

MY LITTLE PONY

Season 8

Sounds of Silence

Ep 823

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SOUNDS OF SILENCE

Outline by Gregory Bonsignore

Logline: *Applejack and Fluttershy are tasked with visiting the Kirin, a lost civilization of ponies known for honesty and kindness, who have shunned one of their own for not taking the mandatory vow of silence that keeps their anger in check.*

TEASER**SC. 1 – EXT. FLUTTERSHY’S ANIMAL SANCTUARY - DAY**

FLUTTERSHY is happily feeding the ANIMALS in her sanctuary, having prepared all their special treats. ANGEL BUNNY has been very patient while she fed the others, *“and to thank you, I made you a special treat!”* Fluttershy presents a gorgeous-looking carrot parfait. Angel Bunny shakes his head and waves his arms. *“You don’t like it?”* Fluttershy says, hurt. Angel Bunny points to his rear. *“Well that’s not very polite!”* Angel Bunny smacks his forehead, and bounds over to point to Fluttershy’s cutie mark, which is GLOWING! She’s being summoned by the Friendship Map, and she better get going right away.

She turns to trot off, but Angel Bunny grabs her tail like a water skier, bouncing behind. Fluttershy stops, blushing. *“Oops, I guess you want your treat first.”* He gives her a “ya think?” look.

SC. 2 – INT. TWILIGHT’S CASTLE – MAP ROOM – SOON

When Fluttershy arrives, she sees APPLEJACK is already there, her OWN cutie mark glowing. TWILIGHT SPARKLE comments in surprise that this is the first time there’s been a repeat of the duo of ponies called for a Friendship Quest. *“Guess it means we’re extra-good at ‘em,”* Applejack says. Twilight’s glad to hear that, because this one looks especially hard – for starters, their destination is far at the map’s NEW season 8 outer edge, a location they’ve never been to, or heard of before – the PEAKS OF PERIL. <gulp>

END TEASER**MAIN TITLES****ACT ONE****SC. 3 – INT. SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP – TWILIGHT’S OFFICE – LATER**

Twilight trots in, shaking her head. *“I’ve searched all my books, but I can’t find anything on the Peaks of Peril.”* But the good news is that she asked Rockhoof, the new KEEPER OF TALES, and he said that in his time, a group called the KIRIN lived there, known for their kindness and truth-speaking. Unfortunately, another creature also lived there – the NIRIK, a fearsome beast of pure fire. Fluttershy *really* hopes they don’t encounter those. Applejack shrugs, determined – she’s sure they’ll get the friendship problem solved, no matter what kind of creatures are there. Fluttershy asks if Twilight wants to take her

place on the quest. Twilight would love to, but flanks don't lie. She wasn't chosen for this – Fluttershy was. Fluttershy nods, but isn't thrilled about it.

SC. 4 – INT. PONYVILLE EXPRESS – LATER

The train is empty except for Applejack and Fluttershy. Outside, there's the sense of being FAR out, as the train chugs far into the scary unknown, the sounds of birds and brooks replaced by spooky, windy silence. A TICKET TAKER PONY walks through, surprised to see them as the train stops. No pony rides the train to the end of the line! *"There's nothing but uncharted terrain and wild beasts out yonder!"* Fluttershy winces, but Applejack thanks the ticket taker, and the two ponies embark on their journey.

SC. 5 – EXT. WILDERNESS – CONT.

Applejack and Fluttershy dodge through various dangers, helping each other out on the way, their skills working in tandem – Fluttershy getting large BIRDS to fly them across a chasm, Applejack using her lasso to pull them up a cliff... It's clear they're the perfect ponies for the job! At last they arrive at...

SC. 6 – EXT. THE PEAKS OF PERIL / KIRIN VILLAGE – CONT.

The scenery is beautiful (and cribbed from Mistmane's home). Suddenly, HOOOF-BEATS <SOUND> behind them. Fluttershy backs closer to Applejack... Could it be the fiery Niriks?! She spins, as a shadow dances through the trees. Then another, then another... Even Applejack is getting unnerved. "SHOW YOURSELF!" Applejack yells.

Suddenly, the beautiful, unicorn-like Kirin leap into the light. Applejack and Fluttershy startle. But the Kirin say nothing. Odd... Applejack steps forward, *"You gave us a scare! I'm Applejack, and this is Fluttershy."* She says. The Kirin look at each other, but say nothing. *"If you have any friendship problems, we're here to help,"* Fluttershy adds. The Kirin say nothing. *"Kinda quiet, ain't they,"* Applejack asides to Fluttershy. *"We're from Equestria, and we're plum-tickled to meet y'all,"* Applejack tries again, *"What're your names?"* The Kirin smile, but say nothing. Applejack wonders if maybe they don't understand Ponish. *"Do you understand us?"* Fluttershy asks. The Kirin nod. *"But you don't speak?"* She asks. Again, the nod. Applejack frowns, *"Don't or won't?"* The Kirin do nothing. *"You have to ask yes or no questions,"* Fluttershy explains. It's just like talking to Angel Bunny. Applejack claps a hoof to her forehead, flummoxed – how are they supposed to solve a friendship problem if none of them talk?! Fluttershy says she's sure they'll be able to figure things out, eventually.

Applejack comically tries to get the Kirin to make a peep – asking questions, and finally sneezing with the hopes of a "gesundheit," – no luck. In frustration she asks if ANY of them speak! As one, the Kirin point to a forest path. Applejack goes to check it out, while Fluttershy says she'll stay with the Kirin to learn what she can. Both warn each other to be careful – and watch out for Niriks!

SC. 7 – EXT. KIRIN FOREST – CONT.

Applejack walks through the spooky new terrain, startling as she comes face-to-face with another Kirin – AUTUMN BLAZE. *"Y'all are quieter than an apple blossom on*

snowfall!” She says, *“Still, I’m glad to finally meet a Kirin who talks.”* Silence. *“You DO talk, don’t ya?”* More silence. *“Oh, for the love of Celestia...”* Applejack face-hooves, only to hear Autumn chuckle! Autumn exclaims, *“Just kidding!”*

Once Autumn starts, she doesn’t stop talking. She’s a garrulous, charismatic, teasing Kirin, full of fun and thrilled to talk to another pony. She chats about how she wants Applejack to tell her all about herself, but first, she has to show her the most amazing view she’s ever seen. She drags AJ up the cliffside and points out a gorgeous rainbow-crowned overlook of the forest. AJ agrees that it’s magical. Autumn almost tears up – getting to hear somepony share a beautiful sight is amazing. She says that she hasn’t been able to do that since the Kirin took their vow of silence.

Applejack stops her there... *“Whoa there! Vow of silence?”* Autumn nods – that’s why the Kirin kicked her out. *“I’m startin’ to get an idea what the friendship problem is...”* Applejack says.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SC. 8 – EXT. KIRIN FOREST – CONT.

Applejack asks about this vow of silence. *“Why’d y’all stop talkin’?”* Autumn says it’s a long story, she doesn’t want to talk about it. She wants to SING about it! A one two three four...

AND IN SONG, (told in musical flashback) she explains:

A long time ago, one Kirin said something that hurt another’s feelings. And the hurt one retaliated with cruel words. As the Kirins’ anger grew, the whole village was destroyed in their rage. (We see flames engulfing the village, but no Kirins present).

So to prevent it ever happening again, the Kirin all bathed in the Stream of Silence, which took away their voices so they’d never utter an angry word again. Or express emotion, really. Autumn couldn’t stand not being able to joke with friends, or sing, or share a story, just in case she might get angry – so she researched and found a magical antidote to the stream’s silencing properties. She could talk again, and she must’ve chatted for two moons straight! But it’s not so fun to only have yourself to talk to. (Except this coconut she painted a face on.) So she offered her silence cure to the other Kirins. Not only did they refuse to take it, they destroyed it all and threw Autumn out of their community.

Applejack can’t believe the Kirins would do that. *“No pony should give up feelin’ feelins, just to keep from feelin’ mad.”* Applejack tells Autumn that she’s in luck – this must be the very problem that AJ and Fluttershy were sent to solve. Applejack’s sure she can get the Kirins to take Autumn back into the village... Maybe they’ll even change their minds about taking that antidote.

But Autumn points out that there isn't any left, and she can't make more. She used the last of the flower it's made from... And hasn't been able to find another one in the forest. "Foal steps," Applejack says, and leaves to go talk some horse-sense into the Kirins. Autumn confides to her coconut that she doesn't think Applejack will succeed. But she hopes so!

SC. 9 – EXT. KIRIN VILLAGE – SOON

Applejack canters in to tell Fluttershy the news. She's found out the friendship problem! Fluttershy says she has too. *"We gotta figure out a way to make the Kirin talk again!"* Applejack says. Fluttershy shakes her head, *"Oh no, we can't let that happen!"* Applejack frowns – did Fluttershy hear the same story she did? *"Maybe somethin' got lost in translation,"* she suggests. But Fluttershy shakes her head and directs Applejack to...

A mural in the center of the village. In an almost Guernica style, it illustrates the OTHER part of the story that Applejack didn't hear. When the Kirin get mad, they change into their furious fire-forms – the Nirik (sort of a yin-yang thing)! That's how the village was destroyed. She can understand why the Kirin don't want that to happen.

"But that's no reason to stop talkin'!" Applejack says. Fluttershy disagrees stubbornly, *"Fire is dangerous in a forest like this! Think of all the animals it could hurt!"* *"Not if they don't turn into Niriks in the first place!"* *"Can you be SURE that won't happen?"*

As Applejack and Fluttershy argue, the Kirin get more and more anxious, watching the two ponies disagree. The Kirin begin pawing the earth, riled up. They start circling our two... to the point where they notice... *"Um... What's going on?"* As one, the Kirin lift them both in the air, like crowd surfing, and run off with them. Applejack and Fluttershy protest, but they can't break free! Where could the Kirin be taking them?

SC. 10 – EXT. STREAM OF SILENCE – CONT.

Applejack and Fluttershy take in horror as they spot the water ahead. It's just like the one in the mural... It's the Stream of Silence! The Kirin must want to give them the silent treatment too! Applejack gulps – all of Autumn Blaze's antidote was destroyed. If they hit that water, they'll never be able to speak the truth/talk to animals again! AJ and Fluttershy struggle harder!

Then suddenly, the Kirin halt and drop them near the stream. Applejack and Fluttershy can hardly believe their luck... Until they look up to see that the path ahead is blocked by a Nirik – who happens to look an awful lot like Autumn Blaze – breathing fire!!! Bad just got WORSE!

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

SC. 11 – EXT. STREAM OF SILENCE – RESUME

Applejack and Fluttershy cower together as the Nirik runs toward them, then veers to the side. It makes a line of fire between them and the Kirin. Is it... Trying to save them?

“Duh!” Says a familiar voice. It’s Autumn, cooling down from Nirik form to Kirin. She can’t have her family silencing her only talking friends! *“Hi, I’m Autumn Blaze,”* she says to Fluttershy.

Applejack can’t believe her eyes, *“THAT was you?”* Fluttershy asks, *“But how could you control your temper as a Nirik?”* Autumn explains, *“I’ve learned, the danger is not in having anger – we all do. It’s in letting your anger rule you... Which is just as bad as letting your fear of being angry rule you.”* The other Kirin bow their heads, in understanding. *“Giving up joy, songs, and poems about sunsets is no kind of life!”* Autumn says, addressing each Kirin – *“Fern Glow, you used to love to laugh! And Rain Shine, you sung the most perfect harmonies! Don’t you miss it?”* The Kirin clearly do.

Applejack appeals to the Kirin to let Autumn back into the village. They know from experience that in life, every pony gets mad. *“But the solution isn’t to stuff your anger down. It’s to talk honestly about how you feel.”* Fluttershy chimes in, *“And if you feel yourself becoming a Nirik, then take some time away for yourself to be mad where you can’t hurt anypony.”*

Considering this, the Kirin nod to each other. One of them steps forward, trying to communicate something. In a humorous charades moment, Applejack and Autumn make crazy guesses. But Fluttershy’s good at this sort of thing and she figures out... *“They’re asking for the silence antidote!”*

Autumn shakes her head sadly – they can’t make any more, she used up all the flower. Fluttershy frowns and asks Autumn to describe the flower to her. Armed with the knowledge, she dives into the bushes. Applejack tells the others this is perfectly normal... Uh, I think. Fluttershy pops up with a bunny in her hooves. She asks the bunny kindly if he knows where the special flower is that they’re looking for. *“I’ll share my special carrot parfait recipe with you,”* Fluttershy tempts. The bunny is happy to help!

SC. 12 – KIRIN FOREST – CONT.

The gang follows the bunny to a hidden part of the forest, where they find the flower! Autumn can’t believe it – it was a good thing Fluttershy was here, or she’d never have been able to make more antidote. Applejack smiles to her friend, *“see? We WERE the right ponies for the job.”*

SC. 13 – KIRIN VILLAGE – SOON

The Kirin rub the magic antidote on their throats, and soon the village is awash with happy laughter, jokes they’ve been saving up, and scales being sung. The Kirin leader invites Autumn to join the village once again, and hopes she can teach them all she has learned about controlling her anger... And perhaps sing? They do all so miss her beautiful voice. Autumn says she’s happy to.

Autumn Blaze thanks Applejack and Fluttershy – without them, she'd never have gotten the other Kirins to listen. At that, the two ponies' cutie marks light up. *"Whoa! You're glowing! Does that mean you're angry?"* Autumn asks. *"Pretty much the opposite,"* Applejack smiles.

END OF EPISODE.