

MY LITTLE PONY
Season 7

Celestial Advice
Ep 701

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Premise: December 17th, 2015

Outline: January 4th, 2016

TEASER**EXT. TWILIGHT’S CASTLE - BALCONY - DAY**

CLOSE ON Twilight in the middle of making a grand speech on her balcony. Twilight: “And that is why we are proud and honored to bestow these medals of bravery on Starlight Glimmer, Trixie Lulamoon, Discord, and Thorax.” Music swells. Starlight Glimmer (O.S.): “So, how did you want us to bow, again?” **REVEAL** the whole ceremony is practice. Starlight Glimmer and Trixie stand amongst poorly drawn cardboard cutouts of Discord and Thorax. Below, the Mane 5 and Spike cheer as if they’re the audience. Twilight: “Great question.” She explains you have to be prepared for any medal-presenting style. Princess Celestia may choose to manually place the medals around their necks, in which case, they’ll want to bow extremely low, but if she magics the medals around their necks, they’ll want to stand tall, then make a slight bow with their heads. She tells them to be sure their practice buddies are filled in! Starlight and Trixie look at the cardboard cutouts of Thorax and Discord respectively. Twilight: “We want to be prepared for everything! No surprises means a smooth ceremony!” Suddenly, the Discord cutout morphs into the real Discord, surprising everybody! Discord: “No surprises? Where’s the fun in that?” **END TEASER**

MAIN TITLES**ACT I****EXT. TWILIGHT’S CASTLE - DAY**

The *real* ceremony is underway and ponies and changelings alike are gathered in front of Twilight’s castle. From her balcony, Twilight thanks Starlight, Trixie, Thorax, and Discord for saving everypony from Queen Chrysalis’ plot to take over Equestria. She proudly tells the crowd how each and every one of them 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. Beside her, Starlight and her friends beam with pride as everypony cheers. Twilight then takes a moment to say how proud she is of Starlight and how far she’s come in her friendship journey. Starlight has even taught Twilight a thing or two about friendships. Starlight hugs Twilight and thanks her. Princess Celestia and Luna present them all with medals of honor. The sisters magic the medals over and Starlight winks at Twilight as she holds her head up high. But Discord bows really low then holds his head up. Luna struggles to make the medal follow him around and eventually it lands on his head. Twilight rolls her eyes, but then turns to everypony, “Now let’s celebrate!”

INT. TWILIGHT’S CASTLE - DINING HALL - LATER

The celebration is underway. Like a proud mama, Twilight watches as ponies congratulate Starlight and her friends. Trixie is eating up the attention, telling her well-wishers: “It was the Great and Powerful Trixie’s pleasure to save all of you from your imminent doom.” Just then, Discord poofs up next to them. He tells Twilight she did a great job with her speech. Discord: “I mean, you could have talked about me some more, but I understand you’re partial to Starlight.”

BACK ON Starlight: a pony from the Ponyville Times asks her what’s next? Starlight says she doesn’t know but she’s sure Princess Twilight has something planned, she always does. Discord turns to Twilight, “Yes, what is next for young Starlight?” Twilight says she’s planned enough friendship lessons to cover the next three years’ syllabi! Discord laughs. Twilight asks what’s so funny? Discord says clearly Starlight is beyond basic friendship lessons - she just won a medal for Equestria’s sake! He just assumed Twilight was kidding. Discord: “You are kidding, right?” Twilight laughs nervously. Of course she was! Discord: “Obviously you have a grand master plan for her, the same way Princess Celestia had a plan to make you a princess.” Looking uncomfortable, Twilight says “Yup!” Then, Starlight joins them and asks what they’re talking about? Discord says she’s just in time, Twilight was just about to reveal her grand master plan for Starlight! Starlight: “Really? That’s awesome! What is it?” Vamping, Twilight says there will be plenty of time for that later, right now, don’t Discord and Starlight have a party to enjoy? Twilight excuses herself and heads out of the room.

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

O.S. we hear Spike calling Twilight’s name. He walks in and finds her pacing back and forth along her bookshelves, pouring over a very very long list. Twilight: “No, no no no no! She’s good at that. She’s mastered this! *She* taught *me* about this one! I should amend this lesson to include that. This is terrible!” Spike: “Wild guess: something’s wrong.” Twilight confesses, she’s had several years worth of friendship lesson plans ready to go but when they got captured by Queen Chrysalis and Starlight stepped up, she basically taught herself everything I was planning on teaching her for the next few years!!! Spike: “Okay, but you always have a plan, so what comes next?” Twilight: “That’s the problem! I have no idea!!!”

END ACT

ACT II

INT. TWILIGHT’S CASTLE - LIBRARY - SAME

Twilight paces back and forth, ranting to Spike. Twilight: “What comes next? What comes next?!” Spike stops her: “Pull yourself together, Twilight! So you don’t have a plan! Planning is what you do best!” Twilight says Spike is right. She can figure this out. She continues to pace her “inspiration” path. Spike follows her, then Twilight stops suddenly: “INSPIRATION!” Spike runs into her, not expecting her to stop suddenly. Spike: “What is it?” Twilight says Starlight could be the pony ambassador to the Changelings! She and Thorax already have a great friendship. Spike: “So do I but I wasn’t offered the position.” Twilight: “What?” Spike: “Nothing. Go on!” As Twilight imagines what it would look like, she uses magic to visualize her fantasy:

INT. CHANGELING HIVE - THRONE ROOM - FANTASY

We transition into Twilight’s “fantasy” world. Starlight is with the changelings and a spectral Twilight and Spike watch from the sidelines. We see Starlight being greeted in an official capacity as an ambassador. Twilight: “The exchange of knowledge would be fascinating!” We see Starlight teaching the changelings how to change into things that can help their friends. For example, there’s a little tiny changeling shivering cold. Starlight instructs another changeling to turn into a big fuzzy bear and give the tiny changeling a big hug and to warm him right up! Then the changelings teach Starlight how to ‘change’. She changes into Thorax. Everyone claps for her! Spike: “Wait, you can do that?” Twilight: “Maybe. There’s just so much we don’t know about each other! Then she gasps, “Oh no, there’s so much we don’t know about each other!” Suddenly the fantasy changes around Twilight and Spike:

INT. HIVE HALLWAY - FANTASY

Starlight emerges from a room, she’s greeted by two changelings. She hands them a mug. Starlight: “My room is lovely! But someone left a gross cup of goo next to my bed. So I tossed it out the window but thought the mug could be cleaned!” The Changelings eyes narrow. “That is Willowrot stew. It’s a Changeling delicacy. It takes six months to make properly. You’ve insulted our chef and our customs.” Starlight’s face gets red, “Whoops.” The changelings continue: “The punishment is banishment!” As the Changelings advance on Starlight, the fantasy melts around Twilight and Spike until they’re back in:

INT. TWILIGHT’S CASTLE - LIBRARY

Twilight looks horrified. Spike: “Yeah, but that probably wouldn’t happen.” Twilight: “But it could. I need a better plan!”

Twilight starts to rethink her strategy. Sometimes the best way to pave the way for your future is to get back to your roots! Perhaps the best thing to do with Starlight is to send her back to her old village. As her magical fantasy starts to take shape we CUT TO:

EXT. STARLIGHT’S VILLAGE - STREET - FANTASY

Starlight returns to her old village and is greeted with cheers and hugs. Again, a spectral Twilight and Spike stand by and watch. Twilight tells Spike that her plan could be for Starlight to go back to the village and help the ponies reconnect with their cutie marks. They were separated from them for quite some time, so it might take some effort for someponies to rekindle their connection to them. We see Starlight help Party Favor decorate the town square for a welcome back party. Then, as Sugar Belle struggles to make the perfect frosting rose on a cake, Starlight approaches and helpfully suggests that maybe she’s overthinking it. This should come naturally to her! Sugar Belle takes a deep relaxing breath and makes a perfect frosting rose. Twilight stands by, smiling. She tells Spike this seems like the perfect plan. Spike: “Sure does!” Twilight: “But...” Spike: “Aaand here we go.”

Twilight points out that the last time Starlight took over this village, there were someponies that were secretly unhappy with her. What if that happens again?? Suddenly the fantasy turns sinister as a few village ponies lurk in the shadows, glaring at Starlight. Twilight watches in horror as the shadowy village ponies gather and grow in number, saying Starlight may seem like she’s on their side, but that’s what happened last time! There’s no way they’re going to let Starlight take over the village again! Twilight’s fantasy starts to spiral out of control and she tells Spike that the resistance group could grow and gain power and get matching t-shirts... Spike: “Matching t-shirts?” Twilight: “YES! And it’s only a matter of time before they’re unstoppable and they find out Starlight Glimmer’s weakness and overwhelm her before she can do anything about it!!” In the fantasy, we see a group of resistance ponies in matching t-shirts descend on an unsuspecting Starlight Glimmer. CUT TO:

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

Twilight is panting, horrified by her vision. Spike: “Soooo I’m guessing that’s a no to that plan.” Twilight: “Definitely.”

Twilight paces and thinks. Since Starlight’s already learned so much about friendship, perhaps the best plan would be for her to re-visit her magic studies. And there’s only one pony she knows who could really provide a challenge for Starlight when it comes to magic. Fortunately, they’re already good friends! Twilight’s horn lights up as she and Spike are swept up in another magical fantasy:

INT. CRYSTAL KINGDOM LIBRARY - FANTASY

Starlight and Sunburst have a pile of spellbooks open all around them. Sunburst calls out a spell, Starlight does it, and Sunburst offers adjustments to make the spell stronger. Twilight and Spike stand by - Twilight says this plan is perfect! Sunburst’s knowledge of magic is unparalleled, and Starlight has the ability to match. They’re sure to challenge each other to the point of being the most skillful magic-wielders in all of Equestria! Twilight looks super pleased with herself. Spike, knowingly: “And 3... 2... 1...” Twilight: “But what if they become *too* ambitious?” In the fantasy, we see Sunburst and Starlight attempt a combination of spells that’s never been tried before. It could have the power to return things that have been lost forever...or not. There’s only one way to find out. Twilight watches as they try the spell. There’s a big burst of magical energy and then... everything around them starts to get sucked into the crackling interdimensional hole they’ve created. As Starlight and Sunburst scream and grab onto bookshelves, hanging on for their lives, we ...

END ACT II

ACT III

INT. CRYSTAL KINGDOM LIBRARY - CONTINUOUS

Starlight is still screaming. She loses her grip and starts flying towards the hole! Sunburst screams: “STARLIGHT!” ...but the voice that comes out of his mouth is Twilight’s. O.S. we hear Spike: “Twilight? Snap out of it!” CUT TO:

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

Twilight yells “STARLIGHT!” one more time, then shakes herself out of the fantasy. Spike asks if she’s okay? Twilight says she’s fine, she’s just too good at these magical fantasies!

Twilight tells Spike she just doesn’t know what to do! No matter what she decides to do with Starlight, it could lead to disaster. She’s a terrible mentor, unlike Princess Celestia, who seemed to have the perfect plan for her all thought out from the beginning. Twilight’s eyes light up: “That’s it!”

EXT. TWILIGHT’S CASTLE - BALCONY - LATER THAT NIGHT

We come in on Twilight and Spike with Princess Celestia. Twilight finishes explaining her predicament to Celestia, telling her she came to her because she always knows what to do. Celestia: “Not always.” Twilight and Spike practically roll their eyes. Celestia always has the perfect answer! Celestia: “Oh Twilight, that is simply not the case. Let me tell you about a student that I used to have...” We FLASHBACK TO:

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

We see a young Twilight at a table with a stack of books. Celestia (V.O.): "...she was one of my best students. Her pursuit of knowledge was unparalleled." Spike (V.O.): "Sounds like Twilight! (beat) Oh. I got it. Go on." Celestia goes on to say she was constantly surprised and impressed with this student...

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

In the classroom, we see several students at their desks, putting together a potion with beakers and vials. While the other ponies are still combining substances, Twilight has already finished and pours her glowing potion onto a pot of dirt. A gorgeous flower instantly sprouts from it. Twilight smiles at Celestia, who smiles back. But when she sees Twilight celebrate by giving her plant a high-hoof while other students congratulate each other, her face falls. Celestia (V.O.): "But I started to notice that her pursuit of academia was preventing her from reaching her full potential."

EXT. CELESTIA'S SCHOOL OF MAGIC - QUAD - DAY

Celestia walks through as students mill about, talking about what they're going to do over summer break. But Twilight runs up to Celestia asking if there are any extra credit exercises they can do together over break. Celestia laughs and tells her she already has perfect grades. Twilight: "Right, but you can never have enough knowledge!" Twilight (V.O.): "Wow. I was such a good student!" Spike (V.O.): "I think you're missing the point." As Celestia looks around at the other ponies socializing, she asks if Twilight wouldn't rather hang out with her friends? Twilight says she can make friends anytime, but her time with Celestia is invaluable. Celestia explains in V.O. that she had a difficult choice to make: if Twilight stayed with her, she had the potential to become one of the most powerful unicorns Equestria had ever seen, but she would be alone. Which is something Celestia understands all too well.

EXT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - BALCONY - NIGHT

Back to present, a teary Celestia tells Twilight she made the very hard choice to send her away to Ponyville. She had no idea what would happen, and that scared her. Would Twilight be successful in making friendships? There were a million ways it could have gone wrong, not the least of which was Celestia losing Twilight and Twilight being all alone in a strange place. But there is no magic that can guarantee the outcome that you want. So you just have to trust your instincts and hope for the best. It's all anypony can do. Twilight is shocked to hear that from her mentor. She always thought Celestia knew exactly what to do! It's both comforting and terrifying to know that she didn't. Celestia smiles. Even princesses don't always have the answers. Twilight thanks Celestia. The one thing Twilight can always count on is that Celestia is there for her. She realizes that's something she can also promise to her pupil.

INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - DINING HALL - LATER

Twilight walks up to Starlight and asks if they can talk. Aside, Starlight asks Twilight if this is about the big plan Discord was telling her about. She can't wait to hear it! Twilight has to admit that she doesn't exactly have a plan. Twilight: "I mean, I did, obviously. I had a plan and two backup plans and a contingency plan in case of rain...but that's beside the point." The one thing she didn't plan on was Starlight being such an amazing student. Starlight ended up surpassing her expectations even faster than she predicted in her expectation-surpassing forecast and now... Twilight just doesn't know. Twilight: "But with some help from my mentor I realized, it's okay to not know, you know?" Starlight says that actually, she does know. And in some ways the unknown is more exciting than a predetermined path. Starlight: "It's like somepony handing you a blank canvas and giving you free reign, as opposed to telling you to color between the lines." Twilight: "Yeah. I mean, I love coloring between the lines but free reign is cool too. (then) See? You even learned this lesson perfectly." Starlight says she couldn't have done it without Twilight as a teacher, and as long as they can figure it out together, this non-plan plan sounds perfect to her. Twilight smiles.

They head back to the party, but they're intercepted by Discord. "So what's the plan?" Starlight and Twilight share a look: "You'll just have to wait and see. But trust me, it's exciting." Discord: "Oooh! Is it dangerous? Are there rainbow beams involved? And most importantly, am I part of it?" Twilight: "I hope not, probably, we couldn't avoid you if we tried." Discord says he can't wait. Discord: "By the way, great party. I taught the changelings how to play charades!" ANGLE ON a group of changelings and ponies playing charades. A changeling turns into Princess Luna. Pinkie Pie: "OOH! OOH! PRINCESS LUNA!" Everypony cheers - she guessed right! Off of Twilight and Starlight laughing we ...

END SHOW