

MY LITTLE PONY
Season 7
To Change a Changeling
Ep 719
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TO CHANGE A CHANGELING

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Friendship lesson: Instead of living in fear of being in someone's shadow, you can always come out and make your own path.

Thorax has asked Starlight and Trixie to come to the changeling hive. They aren't sure why he called for them because the message reached them in a very convoluted way and the details were sketchy at best, but they're excited to visit their friend and see all the changes happening at the hive. But when they arrive, they're met by a menacing-looking black changeling! It turns out this only-sort-of-menacing changeling is Pharynx, Thorax's older brother, and the reason he asked Starlight and Trixie to come. As Thorax gives them a tour of the new hive, he explains that in order for a changeling to change, they must accept love in their life, and Pharynx hasn't taken that step. He hopes that Starlight and Trixie, who had to learn lessons of love and friendship themselves, will be able to help his brother. They agree to do it, with Starlight excited to use her experience as Twilight's pupil and Trixie supremely confident in her abilities. But they quickly see it won't be an easy task, as the old changeling ways are so deeply ingrained in Pharynx. No matter what they do or show him, he just cannot grasp the idea of opening himself up to love and friendship, and even undermines some of the lessons with devious behavior. A frustrated Starlight and Trixie are at their wits end when Pharynx eventually admits he doesn't want to change. He's always been the better brother in all the qualities Chrysalis admired (ruthlessness, cunning, etc.), but if he changes he'll just be another one of his brother's subjects.

Meanwhile, Thorax has been overseeing the work to transform the hive from the dark, twisting labyrinth to a bright, welcoming space. In the new spirit of openness and community, he's tried incorporating as many of the other changelings' ideas into the new design as possible, which has led to some confusion in the plans. Suddenly, an unstable tunnel begins collapsing. As the ceiling is about to cave in on Thorax, Pharynx comes out of nowhere and knocks him to safety, but traps himself in the process. They all fear the worst as Starlight and Trixie use their magic to move the debris, and are shocked to find a majestically transformed Pharynx on the other side. Apparently, he really does love his brother. Thorax, Starlight, and Trixie are thrilled at the transition, but Pharynx isn't happy about it at all and storms off, much to Thorax's disappointment.

Starlight and Trixie explain to Thorax what Pharynx admitted to them earlier. Thorax finds his older brother and tells him he understands what he's going through – he used to feel lost and confused when Chrysalis was in charge – but look at him now. Pharynx says that's exactly the problem: he's incredibly proud of the job his little brother has done in leading the hive, but it's in a direction that seemingly has no place for a changeling with his skillset. Starlight and Trixie offer a solution: he can come with them and make a fresh start for himself. If anypony understands what it's like not to "get friendship" right away it's them. They totally feel Pharynx. Pharynx accepts and joins Starlight and Trixie but not before Thorax tells him as far as he's concerned, there will always be a place for him at the hive. Off a solid bro hug.... we fade out. The End.