

MY LITTLE PONY
Season 8
Homecoming, Home Going
Ep 808
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TEASER

SC. 1 - EXT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE – DAY

TILT DOWN from the Crystal Castle and PAN past the statue of Spike to find SUNBURST going on and on about his newest purchase as the OWNER of a bookstore tries to hustle him out the door. The bookstore owner finally gets his wish when Sunburst breaks off mid-sentence as his cutie mark begins to GLOW and PULSATE. Realizing what this means, he begins a Pinkie Pie-worthy “SQUEEEEE...”

SC. 2 - INT. TWILIGHT’S CASTLE, MAP ROOM – SAME

...EEEEEE!!!” that takes us all the way to Twilight’s Castle where Sunburst stands next to the map with TWILIGHT SPARKLE. GO WIDE to see the rest of the MANE SIX, SPIKE and STARLIGHT GLIMMER. Pinkie, “Geez, Sunburst. Excited much?” OFF Sunburst’s sheepish grin...

END TEASER

MAIN TITLES

ACT ONE

SC. 3 - INT. TWILIGHT’S CASTLE, MAP ROOM – RESUMING

Back with the Mane Six and Starlight talking to Sunburst. Sunburst apologizes for being so excited, but Twilight tells him she’s excited too – this is the first time anypony from outside Ponyville has been called to solve a friendship problem. She had no idea that the map’s summoning power could extend as far as the Crystal Empire. Sunburst wants to know who else was called, and Starlight raises a hoof. Thrilled to be paired up with his best friend, Sunburst looks at the map to see what exotic locale they’re headed to, only to discover their destination is... their hometown of Sires Hollow. OFF Starlight and Sunburst sharing a look of anxious surprise...

SC. 4 - INT. FRIENDSHIP EXPRESS – DAY

Starlight and Sunburst discuss the challenge ahead as they roll towards their foalhood home. Sunburst is anxious, but Starlight imparts some wisdom to him from her previous experience on map missions. And at least it’s familiar territory, she reminds him; they’ll be dealing with ponies and places they already know since it’s their hometown.

The two reminisce about their foalhood in Sires Hollow. Sunburst says what he loves about home is how no matter where else you go or how long you’re gone, it’s still there

waiting for you exactly how it was when you left. He recalls how his favorite thing as a foal was to browse the bookshop in the town square, then grab a sandwich across the way and sit next to the town fountain to eat it. He can't wait to relive that experience. Starlight reminds him that not everything was good about growing up in Sires Hollow – they always had to go through the back door of the bookstore because the building was so old that the front door was jammed shut; half the time they didn't have the oats she wanted at the sandwich shop because it was so hard to get supplies from Equestria; and that fountain constantly leaked and sprayed anypony that got too close. Sunburst insists that's all part of the charm of these places. Starlight shakes her head, amused, and says what she misses the most about growing up in Sires Hollow is their two families hanging out. They did everything together and she can't wait for them to all be together again.

SC. 5 - EXT. SIRES HOLLOW – LATER

Starlight and Sunburst step off the train, excited to be home again after so long. But before they can see the sights, a young unicorn trots up full of over-the-top excitement. VIOLET BRAID introduces herself to the pair as their biggest fan. Confused, they ask why and Violet explains. Not only do they know Twilight Sparkle, the Princess of Friendship, which no doubt makes them official friendship experts, but they both managed to get out of their ridiculously small town! She always knew they'd come back to visit someday, but she can't believe it's today! She actually made a poster of them and hung it in her room for inspiration; would they sign it if she ran home and got it?

Sunburst is surprised, enjoying the attention more than Starlight, who downplays the whole “friendship experts” thing, remembering that they're looking for a friendship problem and have no idea where to start. Starlight begins to prod Violet Braid about recent events and potential ponies with friendship issues, but Sunburst isn't quite done reminiscing—it's the first time home in a long time and he wants to eat lunch by the town fountain. Violet tells him that might be difficult since the fountain is about to be torn down... or maybe not. It's actually kind of a big debate in the town. Either way, it's not working anymore. OFF Sunburst's panicked face...

SC. 6 - EXT. SIRES HOLLOW, FOUNTAIN – CONTINUOUS

Sunburst races ahead of Starlight and Violet Braid to the town square, where an ornate stone fountain sits dry and empty, surrounded by construction partitions. Sunburst is crushed to see what was the heart of town now dried up and dilapidated. Sunburst asks Violet Braid how this could have happened, but doesn't wait for an answer as he looks across the square and spots...

SC. 7 - EXT. SIRES HOLLOW, SANDWICH SHOP – CONTINUOUS

...the sandwich shop is dark inside and has a big red sign in the window, but Sunburst races over and tries the door anyway. Yep, it's closed. Starlight catches up to him and tries to calm him down, as she can see he's really starting to freak out, but it's too late – Sunburst has already galloped off to...

SC. 8 - EXT. SIRES HOLLOW, BOOKSTORE – CONTINUOUS

There’s no need to even try the door here – it and the windows are boarded up. Disbelieving, Sunburst runs around back to try the other door, but it’s no use. He rushes back as Violet Braid explains that the town elders decided the whole square was old and outdated and needed to be improved. A passing pony overhears this and chimes in, “About time, too! That fountain is an embarrassment!” This causes another pony to react: “This fountain has been here since our town was founded! It’s part of our history!” The raised voices attract the attention of the other ponies in the square, who begin calling out their support for one position or the other as they line up across from each other.

Sunburst and Starlight are shocked at how polarized everypony has become so quickly, but before they can do anything to defuse the situation, SUNBURST’S MOM and STARLIGHT’S DAD (names TBD) approach. They greet their children warmly, but Sunburst and Starlight are still upset by the town’s division. They ask their parents to step in and do something and as the older ponies walk toward the angry crowd, Sunburst confides to Starlight that their parents showed up just in time; their solidarity will be the example the town clearly needs. But they both get a shock when they look out to see Starlight’s dad taking his place as leader of the ponies that want to preserve the fountain, and Sunburst’s mom in charge of the side that wants to tear it down. OFF Sunburst’s and Starlight’s identical cringes as their parents face off...

END ACT ONE**ACT TWO****SC. 9 - INT. SUNBURST’S FOALHOOD HOME – DAY**

Starlight and Sunburst sit across from their dad and mom, respectively, in the same room where Sunburst got his cutie mark in ep. 526. Only this time the ponies are much older and it’s not just Starlight who’s upset by the situation. The parents awkwardly try to explain that although their families were close friends when the foals were growing up, this issue of the town square renovation has proven to be a problem for them, as they both feel passionately about their side, and the other just doesn’t seem to listen. The two parents even begin arguing about how they’re each explaining the situation. The conversation quickly devolves into a fight and Starlight’s Dad storms out. Starlight rushes after, but it’s too late—he’s gone home.

SC. 10 - EXT. SUNBURST’S HOME – CONTINUOUS

Sunburst comes outside to meet Starlight, but before they can talk about what just happened, Violet Braid reappears with her poster in one hoof and a Sharpie in the other. Starlight explains the issue between their parents, and Violet excitedly points out that they must be the friendship problem they came to solve. Sunburst agrees – that’s why the map chose the two of them – it’s not just because it’s their hometown, but their families

are the ones that need help, and who knows the parents better than their foals? The two decide that they’ll have a better shot of getting their folks to see reason if they each talk to their own parent one-on-one. OFF an excited Violet Braid watching her two favorite “friendship experts” head off to solve the problem...

SC. 11 - EXT. STARLIGHT’S FOALHOOD HOME – LATER

Starlight catches up to her father outside his house. He apologizes for letting things get heated with Sunburst’s mother, but they just keep butting heads lately and it gets so frustrating. Starlight says maybe he’d understand if he looked at it from the other point of view. She starts to espouse the virtues of progress and change, but when she sees she’s losing him, she has an idea. Starlight casts a quick spell on a birdbath in the yard, changing the surface of the water into a vision of the future.

As her dad peers at the Sires Hollow of the future, the fountain is gone, replaced with a post-modern sculpture, and the storefronts are uniform and look like molded plastic. There are more of them, too, as the town is bustling, alive with activity. Starlight thinks it’s an impressive sight, but her father is aghast. This is exactly what he’s been talking about! He barely recognizes the square – all the character of the town is gone, all the quaintness. No, he’s got to stop this once and for all, right now! He canters off toward town with Starlight calling after him. Looks like her idea backfired!

SC. 12 - INT. SUNBURST’S FOALHOOD HOME – SAME

Sunburst talks with his mom, confused as to why his family and Starlight’s aren’t getting along. He pulls out his favorite family photo that shows his family and Starlight’s when they were foals, all of them in front of the town fountain, laughing as Starlight leans over and gets sprayed in the face. It’s a perfect moment in both their family’s history and that of the town. He pulls down The History of Sires Hollow from one of the bookshelves. He opens to a sepia photograph taken at almost the same spot, with a pioneer-looking family in front of the fountain when it was new. He tells her the story (which we see in sepia tones) of the founding of the town and how that very fountain played an integral part – it’s built on a natural spring and for a long time, the fountain was the town.

Unfortunately, his story only feeds her idea that the thing is too old. She reminds him of how the pipes froze one winter and the whole town ran out of water; how it leaks so bad it constantly turns main street into an impassable bog of mud; how Sunburst himself broke half a dozen pairs of glasses as a foal when an errant spray would knock them off his face. She tells Sunburst that the town deserves better, and that won’t happen until the fountain is gone! “Inspired” by her son’s history lesson, she resolves to do something about it! OFF Sunburst’s grimace as she exits...

SC. 13 - EXT. SIRES HOLLOW, TOWN SQUARE/FOUNTAIN – MOMENTS LATER

Starlight heads toward the center of town, when Sunburst runs up in distress. He tells her talking to his mom backfired and he’s worried she’s going to do something drastic. Starlight says she had a similarly dismal outing with her father and isn’t sure what to do. Before they can devise a plan to locate their parents, they’re interrupted by a cry from a bullhorn. REVEAL – Sunburst’s mom, leading a group of ponies on a march to tear down the fountain. Sunburst and Starlight move to intercept, but as they get closer they see Starlight’s father – who’s chained himself to the fountain in protest! Several of his supporters picket the area as well. Sunburst and Starlight stand between the two factions, each looking to their own parent on one side and then their best friend’s parent on the other side, both camps yelling at each other. OFF their looks as they catch each other’s eye, wondering how it got to this point...

END ACT TWO**ACT THREE****SC. 14 - EXT. SIRES HOLLOW, TOWN SQUARE – RESUMING**

It’s the irresistible force vs. the immovable object - the progressive ponies on the march (led by Sunburst’s mother), and the preservationist ponies picketing (led by Starlight’s father—still chained to the fountain), with Starlight and Sunburst between them. The parents are yelling at each other, each calling for a completely contradictory plan for the fountain. Starlight and Sunburst try to make peace, but both parents are clear – neither side is going anywhere until they get their way.

As Sunburst and Starlight try to figure things out, Violet Braid trots up to them. Starlight can’t believe how stubborn their parents are being; her dad is obsessed with keeping the fountain. Of course, Sunburst agrees, that’s why he’s been trying to convince his mother to keep the fountain so both parents would be on the same page. Starlight shakes her head. She was trying to convince her dad to get rid of the fountain so the two sides would agree. Sunburst is shocked—that’s the opposite of what he wants! He launches into an impassioned defense of preserving both town history and the family friendship dynamic of their youth. Starlight rises to his level of agitation, explaining that not everypony loves the past because you can’t change it. It’s obviously smarter to look forward rather than back, because that’s the only direction you can actually move. Sunburst counters by saying that the past is important because it made you who you are. Understanding and cherishing it is the best way to understand yourself.

Their argument starts to get more and more heated until Violet Braid steps in. She can’t believe the Princess of Friendship sent them here and this is how they act? They should be stopping the fighting in town, not fighting themselves! Some friendship experts they are! She pulls out the poster of the two of them and rips it down the middle. Starlight and Sunburst watch the pieces of poster land at their feet as Violet Braid trots off, then look

up at each other, abashed. Starlight apologizes; she only thought about what she wanted and didn’t even talk to Sunburst. Sunburst admits that he’s equally to blame and they both resolve to help their parents remember the lifelong friendship they have and not to take each other’s feelings for granted. OFF this...

SC. 15 - EXT. SIRES HOLLOW, FOUNTAIN – MOMENTS LATER

Sunburst approaches Starlight’s father who tells Sunburst that if his mom sent him over here to change his mind, it won’t work. Sunburst tells him that his mom isn’t very happy with him, since he wants to save the fountain too. Pleased to have another ally, Starlight’s dad tries to recruit him for help. Sunburst has always been good at finding stuff in books; maybe there’s something he could present to the other side that would sway them? Sunburst considers this, then stops and asks why Starlight’s dad is so adamant about preserving the town square. Surprised, he begins with a stock answer that one of the responsibilities of being an elder is to keep the history of the town, etc., but Sunburst can tell there’s more. Finally, the older pony opens up – every time he walks past this fountain, he remembers how Starlight always used to crane her head over the edge to look at her reflection in the water when she was little. It’s his favorite memory of his filly’s foalhood and so much else changed as she grew up that he can’t bear to give up this one last thing. Sunburst is touched, and commiserates, saying he has a lot of great memories of the fountain too. But Starlight told him on the trip here that every time she looked in the fountain as a foal, it squirted her in the face, which drove her crazy. Her dad is surprised; he never knew that bothered her. Sunburst says even if two ponies share the same experience, they might remember it differently. OFF this...

SC. 16 - EXT. SIRES HOLLOW, TOWN SQUARE – SAME

Sunburst’s mom is leading her followers in a chant when Starlight pulls her aside. Sunburst’s mom apologizes that this has been such a rough visit and encourages her to come back again soon – like after the fountain is torn down. Starlight notices something off in the mare’s tone and tries to ask, but Sunburst’s mom tells her if her own son couldn’t convince her to change her mind about the fountain, Starlight sure won’t. Starlight says she’s not trying to convince her of anything, just trying to understand her. The older mare softens a little, but bristles when Starlight says this must be a tough position, knowing how much Sunburst loves the fountain and the shops in town square. Of course Sunburst’s mom knows how much he loves it – that’s exactly why she wants to tear it down! Starlight is shocked, but Sunburst’s mom explains that when Sunburst left Sires Hollow to study magic, she missed him terribly. Every time she passed the fountain, she would picture him sitting on the edge, eating a sandwich and reading a book like he always did. And as time passed, seeing the fountain hurt more instead of less. So when the plan to renovate town square came up, she threw herself behind it whole-heartedly, thinking she could help the town and herself at the same time. Starlight explains she may think it will feel better not to see the fountain anymore, but if they tear it down, her last tie to Sunburst’s foalhood will be gone forever. And to Starlight’s. AND to how close the two families always were growing up. OFF Sunburst’s mom, considering...

SC. 17 - EXT. SIRES HOLLOW, TOWN SQUARE/FOUNTAIN – MOMENTS LATER

Starlight and Sunburst find Violet. They explain that she was right. Luckily, she was there to point out how they weren't setting the best friendship example. They talked to their parents and tried to do a better job of it, but they don't know if it'll be enough. Violet looks up and points behind them. “I think maybe it was.” They turn to see Sunburst's mom walking up. She thought about what Starlight said and is willing to try to find some middle ground. “That makes two of us,” says Starlight's dad, approaching from the opposite direction (chain trailing behind him). The parents just aren't sure they'll be able to convince the rest of the town. They need to come up with a solution that incorporates the best parts of the past, but allows and encourages progress. Sunburst and Starlight share a look, “Leave that to us.”

HARD CUT TO:

SC. 18 - EXT. SIRES HOLLOW, FOUNTAIN – NEXT DAY

The scene looks similar, except now the townspies are all intermingled around the fountain, which is hidden beneath a tarp. Starlight's dad and Sunburst's mom address the townspies, explaining that, thanks to the wisdom and friendship of their filly and colt, the older generation was reminded that in Sires Hollow, as in life, the best results come when you move forward and accept change while never forgetting who you are and how you got here. They nod to Sunburst and Starlight, who levitate the sheet off to reveal the new town fountain – fully restored to its former glory, but with new highlights that give it a slightly futuristic flair. They explain that Sunburst did the research to maintain the original design, while Starlight used magic to get it done. And the best part, Starlight says, is that it doesn't leak or squirt ponies in the face anymore. She turns it on and water shoots majestically skyward in beautiful arcs.

Starlight leans over to look at her reflection in the water and sees her best friend sidle up next to her and their parents behind her. The four of them smile, then a jet of water from the fountain shoots up into Starlight's and Sunburst's faces. Shaking her muzzle dry, Starlight looks around and sees the source of the jet – Violet Braid used her magic to splash her new friends. She apologizes, saying she couldn't resist. Starlight agrees it was a good one, but says they might have one better. Sunburst produces a scroll and unrolls it to reveal... the poster of the two of them Violet Braid had torn in two. Starlight used her magic to repair it, and the two of them signed it for their biggest fan. Violet has a couple of fans herself now, as they couldn't have done this without her.

Starlight's and Sunburst's cutie marks GLOW, signifying that their friendship problem has been solved. Violet Braid asks if that means they're leaving. They say yes, but promise to visit home a little more often. OFF the parents rejoining this happy tableau...

END