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MY LITTLE PONY
Season 8

A Rockhoof and a Hard Place
Ep 821

Teleplay Final Draft V2

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TEASER

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

CLOSE as PROFESSOR FOSSIL uses an ARCHAEOLOGIST'S BRUSH (suspended with magic) to delicately sweep away at some rock. Suddenly a large shovel <SLAMS> into the ground, causing Fossil 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, lass. Let me help.

Rockhoof slams the shovel in the ground again. Fossil tries to block him, panicked.

2 PROFESSOR FOSSIL
Er, thank you, 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 Fossil's horror.

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 PROFESSOR FOSSIL
<whimpers> (then) STOP THAT!

Rockhoof stops kicking the ball, confused.

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

Fossil can't take it anymore. She seizes the ball.

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

Rockhoof rolls his eyes as Fossil cuddles the ball.

8 ROCKHOOF
Next you'll be saying I shouldn't
have used the old sweatlodge.

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

FOSSIL's eyes go wide in shock 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

A "so done" Professor Fossil entreats TWILIGHT SPARKLE as Rockhoof looks around her office.

9 PROFESSOR FOSSIL
So you see why Rockhoof isn't an
ideal fit for my team. Perhaps you
could use his--er--unusual talents?

10 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Of course, Professor Fossil! We'd
be honored to have a Pillar of
Equestria on our staff.

11 PROFESSOR FOSSIL
(mutters) Thank Celestia.

Professor Fossil opens Twilight's door to go and sees:

IN THE HALL: Rockhoof bites an APPLE from several decorative displays on a table. He makes a face and <SPITS> it out--

12 ROCKHOOF
Blech! That apple's made of wood!
What a horrible trick to play!

Rockhoof uses his shovel to TOSS the displays out a window. Rarity comes around the corner.

13 RARITY
Has anypony seen my decorative
centerpieces? They were right here.

Fossil trots out as fast as she can.

14 PROFESSOR FOSSIL
Good luck!

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 with Rockhoof, addressing the school's STUDENTS and TEACHERS.

15 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
...So join me in welcoming
Professor Rockhoof to our faculty!

<HOOF STOMPING APPLAUSE>. Rockhoof nods to the assembly.

16 ROCKHOOF
Thank you all. I know I'm new to
your world, but there's one thing I
learned when I saved my village
from a rushing river of hot lava...

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

17 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.

18 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.

19 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
So, um, everycreature 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.

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

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

22 GALLUS
And he smashes things like a yak.
He smells like a yak...

23 YONA
Yes! He perfect.

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

Everycreature startles at a booming voice.

25 ROCKHOOF (O.S.)
HELLO CLASS!

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.

26 ROCKHOOF (CONT'D)
I'm your new "Theory and Defense of
Friendship" teacher.

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

27 ROCKHOOF (CONT'D)
But I haven't had a chance to look
at Headmare Twilight's notes yet.
What have you all been learning?

28 OCELLUS
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.

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

Gallus nods, taking advantage of the "sub."

30 GALLUS
Stories, yeah! And we never, ever
get homework.

31 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:

32 SILVERSTREAM
Really?

33 SANDBAR
We're not doing that, right?

34 YONA
You fight Ursa Major? All alone?

Rockhoof nods proudly.

35 ROCKHOOF
Aye! And I defeated her too!

36 SMOLDER
Now this, I'm interested in.

37 YONA
How Professor Rockhoof win?

38 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.

39 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
From what Professor Fossil said, it
sounds like Rockhoof just hasn't
settled into modern times yet. Our
school is the perfect place for
that. Plus, we get a new teacher!

40 APPLEJACK
Gotta give it to ya, Twilight.
This may be the fastest friendship
problem you ever solved.

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 (which <CRACK> under his weight)! Swinging his shovel
wildly as he re-enacts his battle with the Ursa Major!

Rockhoof points to Yona, Gallus and Silverstream.

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

The students smile and play along.

42 YONA / GALLUS / SILVERSTREAM
<growls>

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

ON Twilight and Applejack, GAPING.

43 APPLEJACK
Maybe classrooms were less
breakable in the old days?

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

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

44 YONA
What happen next?!

45 ROCKHOOF
The huge beastie jumped out of the
moonlit mist, her fearsome fangs at
my throat! But I rolled clear!

Rockhoof rolls along the floor, making the room <SHAKE>.
PICTURES <FALL> off the wall.

46 SILVERSTREAM
Then what?

47 ROCKHOOF
She backed me up against a wall,
ready to pounce. I look at
her...And she looks at me.

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

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

49 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Uh Rockhoof? Sorry to interrupt--

50 ROCKHOOF
Nope, guess again! I say...
 (beat; notices TS and AJ)
Oops.

51 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,
somewhere with low-hanging branches/ floral archways that
he's forced to duck under (the other ponies have no trouble).

52 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Our school is all about finding
your own special way to teach...

53 APPLEJACK
And we can already tell you're a
smash with the class!

54 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
But maybe you could do a little
less smashing in the classroom?

Rockhoof looks chagrined as he turns to the others--

55 ROCKHOOF
Sorry about that. I did get a bit
carried away. The students were so
interested in my tales!

Rockhoof does a header into a low hanging branch.

56 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I know it's a big change, but I
think you're going to fit in just--

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!

57 ROCKHOOF
FIRE!

Rockhoof charges toward the school at breakneck speed!

58 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Rockhoof, wait--

59 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.

60 YONA
Professor Rockhoof best teacher
ever! Day cannot get better!

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

61 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!

62 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).

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

Twilight and Applejack hurry after Rockhoof.

64 ROCKHOOF
Saving the school!

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

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

65 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.

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

Pinkie Pie floats by, happily balancing on a wooden desk.

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

68 ROCKHOOF
Sorry, Rarity. But I had to put out the raging inferno!

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

69 SPIKE
Inferno? Where?

70 ROCKHOOF
Did you not see the smoke and flame?

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

72 ROCKHOOF
You... what?

Twilight and Applejack finally catch up to Rockhoof.

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

74 APPLEJACK
We know you're used to being a
hero, Rockhoof. Only...What we need
here is a teacher.

Rarity levitates a soggy blanket up from a nearby puddle.

75 RARITY
One who doesn't ruin an entire
class's 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.

76 ROCKHOOF
My deepest apologies. I'm not used
to living with dragons.
 (off the quilts)
Or much else in this modern time.

Rockhoof turns to Twilight--

77 ROCKHOOF (CONT'D)
Professor Fossil made it clear I'm
not welcome back in my old village.
Seems I don't belong here either.

*

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

78 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 and Spike are gathered around the table. Twilight
looks a little disheartened as she addresses them:

79 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
So...Apparently finding Rockhoof a
new job is a lot harder than we
thought. Has anypony had any luck?

Headshakes all around the table.

80 APPLEJACK
I thought you were gonna try him
out at the post office.

81 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
We did...

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 to
other PONIES passing by.

82 ROCKHOOF
Do you know where I can find Cranky
Doodle Donkey? I need to deliver
his medicine! He has a rash in a
very embarrassing place!

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

Spike <SHUDDERS> then-

83 SPIKE
I did not need to hear that.

84 RARITY
Oh dear. Rockhoof's time as a spa
masseuse didn't work out either.

SC. 13 - INT. PONYVILLE SPA - FLASHBACK

BULK BICEPS is on his tummy on a spa table, mane in a towel,
with a towel draped over his back. Rockhoof, in a SPA
UNIFORM (with a SPA ASSISTANT as his side).

*

85 ROCKHOOF
Now let me know if this is too much
pressure.

Biceps nods. Rockhoof puts a hoof on Bicep's back and
massages. An audible <CRACK>, and Biceps' eyes go wide.

SC. 14 - EXT. PONYVILLE SPA - FLASHBACK

At a <LOUD YELP> from the spa, ND PONIES whip their heads
around in surprise... To see Bulk running out of the spa with
his towel around him. *
*
*

SC. 15 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - RESUME

Twilight shakes her head and <SIGHS>.

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

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

SC. 16 - EXT. ZECORA'S HUT - FLASHBACK - DAY

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

88 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. 17 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - DAY

The ponies wince.

89 RARITY
That's horrible.

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

Pinkie Pie plops a shiny button down on the table.

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

The ponies just look at Pinkie. Fluttershy sighs, concerned.

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

Applejack brightens and looks to Twilight--

93 APPLEJACK
Then maybe they can show Rockhoof
how they did it. Get him used to
livin' in this time.

94 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Great idea! Rockhoof's old friends
would be happy to help. And I bet
he'd love to visit them.

SC. 18 - EXT. STREETS OF CANTERLOT - DAY

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

95 ROCKHOOF
Hmph. Even Canterlot looks
different from the old days.

96 APPLEJACK
Aw, I'm sure once you see your ol'
pal Flash Magnus, you'll feel right
at home.

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

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

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

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

98 FLASH MAGNUS (CONT'D)
Visitors on site! Company, halt!

The Guards halt as one and salute.

99 FLASH MAGNUS (CONT'D)
Rockhoof, you old ditch-digger you!

Flash bumps Rockhoof's shoulder in greeting.

100 ROCKHOOF
Flash Magnus, as I live and
breathe! Is this your squadron?

Flash nods.

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

Twilight smiles at Flash.

102 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Princess Celestia was happy to find
a new drill sergeant for her Guard!

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

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

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

SC. 19 - EXT. A BEAUTIFUL FIELD IN THE CRYSTAL EMPIRE - DAY

Rockhoof is shocked when he sees MISTMANE using her magic to
grow gorgeous, **CRYSTALLINE** FLOWERS. *

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

We PULL BACK, and see a perfectly designed crystal flower
garden. Twilight and Applejack take in the sight.

106 APPLEJACK / TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Wow. / Your work is beautiful.

107 MISTMANE
Thank you. I've never worked with
crystal before, but in my heart, I
know I'm where I belong.

Rockhoof sags a bit at that.

108 ROCKHOOF
You always could find the beauty in
things. But there's not much demand
for shovel ponies like me nowadays.

109 MISTMANE
Don't give up hope! See Somnambula.
She'll help you find your purpose.

SC. 20 - 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.

110 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
 (whispers)
Somnambula's a motivational
speaker. Bet they didn't even have
those back in your time.

111 ROCKHOOF
 (whisper back)
Because we didn't need them. Ponies
knew what to do with their lives.

112 SOMNAMBULA
Focus on my voice, and feel
yourself unlock your potential.

CLOSE ON Somnambula as she walks up to Rockhoof.

113 SOMNAMBULA (CONT'D)
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.

114 APPLEJACK
Guess he wished to take a nap?

SC. 21 - INT. A LARGE CLINIC IN THE SWAMP - DAY

Rockhoof and Applejack stand in MAGE MEADOWBROOK's swamp home
as she gives medicinal potions to a long line of PONIES.

115 ROCKHOOF
Mage Meadowbrook! Your home looks
just the same as the old days. Wish
I could say the same for mine.

116 MAGE MEADOWBROOK
Well, 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.

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

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

118 ROCKHOOF
Thing is, I can't do my old job
like Flash. Or adapt like Mistmane.
Or succeed at something new like
Somnambula. Or go home, like you.

119 MAGE MEADOWBROOK
Give it time. Even Starswirl's
still learning about friendship.

120 APPLEJACK
Yeah! And I bet Stygian took plenty
of time to fit in.

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

121 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Hey, look what I found! "Me and My
Shadow," the third hit novel by
former-villain Stygian. I'm
impressed! He's really thriving!

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

122 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
Rockhoof? Where are you going?

123 ROCKHOOF
I'm not sure. Maybe I just don't
belong in this modern world.

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

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

124 APPLEJACK
Now this is a right mash of apples.
'Stead of solving Rockhoof's
problem, we made him feel worse.

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

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

127 RAINBOW DASH
A hero! What we need to do is find
him a job that's as epic as he is!

128 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Hm. I might know just the thing...

SC. 23 - EXT. HORSESHOE HARBOR - NIGHT

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

As a LARGE SHIP sails for the exit, we PUSH IN to see
Rockhoof on deck, in NAVAL GEAR, bowing to **GENERAL** SEASPRAY. *

129 ROCKHOOF
I'm honored to serve in the
Hippogriff Navy, **General** Seaspray. *
I promise I'll prove my worth.

130 SEASPRAY
Think nothing of it. I know how
hard it is to adapt to a new home.
After our many years below the
waves, land customs seemed strange.

131 ROCKHOOF
Like you didn't fit in, no matter
how hard you tried?

132 SEASPRAY
As though the world had moved on
without us. Never fear, Rockhoof.
We shall be as brothers in this
bright future above the waves.

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

133 APPLEJACK
Why do the Hippogriffs need ships
if they can turn into seaponies?

134 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Probably to defend themselves in
case the Storm King comes back. Or
maybe they just like cruises?

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

135 HIPPOGRIFF SAILOR
General! The fog's too thick to see
our 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
Wait, General! We can navigate 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.

138 ROCKHOOF (CONT'D)
There in the northwest sky is the
constellation for O'Bridle's Pelt!
Steer the ship toward that!

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

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

The ship turns toward the stars, sailing blind in the fog.
Rocks jut on either side of the ship...

140 APPLEJACK
Yeehaw! Rockhoof did it!

And then, <CRASH>! The side of Seaspray's ship hits a
massive ROCK.

141 ROCKHOOF
But...I don't understand! The
stars have always steered me true!

Twilight realizes what happened with sadness...

142 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Oh no. Stars can move slowly over
time. They must look different now
than a thousand years ago.

Seaspray turns to Rockhoof, polite but firm.

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

Rockhoof takes off his navy gear, completely defeated.

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

MATCH CUT to Rockhoof's expression, then PULL BACK to show
that Twilight and AJ are heading back to school with him.

144 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Hey, mistakes happen. We'll think
of something else for you to do!

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

146 APPLEJACK
Really? What?

147 ROCKHOOF
I heard there's a statue spell that
sends creatures into stone sleep. I
want you to cast it. On me.

As Twilight and Applejack take in horror--

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

SC. 25 - 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.

148 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (O.S.)
No!

149 ROCKHOOF (O.S.)
Yes!

150 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (O.S.)
No!

151 ROCKHOOF (O.S.)
Yes!

SC. 26 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - MAIN ROOM - DAY

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

152 SPIKE
Hey guys. Need me to help you
decide something?

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

154 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--

155 SPIKE
Whoa. I thought you were arguing
over ice cream flavors.

Twilight turns back to Rockhoof.

156 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
The answer is still no! Why would
you want to be turned into stone?

157 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.

158 ROCKHOOF (CONT'D)
I don't belong in this time. It's
up to you to make that right.

159 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
But there has to be a better way--

160 ROCKHOOF
Twilight, please understand. I want
to be remembered as the hero I was.
Not the disappointment I've become.

Twilight shakes her head to try to stop Rockhoof, but he
exits as she protests.

161 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
But you're not! Rockhoof, wait!
 (then, sad)
Spike, can you teach my class today?

162 SPIKE
You're not really going to turn him
to stone, are you?

163 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Only because it's temporary. As
soon as I think of a new solution,
we'll wake Rockhoof up. I KNOW he
has more to offer the world as a
pony than a statue.

SC. 27 - 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).

164 SANDBAR
Did you hear Rockhoof caught all
the bees in the Everfree Forest,
and gave 'em to Zecora as a gift?

165 SILVERSTREAM
Wow! My family said Rockhoof called
down the stars and sunk the whole
Hippogriff navy!

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

167 YONA
Professor Rockhoof best pony!

Just then, Spike comes trudging glumly through the door.

168 SPIKE
Hey, class. Welcome to the Theory
and Defense of Friendship.

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

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

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

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

Spike shrugs, then pulls out a scroll and reads.

172 SPIKE
Your instructions are to write an
essay on "Heroism: And What It
Means To You."

173 YONA
 (quiet gasp)
No!

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

SC. 28 - EXT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - DAY

Rockhoof practices statue poses.

175 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>

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

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

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

178 YONA
But... Pony need finish Ursa Major
story for class!

Rockhoof looks at her shining eyes.

179 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, and throws it angrily on the floor.

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

Yona unrolls the scroll.

181 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.

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

Rockhoof is touched. Doesn't know what to say.

183 ROCKHOOF
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.

But as Rockhoof follows Yona, he stops in shock, seeing:

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

184 YONA
Yona tell whole school Rockhoof is
best. Now all want hear story.

SC. 29 - EXT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - LATER

Twilight steps out, frazzled and not happy.

185 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Okay. I have the spell, but will
you please reconsider-- 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.

186 ROCKHOOF
The Ursa Major tried to grab me by
the gullet! But I ducked her claws!

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

187 ROCKHOOF (CONT'D)
She had me cornered. So I look at
her...And she 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 takes her place, smiles and <GROWLS>. Rockhoof grins.

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

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

189 ROCKHOOF (CONT'D)
And then I tossed her away with my
shovel, high into the sky.

Rockhoof pantomimes the move with his shovel, then makes a point of looking skyward. The audience looks too.

190 ROCKHOOF (CONT'D)
And she'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 HOOFS TOMPS>, breaking into a chant:

191 CROWD
One more story! One more story!

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

Rockhoof turns to leave, but Twilight blocks his path.

193 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Wait. You said there wasn't
anything in this time you were good
at. What about telling stories?

Rockhoof looks confused.

194 ROCKHOOF
It was just a tall tale...

195 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
One that captured the hearts and
imagination of everycreature here.

196 YONA
Plus pony story super fun!

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

197 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--

198 SPIKE
Can she do that?

Starlight shrugs.

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

199 ROCKHOOF
I... that's very kind of you. But
I still think these old bones are
more suited to a museum display.

200 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
You are a living record of our
history. Your stories can inspire
and teach generations to come. If
you're a statue...That's all lost.

201 ROCKHOOF
But will I ever really belong in
your world?

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

Rockhoof looks at Yona's smile... And believes.

203 ROCKHOOF
Hmm. You know, that reminds me of a
story... Once there was a small Yak
that knew more than a great hero.

204 SMOLDER
Hey, don't forget the dragons in
this one!

205 ROCKHOOF
Aye, there were dragons. And
ponies. And plenty of hippogriffs.
Plus a changeling and a griffon...

PULL BACK as the crowd leans in to listen... **THE END.**