

TEASER

- Open on SB doing research. Suddenly the text in his book starts glowing and he thinks he's discovered some new magical thing—until he discovers the glow is actually coming from his flank!

ACT ONE

- FADE UP on SB with TS in the map room. We discover that both SB and SG are called. It's kind of a big deal for SB, who can't believe he's been called by THE map. SG's stoked too, because going on a mission with her childhood buddy is going to be amazing!
- But when the duo finds out they are called to their HOMETOWN, both are less than enthusiastic. TS is surprised, but doesn't pry.
- On the way there we learn they both have a fondness for their quaint little town, but neither have been home for a long time. Why? Oh, you know—parents. They both agree parents drive you crazy.
 - o SB's parents are *constantly* asking about his plans for the future. He knows they're trying to avoid talking about the past because of his whole failing out of magic school, but it ends up being them constantly nagging him about the progress he's making.
 - o SL's parents end up treating her like a foal. Sure she's made mistakes as a grown up pony, but she's also learned from them and moved on, but it seems like her parents only want to think of her as this perfect little kid. They are stuck on this image of her from the past.
- They arrive and discover that half of the town has been turned into The Grove (i.e. an over developed shopping mall) by the "TownName Redevelopment Committee" (funny chain restaurants, condos with over the top yuppie types, etc.), while the other half of the town has been cordoned off by the "TownName Preservation Council" with rope and caution tape and you can't use any of it, or touch it—actually don't even look at it—because everything in it is of historical significance and needs to be preserved exactly the way it is and the place is overrun by superior, hipster, types (think the Feminist Bookstore couple from Portlandia). The town is divided along these two extreme positions and we quickly discover:
 - o SB's mom, Profit Motive (actual name TBD, but you get the idea), basically *is* the redevelopment committee and...
 - o SL's dad, Artisan Mustache (same deal), basically *is* the preservation council.
- In split screen, or cross-cutting, or some other simultaneous scene revealing convention, we watch as SB and SL head home with their respective parents—who do exactly what they each complained about earlier while defending their respective positions.
- Exasperated, SB and SL go to find each other. Clearly getting their parents to agree is the problem they've been called to solve. Luckily they are each certain of the solution:
 - o BOTH: "My parents are crazy! Your parents are right, we need to preserve/level everything!"
 - o **Wait. What? WE DISAGREE!?!?! We better have an act break!**

ACT TWO

- SB and SL are stunned. How could they agree with each other's parents? They can't fathom it, the opposing position makes no sense. They agree that they have to come to a consensus and set out to prove each other wrong.
- SL takes SB to the over-developed part of town and it's the pony equivalent of spin classes and Starbucks on every corner. SL is super jazzed. All these ponies focused on progress and moving forward is inspiring, but...
 - SB can't take it. It's like they've all abandoned what the town used to be: full of quaint shops. Now it's all yuppie power couples, and real estate agents.
- SB takes SL to the preserved part of town, to greasy spoons and thrift (junk) shops and independent bookstores. This is the town he remembers, but...
 - To SL it seems like they are preserving things just to preserve them. No pony wants to eat actual grease, or buy junk, or look at books that are so authentically distressed (read: old) you can't read them—which is lucky since all of the judgy, hipsters won't actually let them buy food, junk, or books because they have to preserve it all!
- Exasperated that they are unable to convince each other, they find themselves in the town square where they discover their parents at odds over the town fountain. The fountain is ground zero—the one spot that is in the middle of these two sides of the town. SB's parents want to tear the leaking mess down and build a new monument to progress, while SL's parents want it to remain untouched for all time, despite the fact that it doesn't really function any more. Both SL and SB go to their respective parents and try to convince them to back down, but they both continue to treat their kids in the way they hate!
 - SB's parents suggest he use his status in the Crystal Empire and have Princess Cadance issue a royal decree to destroy all the broken fountains in Equestria.
 - SL's parents assure her that they know best. She doesn't need to worry about a big decision like this. They will totally handle it for her.
 - The parental interactions are the last straw for both of them.
 - SL charges up her horn, determined to show her parents just how capable she is by destroying the fountain!
 - Similarly determined to make his parents understand that preserving the past and progress aren't mutually exclusive, SB chains himself to the fountain.
 - **But SL doesn't see SB on the OTHER SIDE of the fountain, and she's about to blast him! OH, NOS! PERIL ACT OUT!**

ACT THREE

- SL jerks her head as she sees SB at the last second, sending her shot wild.
- SL demands that SB get out of the way so she can turn the fountain into something useful and they can all move on with their lives. SB tells her the fountain is a part of the town's past and he won't let it be forgotten. Neither SL nor SB can believe that they are siding with the other's parents. It's one thing to have their family push their buttons like always, but to have their

friend join in is just beyond the pail. SB declares he'll stay chained to the fountain forever if that's what it takes! Oh, no he won't, says SL and horn-magics him across the square.

- Undeterred, he starts to rush back, but his parents block him. He tries to explain to them that he has to stop them and SL from destroying the town's past. Not just because he loves the town as it is, but also because they are on a mission to solve the friendship problem which is clearly the rift between them and SL's parents and which, just as clearly, can only be solved by them giving up their crazy need to turn his beloved town into a shopping mall! This gives his parents pause. They didn't realize he loved the town as it was. In fact, they only got on this whole redevelopment kick to please him. Off SB's confused look...
- We CUT TO the fountain where SL rears back, once again ready to magic the fountain into oblivion, when her parents rush in and take SB's place. SL explains that they have to get out of the way. Despite what they might think, she's not a child. She's a grown up pony who solves friendship problems like the one they are clearly having with SL's parents. She's overcome a lot of obstacles to get to where she is and she didn't get there by dwelling on the past. She's moved on and the town needs to too! Her parents explain that they didn't know that's how she felt. In fact, they've only been trying to preserve the town for her. SL powers down her horn. "Um... What?"
- WITH SB AND HIS FOLKS – they take him aside and show him that they HAVE kept his old toys/things from when he was a foal. It's just that his life seems so grand and busy now, they didn't think he'd be interested. After all, they know how important his job is and how exciting life must be in the Crystal Empire. They understand how his responsibilities have kept him away, but they've missed him. They thought if they spruced up the town and gave it some of the grandeur of the Crystal Empire, he'd come and visit more often. Off SB's guilty expression...
- WITH SL AND HER FOLKS – Who admit that they've missed her as well. In fact, they devour every piece of news that comes out of Equestria about Starlight's adventures. They know she's busy these days and how hard she works helping the Princess of Friendship. They also know it hasn't been an easy road and that she's overcome a lot of difficulties, but they thought if they could just keep her home town the way it was when she was worry free and happy that she would come home more often. "We kept the past alive because we want to be a part of your future."
- As both SL and SB reflect on this new information, they realize that their parents aren't really divided. In fact, they have the same issue—them! They both admit that they've stayed away instead of addressing the issues they were having with their parents. As they promise not to let that happen in the future, their flanks glow and they realize the real friendship problem they came to solve was between themselves and their parents. **All is well!**
- And then there's a wrap up joke scene with Twilight. **THE END**