Starlight could
be there for a while, especially once
they start attempting the really
complicated stuff!

Spike rolls his eyes.

139 SPIKE
And three...two...one...

Twilight's expression darkens, and so does the fantasy that
surrounds them. Her horn glows.

140 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
What if they become too ambitious?

Sunburst and Starlight stare in wonder at three different open
spell books.

141 STARLIGHT
I never would have thought to combine
Starswirl's apparition spell with
spatium flexibus! But what would
happen if we added tempus objectus?

142 SUNBURST
If we do it just right, it should
allow us to materialize an object that
was lost in the past!

143 STARLIGHT
Let's do it.

Sunburst draws some runes on the floor around them and Starlight
uses her horn to make them glow.

144 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
(whispers) No, don't do it.

But they can't hear her. There is a big burst of light, then a
black swirling vortex appears before Starlight and starts
sucking things into itself. Starlight and Suburst hold onto
desks and bookshelves, attempting to avoid being swallowed up by
the crackling interdimensional hole they've created. But
Starlight starts to lose her grip!

145 SUNBURST / TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Starlight! NOOOOOO....

146 SPIKE
Twilight! Snap out of it!

The fantasy around them fades.

INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - LIBRARY - SAME

Beads of sweat roll down Twilight's forehead and her eyes are wet with tears. Spike stands by.

147 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Starlight!

148 SPIKE
Easy, Twilight. It didn't happen.

149 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Right.

She shakes herself out of it.

150 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
I just get lost in these fantasies.
They feel so real. And any of these
things could happen to Starlight.

Spike is about to argue, but thinks better of it and bites his tongue.

151 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
I just don't think I can send her
anywhere. What am I going to do??

Celestia can't keep it in any more. She bursts out LAUGHING. ON Twilight's shocked and hurt face:

152 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
Are you laughing at me?

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - HALLWAY - LATER

Sunburst is heading to the door, saying goodbye to Starlight.

153 SUNBURST
It was so good to see you. Come visit
soon, okay?

154 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Sure thing! I'd love to practice some
magic with you sometime.

Discord pops up in front of him.

155 DISCORD
That does sound fun, but Starlight,
you may not have time, depending on
what happens later tonight.

156 SUNBURST
What's happening?

157 DISCORD
You didn't hear? Just between you and
me, Twilight's making a big
announcement about Starlight's future!
...FUTURE! ...FUTURE!

Discord's voice echoes down the hallway into the party at the
end. Everypony gets quiet.

158 DISCORD (CONT'D)
Oops. Well, you were all going to find
out later anyway.

INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - LIBRARY - SAME

Celestia finishes up chuckling. Twilight can't hide the hurt in
her voice:

159 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I can't believe you're laughing at me.

160 CELESTIA
Oh, Twilight, I'm not. I'm laughing
because I did the exact same thing.

161 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
What?

162 CELESTIA
Let me tell you a story.

WE CUT TO CELESTIA'S FLASHBACK:

INT. CELESTIA'S SCHOOL OF MAGIC - LIBRARY - DAY

We see a young Twilight pouring over a stack of books.

163 CELESTIA (V.O.)
Once upon a time there was a very
bright young filly. Her pursuit of
knowledge was unparalleled! She was
truly one of my best students.

INT. CELESTIA'S SCHOOL OF MAGIC - CLASSROOM - DAY

164 SPIKE (V.O.)
Are you talking about Twilight? I
can't see what you're thinking about.

165 CELESTIA (V.O.)
Yes, Spike.

In the classroom, we see several students, including YOUNG MINUETTE, LEMON HEARTS, TWINKLE SHINE and MOON DANCER putting together a potion with beakers and vials. YOUNG TWILIGHT is at a work station by herself with an already completed potion. She pours it on a pot of dirt. A GORGEOUS FLOWER instantly sprouts from it.

166 CELESTIA (V.O.)
I was constantly surprised and
impressed with her discoveries.

Twilight smiles at Celestia, who smiles back. Twilight celebrates by giving her plant a high hoof. Then the other girls make their flowers grow (although none are as beautiful as Twilight's). They celebrate by high hoofing each other and giggling together. Celestia frowns.

167 CELESTIA (V.O.)
But I noticed that her pursuit of
academia was preventing her from
reaching her full potential.

168 SPIKE (V.O.)
You mean it was keeping her isolated
and alone?

169 CELESTIA (V.O.)
(clears throat) Uh. Yes, Spike. (then)
I had a decision to make. But it
wasn't easy...

As Celestia gazes down at Young Twilight, we start her DRAMATIC THINKING MONTAGE:

EXT. EQUESTRIAN CLIFF - SUNSET

Celestia looks out over Equestria, with a gorgeous sunset as her back drop.

170 CELESTIA
Maybe I could close the library or
throw a party in the castle? She'd
have to talk to the other fillies
then...

She looks sadly away.

EXT. CELESTIA'S BALCONY - NIGHT

ON Celestia, looking sadly at the night sky, talking to the stars.

171 CELESTIA (V.O.)
But I knew as long as you were in
school, making friends would never be
your priority.

Tears fill Celestia's eyes.

172 CELESTIA
I must send her away!

She looks tortured by the revelation.

EXT. PONYVILLE TOWN HALL - SAME

Celestia is standing with MAYOR MARE when she notices Applejack, Rarity, Pinkie Pie, Fluttershy, and Rainbow Dash doing their own thing in the street in the BG.

173 CELESTIA (V.O.)
I knew there was a special group of
fillies in Ponyville, but I kept
inventing all kinds reasons why I
shouldn't send you...

INT. CELESTIA'S CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - SAME

Celestia is pacing back and forth in front of her throne.

174 CELESTIA
What if she runs into a manticore? Or
what if she gets pulled into Tartarus?
Or worst of all, what if she doesn't
get along with anypony??

REVEAL: Celestia's GUARDS look concerned.

175 GUARD #1
Are we supposed to say something?

176 GUARD #2
I don't think so. Shhhhhh.

END FLASHBACKS.

EXT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - LIBRARY - NIGHT

Celestia looks at Twilight tenderly.

177 CELESTIA

I kept you in Canterlot longer than I should have. Eventually, I realized all the anxiety I felt was because I didn't want you to go.

178 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

Really?

179 CELESTIA

Of course! I loved having you as a student. You challenged me and taught me just as much as I taught you. I am embarrassed to admit it, but I was afraid if you made friends, you wouldn't need me anymore.

Twilight's eyes are bright with tears.

180 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

Celestia, that is so not true. I will always need you.

Celestia smiles a knowing smile at Twilight.

181 CELESTIA

I think Starlight Glimmer might feel the same way about you, if that's what you're afraid of.

A realization dawns on Twilight. She looks at her mentor sheepishly.

182 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

Maybe it is. Just a little.

183 SPIKE

Oh it definitely is. Like a lot.

They both look at Spike.

184 SPIKE (CONT'D)

What?

185 CELESTIA

Here we are after all these years, Twilight. If we aren't proof that letting someone spread their wings doesn't mean you no longer have a place in their lives, I don't know what is.

Twilight smiles and hugs Celestia.

186 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Thank you.

187 CELESTIA
And if you're still worried, you can
always make her write you letters!

Celestia winks at Twilight. She smiles.

INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - DINING HALL - LATER

Spike and Celestia rejoin the party. Ember walks up to Spike.

188 EMBER
So, you should have the inside scoop.
Know what Twilight's big announcement
is?

189 SPIKE
What?

190 EMBER
Discord's been telling everyone. He
won't let anyone leave until she makes
it. Not that I'm complaining. This
place is covered in grade A gems.

Ember casually plucks a gem from her goblet and eats it. Spike
slaps his head with his paw.

191 SPIKE
I gotta warn Twilight.

INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - HER BEDROOM - LATER

Twilight goes to her bed and magics up the present she had made
for Starlight.

192 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Guess you might be more of a
graduation-slash-going away present
now.

She steels herself up and takes it to:

INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - DINING HALL - LATER

Spike and Celestia are already in there. Everypony (and
Changeling) gets quiet and turns to Twilight as she reenters the
party. Spike tries to pantomime "Discord told everypony" but it
just looks like weird gestures. Twilight looks confused. Discord
poofs up next to her.

193 DISCORD

I may have let it slip that you'd be unveiling your big plan for Starlight tonight. Silly me. But we're all very excited to hear what you've cooked up.

Twilight's eyes go wide, looking at everypony looking at her.

194 DISCORD (CONT'D)

You weren't coming up with a plan just now, were you? Slapdash and half-baked? Oh dear. This could be pretty embarrassing for you.

She narrows her eyes at him.

195 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

Gee, thanks Discord.

196 DISCORD

Anytime. I really do love being helpful.

Twilight casts a nervous glance at Celestia, who nods supportively at her. Twilight clears her throat and magics a spoon to a glass to clink it.

197 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

If I could have everypony's attention.

198 DISCORD

(whispers) Pssst. You already had it.

199 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

Yes, thank you again, Discord.

Discord poofs out. Twilight searches out Starlight and smiles when her eyes land on her.

200 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)

As you all know, Starlight Glimmer has been my pupil for a while now, and I hoped she'd be my pupil for a long time yet to come, but it turns out that's just not meant to be.

Some ponies <GASP>. Starlight looks a bit worried.

201 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)

Starlight, you have proved yourself to be a kind, loyal, strong, honest and truly magical friend.

I just have to look around this room at all the new friendships you've made to know that there is nothing more I need to teach you. So if everypony could raise a glass, we have a second reason to celebrate today.

Everypony raises a glass.

202 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
Three cheers for Starlight Glimmer on her "graduation" day.

The room erupts into cheers for Starlight.

203 PINKIE PIE
EEE WHAT A GREAT SURPRISE!!!

204 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
(To Starlight) Your future is in your own hands now.

205 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Really? Wow. I was not expecting this.

Discord, Thorax and Trixie all hug their friend. Twilight smiles and steps back as Starlight's new friends crowd her.

206 DISCORD
Congratulations, kid. I knew you had it in you.

207 TRIXIE
How do you wanna celebrate? Girls trip to Las Pegasus?

208 THORAX
We can throw you a changeling Gorbfest! It's more fun than it sounds.

209 DISCORD
Or we could go cause a little mischief. I know some uppity squirrels who'd flip out if we switched their acorns with actual corn.

210 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
(laughing) That all sounds wonderful but um... (looks at Twilight) Give me a minute, would ya?

She heads over to Twilight.

STARLIGHT GLIMMER (CONT'D)

Hey...

211 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

Hey...

212 STARLIGHT GLIMMER

There's no easy way to ask this so I'm just gonna go for it.

Twilight takes a deep breath.

213 STARLIGHT GLIMMER (CONT'D)

Does this mean I have to move out of the castle?

214 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

Do you want to?

215 STARLIGHT GLIMMER

Not really.

Twilight's smile nearly splits her face in half.

216 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

OH GOOD! Cuz, I got you this present.

She magics over the mirror framed with the pictures of them.

217 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)

It was going to be a 'congrats on getting a medal of honor present', but then I was afraid it would have to be a 'going away' present but now it's a 'I couldn't be happier you're staying' present! It fits perfectly over your dresser. I know. I measured!

Starlight hugs Twilight.

218 STARLIGHT GLIMMER

Thank you.

Off Twilight's smile, we FADE OUT.

FADE BACK IN:

INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - DINING HALL - LATER

It's empty but a huge mess. We hear Pinkie Pie <EFFORT SOUNDS>. She is lugging in a shop vac. She presses a button. It sucks up all the remnants from the party. Pinkie wipes her brow like it took a lot of work, then winks at camera. END SHOW!