

MY LITTLE PONY  
Season 8  
**A Rockhoof and a Hard Place**  
Ep 821  
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**A ROCKHOOF AND A HARD PLACE**

Premise by Kaita Mpambara

*Logline: When Rockhoof, heroic Pillar of the past, is having trouble fitting into the modern world, Twilight and her friends strive to help him find a new purpose.*

TWILIGHT SPARKLE is thrilled to receive an invitation to an archaeological dig in Rockhoof's old village, especially because it means she'll get a chance to catch up with the heroic pillar himself. According to the invite, ROCKHOOF has been "more than generous" in helping PROFESSOR FOSSIL and her team. But when Twilight arrives, she realizes that isn't necessarily a good thing. Rockhoof easily unearths sections of the dig with his shovel, much to the frustration of the detail-oriented archaeologists. And he identifies tricky artifacts with less-than-exciting revelations: *"That was Fjord Flank's toothbrush... Why are you keeping THAT?"* Professor Fossil, at her wits' end after hearing Rockhoof's tell another one of his "impossible" stories, tells Twilight she needs to intercede – times have changed, and there's no place for Rockhoof here anymore.

Rockhoof is upset – where else can he go? He doesn't know anything about this "new world" he's found himself in. Twilight quickly covers – she has the PERFECT place for Rockhoof – her school! But problems continue once Rockhoof arrives. Though the students love the Pillar's stories (especially YONA, who grows to hero-worship the huge pony with his Yak-like Viking tales), modern locations aren't really built for a pony of his epic-size. Rockhoof has trouble fitting through doorways, his heavy hoof-falls knock things over, and ala Mr. Incredible, he has a very hard time fitting behind a desk. And times have changed – he heroically evacuates the school and redirects water from the lake to prevent what he thinks is a raging fire... Only to discover it's only SPIKE and SMOLDER having a flame-breathing competition. Rockhoof is embarrassed... And he's beginning to think this new world is too different for him.

Twilight feels horribly responsible for Rockhoof's plight, so the MANE 6 put their heads together to come up with a solution. The other Pillars seems to have found their way – maybe Rockhoof can take inspiration from them! But a quick visit to SOMNABULA, MISTMANE, FLASH MAGNUS, and MEADOWBROOK proves that each of the other ponies have had no trouble using their ancient skills to adjust to the modern world. Rockhoof is dejected to discover that perhaps it is only he who is a "pony out of time."

The Mane 6 try to raise Rockhoof's spirits. If the other Pillars found a place in this world, Rockhoof can too. He just needs a job as epic as he is – and since he was a hero in the past, the perfect place for him is ADMIRAL SEASPRAY'S NAVY. Rockhoof is amenable, but when he tries to sail a ship the same way the ancient Horse-wegians did in his time (*"back then, we steered by the stars, and the moon was our only companion"*) he confuses the rest of the Navy and crashes the ship. Undaunted, APPLEJACK gives Rockhoof a job at Sweet Apple Acres, but Big Mac gets into a contest of strength with the big pony after hearing one of his tales, and the duo end up loading their carts so full of apples, the harness snaps and the carts careen downhill and smash! Even epic cake baking

(“like the great Tort of the West Wind”) with PINKIE PIE is a disaster. Defeated, Rockhoof asks Twilight to send him back in time, to the place he mattered/belongs.

As Rockhoof waits, he encounters Yona, who asks if she can write her class assignment about heroes on him – she loves his tales and wants to hear more. Rockhoof says he won’t be around much longer, since he just can’t find a place to belong in this new world. Yona admits change is hard -- Pony school is strange to her too – but she found her place, with her friends. *“Yona Rockhoof’s friend. So Rockhoof belong.”* Rockhoof is touched, but he doesn’t know what he can DO – he’s lost his purpose. Yona tells him that it’s obvious to her, if he’ll just meet her outside...

And a startled Twilight is surprised to come out to the school’s front lawn with her prepared spell to find Rockhoof entertaining all the students, and young ponies too, including the CAKE TWINS, who are rapt with his huge, over-the-top tale from the old days. And the heroic pony is enjoying himself thoroughly. That’s when Twilight gets it - Rockhoof’s place IS in the past, but in SHARING the past in modern times. The Mane 6 were all trying so hard to make Rockhoof fit where he didn’t belong, they never picked up on what came naturally – telling stories. It seems that the Pillar has finally found his place in the modern world, thanks to friendship.