

MY LITTLE PONY
Season 7

A Royal Problem
Ep 710

Premise by: Kristine Songco and Joanna Lewis
Outline by: Kristine Songco and Joanna Lewis

Distribution:

Production:

Devon Cody
Joanna Lewis
Kristine Songco
Jim Miller
Denny Lu
Tim Stuby
Zoe Borroz

Discovery Family:

Linda Shima Tsuno
Beth Mohammed

Hasbro Studios:

Stephen Davis
Kathy Page
Meghan McCarthy
Eliza Hart
Gabriel Monje
Daniel Barnes
Finn Arnesen
Nina Scales
Graham Stephen
Jade Watson
Tyla Bucher
Loretta Masters
Narae Song
Bill Cheungcp
Molly Shaffer
Emily Thompson
Rachelle Little

Hasbro Brand:

Jamie Cipolla
Yusun Hwang
Kevin Evans
Andrea Ehret
Marissa Mansolillo
Samantha Lomow
Gretchen Forrest
Kristen Riley
Katherine Padilla
Brian Chapman

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Friendship Lesson: You can never fully appreciate your sister until you've walked a mile in her hooves.

COLD OPEN

Sc. 1 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE- MAP ROOM - DAY

The MANE 7 are gathered with Spike. It's been awhile since the map has called anypony so they're all guessing who could be next. Pinkie Pie puts three cupcakes on the table and says it'll probably be herself and Fluttershy in Horseshoe Bay. FS asks if her Pinkie sense told her that? PP says no - that combination just hasn't happened yet. Twilight says she thinks maybe the map has been so quiet because they've done such a good job so far that there are no friendship problems. RD: "So I'm putting Twilight down for no friendship problems." TS: "No! I'm not partaking!" Suddenly the map starts to glow. Here it comes! Everypony waits with baited breath. Then... Starlight's cutie mark glows over Celestia and Luna's castle. Everypony gasps, then "aww's". No pony had that!

MAIN TITLES

ACT ONE

Sc. 2 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - MAP ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Twilight is shocked that the map only called one pony *and* it's Starlight *and* it's to the castle! But the map has never steered them wrong. Twilight: "Do you want me to go with you? No, I shouldn't go. The map called you for a reason, right? Right." SG agrees, reluctantly. Trying to assuage her fears, Twilight says it's probably something small between the guards or the cooks or maybe the royal hairdresser! Pinkie Pie: "Or what if it's Princess Celestia?" They all look at Pinkie like she's crazy. CUT TO:

Sc. 3 - INT. CELESTIA'S CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - LATER

Starlight in front of Celestia and Luna. The royal sisters barely look at each other. Celestia: "So, the map sent you here to solve a friendship problem?" Starlight nods. Celestia looks pointedly at Luna: "Well, nothing's wrong here, right sister?" Luna responds a bit coldly: "Right as usual, sister." Starlight sighs. Oh boy...

Sc. 4 - INT. CELESTIA'S CASTLE - HALLWAY - LATER

Starlight's walking through the hallway when she hears a "PSST!" She turns to see a portrait of Twilight come to life and talk to her. After getting over the initial shock, Starlight asks Twilight what she's doing? Twilight says she's not getting involved because this is Starlight's mission, of course, but she just wanted to check in. Starlight's actually glad she has somepony to talk to - she thinks the problem is between Celestia and Luna. Twilight can't hide her surprise. Starlight goes on to say the princesses insist that they're fine, but told her she's welcome to stay until she can suss out the problem. Twilight tells Starlight she can't tell her what to do, but she's here in case Starlight needs somepony to talk to. Twilight: "I'm here for you. Really. My schedule's wide open. And this is big."

Sc. 5 - INT. CELESTIA'S CASTLE - DINING ROOM - THE NEXT MORNING

The next morning, Starlight is having breakfast with Celestia when Luna shuffles in. Celestia asks Luna to join them and but Luna just grabs a plate and tiredly excuses herself to her room. Celestia comments that Luna is like this every morning. Doesn't even notice the smiley face Celestia makes with pancakes and fruit on her plate! Trying to comfort Celestia, Starlight says she noticed and she really enjoyed it. Who doesn't like a happy breakfast?

Sc. 6 - INT. CELESTIA'S CASTLE - STARLIGHT'S GUEST ROOM - LATER

That afternoon, Starlight is brushing her hair when she hears: "How's it going?" REVEAL the pony ballerina in the nearby jewelry box has come to life and it's Twilight. Starlight SCREAMS! Once she

calms down, she tells Twilight she thinks the problem is Luna, but she doesn't want to do anything until she's sure. Twilight: "Good call, good call."

Sc. 7 - INT. CELESTIA'S CASTLE - HALLWAY - THAT NIGHT

That night, Starlight is with Luna, who is magic-ing fresh flowers into the bouquet sconces on the wall. Luna explains that she always keeps fresh lavender in the bouquets. It's a calming scent that's really helpful as ponies walk to their bedrooms at the end of the night. Starlight says it's really thoughtful of her to do that. Just then, Celestia walks out of the throne room with several DIGNITARY PONIES. One of the dignitaries makes a bad joke and Celestia politely chuckles as she walks right past Luna and Starlight. Luna: "But, as always, my sister's too busy having fun with dignitary ponies to acknowledge my hard work." With that, Luna walks off in a huff.

Alone in the hallway, Starlight is startled when the stained glass window of Twilight comes to life and asks her if there are any updates? Starlight says now she thinks it might be Celestia who's in the wrong. It's just so hard to tell. She'll just have to confront them about their obvious problem. TS: "Confront the princesses?! I mean, do whatever you think is best!"

Sc. 8 - INT. CELESTIA'S CASTLE - DINING ROOM - THE NEXT MORNING

The next morning, when Starlight has breakfast with Celestia and Luna returns from her "shift", Starlight confronts the two sisters. Clearly, they have some things they need to say to each other. They both pretend like they don't know what Starlight is talking about. She presses a little further, "Celestia, tell Luna that it hurts your feelings when she doesn't even acknowledge that you made her happy pancakes for breakfast. Luna, tell Celestia she never even notices that you line her hallways with a calming lavender every night." Both princesses immediately get defensive. Luna: "Excuse me for not noticing you made a smiley face with my fruit, but the morning is the end of my day and I'm tired." Celestia: "You think I don't get tired? I'm exhausted! But I still make an effort to smile." Luna: "Oh, like that's so hard."

Starlight looks back and forth between the two sisters, unsure of what to do. When it escalates to both sisters yelling "YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE!", Starlight makes a bold decision. Her horn glows and in a FLASH she switches Celestia and Luna's cutie marks!

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

Sc. 9 - INT. CELESTIA'S CASTLE - DINING ROOM - SAME

The princesses are shocked. But Starlight insists it's the only way to end their arguments. If they can handle their sister's duties for a day, they will prove themselves right. Both stubborn in their beliefs, the princesses agree.

Sc. 10 - INT. CELESTIA'S CASTLE - STARLIGHT'S GUEST ROOM - LATER

We come in on Starlight in mid-sentence "...so now I'm going to spend the day with Luna while she does Celestia's duties." We hear hyperventilating. REVEAL Twilight is the little ballerina pony from the jewelry box again. Twilight: "You changed their cutie marks? The actual princesses cutie marks? You changed them?" Starlight: "Yes. I thought we moved past that." Twilight starts hyperventilating again. Starlight just closes the jewelry box. Twilight's clearly not going to be any help right now.

Sc. 11 - EXT. CELESTIA'S CASTLE - HALLWAY - LATER THAT MORNING

Starlight and Luna are en route to the throne room. Luna is confident that her sister's duties are no big deal. The first thing she has to do is make an appearance at the School of Magic. Luna: "All I have to do is smile, wave, and be adored by everypony. How hard is that?" CUT TO:

Sc. 12 - EXT. CELESTIA'S SCHOOL OF MAGIC - LATER THAT DAY

Luna is in front of the school. Some students are gathered. Luna announces that she's taking over Celestia's duties for today. Luna: "So *I* will be making this appearance. (beat) Goodbye." Luna starts to head back to her royal carriage, but Starlight stops her and explains there's more to it than that. Luna: "But I've appeared. What more is there?" Starlight says she should probably meet some of the students, shake some hooves, take some pictures. Luna says no problem and trots off to mingle with the students. She poses for a picture with one. CUT TO:

Sc. 13 - INT. CELESTIA'S CASTLE - DINING ROOM - THAT AFTERNOON

Luna looking at a newspaper shot of her scowling next to the student. Luna reads the headline: "Princess Luna Unhappy With Student Fundraiser?! I wasn't unhappy." REVEAL she's at the dining table with Starlight, who explains it's probably because she was scowling in the picture. Luna: "That's just my resting face." Starlight says yes, but when you're always in the spotlight, the media will take any opportunity to blow something out of proportion. That's why Celestia's always smiling. Luna gets really upset as she continues to read the article, which says the fundraiser wasn't very successful because of Luna's attitude. She tears up: "I didn't mean for this to happen." Starlight comforts her and says she's sorry that happened, but in exactly one minute a bunch of dignitary ponies are going to walk through the door for a luncheon to squash the rumors about timberwolves in the White Tail Woods. Luna's got to put herself together! But Luna says she's really upset. Now the student's don't have the funds to go on their big end-of-the-year field trip and it's all her fault. Starlight says she has to put on a brave face - *and solve the next problem* - it's what Celestia would do. Luna plasters on a weird smile as the door opens and the dignitary ponies walk in. "HELLO! GREAT NEWS! THERE ARE NO TIMBERWOLVES!", Luna says a little too loudly.

Sc. 14 - INT. CELESTIA'S CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - LATER

Luna is at the throne. Starlight is nearby: "So we didn't squash the rumors so much as fuel them..." Luna says it was too hard to act happy. She starts to admit that being "on" all the time is pretty hard. Starlight says she's not done yet, because now they have to mediate a town hall with all the mayors in Equestria. Just then, the mayors of Baltimore and Fillydelphia burst in, arguing. It seems the mayor of Baltimore wants a statue of Flash Prance installed in their town square but the mayor of Fillydelphia says they have a stronger claim to one because Flash Prance was originally from Fillydelphia! Luna tries to handle it by telling them that if they can't agree then neither one of them will get a statue. The mayors look shocked. Under, Starlight tells Luna that might not have been the best solution. Luna: "But they stopped talking." Starlight: "But it didn't solve anything." Luna tells the mayors she takes it back. They start fighting again. Luna looks exasperated.

Sc. 15 - INT. CELESTIA'S CASTLE - HALLWAY - THAT NIGHT

At the end of the day, Luna and Starlight exit the throne room. Luna looks exhausted and can barely mumble her goodbyes as she turns in for the night. A beat later, Celestia emerges from her room. She cheerily greets Starlight - sleeping all day left her feeling very refreshed! "Where's Luna?" Starlight says she already turned in. Satisfied, Celestia says it looks like her duties were harder than Luna expected!

Sc. 16 - EXT. CELESTIA'S CASTLE - BALCONY - MOMENTS LATER

Starlight stands by as Celestia raises the moon and says it's even easier than raising the sun. Now all she has to do is stand around and see if she's needed in somepony's nightmare, right? But when she turns to Starlight, she finds she's already asleep. Celestia: "Right. Everypony is asleep. Luna does this alone. No

problem...” We TRUCK OUT on Celestia’s lone form as we hear ominous nighttime sounds: owls hooting, wolves howling, then crushing...eerie...silence... DISSOLVE TO:

Sc. 17 - EXT. CELESTIA’S CASTLE - BALCONY - LATER THAT NIGHT

Celestia is in the exact same position, now with a candle/night light (but still telling herself the darkness isn’t getting to her). From her view of Equestria, she spots one last light turn off and says it must be time for her to go off to the dream realm. Her horn lights up and transports her to:

Sc. 18 - INT/EXT. DREAM SPACE - CONTINUOUS

Celestia floats in a black space surrounded by “bubbles” that represent everypony’s dreams. Celestia tells herself all she has to do is save some ponies in their nightmares, which aren’t real so it shouldn’t be too hard. Then she comments on how weird it is that she has to talk to herself all the time.

Just then she hears a SCREAM from one of the bubbles. Her horn glows and she transports herself to:

Sc. 19 - INT. CELESTIA’S CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - NIGHT/DREAM

Celestia enters to find Starlight in the middle of a nightmare where she’s running from an unseen enemy. Celestia asks what’s going on? Starlight explains she was just so scared that she made the wrong call in her friendship mission. The point of this was to bring the sisters closer together, but if it only drives them apart, then... REVEAL the unseen enemy was none other than Nightmare Moon! Nightmare Moon: “I’m ba-ack... (evil laugh).” Celestia smiles confidently and tells Starlight not to worry, she knows how to handle Nightmare Moon. Then an O.S. sinister voice says: “Yes, but can you handle me?” REVEAL the voice was coming from an evil version of Princess Celestia! Off of Celestia’s horrified face we...

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

Sc. 20 - INT. CELESTIA’S CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Celestia can barely hide her fear! The pony before her is terrifying, evil, and worst of all...she’s Celestia. The sinister version of Celestia introduces herself as DAYBREAKER. Celestia is confused as to how Daybreaker came to be? Daybreaker explains that, much like Nightmare Moon, Celestia can “evolve” into Daybreaker once she embraces the darkness in her heart. Celestia denies having any, but Daybreaker says of course there is. Daybreaker: “Deep inside you know how powerful you are. You know you don’t need anypony else, not even your sister!” With that, she turns to Nightmare Moon and the two evil princesses engage in an epic battle. Shaken but putting on a brave face, Celestia tells them to stop and tries to magically blast the evil princesses, but her magic has little effect. Daybreaker laughs and says she’s better and more powerful than little old Celestia. As the evil princesses keep fighting, Celestia tries to tell herself it’s just a nightmare... but it all seems very real for Starlight Glimmer, who is frozen in fear thinking this is all her fault! Not knowing what to do, Celestia transports herself to...

Sc. 21 - INT. CELESTIA’S CASTLE - DINING HALL - DREAM

Luna is in the middle of a dream where she has a crazy smile on in front of a bunch of screaming ponies. Suddenly Celestia appears. Luna: “I’m so glad you’re here!” Celestia: “I’m so glad I found you!” Celestia tells Luna she doesn’t have much time - “You must come with me!” Celestia transports them to:

Sc. 22 - INT. CELESTIA’S CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - DREAM

They’re back in Starlight’s dream. The evil versions of the princesses are still fighting. Luna: “Oh my. This is a new one.” Luna tells Celestia if she doesn’t fix the nightmare soon, it could have a grave consequence on Starlight’s psyche. Celestia says she tried, but her magic isn’t powerful enough. Maybe if they work together? Luna shakes her head and gestures to their cutie marks - her magic won’t work in the

dream realm, only Celestia's will. Celestia breaks down and says she can't do this! She was wrong. Luna's job is so incredibly hard - she has to battle nightmares and work in the darkness and do it all *alone*. "It takes such a strong, brave pony to do what you do--" Luna: "--and that pony is *you*. Sister, it was I who was wrong." Luna thought all Celestia had to do was smile and be adored all the time but it takes a certain kind of strength to carry the weight of Equestria on your shoulders and smile while doing it. You have to earn that adoration; it doesn't just come because you're a princess. Luna goes on to explain: "In the dream realm, you're as powerful as you believe yourself to be. In order to defeat Daybreaker, you need only to trust in your strength, as I do." The sisters smile at each other. Then Celestia rounds on the feuding sisters and blasts them with magic to break up the fight. Mustering all her strength, she then sends Nightmare Moon back to the moon and Daybreaker into the sun.

With the palace free from evil, Luna turns to Celestia. Luna: "So. Did you talk to yourself?" Celestia: "Yes. It's very weird." The two sisters smile and hug. Then, Starlight: "Is this really happening? Or is this still a dream?" DISSOLVE TO:

Sc. 23 - EXT. CELESTIA'S CASTLE - BALCONY - THE NEXT MORNING

Luna raises the sun as Celestia returns from the dream realm. Luna presents Celestia with a plate of smiley face pancakes. They don't look as good as Celestia's. Luna laughs: "What? I already admitted your job is hard." Celestia: "It means a lot. I love you, sister." Luna: "I love you too." They hug. Then, Starlight: "So this *was* real! Or was it not and this just happened but it didn't happen in my dream? I'm so confused." The sisters laugh and say it's real - Starlight can rest assured that she made the right call in her friendship mission. No pony else would have had the guts to do this to the royal sisters, but it was just what they needed. The experience has made them closer than ever, and the princesses promise to make more of an effort to appreciate one another. Starlight's cutie mark glows. Awesome! Mission accomplished. Starlight starts to head out but the princesses stop her and point to their flanks. She still needs to switch their cutie marks back. Starlight: "Right right right." Starlight quickly switches their cutie marks back and says she can't wait to tell Twilight! Then we hear "I already know!" REVEAL Twilight's voice is coming from a pony statue on the balcony. TS: "Great job Starlight! I'm so proud!" Off of a bird landing on the statue we FADE OUT! THE END!