

MY LITTLE PONY
Season 7
Shadow Play – Parts 1 & 2

Ep 725 & 726

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Ep 725/726 SHADOW PLAY – PARTS 1 & 2

Pitch by Josh Haber

Friendship lesson: The only way to defeat an enemy is to make them a friend.

Sunburst reveals that in studying Starswirl's lost journal (found in 724) he's discovered that the legendary ponies we've learned about throughout the season were real. More than that, they were peers and the six of them worked together, standing as examples for all that is good about ponykind (a Proto-Mane Six – with parallel's to the current one). Further, Sunburst learns that the Equestrian equivalent of the Boogeyman was also a real pony – a unicorn who believed his kind should rule over the “lesser” ponies. The legendary ponies came together and defeated him – banishing him to the realm of shadow. But he wasn't defeated. As a shadow his power grew and his reign of terror went on for so long nopony could even remember his real name – he was known only as the Pony of Shadows. The Proto-Mane Six came up with a way to defend Equestria from him for good, using powerful talismans (their artifacts), but in so doing sacrificed themselves—or so it seems since they all disappeared. Now it looks as though the Pony of Shadows might return. Sunburst tells the Mane Six they have to find the talismans so they can defend Equestria just like the ponies of yore.

Unfortunately, what the Mane Six don't know is that Sunburst is being controlled by the Pony of Shadows. The talismans (of which Starswirl's lost journal is one) actually contain a piece of the Pony of Shadow's essence (horcrux-style). Sunburst (controlled by the POS) doesn't want to collect the talismans to defend Equestria against the Pony of Shadows, he wants to gathered them together so the Pony of Shadows can be made whole and return. Unaware the Mane Six work to recover the artifacts.

Meanwhile, Starlight discovers an entry in Starswirl's journal describing the spell to capture the Pony of Shadow's essence in the talismans as the Proto-Mane Six's greatest failure. Instead of tearing his shadow self apart they should have retrieved him from the shadow realm and brought him back into the fold. He was the like a proto-Starlight – a seventh member who they should have rehabilitated instead of fighting. Starlight is the key to them figuring out how to avoid this failure a second time.

But before she can tell the others, Sunburst (under the POS's control) traps her somewhere to prevent her from ruining the Pony of Shadow's plan: Taking the artifacts to the site where they were used against him in the Mysterious South. There Sunburst will use a rare crystal to cast the counter-spell and the Pony of Shadows will return.

Sunburst convinces the Mane Six that they must travel to the Mysterious South to find a rare crystal that is integral to the talisman defense spell. There they face a tribe of Native Ponies that are sworn protectors of the sacred crystal. Sunburst convinces the Mane Six that the Tribe is in league with the Pony of Shadows and together they defeat them.

Meanwhile, Trixie helps Starlight escape and they travel south to stop the madness but must fact the Native Pony Tribe along with the misguided Mane Six in order to stop the Pony of Shadows and save Equestria. Realizing the Native Ponies are on their side, Starlight and Trixie work with them in a valiant effort that ultimately fails. Sunburst casts the counter spell and the Pony of Shadows returns.

But in the face of defeat, Starlight finds victory – she convinces the Mane Six of their predecessors' failure: Fighting the Pony of Shadows is not the way to save Equestria. The only way to do that is to return him from the shadow realm and befriend him. They find the original spell the Pillars used to send him to the shadow realm and reverse it. Restored to his original self and with the knowledge of where his path took him (maybe out of the shadow realm he is a lot less evil and contrite), the Pony of Shadows accepts their friendship and turns into light (or dust because he's so old) and all is well.

With that, the Pillars pop out of the map and say “Yes! Way to go! We made this map knowing we messed up big-time and hoping that somepony in the future would correct our mistake. You did it! Friendship rocks – let's sing a song”

The End