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MY LITTLE PONY
Season 8

A Rockhoof and a Hard Place
Ep 821

Teleplay 1st Draft

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Teleplay 1st Draft: Kaita Mpambara

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TEASER**SC. 1 - EXT. ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG OF ROCKHOOF'S VILLAGE - DAY**

CLOSE as a UNICORN uses an ARCHAEOLOGIST'S BRUSH (suspended with magic) to delicately sweep away at some rock. Suddenly a large shovel <SLAMS> into the ground, causing the unicorn to <JUMP> and sending the brush flying.

The shovel belongs to the jovial Pillar ROCKHOOF, who steps on its end to send a huge clump of dirt flying.

1 ROCKHOOF
You're gonna have to work faster
than that if you plan to dig up my
whole village, laddie. Let me help.

Rockhoof slams the shovel in the ground again. The archaeologist blocks him, panicked.

2 UNICORN ARCHAEOLOGIST
Uh, thanks, Mr. Rockhoof. But
we're trying to carefully preserve
every bit of history here.

Rockhoof nods and looks around at the dig site, nostalgic.

3 ROCKHOOF
Aye, this place is full of
memories.

Rockhoof kicks at the ground to unearth an old WOODEN BALL, which he starts to hacky-sack, to the archaeologist's dismay.

4 ROCKHOOF (CONT'D)
Did I tell you about the time our
chieftan knocked down five boulders
with the kick of a wee ball?

5 UNICORN ARCHAEOLOGIST
<whimpers> (then) PLEASE STOP!

Rockhoof stops kicking the ball, confused.

6 ROCKHOOF
But...That's what this is for.

7 UNICORN ARCHAEOLOGIST
Maybe in the past! Now, it belongs
in a museum! Safe. Preserved.
Untouched.

Rockhoof rolls his eyes as the unicorn seizes the ball.

8 ROCKHOOF
Oh, next you'll be telling me I
shouldn't use the sweatlodge.

WHIP PAN to an excavated ROTTED WOODEN SHED, with STEAM coming out of it. A board falls off, <SWINGING>.

The unicorn blanches and we hear an O.S. <CRASH> as the sweatlodge falls apart off-screen.

DISSOLVE TO:

SC. 2 - INT. TWILIGHT'S SCHOOL - HEADMARE'S OFFICE - NEXT DAY

Rockhoof is explaining this all to TWILIGHT SPARKLE.

9 ROCKHOOF
So Professor Fossil told me to find
someplace else to live. I said,
fine. Who wants to stay in a
village where they get excited
about moldy old hoof clippings?

10 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
We'd be honored to have you here,
Rockhoof. Imagine everything our
students could learn from an actual
Pillar of Equestria!

Just then, OCELLUS enters.

11 ROCKHOOF
CHANGELING! Flee, princess! I'll
hold her off!

Rockhoof takes a defensive stance. In fear, Ocellus
<TRANSFORMS> into a BOOKSHELF. Twilight steps between them--

12 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Whoa! Rockhoof, meet Ocellus. One
of our friendship students.

Rockhoof is embarrassed. Gently--

13 ROCKHOOF
Oh, hello. Sorry about that.
 (to Twilight)
Guess I could do some learning
myself.

END TEASER

MAIN TITLES

*

ACT ONE**SC. 3 - INT. SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP - MAIN HALL - NEXT DAY**

Twilight stands behind a podium on a wooden stage, addressing the school's STUDENTS and TEACHERS.

14 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
...So join me in welcoming
Professor Rockhoof to our School of
Friendship faculty!

<HOOF STOMPING APPLAUSE>. Rockhoof steps on stage and nods to the assembly.

15 ROCKHOOF
Thank you all. Glad to be here.
I'm new to your world, but there's
one thing I learned when I saved my
village from a river of molten
rushing lava...

Rockhoof starts to get in storyteller mode. His audience leans in, especially YONA.

16 ROCKHOOF (CONT'D)
There's nothing you can't do with
hard work and a shovel!

Rockhoof twirls his shovel and slams it on the stage.
<BOOM!> The stage <COLLAPSES>, and Rockhoof falls a few feet into the hole.

ANGLE on the surprised students. Yona is still enthralled.

17 SMOLDER
Except maybe stand on stage.

Twilight moves to magically help levitate Rockhoof out of the floor, while SPIKE runs up to help tug him free.

18 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Uh, so, everycreature is dismissed!
We'll see you in class!

SC. 4 - INT. SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP - CLASSROOM - SOON

OCELLUS, GALLUS, SILVERSTREAM, SMOLDER, YONA, and SANDBAR file into class with a few ND PONIES.

19 SMOLDER
You think that new pony is gonna be
the weirdest teacher at school? Or
just one of the weirdest?

20 YONA
Yona like new teacher! He big,
like yak!

21 GALLUS
And he breaks things like a yak.
He's loud like a yak. He smells
like a yak...

22 YONA
Yes! He perfect.

23 SANDBAR
Guys, he's one of the Pillars!
He's like...Pony history!

24 OCELLUS
He kinda scares me.

25 SILVERSTREAM
I wonder what he'll be teaching?

26 ROCKHOOF (O.S.)
An excellent question!

Rockhoof struts into the room, trying to make an impressive entrance. But his shovel accidentally SMACKS into the door-frame, RIPPING OUT a chunk of plaster!

Rockhoof looks at the damage for a beat, then decides to proceed as if nothing happened.

27 ROCKHOOF (CONT'D)
I'm your new "Applied Friendship"
teacher.

28 SILVERSTREAM
Ooh! What does that mean?

Rockhoof shrugs and leans against the desk. It <CREAKS> and he quickly stands up again.

29 ROCKHOOF
I'm not rightly sure. What were
you learning before I got here?

30 OCELLUS
 (shyly)
We just studied all about how
Princess Celestia and Luna used a
spell to trap Discord in stone
sleep for hundreds of moons.

Rockhoof brightens--

31 ROCKHOOF
Oh, so it's a class about stories,
is it?

Gallus agrees eagerly, taking advantage of the "sub."

32 GALLUS
Uh, yeah! And we never, ever get
homework.

33 ROCKHOOF
Good! The best way to teach colts
and fillies is by experience. Like
the time my grandmare dropped me in
the woods with an Ursa Major.

FAST REACTIONS:

34 SILVERSTREAM
Really?

35 SANDBAR
We're not doing that, right?

36 YONA
You fight Ursa Major? All alone?

Rockhoof nods proudly.

37 ROCKHOOF
Aye! And I beat him too!

38 SMOLDER
Now this, I'm interested in.

39 YONA
How Professor Rockhoof win?

40 ROCKHOOF
Well, that's quite a tale...

All the students lean in, invested.

*

SC. 5 - INT. SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP - HALLWAY - DAY

Twilight Sparkle walks down the hall with APPLEJACK.

41 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I could tell Rockhoof just hadn't
found his place in our modern times
yet. He just needed a purpose. And
we got a new teacher! It's perfect!

42 APPLEJACK
I gotta give it to ya, Twilight.
This may be the record for the
fastest a friendship problem ever
got solved around here.

43 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Guess I'm getting better with
practice--

Twilight and Applejack hear a MIGHTY <CRASH> from the
classroom at the end of the hallway! They stare at each
other for a beat, then run to look inside.

THEIR POV: Rockhoof is LEAPING EXCITEDLY on the students'
desks! Swinging his shovel wildly as he re-enacts his battle
with the Ursa Major!

Rockhoof points to Yona, Gallus and Silverstream.

44 ROCKHOOF
Now you lot be the Ursa Major.
Lotsa growling, mind!

The students smile and play along.

45 YONA / GALLUS / SILVERSTREAM
<growls>

Rockhoof twirls his shovel, <KNOCKING> over a potted plant.
The students are clearly enjoying themselves.

ON Twilight and Applejack, GAPING.

46 APPLEJACK
Um... is that some new style of
teachin' I ain't heard about?

SC. 6 - INT. SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP - CLASSROOM - DAY

The students are LOVING Rockhoof's performance. Especially
Yona, who actively cheers him on.

47 YONA
What happen next?!

48 ROCKHOOF
The huge beastie jumped at me, out
of the moonlit mist, trying to lock
his fearsome fangs in my throat.
But I rolled out of the way!

Rockhoof rolls along the floor, making the room <SHAKE>.

49 SILVERSTREAM
Then what?

50 ROCKHOOF
He backed me up against a wall,
ready to pounce. I look at
him...And he looks at me.

Rockhoof demonstrates, getting up in Yona's face, his eyes
SUPER-WIDE-OPEN! She's loving every minute of this story!

51 ROCKHOOF (CONT'D)
And I say--

52 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Uh Rockhoof? Sorry to interrupt--

53 ROCKHOOF
No, I say--

Rockhoof looks over and sees Twilight and Applejack standing
in the doorway. Their disapproving look snaps him out of his
storytelling reverie.

54 ROCKHOOF (CONT'D)
Oh! Hello. Welcome to "Applied
Friendship."

55 APPLEJACK
Yeah. It looks pretty...Excitin'.

56 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Class, why don't we go ahead and
take lunch early today? Rockhoof,
can we take a walk outside?

SC. 7 - EXT. SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP - DAY

Twilight and Applejack walk with Rockhoof around the grounds.

57 ROCKHOOF
Sorry about that, Twilight. I just
got a bit carried away. The
students were all so interested in
what I had to say.

58 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I could see that. And it's great!
But do you think you can work a few
more Applied Friendship lessons
into your teaching?

59 APPLEJACK
She means less about fightin', more
about helpin'. Sharin'.
Introducin' yourself to new ponies.

Rockhoof isn't thrilled at the prospect.

60 ROCKHOOF
Right, then. Not sure I have many
stories about those...

At the O.S. sound of a <FWOOSH> of flame, Rockhoof glances
past Twilight and Applejack--

And notices SMOKE and FLAMES coming from one of the school's
windows.

CLOSE-UP on Rockhoof's eyes. The flame reflected in them
transforms into a VOLCANO!

61 ROCKHOOF (CONT'D)
FIRE!

Rockhoof charges toward the school at breakneck speed!

62 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Rockhoof, wait--

63 ROCKHOOF
No time! The building's ablaze!
We have to get everypony out!

SC. 8 - INT. SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP - CLASSROOM - DAY

Yona is talking excitedly with Silverstream and Sandbar.

64 YONA
Professor Rockhoof best teacher
ever! Day can not get better!

--As Rockhoof comes <CRASHING> THROUGH THE CLASSROOM WALL, like the KOOL AID MAN, leaving a huge hole in his wake!

65 ROCKHOOF
Let's get you outside, wee ones!

Rockhoof uses his shovel to SCOOP the students up and TOSS them out of his makeshift exit! Yona shouts happily as she's flung outside!

66 YONA
Day just got better!!

SC. 9 - EXT. SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP - DAY

Twilight and Applejack reach the hole in the wall, just as Rockhoof comes running out and races to the courtyard (leaping obstacles, very hero-pony).

67 APPLEJACK / TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Rockhoof! / What are you doing?!

Twilight and Applejack hurry after Rockhoof.

68 ROCKHOOF
Saving the school!

He plants himself at the river running toward the school's waterfall and digs his shovel deep.

With a mighty <HEAVE>, he throws his weight against the shovel, rerouting the river from the waterfall ala Paul Bunyan.

69 ROCKHOOF (CONT'D)
Just like battling a volcano in the good old days!

The river turns to pour into the open doors of the school!

WHOOSH! Water comes flooding out of every door and window on the first floor, carrying students and teachers out along with it!

A waterlogged RARITY comes splashing out.

70 RARITY
Would somepony kindly explain what, precisely, is the meaning of all this water?!

PINKIE PIE floats by, happily balancing on a wooden desk.

71 PINKIE PIE
I'm not sure, but I think it means,
"Surf's up!" Wheeeeeee!

72 ROCKHOOF
Sorry to drench your tresses,
Rarity. But I had to put out the
blaze quick, or the whole place
could've become a raging inferno.

That's when Spike and Smolder (waterlogged from the flood)
come staggering out of the building.

73 SPIKE
Inferno? Where?

74 ROCKHOOF
Did you not see the smoke and
flame?

75 SMOLDER
Yeah, that was us. Y'know, DRAGONS?
Having a firebreathing competition?

76 ROCKHOOF
You... what?

Twilight and Applejack finally catch up to Rockhoof.

77 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
They do it all the time. That's
what we were trying to tell you.

78 APPLEJACK
We know you're used to being a
hero, Rockhoof. It's what you do.
And it's amazin'! Only...What we
need here is a teacher.

Rarity levitates a soggy blanket up from a nearby puddle.

79 RARITY
One who doesn't ruin an entire
classes' friendship quilts! Do you
know how hard it is to stitch a
pineapple pattern?

Rockhoof looks taken aback, then looks around, realizing the
magnitude of his mistake. *

80 ROCKHOOF
My deepest apologies. I'm not used
to living with dragons. Or much
else in this modern time, it seems.

Rockhoof turns to Twilight--

81 ROCKHOOF (CONT'D)
I know you wanted to help me find a
new home after I left my old
village... But it seems teaching
isn't where I belong either.

As everypony watches Rockhoof sadly depart, Pinkie surfs down
the river and into the school again.

82 PINKIE PIE
Can we leave the river like this
forever? WHEEEE!

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SC. 10 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - DAY

The MANE 6, Spike and STARLIGHT are gathered around the
table, looking concerned.

83 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Funny story, turns out finding
Rockhoof a new purpose is a lot
harder than we expected.

84 APPLEJACK
The post office thing didn't work
out, huh?

85 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Yeah, no.

SC. 11 - EXT. THE STREETS OF PONYVILLE - FLASHBACK

We see a quick cutaway of Rockhoof racing through the streets
with a delivery cart, shouting at the top of his lungs!

86 ROCKHOOF
Does anypony know where I can find
Cranky Doodle Donkey? It's urgent!
He needs medicine! He has a rash
in a very embarrassing place!

SC. 12 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - RESUME

Spike <SHUDDERS> then-

87 SPIKE
I did not need to hear that.

88 RAINBOW DASH
Well... Rockhoof's really strong.
Maybe we could find him a job
carrying heavy stuff?

89 PINKIE PIE
I tried that already. Zecora
needed somepony to help her get
supplies, but...

SC. 13 - EXT. ZECORA'S HUT - FLASHBACK - DAY

Rockhoof walks up to Zecora with a giant tree strapped to his back. She gapes in horror.

90 ROCKHOOF
I know you said you only needed a
few leaves, but I figured why not
bring you the whole thing?

BEEES come shooting out of the tree in a massive SWARM! Zecora and Rockhoof race away!

SC. 14 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - DAY

The ponies wince.

91 RARITY
That's horrible.

92 PINKIE PIE
Yeah, but I do have SOME good news.

Pinkie Pie plops a shiny button down on the table.

93 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
I just found this on the floor!

The ponies all look at Pinkie being Pinkie. Then, Fluttershy sighs in concern.

94 FLUTTERSHY
What can we do? None of the other
Pillars seem to be having trouble
fitting in to the modern world.

95 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
That's it! Maybe Rockhoof's old
friends can help him get used to
living in this time.

SC. 15 - EXT. STREETS OF CANTERLOT - DAY

Rockhoof looks nervous as he follows behind Fluttershy and Twilight. He peers up at Canterlot.

96 ROCKHOOF
Even Canterlot looks different from
the old days.

97 FLUTTERSHY
I know it can be scary when things
change. But I'm sure seeing your
friend Flash Magnus will make you
feel better.

From OS, they hear the sound of marching hooves and:

98 FLASH MAGNUS (O.S.)
Clop, 2, 3, 4! Clop, 2, 3, 4!
Keep it lively, rookies!

Flash Magnus leads a group of CANTERLOT ROYAL GUARDS around the corner. They march in perfect formation.

99 ROCKHOOF
Flash? Is that you?

Flash notices Rockhoof, Twilight and Fluttershy. He opens his wings to signal--

100 FLASH MAGNUS
Company, halt!

The Guards halt as one.

101 FLASH MAGNUS (CONT'D)
Visitors on site! How do we greet
our guests, recruits?

Flash Magnus's ponies all salute as one.

102 FLASH MAGNUS (CONT'D)
That's what I like to see!
(then)
Rockhoof, you old ditch-digger you!
How are you doing?

Flash bumps Rockhoof's shoulder in greeting.

103 ROCKHOOF
Apparently not as good as you. Is
this your squadron?

Flash nods.

104 FLASH MAGNUS
After we got out of limbo, I went
looking for work for a pony with
experience in the Royal Legion.

Twilight smiles at Flash.

105 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Shining Armor was thrilled to find
a new drill sergeant for his
guards!

*

Rockhoof is surprised at this news. And a bit crestfallen.

106 ROCKHOOF
That's great. They really put you
in a job that big... so fast?

107 FLASH MAGNUS
Oh, this is nothing. You should
see what Mistmane is up to.

SC. 16 - EXT. A BEAUTIFUL FIELD IN THE CRYSTAL EMPIRE - DAY

Rockhoof is shocked when he sees MISTMANE magically
levitating a hammer and chisel to put the finishing touches
on a magnificent crystal FLOWER STATUE.

108 ROCKHOOF
They made you the Royal Landscape
Artist for the Crystal Empire?!

We PULL BACK, and see the statue is one of many beautiful
crystal structures, laid out in a flower-filled landscape.
Twilight and Fluttershy take in the sight.

109 MISTMANE
I feel so lucky. This job just
called to me. I know I'm where I
belong.

Rockhoof sags a bit at that.

110 ROCKHOOF
You always were talented at finding
the beauty in things. But there's
not much call for shovel ponies
like me these days. It's hopeless.

111 MISTMANE
If it's hope you need, go see
Somnambula.
(MORE)

MISTMANE (CONT'D)

She's improving hearts and minds
all over Equestria.

SC. 17 - EXT. THE DESERT - DAY

SOMNAMBULA walks to the front of a FEW PONIES, who sit on blankets in the desert, eagerly waiting to hear her speak.

112 SOMNAMBULA
Focus on my voice, and feel
yourself unlock your potential.
Breathe deep and reach for a
brighter tomorrow.

We see Rockhoof, Twilight, and Fluttershy sitting in the crowd. Rockhoof looks perplexed.

113 ROCKHOOF
Is that fancy talk, or does she
want us to actually reach?

114 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
(whispers)
It's a motivational speaker thing.

CLOSE ON Somnambula as she walks up to Rockhoof.

115 SOMNAMBULA
Imagine everything that troubles
you as one big cloud. Now let it
float away. You are relaxed. Free
to do anything you wish.

Rockhoof is fast asleep, <SNORING> LIKE A CHAINSAW.

116 FLUTTERSHY
I guess he wished to take a nap?

SC. 18 - INT. A LARGE CLINIC IN THE SWAMP - DAY

Rockhoof and Fluttershy stand inside MAGE MEADOWBROOK's swamp home as she cheerfully gives medicinal potions to PONIES (who form a line that stretches right out the door).

117 ROCKHOOF
Why, you're back home, doing what
you used to in our time!

118 MAGE MEADOWBROOK
I've had to expand my clinic a bit.
Many creatures need healing in this
modern world.

Mage Meadowbrook notices the sad look on Rockhoof's face.

119 MAGE MEADOWBROOK (CONT'D)
Looks like you could use some too.
What's got you heartsick, Rockhoof?

120 ROCKHOOF
Well, I'm glad you and all our old
friends are doing so well. But...
what about me? Where do I belong?

Rockhoof sits, his massive body giving off a <THUD> that
causes a few potions to FALL off Mage Meadowbrook's desk.

121 FLUTTERSHY
Just give it time. Starswirl's
still on a journey to learn about
friendship, and I'm sure it took
Stygian a while to fit in, too!

Twilight comes bounding excitedly into the room, levitating a
book in front of her.

122 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Hey! Look what I found in the
reading room!

Rockhoof takes a look at the book cover.

123 ROCKHOOF
"Me and My Shadow"? The third hit
novel by acclaimed author Stygian?!
"Number 1 on the New Yoke Times
Bestseller list"?

Rockhoof hangs his head in defeat, trudges out the door.

124 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Rockhoof? Where are you going?

125 ROCKHOOF
I'm not sure. It's like there's no
place for me to be myself. Maybe I
just don't belong in this modern
world.

SC. 19 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - DAY

The Mane 6, Spike and Starlight sit around the main table,
thinking harder than ever about the Rockhoof situation.

126 RARITY
What a disaster. Instead of
solving Rockhoof's problem, your
journey only made him feel worse.

Applejack pats a depressed Fluttershy on the shoulder.

127 APPLEJACK
It was still a good try, sugarcube.

128 RAINBOW DASH
I'll tell you the real problem
here! We haven't given Rockhoof the
chance to be who he really is!

129 PINKIE PIE
A Coltic pony with a metal shovel
and a heart of gold?

130 RAINBOW DASH
A hero! What we need to do is find
him a job that's as epic as he is!
And I know just the thing.

SC. 20 - EXT. HORSESHOE HARBOR - NIGHT

We sweep down through a FOGGY NIGHT toward a HARBOR on the
side of MT. ARIS (Made up of BOULDERS set in the water in a
HORSESHOE formation where there's only a single opening
leading to the open sea).

We see several SHIPS ANCHORED outside the harbor, and as the
LARGEST SHIP sails for the exit, we PUSH IN to see Rockhoof
on deck, bowing in respect to ADMIRAL SEASPRAY.

131 ROCKHOOF
I'm honored to serve in the
Hippogriff Navy, Admiral Seaspray.
I promise I'll prove my worth.

132 SEASPRAY
Think nothing of it. I know how
hard it is to adapt to a new home
after many years. We shall find
ourselves as brothers in this
bright future above the waves.

As Rockhoof and Seaspray share a bro moment, Twilight and
Rainbow Dash (standing on the far side of the deck) whisper.

133 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I didn't even know the Hippogriffs
had a fleet.
(MORE)

TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)

Why do they need ships if they can turn into seaponies whenever they want?

134 RAINBOW DASH
For times like now when they have visitors. Duh.

Just then an <ALARM> SOUNDS! A HIPPOGRIFF runs to Seaspray.

135 HIPPOGRIFF SAILOR
Admiral! The fog tonight is thicker than we expected! We lost sight of the way out of the harbor!

Seaspray looks around and notes that indeed, the fog has gotten so thick it's like sailing through soup.

136 SEASPRAY
Heave to, swabbies! Halt the ship and hold her til the fog passes!

137 ROCKHOOF
You can't do that, Admiral! A ship this huge will never be able to stop before hitting the rocks! I know we can thread the harbor and sail safe to the sea!

138 SEASPRAY
But how can we navigate if we can't see what's ahead?

139 ROCKHOOF
The same way my Coltic ancestors traveled through the Selkie Mists-- We'll look to the stars!

Rockhoof looks up - and sure enough, the fog is not blocking the bright stars in the sky.

140 ROCKHOOF (CONT'D)
There in the northwest sky is the constellation for O'Brian's Pelt! Steer the ship toward it and true!

He looks at Seaspray for a long beat, then: Seaspray nods.

141 SEASPRAY
You heard the pony, crew! Make full sail!

The ship turns toward the stars, sailing blind through the fog. It's hard to say what's thicker, the mist or the tension. Twilight, stressed, tells Dash.

142 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I'd close my eyes but I can't see
anything anyway!

Then: We can see stones on our left and our right! The ship is sailing between them, through the exit into open water!

143 RAINBOW DASH
We made it!

Rainbow Dash and Twilight fly into the air with joy! The crew lets out a mighty cheer!

144 CREW
<CHEERS>

Then, <CRASH>. Seaspray's giant ship RAMS into ANOTHER ship that was also sailing blind through the fog!!

145 RAINBOW DASH
Oh right. The other ships weren't
in the stars.

146 SEASPRAY
It was an honor serving with you,
Rockhoof. But it seems our paths
lie in different directions.

Rockhoof looks downcast, completely defeated.

SC. 21 - EXT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - LATER

We MATCH CUT to Rockhoof's expression, then pull back to show that Twilight and Rainbow Dash are heading back to school with him.

147 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
It's okay, Rockhoof. Mistakes
happen. We'll think of something
else for you to do.

148 ROCKHOOF
Oh there's no need, lass. I already
know what I want to do next.

149 RAINBOW DASH
Really? What?

150 ROCKHOOF
I heard from the young'uns there's
a spell that sends creatures into
stone sleep for all eternity. I
want you to cast it. On me.

As Twilight and Dash take in horror--

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

SC. 22 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - DAY

Spike tries to sleep peacefully, but is woken up by the sound
of Twilight and Rockhoof arguing in the next room.

151 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (O.S.)
No!

152 ROCKHOOF (O.S.)
Yes!

153 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (O.S.)
No!

154 ROCKHOOF (O.S.)
Yes!

SC. 23 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - MAIN ROOM - DAY

Spike enters to find Twilight and Rockhoof arguing as they
pace around the main table.

155 SPIKE
Hey guys. Couldn't help but
overhear your disagreement. Need me
to help you decide something?

156 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Rockhoof wants me to cast a spell
to turn him into a statue. The
answer is no.

157 ROCKHOOF
Well it should be yes, because I
wouldn't even be here to be turned
into a statue if Twilight hadn't
cast a spell in the first place!

Spike puts up his hands--

158 SPIKE
Yeah, I got nothin'. I thought you
were arguing over ice cream
flavors.

Twilight turns back to Rockhoof.

159 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I don't care how many times you
ask, you're not going to wear me
down. The answer is still no!

160 ROCKHOOF
Why not?!

161 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Because... it's crazy! I don't
know why you would want to be
turned to stone.

162 ROCKHOOF
(defeated/bitter)
Because I'm a relic of an old age.
I belong in a museum. Safe.
Preserved. Untouched.

Twilight looks sad - she feels for him.

163 ROCKHOOF (CONT'D)
I don't belong in this time. It's
your responsibility to make things
right. You owe me that, Twilight.

164 SPIKE
He's kinda got you there.

She looks at him for a long beat, then... surrenders.

165 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Alright. If it's what you really,
really want...

166 ROCKHOOF
It is. I want to be remembered as
the hero I was. Not the
disappointment I've become.

Rockhoof exits. Twilight sits down, sad.

167 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Spike, can you teach my class
today? I'd better start preparing
the stone sleep spell.

168 SPIKE
You're really gonna do it?

169 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
If I can't convince Rockhoof he
belongs in this time... I don't
know what other choice I have.

SC. 23 - INT. TWILIGHT'S SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - DAY

Ocellus, Gallus, Silverstream, Cozy Glow, Smolder, Yona and Sandbar gossip with their fellow students as they sit in the classroom (which still has a hole in the wall).

170 SANDBAR
Did you hear Rockhoof gave Zecora a
tree full of bees?

171 SILVERSTREAM
Admiral Seaspray said he sunk a
ship in our navy!

172 SMOLDER
He's definitely weird. But in a
fun way. You never know what's
gonna happen next with him.

173 YONA
Professor Rockhoof best pony!

Just then, Spike comes trudging glumly through the door.

174 SPIKE
Hey, class.

175 GALLUS
Another sub? Let me start by
telling you we don't get homework,
and we only do field trips.

176 SPIKE
Nice try. Twilight sent me to tell
you she won't be in today 'cause
she has to cast a spell to send
Rockhoof into eternal stone sleep.

All the students' jaws drop in shock. ESPECIALLY YONA.

177 OCELLUS
Like Discord?! But why? Rockhoof
isn't a bad guy.

Spike pulls out a scroll and reads.

178 SPIKE
So, your instructions are to spend
the day writing an essay on
"Heroism: And what it means to
you."

179 YONA
(Quiet gasp) No.

180 SPIKE
Don't worry. It doesn't have to be
a long essay.

SC. 24 - EXT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - DAY

Rockhoof practices statue poses.

181 ROCKHOOF
Maybe like this? Or on three
legs... Hmm. What will give the
wee birds fewer places to decorate?

Suddenly, Yona rushes up to Rockhoof, <PANTING>

182 YONA
Professor Rockhoof! Dragon said you
want to turn into stone! Yona not
believe it!

183 ROCKHOOF
Aye, I'm afraid it's true, lass.

Yona hugs Rockhoof's foreleg, like a Yak-anchor.

184 YONA
But... Pony need finish story for
class!

Rockhoof looks at her shining eyes.

185 YONA (CONT'D)
Ursa Major ready to pounce, and
Professor Rockhoof say...

186 ROCKHOOF
It's sweet of you to try to get me
to stay, Yona. But... I'm afraid
old stories like mine aren't worth
anything in this day and age.

At the end of her rope, Yona pulls a scroll out of her thick
yak fur, throws it angrily on the floor.

187 YONA
Fine! If Pony no tell Yona story,
then Yona tell Pony story!

Yona unrolls the scroll.

188 YONA (CONT'D)
From class report! (Reading) "When
Yona come to Pony school, Yona not
fit in. Pony ways strange. But
Yona find friends! Yona meet
Professor Rockhoof. Pony brave and
strong as Yak! Not afraid! Hero!"

Rockhoof is surprised to hear these words.

189 YONA (CONT'D)
"When Yona grow up, Yona want to be
just like Professor Rockhoof."

190 ROCKHOOF
You... really mean it?

Yona <GRUNTS> and nods emphatically. Rockhoof is touched.
Doesn't know what to say.

191 ROCKHOOF (CONT'D)
Well, since you went to the trouble
of writing something that nice... I
suppose the least I could do is
tell you one more story.

192 YONA
Not just Yona. All school!

Rockhoof looks surprised, but Yona yak-butts him forward.

193 ROCKHOOF
I'm not sure the whole school would
want to hear a story from an old
shovel-slinger like me--

But Yona stops pushing and Rockhoof looks up to see:

EVERY SINGLE STUDENT from Twilight's school (and every
teacher except Twilight) waiting for him, eager for him to
tell a story.

SC. 25 - EXT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - LATER

*

Twilight steps out, frazzled and not happy.

194 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Alright, Rockhoof. The spell is
ready-- Rockhoof?

Twilight looks around, doesn't see Rockhoof anywhere. She
hears muffled <HOOF STOMPING> and moves forward to see--

Rockhoof entertaining all her students and teachers, as he
finishes the story he began in school.

195 SPIKE
What happened next?

196 ROCKHOOF
The Ursa Major tried to grab me by
the gullet! But I rolled out of the
way!

*

Rockhoof does an impressive roll. The audience <OOHS> in
appreciation, totally into this story.

197 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Then what?!

Rockhoof rolls along the floor, making the room <SHAKE>.

198 ROCKHOOF
He had me cornered. So I look at
him...And he looks at me.

Rockhoof demonstrates, getting right up in Fluttershy's face,
his eyes SUPER-WIDE-OPEN! She shuts her eyes, frightened by
even a story about an Ursa Major!

Yona steps into her place, eyes open, and <GROWLS>. Rockhoof
grins.

199 ROCKHOOF (CONT'D)
And I say: "Sorry you won't be
having any dinner tonight, mate!
Guess you'll just have to bear it!"

The crowd groans/laughs at Rockhoof's lame pun.

200 ROCKHOOF (CONT'D)
And then I kicked him so hard he
flew into the sky.

Rockhoof does a showy kick, then makes a point of looking
skyward. The audience looks too.

201 ROCKHOOF (CONT'D)
And he's been a constellation up
there every since. Or so I'm told.
And... that's the end of my story.

The crowd <CHEERS and HOOFSSTOMPS>, breaking into a chant:

202 CROWD
One more story! One more story!

203 ROCKHOOF
No no. Thank you for listening.
But it's time to say good-bye.

Rockhoof turns to leave, but Twilight blocks his path.

204 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Actually, I don't think it is.
You said there wasn't anything in
this time you were good at. But I
just saw something you're great at:
Telling stories!

Rockhoof looks confused.

205 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
Sharing tales of the past in modern
times so everycreature who listens
can learn valuable lessons, feel
deep inspiration, and--

206 YONA
Have fun! Pony stories super fun!

The crowd <CHEERS> in support! Rockhoof is touched.

207 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
As the Princess of Friendship, I'd
like to appoint you as Equestria's
official Keeper of Tales.

Twilight bows. Spike asks as an aside to Starlight--

208 SPIKE
Can she do that?

Starlight shrugs.

Rockhoof takes in the scene, touched, but still unsure.

209 ROCKHOOF
I... that's very kind of you. But
I'm still not sure I belong--

210 YONA
Rockhoof Yona's friend. So
Rockhoof belongs.

211 ROCKHOOF
Hmm. You know, that reminds me of a
story... Once there was a group of
six friends....

And as the crowd leans in to listen...

THE END.