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MY LITTLE PONY
Season 7

Shadow Play - Part 1
Ep 725

Teleplay 2nd Draft

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TEASER**SC 1 - FADE UP ON AN ANCIENT TEXT**

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In classic Storybook-style (think MLP 001), we TRACK IN on an old book. A SWIRL OF STARS (i.e., the cutie mark of Starswirl the Bearded) is on the cover.

As the book opens we continue to PUSH IN, dissolving to a series of WATERCOLOR-STYLE IMAGES as the wizened voice of an older, male, British(?) pony (i.e., STARSWIRL THE BEARDED), can be heard...

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*

1 STARSWIRL (V.O.)
Long ago a group of ponies
represented all the best qualities
of Equestria: strength, bravery,
healing, beauty, hope, and sorcery.

*

*

With each quality we see a stylistic, watercolor depiction of the pony to which it corresponds (all of whom we've met in earlier episodes): Strength, ROCKHOOF; bravery, FLASH MAGNUS; healing, MAGE MEADOWBROOK; beauty, MISTMANE; hope, SOMNAMBULA; and sorcery, Starswirl. These are the PILLARS OF OLD EQUESTRIA.

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2 STARSWIRL (V.O.)
These six Pillars of Equestria were
brought together by a seventh pony
to protect and maintain those
ideals...

*

*

ANOTHER WATERCOLOR-STYLE IMAGE - of the six pillars looking down on another PONY who is obscured by their shadows.

The pony in the shadow regards the others guiltily - a collection of items gathered around him: a shield, a shovel, a mask, a flower, a blindfold, and a book (these are the pillars' artifacts).

3 STARSWIRL (V.O.)
But the Pillars came to believe the
pony who brought them together,
actually wanted their powers for
himself.

*

*

*

ANOTHER WATERCOLOR IMAGE - of the six pillars towering over the other pony, now cowering in their shadows, as Starswirl points away - gesturing for him to leave their presence.

4 STARSWIRL (V.O.)
Outcast and alone, this power-mad *
pony turned to dark magic to
satisfy his thirst.

WATERCOLOR IMAGE - of the other pony, now transformed into
the fearsome PONY OF SHADOWS!

5 STARSWIRL (V.O.)
Transforming into a creature of *
darkness, this Pony of Shadows
returned to seek his revenge by *
extinguishing the light of the *
world.

WATERCOLOR IMAGE - of the six pillars and the Pony of Shadows
locked in battle (i.e., blasts of magic and shadow, etc.).

6 STARSWIRL (V.O.)
To defend against the darkness, the *
Pillars imbued a seed with elements *
of themselves, hoping their own *
light would protect the earth in *
which it was planted. *

WATERCOLOR IMAGE - of Starswirl casting a spell: beams of *
light connect all the Pillars, like spokes on a wheel, to a *
CRYSTAL SEED. *

7 STARSWIRL *
But the Pony of Shadows discovered *
their plan and sought to destroy *
the sapling before it took root. *

WATERCOLOR IMAGE - of the Pillars, with determined faces as *
they surround the first tiny CRYSTAL SPROUT of what will one *
day become the Tree of Harmony. *

8 STARSWIRL (CONT'D) *
Left with no choice, the Pillars *
met the Pony of Shadows in *
battle... *

WATERCOLOR IMAGE - of the Pillars and the Pony of Shadows *
fighting once more. *

The screen FADES TO WHITE then DISSOLVES back to the old *
book. *

9 STARSWIRL (CONT'D) *
...and were never heard from again. *

As the book closes we... *

END TEASER**MAIN TITLES****ACT ONE****SC 3 - INT. CANTERLOT CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - RESUME**

SUNBURST looks down at the same book from the teaser.
CELESTIA magics it up to her throne so she and LUNA can look
at it. The MANE SIX, STARLIGHT, and SPIKE stand nearby.

*
*
*

10 CELESTIA
This is quite a discovery,
Sunburst.

11 LUNA
We had thought all the writings of
Starswirl the Bearded had be found
ages ago.

12 SUNBURST
I'm just as surprised as you, but
there it was. In a collection of
books I bought at an antique store
in Ponyville.

13 STARLIGHT
If I knew the shop had stuff like
that, I might have been more
interested.

Sunburst and Starlight share a smile. Twilight steps forward.

14 TWILIGHT
Sunburst brought it to me, but once
I saw what it was, I had to bring
it to you right away.

*
*

Celestia and Luna share a look.

15 CELESTIA
And why is that?

16 TWILIGHT
It's Starswirl the Bearded's! The
last thing he ever wrote from the
looks of it. I can't believe it!

*

17 APPLEJACK
I can't believe all these Pillars
were real, live ponies!

*
*
*

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18          RAINBOW DASH                                *
Yeah! I just thought they were                        *
awesome stories.                                       *
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19 SUNBURST
Oh, they were real. And they knew *
each other. It's pretty exciting.

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20          FLUTTERSHY                                     *
I'm not so excited the Pony of                             *
Shadows was real. That's one boogie-                       *
pony I wish was made up.

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21          STARLIGHT                                *
Starswirl must have taken care of                *
him, or he'd still be around,                     *
right?                                              *
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22          TWILIGHT                                     *
Of course he did. Starswirl could                       *
do anything. I just wish I knew why                     *
he and the other pillars vanished.                       *

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23          LUNA                                     *
(nods) Starswirl was a powerful                    *
wizard, but he was still a pony                    *
like the rest of us.                               *
```

Celestia levitates the book back down to Sunburst. *

24 CELESTIA *

Perhaps this journal will help you *
grow to understand who he was. That *
may provide the answers you seek. *

```

25          SUNBURST
There are parts I haven't been able
to make out or translate from Olde
Ponish.

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26 TWILIGHT *

Luckily, I just happen to be an *

expert in Olde Ponish. *

Twilight BAMFS right next to the book, excited. She scans
through the pages.

27 TWILIGHT (CONT'D)
Once I get this back to my library,
I'll figure out what happened to *
him in no time. *

Spike, Sunburst, and Starlight gather around the book. *

28 SPIKE
And we can help!

As Celestia looks on, approvingly...

*

SC 4 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - LIBRARY - NIGHT

Twilight looks down at the book, a candle next to her has burned down to a wax stub. Spike <YAWNS> as he replaces it with a fresh candle.

29 SPIKE
Figure it out yet, Twilight?

*

WHIP PAN to the end of the table where Sunburst lifts his head from a pile of scrolls and parchment, startled awake.

*

30 SUNBURST
Wha-WHAT? What did you figure out?

31 TWILIGHT
(frowns) Nothing. Translating Olde Ponish is one thing, but there's parts where Starswirl's hornwriting is like another language all by itself!

Sunburst stands and shakes off the sleep. He walks around the table and leans over the journal.

*

*

32 SUNBURST
There has to be some clue that points to where we should start.

*

Starlight enters with tea. She sets it down beside Twilight and Sunburst, who pour over the pages.

*

*

Starlight points to a drawing/diagram of a TEMPLE-LIKE STRUCTURE similar to Stonehenge.

*

33 STARLIGHT
(reading) "Hearg sylfum se Ponhenge," What's that?

34 TWILIGHT
(shocked) The Temple of Ponhenge! You can read that?

35 STARLIGHT
(nods) The hornwriting's pretty sloppy, but it's nowhere near as bad as mine. (continues) "Toward dol grimlic of fola firgenbeorg?"

36 SUNBURST *

At the base of Foal Mountain...

37 STARLIGHT

(reading) "User endemest sciold..."

38 TWILIGHT *

(ominous) Our last stand.

WHIP PAN to Spike at the end of the table, trying to stifle a <YAWN>. *

39 SPIKE *

Well, that sure sounds like a clue *

to me. *

The others look down at the book. As we PUSH IN on the *

drawing...

DISSOLVE TO:

SC 5 - EST. FOAL MOUNTAIN - PONHENG - NIGHT

The same temple-like structure, though overgrown and worn down by time, stands in a grove of trees at the base of a lonely gray mountain.

SC 6 - EXT. PONHENG - NIGHT

Six stone slabs (think Stonehenge) surround a central raised dais. In front of each slab is a smaller stone pedestal.

A BLAST of magic clears away a thicket of vines as Twilight enters the clearing, floating the book in front of her. Sunburst, Starlight, Spike, and the rest of the Mane Six follow. *

40 TWILIGHT *

This is it. Ponhenge. I can't believe it. *

The others fan out around the stones. Sunburst notices some ornate runes carved into them. *

41 SUNBURST *

I've never seen magical runes like these before. (to Twilight) Have you? *

Twilight shakes her head. Dash pulls at a vine that's grown over one of the slabs. It snaps and she tumbles into a bush. *

42 RAINBOW DASH
I don't think anypony's seen any of
this for a long time.

Applejack helps her up.

43 APPLEJACK
It'd take a whole team of ponies to
clear away all this brush.

Fluttershy taps at the base of another stone and a piece
crumbles away.

44 FLUTTERSHY
Even then, I'm not sure we'd find
out what happened here a thousand
years ago.

Twilight walks in front of one of the stones facing the dais
and <SIGHS>.

45 TWILIGHT
You're right. I knew it was a long
shot.

Spike pats her on the wing.

46 SPIKE
Cheer up, Twilight. Finding a whole
set of ancient ruins is pretty
impressive.

47 TWILIGHT
I guess I thought we'd get here and
everything would just magically be
explained.

With that, Twilight sets Starswirl's book down on the
pedestal beside her. Immediately the book starts to GLOW.

48 SPIKE
Ah... Twilight?

As they stare at the glowing book, there's a FLASH of light
and suddenly STARSWIRL THE BEARDED is standing beside them,
his hoof on the book. Twilight looks up in awe.

49 TWILIGHT
Starswirl!? I-- I can't believe
it's you. I have so many questions.
I don't even know where to start--

Starswirl looks down at his book, not seeming to notice
Twilight at all.

50 TWILIGHT (CONT'D)
Starswirl?

51 SUNBURST
I don't think he can hear you. I
don't think any of them can.

PULL WIDE to reveal all the PILLARS OF OLD EQUESTRIA are there and the stone temple looks like new. Each Pillar stands by a separate stone (and next to each of the Mane Six)-- looks of determination on their faces.

Starswirl shoots a BLAST of magic from his horn at the dais and a ball of CRACKLING ENERGY forms. As the ball expands, DARKNESS pours out of it, spilling onto the dais.

The pool of darkness starts to gather, forming into a vague, pony-like shape. The darkness pony spreads massive, shadowy wings as two GLOWING EYES open and stare down at Starswirl and the rest. This is the PONY OF SHADOWS.

52 PONY OF SHADOWS
You may have summoned me,
Starswirl, but planting your
magical seed has left you weak. I
will destroy your "Tree of Harmony"
and extinguish the light of this
world - then none of you will be
able to defeat me!

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*

With that, the Shadow Pony pulses with DARKNESS, drawing what little light there is in the grove toward him -- even the moon starts to dim.

*
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*

Starswirl gathers himself, his horn crackling with the energy he has left as his stares up at the Shadow Pony.

*

53 STARSWIRL
We did not come here to defeat
you...

*

Starswirl sends a BLAST of magic at his book and immediately, the energy shoots around the circle connecting him to each of the other Pillars.

54 PONY OF SHADOWS
What are you doing?!

Glowing with Starswirl's magic, the other Pillars face the Shadow Pony.

55 STARSWIRL
We came to contain you.

Suddenly, with a massive BLAST, the energy from Starswirl and the others collapses toward the center and in a FLASH OF LIGHT, they all vanish.

As the MAGICAL VISION fades, the stone temple returns to it's dilapidated, overgrown state. As Twilight looks around, Pinkie pops up.

*

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56 PINKIE PIE

*

Well, you asked for an explanation.

Off Twilight's look of shock we...

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SC 7 - EXT. PONHENG - RESUME

Sunburst and the other ponies all stare at the ruins, in shock.

57 RAINBOW DASH
Uh... What just happened?

Twilight lifts the book from the pedestal. She floats it over and examines it.

58 TWILIGHT
I'm not sure.

59 STARLIGHT
It looked like Starswirl cast a spell that banished the Pony of Shadows.

Sunburst walks up and looks at the book more closely.

60 SUNBURST
Of course! Powerful magic like that would leave an impression on this place. Bringing the book back here let us see what happened.

61 APPLEJACK
Which was what?

62 TWILIGHT
Starswirl and the rest of the pillars sacrificed themselves to save Equestria.

Off the others' looks of shocked realization...

SC 8 - EST. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - DAY

The sun shines over the Castle of Friendship - a stark contrast to the preceding scene.

SC 9 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - DAY

Sunburst walks through the hall with Starlight.

63 STARLIGHT
It's amazing to think one of the great mysteries of Equestria was solved with an old book from an antique shop.

64 SUNBURST
Kind of gives you a new appreciation for antiquing, huh?

The share a smile.

65 SUNBURST (CONT'D)
But I wouldn't say the mystery was solved. It'll probably take years studying the journal before we can figure out Starswirl's spell.

Starlight nods as they walk into...

SC 10 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - LIBRARY - CONTINUOUS

The two of them stop short as they look at Twilight surrounded by stacks and stacks of books. Twilight looks up at them excited.

66 TWILIGHT
I think I figured out Starswirl's spell!

Off Starlight and Sunburst's looks of shock...

SC 11 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - MAP ROOM - LATER

Starlight, Sunburst, Spike, and the rest of the Mane Six gather around the map as Twilight looks from the journal to the map, talking a mile a minute.

67 TWILIGHT

(excited) I know I've finished one
of Starswirl's spells before (waves
her wings) but this was on a whole
different level!

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*

She floats several large books over, spinning through them in
a circle, almost like she's juggling.

*
*

68 TWILIGHT (CONT'D)

Was it an explosion of magical
feedback? An evocation? A new kind
of incantation? It's Starswirl, so
the possibilities are endless! And
once Starlight set me on the right
track with his crazy hornwriting --
(awkward nerd laugh) I mean, he was
a genius, so I guess we can forgive
a little messiness -- I went
through the journal again and it's
amazing!

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69 RARITY

Twilight, darling, we understand
you're excited, but you need to
slow down.

70 RAINBOW DASH

Yeah. What exactly is so amazing?

71 TWILIGHT

Only how Starswirl and the other
Pillars were able to send the Pony
of Shadows to limbo!

72 APPLEJACK

They did what now?

By way of explanation, Twilight floats over an intricately
constructed diorama - a miniature version of Ponhenge with
tiny cardboard cutout version of the Pillars surrounding the
central dais.

*
*
*

73 TWILIGHT

They used their magic to open a
portal between worlds, to limbo,
and pulled the Pony of Shadows
inside.

Twilight shoots the diorama with magic and a single point of
light appears over the tiny dais and expands into a sphere
that encompasses the whole thing. Then, in a FLASH, it
vanishes.

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*

74 RARITY *
Darling, your diorama! *

75 TWILIGHT *
Oh, I made more. *

WHIP PAN to a collection of half-built Ponhenges, popsicle *
sticks, glue and tape. *

Twilight floats the journal over and flips through the pages. *

76 TWILIGHT (CONT'D)
Starswirl thought the only way to *
trap the Pony of Shadows in limbo *
was for the Pillars to take him *
there. *

77 APPLEJACK *
(realizing) So they got stuck too. *

78 FLUTTERSHY
The Pony of Shadows must have been
really awful for them to do that.

79 PINKIE PIE
Yeah. Trapped for all time in limbo
with a bad guy does not sound like
fun.

Twilight sets the book down on the map and looks up at her
friends proudly.

80 TWILIGHT *
No it doesn't. But the thing is, I *
think we can get them out. *

They all look at Twilight in shock.

81 SUNBURST *
Twilight, are you serious? We can *
save the most legendary ponies of *
all time?

82 STARLIGHT *
You mean, like, re-open a portal *
between worlds? Is that safe? *

83 TWILIGHT
Starswirl was the greatest wizard
of all time. If there's even a
chance to save him, I have to try.

84 APPLEJACK
But the Pillars disappeared ages
ago, how can you rescue them now?

85 TWILIGHT
Limbo isn't like anywhere else.
Time stands still. If **we** can pull
them out, it'll be like they never
left.

*

The others all exchange looks of intrigue. Spike looks to
Twilight.

86 SPIKE
What can we do to help?

Twilight looks to the map, brightening.

87 TWILIGHT
If I'm right, I need to find items
that are connected to the pillars
in some way.

88 RAINBOW DASH
You mean, like, stuff that belonged
to them?

Twilight nods.

89 FLUTTERSHY
How would we know what to look for?
Or where?

*

90 TWILIGHT
Luckily, Starswirl took a lot of
notes...

*

Twilight floats Starswirl's journal over and starts to read.

*

91 TWILIGHT (CONT'D)
*(reading) ...my compatriots are as
varied as Equestria itself and hail
from every corner of our land,
bringing with them artifacts and
talismans from their realms...*

*

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*

As Twilight reads, the books starts to GLOW. The pages
flutter and beams of magic shoot out to different spots on
the map. Starlight looks to Twilight

*

*

*

92 STARLIGHT
Um, Twilight, what are you doing?

*

*

93 TWILIGHT *
(surprised) I'm not doing anything! *

As the beams of magic recede, five glowing objects are left *
floating over different parts of the map. CLOSE on each *
miniature glowing artifact as the Mane Six recognize them. *

94 APPLEJACK *
Rockhoof's shovel! *

95 RAINBOW DASH *
Flash Magnus's shield! *

96 RARITY *
Mistmane's flower. *

97 FLUTTERSHY *
Meadowbrook's mask. *

Pinkie jumps in.

98 PINKIE PIE *
And the blindfold Somnambula wore *
when she faced that nasty sphinx *
and saved a prince!

Twilight looks to her friends, pleased.

99 TWILIGHT *
I guess all we need to do now is *
figure out who should get what. *

Off everypony's looks of excited determination...

TRANSITION TO:

SC 12 - EST. ROCKHOOF'S VILLAGE SITE - DAY

Applejack stands on some rocks looking out at the site of Rockhoof's village (established in MLP716). It's a thousand years later, so all that's left is a flat spot looking over a ravine that stretches from a dormant volcano to the sea.

Applejack spots a small encampment and heads toward it.

SC 13 - EXT. ARCHEOLOGICAL DIG - DAY

Applejack walks into the camp to find several ponies standing in a large pit, carefully excavating stuff.

A few YOUNGER PONIES gather around an academic looking pony, PROFESSOR FOSSIL, as she unearths a viking-esque helmet.

100 YOUNGER PONY
(excited) Professor! It a Mighty
Helm headpiece! Maybe it belonged
to Rockhoof himself!

101 PROFESSOR FOSSIL
It's an impressive find, to be
sure, but I doubt it belonged to
Rockhoof - if he even existed.

102 APPLEJACK (O.S.)
Oh, I guarantee you he did.

The archeologist ponies all turn to see Applejack standing at
the edge of the pit looking down at them.

103 PROFESSOR FOSSIL
(laughs) And I suppose that ravine
was dug with Rockhoof's trusty
shovel to save the village from an
erupting volcano.

104 APPLEJACK
Probably.

105 PROFESSOR FOSSIL
I love old legends as much as
anypony - that's why I became an
archeologist - but stories and
facts are different things.

Applejack looks to a collection of recently unearthed items:
helmets, shields, spears, tools, etc.

106 APPLEJACK
But what's the point of digging all
this stuff up if there's no story
to go with them?

107 PROFESSOR FOSSIL
Stories make us feel good about the
past, but that doesn't mean they're
true - and a pony strong enough to
save a village from rushing lava
with a shovel is preposterous!

*

Suddenly, one of the younger ponies removes a section of
earth that supports a GIANT ROCK. The boulder shakes and
starts to fall on top of the professor and her students.

Without thinking, Applejack jumps into the pit and uses her
powerful hind legs to catch the boulder before it falls on
the professor and her students.

*
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*

While the archeologist ponies look on in shock, Applejack gives the rock a huge shove, bucking it out of the pit and saving them all.

*
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*

108 PROFESSOR FOSSIL (CONT'D)
(amazed) I can't believe you just
did that. You saved us!

*
*
*

109 APPLEJACK
I bet if you told somepony else the
story it might sound preposterous.

The professor gives her a look.

110 PROFESSOR FOSSIL
I suppose some stories might be
true...

*
*

Suddenly, the rock wall behind where the boulder fell cracks and gives way, revealing an ancient Viking-esque tomb and a mural depicting ROCKHOOF digging the channel, while the volcano erupts in the background.

*
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*

On top of the tomb is a Mighty Helm headpiece and a SHOVEL. Applejack reaches for the shovel and it GLOWS at her touch. The Professor turns to her, wide-eyed.

*
*
*

111 PROFESSOR FOSSIL (CONT'D)
And Rockhoof's appears to be one of
them.

*
*

As Applejack looks at the glowing shovel with wonder...

SC 14 - EXT. VILLAGE - DAY

Rarity arrives in a quaint, Asian-influenced village (this is Mistmane's village from MLP716 - a thousand years later). She stops a VILLAGE PONY in the street.

112 RARITY
Excuse me. You wouldn't know where
I could find a perpetually blooming
magical flower, would you?

*

The village pony cocks her head at Rarity, then points down the road.

*
*

113 VILLAGE PONY
I don't know about magical, but if
your looking for flowers I'd try
the old botanical gardens.

*
*

114 RARITY
Well, that was easy.

SC 15 - EST. BOTANICAL GARDENS - DAY

An expansive green house like the Botanical Garden of the University of Vienna (ref: <http://tinyurl.com/gojy76a>) sits at the end of a long dirt path.

SC 16 - INT. BOTANICAL GARDENS - CONTINUOUS

Rarity pushes open a rusty old door and finds the inside is dilapidated and woefully overgrown, like an indoor jungle.

115 RARITY
Hmmm. Maybe not as easy as I thought.

Rarity looks up at a SHAFT OF SUNLIGHT shining through the glass ceiling and walks in to see where it falls.

SC 17 - INT. BOTANICAL GARDENS - CENTER - CONTINUOUS

As she pushes her way through the dense growth, Rarity comes to a small clearing where the shaft of sunlight lands on a single, perfect ORCHID sitting on a pedestal.

As Rarity approaches, the orchid starts to GLOW. Rarity reaches toward it, and a small FLOATING SPADE smacks her on the hoof.

116 RARITY
OW!

117 OLD GARDENER (O.S.)
You keep those hoofs to yourself, dearie!

Rarity whips around to find a OLD GARDENER UNICORN staring at her with a frown. She points her little spade at Rarity, threateningly.

118 OLD GARDENER (CONT'D)
These gardens have been in my family for generations, and I'm not about to let some whippersnapper take the last of it. Time was, ponies came from far and wide to see them. But that orchid's all that's left.

Rarity looks around at all the overgrown plants.

119 RARITY
What about everything else?

120 OLD GARDENER
Everything else? I just said that
flower's all there is.

With that, Rarity grins and charges up her horn as we
TRANSITION TO:

A MONTAGE

The Old Gardener watches, curious, as Rarity:

- Floats several pair of hedge clippers through the thick
weeds, trimming and chopping as they go and leaving behind
perfect rows of green.

- Uses several spades to dig up and smooth pebble paths,
winding their way through the gardens.

- Levitates water cans and hoses around, spritzing the
flowers and watering the trees as she goes.

- Uses pruning shears to shape and mold bushes and trees into
various animal shapes.

- Finally she and the Old Gardener look out at the perfectly
restored Botanical Gardens, pleased.

END MONTAGE

The Old Gardener looks at Rarity, impressed.

*

121 RARITY
Your gardens were still here, they
just needed a little sprucing up. I
am sorry you'll have to look after
more than just the flower now.

*
*
*
*

The Gardener walks up to the pedestal and takes the orchid.
She brings it over to Rarity and holds it out.

122 OLD GARDENER
You take it. It's been in my family
long enough. And I have a whole
garden to care for now.

*

Please, Rarity takes the pot and the flower starts to GLOW.
Off both of their surprised looks...

*

SC 18 - EXT. DRAGONLANDS - DAY

Spike and Rainbow Dash make their way through the harsh terrain of the Dragon Lands.

123 RAINBOW DASH
I can't believe Flash Magnus's
shield ended up in the Dragon
Lands.

*
*
*

124 SPIKE
Good thing you brought the official
Friendship Ambassador to help you
navigate our customs.

*
*
*

Dash rolls her eyes, but as they look out at a GROUP OF
DRAGONS at the edge of a steep ravine, Spike lights up.

*
*

125 SPIKE (CONT'D)
Like the Dragon Land's favorite
sport - gorge surfing!

*

With that, Spike runs off toward the group. Dash shrugs and follows.

SC 19 - EXT. DRAGONLANDS - EDGE OF RAVINE - CONTINUOUS

*

Spike arrives as one of the dragons grabs a slab of stone and
rides it like a surfboard all the way down.

*
*

The dragons all <CHEER> as Dash flies up to join them.

*

126 RAINBOW DASH
Okay. That was awesome.

That dragons turn and stare at Dash. One of them steps
forward.

*

127 DRAGON 1
Dragon Lord Ember commanded us to
make peace with ponies, but doesn't
mean you can surf in our spot.

128 SPIKE
Whoa! Fellas. Dragon Lord Ember
appointed me Ambassador of
Friendship, and I have to say, that
wasn't very friendly.

*
*
*
*

A familiar dragon voice calls out.

129 GARBLE (O.S.)
What a surprise. The pony dragon's
sticking up for his pony friend.

Spike turn to see GARBLE step from the crowd. He's flips a
triangular piece of metal in his claws - FLASH MAGNUS'
SHIELD. Dash's eyes go wide. *

130 RAINBOW DASH
Where'd you get that? *

Dash reaches out for it, but Garble yanks it away.

131 GARBLE
Hooves off my gorge board! I found
it in the desert and finder's
keepers. *

132 SPIKE
That's an ancient pony artifact.

133 RAINBOW DASH
And it doesn't belong to you.

134 GARBLE
Oh really? How about I race you for
it.

135 RAINBOW DASH
Pfft. No problem.

136 GARBLE
Um... no. (points at Spike) I meant
you. *

Spike gives Dash a sheepish look. *

MOMENTS LATER

Spike and Garble are perched at the edge of the ravine. One
of the dragons stands nearby.

137 DRAGON 1
On your marks... Get set... Surf!

As they take off, Garble immediately cuts in front of Spike. *

138 GARBLE
See ya at the bottom!

Spike swerves and starts tumbling head over rock slab.

139 SPIKE
WHAAAOOOOOAAAA!

Garble skillfully surfs down the steep incline as Spike somersaults down, somehow managing to hold on to his slab.

Spike hits a rock and catapults into the air, over Garble, and lands on his slab. Dash and the other Dragons <CHEER>.

Spike swerves and surfs out of sight. Garble follows.

SC 20 - EXT. DRAGONLANDS - RAVINE - CONTINUOUS

Spike slides to the bottom of the ravine and jumps off his slab. Garble slides down right behind him. *

140 SPIKE
I won? I won! WOOO-HOOO! Give up
the shield, Garble. *

Garble hops off the shield and flips it up into his claws skateboard-style. He steps toward Spike menacingly. *

141 GARBLE
Lord Ember only commanded us to be
nice to ponies. She never said
anything about pony loving dragons. *

Spike looks around to see he's cornered by the high walls of the ravine. Garble grins as he closes in. Off Spike's worried expression we...

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

SC 21 - EXT. DRAGONLANDS - RAVINE - RESUME

Garble takes another step toward Spike, who looks around nervous.

142 SPIKE
D-don't you think, the magic of
Lord Ember's Bloodstone Scepter
makes it impossible for you to
fight with ponies and their
friends? *

143 GARBLE
I guess we'll find out! *

With that, Garble picks up a nearby boulder and tosses it at Spike. Spike covers up just as a RAINBOW <WHOOSH> flies between him and Garble, flipping the rock back at Garble and onto his tail.

144 GARBLE (CONT'D)
(in pain) <ARRRGGGHH!>

Spike looks up to see Rainbow Dash standing in front of him.

145 RAINBOW DASH
If you wanna pick on Spike, you're
going to have to get through me.

146 GARBLE
Ugh. Why does he always hide behind
ponies?

147 SPIKE
I wasn't hiding when I beat you
down the ridge.

148 GARBLE
You didn't beat me. You fell.

149 RAINBOW DASH
Wow, you must be slow, if all Spike
had to do to win was fall down.

150 GARBLE
I'm faster than you.

151 RAINBOW DASH
Doubt it.

Garble put the shield on his back and points toward a visible *
part of the ridge above. *

152 GARBLE
Fine. I'll race you back to the
top. If you win, you can have your
pony artifact. But if I win, you *
stop protecting your little friend.

Spike shoots Dash a worried look, but she gives him a wink -
having an idea.

153 RAINBOW DASH
Fine. I'm pretty sure I could beat *
you anyway, but with that heavy *
hunk of metal on your back, it'll *
be a snap.

Garble takes the shield off and hefts it, considering.

154 GARBLE
Huh. Thanks for the tip. On-your- *
marks-get-set-go! *

With that, Garble drops the shield and takes off, **shouting back.**

*
*

155 GARBLE (CONT'D)
See ya at the top, loser!

*

Garble soars to the top of the ridge and lands triumphantly.

Dash smiles and picks up the shield. It starts to glow in her hooves. Garble looks down at them and frowns.

156 GARBLE (CONT'D)
(shouts) Hey! That's mine!

Dash smiles as Spike hops on her back.

157 **SPIKE**
(shouts) Finders keepers, remember?

*

As they zoom off, one of the other dragon's walks up to Garble.

158 DRAGON 1
See, because that's what you said
to them--

Off Garble giving the other dragon a withering look...

SC 22 - EXT. HAYSEED SWAMP - DAY

CLOSE on the MASK OF MISTMANE (est. in MLP718) as it bobs up and down in frame.

PULL WIDE to reveal Cattail's wearing the mask as he shuffles around in front of a FLASH BEE HIVE. The BEES and the QUEEN all float around in front of him, entranced.

159 FLUTTERSHY
Just remember not to turn away from
them, Cattail. Flash bees, can get
pretty aggressive. **I guess that's
why none of the other bayou animals
can get to the water.**

*
*
*

**REVEAL - a few SNAKES, FROGS, and BABY ALLIGATORS, staring
longingly at the swampy marsh just beyond the flash bee hive.**

*
*

160 CATTAIL
Wouldn't it make more sense for you
to wear the mask that calms **the
bees.**

*
*

161 FLUTTERSHY
It would--

Fluttershy carefully pulls the entire hive off of it's branch and flies with it to a much higher one.

162 FLUTTERSHY (CONT'D)
--if I didn't have to fly up here
to move their hive.

Fluttershy uses a little bayou mud to reattach the hive.

163 FLUTTERSHY (CONT'D)
There. Now the other bayou
creatures can get to the water
without the bees feeling
threatened.

*
*
*
*

Fluttershy looks down at a few grateful SNAKES and FROGS. Cattail slowly backs away from the bees and removes the mask.

The bees all snap out of their trance and fly back to their hive, now much higher up. Cattail joins Fluttershy by the tree and both look up to see the bees are high enough for all the other animals to move freely below.

Cattail holds out the mask for Fluttershy.

164 CATTAIL
You know, you didn't have to help
with this. I'd have lent you the
mask anyway.

165 FLUTTERSHY
(smiles) I know. But I couldn't
leave without helping.

Futtershy takes the mask and it GLOWS in her hooves. Cattail looks at it, curious. Off Fluttershy's pleased look...

SC 23 - INT. PYRAMID NEAR SOMNAMBULA - DAY

DARING DO along with several other VILLAGERS of Somnambula stand on the edge of chasm we saw in MLP717. It's still full of undulating GREEN SLIME.

166 VILLAGER
I don't think anypony can find
anything in there.

167 DARING DO
I wouldn't give up hope just yet.

Suddenly there's a loud <POP>. The giant pool of slime starts to recede - like a bathtub draining. Daring Do and the villagers watch as the slime level gets lower and lower.

REVEAL - Pinkie standing at the bottom of the pit wearing snorkeling equipment and water wings. She's next to a drain holding up what looks like a long rag.

168 PINKIE PIE
This old blindfold was stuck in the
drain.

Daring Do shouts down from the top.

169 DARING DO
Pinkie, weren't you looking for a
blindfold.

170 PINKIE PIE
Oh, yeah!

Pleased, Pinkie looks over as the blindfold starts to GLOW in her hooves. *
*

SC 24 - EXT. PONDHEDGE - DAY *

Twilight and Sunburst stand in front of the dais, looking through Starswirl's book. *
*

171 SUNBURST
(excited) I can't believe we're
going to meet Starswirl the Bearded. *

Starlight finishes cleaning off the last pedestal.

172 STARLIGHT
I can't believe we're actually
going through with it. *
*

Twilight looks over at her student.

173 TWILIGHT
What do you mean?

174 STARLIGHT
I'm all for pushing the envelope,
but this is pretty out there for
you, Twilight. *
*
*

Twilight and Sunburst share a look. *

175 SUNBURST
What's "out there" about rescuing
the most legendary ponies of all
time from a thousand year-old
prison? *

176 STARLIGHT
Well, nothing when you say it like
that. *

Twilight and Sunburst nod and look back to the book, then... *

177 STARLIGHT (CONT'D)
Unless... "the most legendary
ponies of all time" knew what they
were doing and we shouldn't mess
with it. *

178 SUNBURST
Starswirl cast his banishment spell
ages ago. We know things about
magic he couldn't possibly have
known then. *

179 STARSWIRL
That's true. (to Twilight) And you
did get your wings from finishing
one of his spells... *

180 TWILIGHT
Exactly. *

They look back to the book again, until... *

181 STARLIGHT
But then I messed with one and
nearly destroyed the universe,
so... *

182 TWILIGHT
Starlight, I've been studying
Starswirl my whole life. I'm pretty
sure he'd want us to try to save
him. *

183 SPIKE (O.S.)
That's good news.

Twilight, Starlight, and Sunburst turn to see Spike and Dash
emerge from the dense overgrowth.

184 RAINBOW DASH
Otherwise, we'd have brought this
shield for nothing!

As Dash holds up **Flash Magnus's** shield, Applejack enters the clearing from the other side. *

185 APPLEJACK
I hope you don't think you're the
only one to find her artifact,
because this here shovel says
otherwise.

Applejack twirls Rockhoof's shovel in one hoof. Pinkie, Fluttershy, and Rarity appear, each holding their respective object.

186 RARITY
Honestly, you two. Not everything
is a competition. (floating up her
orchid) Though Mistmane's flower is
by far the most attractive of the
artifacts.

187 PINKIE PIE
You're just saying that because you
didn't have to snorkel in a pit of
green slime to get yours.

188 FLUTTERSHY
Or move a Flash Bee hive.

Each of the Mane Six takes their places in front of a stone slab and lays their artifact on the pedestal in front of them. Twilight looks to her friends and smiles. *
*
*

189 TWILIGHT
Good work everyone. *

Starlight gives Twilight a concerned look.

190 STARLIGHT
You're sure about this?

191 TWILIGHT
Absolutely.

Starlight nods **as** she and Sunburst **rear back and BLAST Starswirl's book with magic.** Twilight gives them all a confident look, then **adds her magic to theirs.** *
*
*

Just as in the vision earlier, magical energy shoots around the circle, connecting each of the pillars' objects.

The circle pulses with energy then in a FLASH OF LIGHT the Pillars of Old Equestria appear, each standing next to the item. Starswirl looks around disoriented. *

192 STARSWIRL
What-- What **has** happened?

*

Twilight looks at her idol in awe.

193 TWILIGHT
It worked! We brought you back.

194 STARSWIRL
Brought us back **to** where?

*

195 TWILIGHT
You and the others **have been**
trapped in limbo **for a thousand**
years, but I figured out how to get
you back. You're in Equestria!

*

*

*

Suddenly, Starswirl's confusion turns to fear.

196 STARSWIRL
Oh, no. No, no, no, no-- You **must**
send us back!

*

*

197 TWILIGHT
What? Why? I mean, I **don't think** I
can.

*

Starswirl tries to do it himself. His horn **GLOWS**, but he's
obviously depleted and drops to a knee.

*

198 STARSWIRL
You **cannot** bring us back--

*

199 TWILIGHT
But I did.

200 STARSWIRL
You **cannot** bring **only** us back...

*

Starswirl points at the central dais as a ball of crackling
energy starts to swirl above it.

Realization starts to dawn on Twilight's face as DARK ENERGY
spills out of the glowing ball.

201 TWILIGHT
Oh, no...

The DARKNESS pours onto the dais in a pool, then coalesces,
rising up in the shape of a towering, shadowy pony.

Two GLOWING EYES open and stare down at Starswirl and the
rest as billowing, shadowy wings unfurl and THE PONY OF
SHADOWS <LAUGHS>.

As Twilight and the rest look on in horror we...

FADE OUT

END PART ONE