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MY LITTLE PONY
Season 8

Road to Friendship
Ep 819

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ROAD TO FRIENDSHIP

Outline by Josh Haber

Logline: When Starlight accompanies Trixie on tour in her caravan, they both learn that even the greatest and most powerful friendships can be challenged by close quarters.

TEASER**SC. 1 - EXT. TRIXIE'S CARAVAN – NEAR PONYVILLE – DAY**

Trixie finishes a show in Ponyville with Starlight helping out as her on stage assistant. Afterward, Cadance (who's come down for the show) compliments them on their chemistry. It's almost like they've known each other as long as she and Twilight have. Twilight agrees there's nothing better than sharing a deep bond with another pony. She and Cadance do their "Sunshine, sunshine, ladybugs awake..." chant as an example. Trixie and Starlight share a smirk. No matter how deep their friendship is, chanting isn't really their thing. "The great and powerful Trixie doesn't chant."

ACT ONE**SC. 2 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE – DAY**

Inspired by Cadance's observation, Trixie confesses to Starlight that she's always believed that, as great and powerful as her show is, it is always improved when Starlight helps out. Twilight agrees that the two of them really do perform well together. Starlight admits that she enjoys the showponyship of stage magic. Trixie reveals that there is a pony from Saddle Arabian in town – who loved the show – and has asked Trixie to extend her tour through the Mysterious South to his homeland. Normally, Trixie wouldn't consider such a long trip – the road can be a lonely place – so, she invites Starlight to come with her. She can't promise they'll come up with their own chant, but it'll be a chance to bond like no ponies have ever bonded before. Starlight is intrigued and delighted at the prospect, but isn't sure she can take the time off from her responsibilities at Twilight's school. Twilight tells her she shouldn't pass up the opportunity. She'll take care of the councilor duties while Starlight takes a brief sabbatical. Excited, Starlight runs off to pack.

SC. 3 - EXT. TRIXIE'S CARAVAN – NEAR PONYVILLE – DAY

Meanwhile, Trixie meets up with the Saddle Arabian pony to work out the details of her tour. He is quite taken with her caravan and asks if she'd like to trade it for his, which is newer and bigger, but Trixie has a Han Solo/Millennium Falcon relationship with her wagon and could

never part with it – it would be like trading away an old friend. The Saddle Arabian pony understands, but he tells her that if she ever decides to change her mind, his offer still stands.

SC. 4 - EXT. TRIXIE'S CARAVAN – NEAR PONYVILLE - LATER

Starlight arrives and knocks on the door. Trixie calls out that she's just finishing up reconfiguring the wagon for a two-pony-tour. From inside we hear a <CRASH>, then Trixie opens the door, disheveled. "Ahem. One magician/magician's assistant caravan ready to hit the road!" Starlight excitedly starts showing Trixie all the things she's brought to keep them occupied, puzzles, games, cooking pots (because what's a road trip without cookouts), etc. Trixie looks at all of Starlight's gear, concerned, and as Starlight steps inside the wagon we see why...

SC. 5 - INT. TRIXIE'S CARAVAN – CONTINUOUS

The place is TINY. Also, it's already packed to the gills with all the things Trixie uses in her show, cabinets, magic paraphernalia, props, set pieces, etc. – and it looks like Trixie has never thrown a single thing away. She turns to Starlight, embarrassed, but proud of her collection. "I promise it is all very well organized. Never fear, we'll find a place for everything. I always do!"

TIME CUT

Trixie and Starlight lay in a pair of hammocks, suspended over all the stuff that Trixie has managed to cram into the tiny caravan. Trixie admits that the caravan is pretty small and she understands if Starlight is having second thoughts. But Starlight insists that it's fine. It might not be perfect, but they can make it work. Besides, "close quarters will make their bonding even more bond-worthy. It's not small – it's cozy." Relieved, Trixie tells her it's time to shove off and starts trying to maneuver herself out (somepony has to pull the wagon), hoofs and flanks in Starlight's face as she contorts and squeezes by – careful not to set off her smoke bombs. Finally, she manages to get out and closes the door – which sets off a chain reaction that breaks a few of the smoke bombs. As smoke pours from the windows, Trixie opens the door to see Starlight's soot covered face. Starlight <COUGHS> "Okay, maybe it's too cozy."

ACT TWO

SC. 6 - INT. TRIXIE'S CARAVAN – RESUME

Trixie admits that Starlight might be right about the caravan being too small for the both of them. Starlight appreciates the trouble Trixie went through and is determined to make it work. Trixie isn't sure how, but Starlight looks over the list of the towns on their tour and points out that there's plenty of accommodations available along the route. She tells Trixie not to worry about it

and they set off. <MUSIC UP> as Trixie turns to Starlight, “I don’t usually sing, but there’s just something about road trips...”

SC. 7 - EXT. ROAD – SONG – VARIOUS

In a travel montage-type song, “The Road to Friendship” (in the style of the old Bing Crosby/Bob Hope “The Road To...” films), Starlight and Trixie sing about the wonders of taking a road trip with a friend: sharing experiences, spending time together, working together to find their way, etc. In a travel-log series of shots we see them trekking through various points of interest and passing other ponies on the road – including the Saddle Arabian pony who joins in for a few bars. As the song progresses we also see the potential flip (i.e., negative) sides of everything they’ve mentioned: not having enough personal space, being stuck with one pony the whole time, blaming each other for getting lost, etc. But, as the song wraps up they both agree that they are lucky none of those potential bad things about traveling apply to them. Hooray!

SC. 8 - EXT. SOMNAMBULA – NIGHT

They pull into the village of Somnambula and Trixie asks Starlight where they are staying. Starlight admits that she doesn’t know and after a quick visit to all of the options, they discover that there aren’t any rooms available. Trixie is perturbed. Didn’t Starlight tell her not to worry about it? She assumed Starlight was going to take care of these things. Starlight, “When would I have been able to do that. I’ve been on the road (singing) with you this whole time!” Trixie admits she has no idea how assistants work their particular brand of magic, she just assumed it would be taken care of. Starlight is confused. Did Trixie just bring her along to be her lackey? Trixie apologizes and admits that she’s let her frustrations get the better of her, but points out they are stuck together in her tiny caravan, since there is literally no room at the inn(s).

SC. 9 - INT. TRIXIE’S CARAVAN – NIGHT

As they climb/maneuver/contort their way into their hammocks they both remind each other why they’re there. Starlight points out that being forced to share the small space will be a bonding moment they will look back on with fondness – someday. With that, they try settling in for some sleep. Unfortunately, there are more challenges to sharing the space than just elbow room...

MONTAGE OF ANNOYING THINGS:

- Starlight tries to get comfortable but keeps getting poked by various props. When Trixie asks if there’s anything she can do, Starlight suggests she get rid of some of her old junk. Trixie is clearly insulted, but suggests they switch hammocks.

- Finally asleep, Trixie is almost immediately awakened by what she thinks is a wild animal, only to discover that it's Starlight's SNORING – which is particularly loud. She tries to deal with it, but finally has to wake Starlight up to get her to stop. Starlight is taken aback, but tries to come up with a solution – wrapping her muzzle shut with some cloth.

- Unable to sleep now, herself, Starlight is forced to listen as Trixie talks in her sleep – rehearsing stage banter, giving away the secret of tricks, etc.

- In the morning, they groggily share a breakfast over the campfire, each upset the other used the last of their favorite breakfast item and neither willing to admit how unbearable sharing a night with each other actually was.

SC. 10 - EXT. SOMNAMBULA - DAY

The two of them crankily wrap up what was obviously a terrible show, botched tricks left and right, etc. During a less than inspired finale, they exchange passive aggressive barbs in their stage banter, then leave the stage to a smattering of polite applause.

SC. 11 - EXT. TRIXIE'S CARAVAN – CAMPGROUND – NIGHT

The passive aggressive banter continues as they try to cook dinner over a fire outside the wagon. Finally, everything that's been bothering them bubbles to the surface. Starlight's snoring is unbearable – it's like sleeping next to a wild boar! Trixie's sleep talking is insufferable – Starlight hears enough of the show when she's awake! Starlight doesn't want to spend another minute in that caravan unless Trixie considers making some room. Trixie is upset that Starlight would even suggest she get rid of her things. Starlight can't believe she won't make space, especially since she invited her! Trixie decides to sleep under the stars which suits Starlight just fine! Trixie slams the door and more smoke bombs go off. She storms off to get as far away from the sound of Starlight's snoring as possible. Starlight exits the wagon <COUGHING> just as the Saddle Arabian pony pulls up. He looks at the smoke pouring out of the caravan and asks if there's trouble on the road to friendship.

SC. 12 - EXT. CAMPGROUND – MORNING

In the morning, Trixie trudges back to the campground – looking like her night “under the stars” wasn't any more restful than her sleep the previous night (twigs in her mane, etc.) But when she arrives, she's shocked to find that her caravan is gone! Starlight hops out of a new wagon and proudly announces she's solved their problem. She traded Trixie's caravan to that wonderful pony from Saddle Arabia for his much larger one!

ACT THREE**SC. 13 - EXT. CAMPGROUND – RESUME**

Trixie loses her mind. She can't believe Starlight would trade away something that didn't belong to her. Starlight defends herself. She was just trying to solve the problem – and thought she did a pretty good job. Now Trixie doesn't have to get rid of any of her stuff and there's plenty of room for the both of them. Trixie corrects her. She did have to give something away – her caravan, i.e., her best friend. Starlight is insulted. She had no idea Trixie was better friends with her old, beat-up caravan than she was with her. Trixie counters that the caravan actually was a better friend since it never would have traded Starlight away. Starlight tells her that's ridiculous and Trixie admits she's right. In fact, the whole trip is ridiculous and she doesn't know why she invited Starlight in the first place. Hurt, Starlight suggests that she just head home. Trixie agrees and suggests that she take her new, horrible, giant caravan with her. Starlight, "Fine!" Trixie, "Good!" And with that, Starlight turns the caravan around and heads back toward Ponyville as Trixie marches off, determined to continue her tour, on foot (hoof).

SC. 14 - EXT. ROADSIDE – LATER

Frustrated and upset, Trixie trudges down the road until she comes upon her old caravan parked by the side of the road. Overjoyed, she races up to open the door, but it's locked. She pulls at the handle with all her magic, but it's no use. Finally, the door opens and the Saddle Arabian pony sticks his head out. Trixie demands he return her caravan, but he tells her it's his caravan now. It was traded to him fair and square. Trixie tries to explain that the wagon was traded to him under false pretenses, but he doesn't understand. Was her caravan not too small for herself and her travelling companion? Was his wagon not a better fit? He desired her quaint, tiny wagon and was will to provide one that better suited her needs. It seemed like a perfect trade to him. Frustrated, Trixie tries to explain that there is more to it than that, but the Saddle Arabian pony isn't convinced and starts to leave. Left with no other option, Trixie lays down in the road and refuses to let the Saddle Arabian pony pass. The Saddle Arabian pony tells her he's a patient pony and can wait as long as she can. We watch as time moves forward in fast-motion and the sun sets. Finally, it's night and the frustrated Saddle Arabian pony points out that even if he was willing to trade her caravan back, Trixie doesn't have his to make the exchange.

SC. 15 - EXT. ROAD – NIGHT

Starlight pulls the caravan down the road, past the various points of interest that she and Trixie went by at the beginning of their journey when they both thought the trip would be fun. She comes across a pair of ponies they passed before who were inspired by their friendship and have decided to set off on a road trip of their own. In a brief reprise of "The Road to Friendship,"

Starlight is reminded of what the trip was supposed to be and even thinks fondly of their annoying peccadillos and misadventures in the brief time they spent on the road together. She finishes, looks at the large, new wagon, and frowns – coming to a decision.

SC. 16 - EXT. ROADSIDE – NIGHT

As Trixie and the Saddle Arabian pony continue their stalemate, Starlight pulls up with the larger caravan. The Saddle Arabian pony insists that he's not going to change his mind, even if Trixie's assistant has brought back his caravan. Trixie balks, "Assistant? I have no assistant. I barely know this pony at all." Undeterred, Starlight admits that she shouldn't have traded the caravan, because it wasn't hers, it was her friend's. Impressed, the Saddle Arabian pony confesses that if they really were friends, he'd be honor bound to return the caravan, but since they're not, he gets to keep it. "Fine!" Trixie admits, they are friends who share a deep bond, but all the same, they probably shouldn't travel together ever again. Trixie and Starlight share a smile. But when the Saddle Arabian pony asks them to prove they are friends, Trixie is stumped until Starlight suggests they do their friendship chant – giving Trixie a wink. Trixie catches on. "Riiiiight, our world famous chant of friendship." They then proceed to attempt to improvise a chant like Cadance and Twilight's that's emblematic of their "deep, life-long friendship," but it's pretty clear they're making it up as they go. Finally, the ridiculous chant culminates in them accidentally knocking the Saddle Arabian pony into the caravan and slamming the door shut which causes the smoke bombs inside to go off again. The soot-covered and disheveled Saddle Arabian pony emerges and tells them that was the worst friendship chant he's ever heard, but if the two of them are willing to make such big fools of themselves in front of each other, they are clearly friends and he agrees to trade back the caravan. All the same, he'd prefer if they just headed home and forgot all about a tour to his homeland.

SC. 17 - EXT. ROAD – NEAR PONYVILLE – DAY

On the way home Starlight feels bad about Trixie not getting to finish her tour. Trixie tells her it's fine. She wouldn't have been able to stand one more second on the road. At a certain point she can't even handle traveling with herself. They both agree the road is a hard place for a friendship, but having had the experience – and knowing not to repeat it – they feel their friendship is greater and more powerful than ever!

END OF EPISODE