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MY LITTLE PONY
Season 7

Mind Over Matters
Ep 724

Premise by: Kevin Lappin
Outline by: Kevin Lappin

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MIND OVER MATTERS

Outline by Kevin Lappin

Friendship lesson: Just because your friends have other interests, doesn't mean you aren't one of them.

TEASER**SC. 1 – EXT. PONYVILLE TRAIN STATION – DAY**

Starlight Glimmer is excitedly waiting for Sunburst to arrive from the Crystal Empire. She's a bundle of giddy energy, pacing on the platform and telling any and every pony that passes all about Sunburst and his visit: how they're childhood friends, how he knows everything about magic, and how she's planned a jam-packed weekend of activities and fun culminating in a special lunch where Sunburst can meet all the new friends she's made in Ponyville. "There's Trixie, Maud Pie, and... well, that's it. But that's a lot for me."

The train arrives and Starlight and Sunburst are happily reunited. Sunburst is just as excited as Starlight to spend time together, meet her new friends, and experience some of the unique sights of Ponyville. Starlight says that's great, because she has a lot planned for them: "A hike to the top of Winsome Falls, checking out the Castle of Friendship, playing board games like we did growing up, a special lunch to meet my new friends, and did I mention hiking to the top of Winsome Falls?" Sunburst: "You did, but I'm not really much of a hiker..." Starlight tells him that's okay, she should have asked what he wanted to do. Whatever it is they can totally do it. Sunburst brightens, "Antiquing at the Ponyville Spring Swap Meet!" Starlight (not thrilled): "Antiquing. How exciting..."

END TEASER**ACT ONE****SC. 2 – INT. CASTLE OF FRIENDSHIP – LATER**

Starlight is showing Sunburst around the castle, telling him this is where she lived when she first moved to Ponyville. They run into Twilight, who knows about the lunch and tells Starlight how great it will be for her oldest friend meet her new ones. Starlight says she hopes Twilight, as her mentor, will be there. Twilight: "Mentor and friend. Of course I'll be there." They talk about what else they have planned for Sunburst's visit. Twilight, "Did she mention the hike? It's pretty intense, not really my thing." Sunburst agrees and he and Twilight connect. Sunburst, "Yeeah. I like reading about hikes." Sunburst mentions he wanted to go antiquing at the Spring Swap Meet but could tell Starlight wasn't into it. Twilight can barely contain her excitement. She LOVES antiquing at the Spring Swap Meet! The two of them animatedly talk about it and Starlight follows their quick back-and-forth like watching a tennis match. She sees how much Sunburst wants to go to the Swap Meet and how excited Twilight is, so she suggests they all go together. Sunburst is thrilled. "Are you sure?" Starlight assures him it's fine – they'll have a lot of time to do all the stuff she has planned, she can certainly do something he wants to do.

SC. 3 – EXT. SPRING SWAP MEET – LATER

Starlight, Sunburst, and Twilight walk through the open-air market where vendors sell antique furniture, clothing, tchotchkes, etc. Twilight and Sunburst have already made a bunch of purchases, while Starlight is putting on a brave face, trying her best to enjoy it.

They stop at a table where some old maps have caught Sunburst's eye. He and Twilight nerd out over them (like a back and forth lecture on the evolution of Equestrian cartography), and Starlight has a hard time feigning interest. "Wow... more old stuff." Sunburst and Twilight try to explain just how cool all of it is, but Starlight just doesn't understand. "It's outdated. What good is a map that can't tell you where stuff is anymore?" Twilight suggest Starlight think of antiquing more like treasure hunting – there's bound to be things Starlight would like hidden amongst all this, as she says, "old stuff."

Starlight agrees to give it a try and rummages through some bins. She finds a salt and pepper shaker set in the shape of a unicorn and a pegasus. "Hey, I guess you're right. These shakers are pretty cute— (noticing price) and they cost this much?! Old and expensive?" Sunburst sees Starlight isn't enjoying herself and wonders if they should leave. "You gave it a go, but it's just not your thing. That's okay." Starlight says she's fine. "We're near the end, right?" "Actually there's a whole other section yet..." We pull back and see just how massive the Spring Swap Meet is. Sunburst doesn't want Starlight to force herself to do something she doesn't like. But Starlight knows the swap meet is making Sunburst happy. Sunburst tells her she doesn't have to feel obligated to stay. He and Twilight can finish ("We'll make it quick."), and they can meet up after. Starlight quickly accepts, relieved to get out of the swap meet. Besides, she can get a head start on shopping for the lunch tomorrow. They agree to meet at the Castle of Friendship to play board games. Starlight is excited to get in at least SOME of the things on her list.

SC. 4 – INT. CASTLE OF FRIENDSHIP – HALLWAY/LIBRARY – THAT NIGHT

Starlight walks down the hallway, floating a stack of board games with her. She enters the library: "Who's ready to play some board games?"...

... and finds Sunburst and Twilight surrounded by all their swap meet purchases. Her expression drops, "Or... we can look through all the old stuff you guys bought." Twilight and Sunburst say they just want to catalogue the stuff they bought – it'll be quick. Starlight says she'll set up the game while they do that.

SC. 5 – INT. CASTLE OF FRIENDSHIP – LIBRARY – LATER

Twilight and Sunburst are still going through all their swap meet finds. A now-impatient Starlight stares at them over the set-up board game. "Are you ready to play yet?" Sunburst and Twilight apologize and say yes, they'll finish looking through their stuff later. Starlight excitedly brings the board game over to them and is about to put it on a barrel when she pauses. "What's this?" Twilight and Sunburst explain it's a blind buy – the barrel is filled with various random objects and you buy it without knowing what's inside. Sunburst: "I bought it more for the actual barrel. Sometimes you get lucky, but usually it's just old junk." Starlight jokes, "How is that different from everything else that was there?" and then dumps the barrel upside-down to set the board game on it. "Alright, Sunburst, you go first."

But Sunburst and Twilight both stop short, noticing a very old-looking and brittle book amongst the items that have fallen out of the barrel. Curious, Sunburst picks it up and GASPS. He gives it to Twilight. “Is this what I think it is?” Starlight: “An old book?” Twilight looks at it as well and has the same reaction as Sunburst: “Not just any book.” She and Sunburst stare in shock and disbelief, but it looks like this book is the missing volume from Starswirl the Bearded’s journals. Twilight pulls another book down from a shelf and verifies it! Starlight takes in Sunburst and Twilight’s giddy exhilaration and realizes she won’t be playing any board games with her friends tonight.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SC. 6 – INT. CASTLE OF FRIENDSHIP – LIBRARY – MOMENTS LATER

Sunburst and Twilight fill Starlight in on the mystery surrounding the legend of Starswirl’s lost writings. There were rumors the book existed, and wild speculation about what it contained. “Some ponies think Starswirl discovered the truth.” Starlight: “The truth of what?” Twilight (whispering): “Everything.” Sunburst is delighted to discover Starswirl’s text is written in Olde Ponish. “It will take longer to decipher, but we’ll feel so much closer to him!” Starlight: “More old stuff.” Twilight: “Starswirl is important. Don’t you remember when you used his time travel spell, and then you and I battled through time, nearly changing the entirety of Equestria’s history?” Starlight: “Oh, yeah. That was pretty powerful stuff. Same guy, huh?”

Twilight is gung-ho about diving into the book, but Sunburst remembers the board game. He says they can look through the book later – Starlight has waited for them long enough. Starlight says the book sounds important, so maybe they should just do that, but to Starlight’s delight, both Sunburst and Twilight say they’d much rather play the game with her.

SC. 7 – INT. CASTLE OF FRIENDSHIP – LIBRARY – A LITTLE LATER

Starlight, Sunburst, and Twilight are having fun playing the game. Starlight and Sunburst reminisce and tell stories about each other (which Twilight can also enjoy), and Sunburst and Twilight pepper their conversation with Olde Ponish, which Starlight doesn’t understand (even when it’s explained to her. “It’s only funny in the original Olde Ponish.”).

When the game ends, Sunburst says he’s tired from travelling and the busy day, and Starlight also wants to get to bed so they’re fresh for everything she wants to do tomorrow. They get up to head off to Starlight’s house. Twilight admits the discovery of Starswirl’s book has her too excited to sleep – she’ll probably stay up to go through it – just a little.

SC. 8 – INT. STARLIGHT GLIMMER’S HOUSE – THE NEXT MORNING

Starlight wakes up early the next morning and begins to excitedly chatter about their plans for the morning and the big lunch party later. “Trixie can be a little difficult at first, and Maud is tough to read, but they’re both great and I really hope you’ll like them. And also, I know you didn’t want to do it, but I was kind of hoping since we did what you wanted and went to the Spring Swap Meet yesterday that you’d reconsider the hike up to Winsome Falls? I can teleport us most of the way and it’s beautiful up there and you won’t want to miss it. (no response) Sunburst?” Starlight looks over and sees that the spot she made up for Sunburst on the couch is empty.

SC. 9 – INT. CASTLE OF FRIENDSHIP – LIBRARY – LATER

Starlight enters the library and finds Twilight and Sunburst experimenting with different magic spells from Starswirl’s book. Sunburst says he couldn’t sleep, so he came back to the castle and he and Twilight have been up all night. It hasn’t been easy. It turns out neither he nor Twilight are as fluent in Olde Ponish as they thought, but between the two of them, they’ve been able to piece together some of Starswirl’s writings. Starlight: “Did you discover the truth of everything?” Twilight (bummed): “No. (brightly) At least not yet.”

Starlight blithely remarks that it looks like Sunburst would prefer to just skip all the sites of Ponyville and stay cooped up in a dusty library with an old book all day. Actually, that sounds pretty good, Sunburst admits. Twilight agrees Starlight has just described the perfect day. Excited, Starswirl shows Starlight a page in the book. He instructs Twilight to cast a Telekinesis Spell, and then quickly cast an Echo Spell on the Telekinesis Spell. Twilight uses telekinesis to lift a book off the shelf, and when she casts the echo spell, suddenly all the books from entire rows of shelves are lifted in the air. Sunburst and Twilight freak out over it, but Starlight doesn’t understand. “So what? You lifted a bunch of books.” Sunburst explains: “Large-scale spells require more energy and concentration than small-scale ones. Starswirl figured out a simple Echo Spell would naturally enhance the power of another spell, thus requiring less exertion on the caster’s part.” Twilight adds: “And even more impressive is when Starswirl posited this theory, Echo Spells hadn’t even been developed yet! He understood the possibilities before they were even possible.”

From Starlight’s crestfallen expression, Sunburst realizes she’s hurt. He doesn’t know what he was thinking. Of course he’d rather hang out with Starlight. The lost scholarly works of the greatest wizard Equestria has even known can wait. Starlight says she understands. It must be an incredible find for both Sunburst and Twilight to be so excited about it. She suggests the two of them keep going and get it out of their system. Sunburst refuses, but Starlight insists – what they are doing sounds pretty important, and she can spend the morning prepping for her lunch party – as long as they both promise not to miss that. Sunburst and Twilight both agree, there’s no way they aren’t coming to that.

SC. 10 – INT. STARLIGHT GLIMMER’S HOUSE – THAT NIGHT

Starlight, Trixie, and Maud are sitting around a beautifully decorated table, waiting to eat. There are two empty chairs for Sunburst and Twilight, who aren’t there. Starlight sits at the head of the table, stewing in silence. Trixie pulls out a pocket watch and checks the time with a “Tsk-tsk. I can’t believe Twilight would be late to your lunch. Very un-princess-like.” Maud, “Looks like it’s just the four of us.” Trixie

looks a Maud confused until we pan over to reveal Boulder on “his” own chair. Trixie: “You’ve got to be joking.” Maud (no emotion): “Often I do. But not now. (to Starlight) I’m as mad about this as you are.” As Starlight continues to sit there in angry silence, we:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

SC. 11 – INT. CASTLE OF FRIENDSHIP – LIBRARY – LATER

Twilight and Sunburst are excitedly swept up, transposing some of the journal onto a chalk board. Twilight, “I think this might actually be the basis for the time travel spell.” Suddenly they both stop. Time! Oh no! What time is it?! They both realize they are late for the lunch party and rush to the door just as Starlight bursts in. She blows up at them for obviously choosing their academic pursuits over the lunch party. They apologize, saying they were so engrossed in the book they completely lost track of time. Starlight: “I know! That’s all you’ve been doing! I guess you two have each other and you books, so you don’t need me anymore.” Starlight disappears as she transports herself away.

SC. 12 – INT. STARLIGHT GLIMMER’S HOUSE – LATER

Twilight and Sunburst hurry to the house hoping Starlight has gone home and they can salvage the lunch, but when they get there they find Trixie and Maud cleaning up, but no Starlight. Trixie tells them Starlight hasn’t been back to the house since she left to confront Twilight and Sunburst at the castle. They take in the decor and tableful of food, see just how much work Starlight put into the party, and realize how badly they screwed up. Maud: “Starlight was really looking forward to us meeting.” Sunburst: “I’m Sunburst, by the way.” Trixie: “No! I refuse to meet you until Starlight is here!”

Twilight and Sunburst say they need to find Starlight and make things right. Trixie and Maud say it’s going to be a tall order, and Twilight transports herself and Sunburst away.

SC. 13 – INT./EXT. VARIOUS PONYVILLE LOCALES – MONTAGE

Twilight and Sunburst pop in and out of various locations around Ponyville searching for Starlight – the Ponyville Theater, train station, back to the Castle of Friendship, day spa, etc. There’s no sign of her anywhere, nor have any other ponies seen her. As they look, they get increasingly desperate to find her and talk about how thoughtless they were. Twilight says Starlight has worked so hard to make friends, and then here she is not acting like a good friend in return. Sunburst is mad at himself, too. The entire point of the trip was to spend time with Starlight, and he’s barely done any of the things she has planned. And that’s when it hits him: “I know where Starlight is.” Twilight, “You don’t mean...”

SC. 14 – EXT. WINSOME FALLS – BOTTOM – LATER

Twilight and Sunburst suddenly appear. They look around. “Hiking.” Neither are thrilled.

SC. 15 – EXT. HIKING TRAIL – A LITTLE LATER

Starlight is hiking up the hill, talking to herself. “Beautiful scenery, exercise, a chance to clear my head. I don’t need anypony else to enjoy this.” Then she hears her name called and sees Sunburst and Twilight hurrying up the hill after her. Starlight frowns and picks up her pace. The other two, wheezing, catch up. Starlight: “What are you doing here? You obviously don’t want to spend time with me. And look at you two – you clearly don’t like hiking.” Twilight admits that they don’t like hiking, but Sunburst says they do like spending time with her. Starlight doesn’t believe them: “You’re getting along so well together. You have way more in common with each other than with me.” Sunburst tells her that’s crazy – just because he and Twilight are getting along doesn’t mean they don’t want to be friends with her anymore. He admits he let the discovery of Starswirl’s journal get in the way of spending time with Starlight. Both he and Twilight confess they should have known better than to let Starlight continue to put their scholarly interests ahead of her feelings.

Starlight softens at this, realizing she shares some of the blame. She should have stood up for what she wanted more, but when she saw how happy Sunburst was at the Swap Meet and studying the book, she thought he’d rather do that than any of the stuff she wanted to do with him. She’s glad Sunburst and Twilight are getting along, she’d just rather they all did something together so she could be a part of it. Sunburst: “How about we finish this hike?”

SC. 16 – EXT. WINSOME FALLS – TOP – LATER

Starlight leads Sunburst and Twilight to the top of the falls. She’s in a great mood, practically skipping up the trail, while Sunburst and Twilight are huffing and puffing even more. When they reach the top, Starlight sees Trixie, Maud, and Boulder with a whole picnic set up. “What are you doing up here?” Sunburst and Twilight say while they were searching for her, they had the idea for the lunch party at the top of the falls, and had Maud and Trixie come up to set it up. Starlight: “I can’t believe you all hiked all the way up here for me!” Trixie: “Oh, we didn’t hike. I teleported us here. Who hikes?” As Twilight and Sunburst groan, we:

END OF EPISODE