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MY LITTLE PONY

Season 9

The Beginning of the End, Part I & II

EP 901 & 902

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THE BEGINNING OF THE END, PART I & II

Outline by Joanna Lewis & Kristine Songco

ACT ONE**SC. 1 - INT. CELESTIA'S CASTLE – HALLWAY – DAY**

Twilight, Rarity, Applejack, Rainbow Dash, Fluttershy, Pinkie Pie, and Spike have been summoned by Celestia and Luna, but without any indication as to why! Twilight: "Do you think there's something the Princesses would like us to incorporate into our syllabi for this school year? I mean it's fine if so, I'll just have to redo mine!" Spike, (under): "For the tenth time this summer." Applejack: "I'm sure they'll tell us as soon as we get to the end of the hallway, here." Rainbow Dash: "I bet they just caught the last Wonderbolt show and wanted to personally thank me for being the epitome of cool." Rarity clears her throat and sweetly asks why the rest of them would need to be here for that? Rainbow: "Because somepony needs to clap." They all share a laugh. Pinkie: "I think they called us here for a party." Twilight: "Pinkie, not everything is a party." They walk into the throne room and...

SC. 2 - INT. CELESTIA'S CASTLE – THRONE ROOM – CONTINUOUS

Surprise! The throne room is decked out for a party. Pinkie: "See? Toldya!" Princess Celestia and Princess Luna congratulate them - Equestria has had 60 days of harmony, the longest streak in years, and it's all because of Twilight and her friends. The M6 are ecstatic, and surprised to see even Discord is there. Discord: "Well, someone had to take care of the decorations since Pinkie Pie couldn't know about it." They look around the room - upon closer inspection, the decorations are weird and Discord-y. The streamers are actually snakes, the cake is upside down and the balloons are actually puffed up floating bullfrogs. Pinkie: "You did a...great job." Fluttershy: "Are those frogs OK?" A frog stops holding his breath and zips around the room like a deflating balloon. Discord: "You hate it." Girls: "Noooooooooooo."

While the M6 say hello to Starlight and some of their other friends from Ponyville, Celestia, Luna, and Discord have an aside. Luna says it's wonderful how much Twilight and her friends have grown. It seems she and Celestia don't have much to do these days. Celestia: "If they keep this up, soon we'll be able to retire." Discord: "I suppose I could use some more 'me' time." The Princesses agree heartily as they watch Twilight and her friends celebrate. ON Twilight, discovering the Princess's "60 days without an incident" chart. She exclaims: "Wait, you had a chart and you didn't tell me?" END TEASER.

SC. 3 - EXT. CELESTIA'S CASTLE – LATER

As the Mane 6 leave the party, Discord hands out party favors. "Here's a bugle for you, a brown bag for you, and an old tennis racket for you." Rainbow Dash: "Are these party favors or did you just clean out your closet?" Discord: "My dear, I'm a multi-tasker." Twilight couldn't be happier with what they've achieved. Of course, that happiness lasts about two seconds before she starts to worry: "But how do I keep it up? This is the longest streak we've had in years - we have to keep it going!" Her friends assure her it's going to be fine. CUT TO:

SC. 4 - EXT. EVIL LAIR – ESTABLISHING – SAME

A stone cave carved to look like a rib cage, surrounded by a lava swampland (or whatever cool evil-looking thing artsy DHX people want to do!)

SC. 5 - INT. EVIL LAIR – CONTINUOUS

Inside the cave we see dark shadowy smoke swirling in from a bunch of different directions, funneling in towards a dark crystal on the floor. The smoke coalesces around the crystal and starts to take shape, and in the center we see KING SOMBRA's glowing green eyes! CUT TO:

SC. 6 - INT. DARK FOREST – SAME

QUEEN CHRYSALIS talks to herself (or to a log like a crazy lady) about the revenge she will enact on the M6. Suddenly she vanishes.

SC. 7 - INT. TARTARUS – SAME

ON COZY GLOW asking TIREK if he thinks her best friend rock sculpture looks better in the right or left corner of her cell? She wants him to be able to see it anytime they chat to remind him what good friends they are. Tirek says their relationship is purely mentor-mentee. Friendship is not on the table. Cozy Glow: "Of course it's not, silly. There is no table in here." Tirek rolls his eyes, longing for a time when he was just bored for all eternity. Suddenly, they vanish from their cells!

SC. 8 - INT. EVIL LAIR – MEETING ROOM – CONTINUOUS

Cozy Glow and Tirek appear in a dark, evil-looking villainous meeting room, right next to Chrysalis. They wonder who brought them here? It must have been somepony very powerful, to have summoned them out of Tartarus. Just then, King Sombra emerges from the shadows with an evil laugh. The villains assume it must have been him...but he's just as confused as they are. Suddenly, an ominous figure emerges from the shadows. In a voice graveled by time and with a hint of Shakespearian drama, he says, "T'was I, Grogar." Dun dun dun...

ACT TWO**SC. 9 - INT. EVIL LAIR – CONTINUOUS**

The villains gasp at the massive, imposing, horned figure before them - they've heard of Grogar. He's one of the most ancient villains in pony lore, dating back to even before Tirek. He's considered the "Father of Monsters." It was said that he fed on fear and left a trail of destruction and tears wherever he went. That is, until Gusty the Great banished him to a prison

realm. Getting angry, Grogar says it was arrogant of Gusty to believe she could ever truly defeat the Mighty Grogar. Grogar has been gathering power for the past Millennia, biding his time and watching Equestria, waiting for his perfect opportunity to reclaim it! He has seen all of their mortifying defeats at the hooves of Twilight Sparkle and her friends and their Elements of Harmony. He asks if they know why six meager ponies always manage to best them? Because they work together and combine their powers. If the villains can manage to do the same thing, they can defeat Twilight and her friends once and for all and take Equestria for their own! He lets out a slow, evil laugh and green fire bursts from behind him. Then Tirek ruins the moment: “No way.”

The villains refuse to work together - they're solo acts. They don't want to share Equestria and they certainly don't want to help Grogar take it back for himself. Sombra is especially defiant. “If you're so powerful, you wouldn't need us. Any one of us could destroy Equestria on our own.” Grogar: “Really? Since you're here, I find your claims to be lacking.” Sombra: “I've learned from my mistakes. This time nothing will stand between me and taking back my Empire.” Grogar: “I grow tired of your insolence!” Grogar snaps his fingers and Sombra disappears. Grogar turns to the other villains, “I've just sent him back to his doom. Alone, Twilight Sparkle and her friends will make short work of that buffoon. Does anyone else want to go relive the horrors of their defeat?” Tirek, Chrysalis and Cozy Glow all get quiet. No, they're ready to at least listen to what he has to say. Grogar tells them before they can even hope to stand a chance against Twilight, they will need to be able to work together. Tirek: “How do we do that?” Cozy: “Oooh ooh I know!” Grogar: “I don't care how you do it, just get it done! I have more pressing matters to attend to!” With that Grogar disappears in a flash of green fire. An awkward beat as some of the worst villains in the history of Equestria all stare at each other. Cozy Glow: “Who's ready to become friends?!” She smiles at Tirek and Chrysalis, who don't react. This is gonna take some work.

SC. 10 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE – DAY

CLOSE ON Twilight on a therapist's couch. Twilight Sparkle: “At first I was proud and excited to keep the streak of harmony going, but then on the way home, I realized there's only really one way to go from here. Down. I mean, we either keep the streak alive or we break it and disappoint everyone. The longer we go without breaking it, the worst it's going to be when it does actually break, right?” REVEAL she's talking to STARLIGHT GLIMMER. Starlight: “Okay, I know it's kind of impossible for you because... you're you, but is there any way you could just like, not think about it?” Twilight just gives Starlight a look. Starlight: “Yeah, I knew it was a long shot. But Twilight, you can't control when danger shows up, all you can do is exactly what you always do. Handle it, with the help of some of the finest friends I know.” Twilight: “You're right. We've handled everything that comes our way and we've never lost yet. It doesn't do anypony any good to think we won't be able to handle whatever the universe throws at us!” Just

then, Spike spits out a letter. It's from the Crystal Empire - her family is in danger! Twilight: "I DIDN'T MEAN RIGHT NOW!"

SC. 11 - INT. EVIL LAIR – SAME

Despite an icy silence from Tirek and Chrysalis, Cozy Glow won't be deterred from her plan to make everypony friends: "Maybe we should start with a few icebreakers! Chrysalis: "If I have to be in this room another minute with you, I'm going to lose my mind, entirely. (TO HERSELF) It's almost gone anyway. (BACK AT HERSELF) Shut up, you. This plan is doomed, I'm done." Chrysalis continues to murmur to herself as she walks out of the room - only to walk back in through another door. What just happened? She tries to leave again only to come back in the first way she left. Tirek says he has no idea where this place is - it must be somewhere between Tartarus and Equestria. In any case, they can't leave unless Grogar wants them to. Cozy: "Probably until we learn to be friends. I know a good game! Let's each say our name and if we had to be a vegetable, what would it be and why? I'll go first. I'm Cozy Glow and I'd be a pumpkin so I could carve a scary face on myself and DOMINATE ALL OTHER VEGETABLES!" She smiles sweetly, then: "Who's next? Tirek? Chrysalis? Tirek?" Annoyed but knowing there's no escaping this room, Tirek reluctantly plays ball. "I am Lord Tirek, ravager of magic, and bane of the unicorns! (then) And I don't know... if I had to pick, I'd be a carrot I guess." Cozy: "Popcorn - Chrysalis!" Chrysalis: "I'm not doing this."

SC. 12 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE – LATER

Back at the castle, Twilight is packing for a train trip as the rest of the Mane 6 arrive. They can't believe it's true that Sombra is back! They ask Twilight if she's really thinking about traveling by train? They'll never get there in time. Twilight says they have to try. She needs help and she can't teleport them all the way up there. What else can they do?

Spike has an idea and calls out for Captain Wuzz. Discord pops in, wearing full Captain Wuzz archer regalia. He tells Spike he's so excited to play Ogres and Oubliettes, even if it interrupts his "me" time. He and Spike haven't had a chance to play in weeks! Twilight apologizes for getting him to come here on false pretenses, but they have to get to the Crystal Empire RIGHT NOW!! Discord says he's not sure what this has to do with him? Didn't he just go to a party celebrating the fact that Twilight and the girls are sooo good at keeping the harmony? Aren't they on a 60 day streak? Twilight says they won't be if he doesn't help get them there as fast as possible. Starlight offers to stay behind and keep an eye on things in Ponyville. Discord sighs: "Do you know how long it took for me to get into this costume? Literally two seconds, but that's not the point." "DISCORD, PLEASE?!" "FINE." Reluctantly he poofs them all to...

SC. 13 - EXT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE – CONTINUOUS

Discord, Spike, and the M6 show up on the outskirts of the Crystal Empire. They look around and the Crystal Ponies are once again enslaved. Sad, slow, diminished crystal ponies trudge past them. Twilight stops one of them: "Where is Princess Cadence, Shining Armor and Flurry Heart?" Sad Pony: "King Sombra has them." Twilight: "Oh no! We're too late!"

ACT THREE**SC. 14 - EXT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE – SAME**

The M6 can't believe what's happening. Somehow King Sombra came back from... wherever it was he was banished to, got the Crystal Heart and enslaved The Crystal Empire, including Twilight's family!! Discord: "Somepony had a productive morning." Twilight: "Not helping!" She tells them this is pretty bleak but like Starlight reminded her, they've handled every threat they've ever faced and won! She's sure they'll do it again. Cadance, Shining Armor and Flurry Heart, not to mention the rest of the Crystal Empire are depending on them. Spike and the girls say they're in! They look to Discord: "Fine, but you got me all excited to play Ogres and Oubliettes and now we're not so I can't promise my heart will be in this rescue attempt."

First thing's first - they have to blend in with the enslaved crystal ponies. Reluctantly, Rarity gives everypony "reverse makeovers" by wilting their hair like the sad crystal ponies. From the sidelines, Discord unhelpfully taunts them. He could have given them reverse makeovers with a magical snap, but where's the fun in that? Ignoring him, Applejack says they're almost ready: "We just have to look sad." Pinkie (big smile): "Like this?" Spike: "No, no. Think about...having everything you could ever need to throw the best party ever, but everypony's busy that day." Pinkie Pie's big smile turns into a sad frown. "That's it!" Now they just need a disguise for Spike. Discord snaps and Spike is now in his Ogre and Oubliettes costume for "Garbunkle." They look at Discord. Discord: "What? Now once we're done here, we're all set to play!"

SC. 15 - INT. EVIL LAIR – SAME

Back with the bad guys - Cozy Glow is trying to get Tirek and Chrysalis to build some trust by doing team building exercises. The chairs and tables in the room have been moved into a makeshift obstacle course, and Tirek and Cozy Glow are blindfolded on one side of the room. Cozy Glow says she trusts Chrysalis to guide them safely to the other side of the room.

Chrysalis gives them directions, but both of them end up bumping into chairs, stepping on rocks, and walking into walls...repeatedly. Eventually, Tirek just follows the sound of Chrysalis's voice and rams into her. Tirek: "Is this right? (BUMP) No? (BUMP) Perhaps I'm no good at following directions because I'm an evil overlord and not a minion!" Cozy says they're not doing the exercise right but Chrysalis argues the exercise is futile. There is no trust between bad guys. With that, she turns into a copy of Tirek and rams him right back. Tirek roars in frustration and rips off his blindfold. Why are they doing this anyway? Because Cozy Glow said so? Who put Cozy Glow in charge? Cozy Glow: "No one silly, but since I'm the only one of us who has ATTENDED A SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP I think I should be in charge." Chrysalis argues they're bad guys, not friends. The baddest bad guy should be the one in charge. Tirek agrees. But how does one prove that they're the worst? Off of everypony glaring at each other we CUT TO:

SC. 16 - INT. CRYSTAL CASTLE – THRONE ROOM – SAME

Sombra has made himself at home in the castle. The throne room has had a dark makeover. He lounges on his throne as a sad crystal pony feeds him apples while another fans him. Sombra

laughs: "I knew the king of Nightmares didn't need any assistance to take back what is mine!" Cadance says he won't get away with this. REVEAL he has CADANCE, SHINING ARMOR, and FLURRY HEART in a cage of dark crystals, their magic rendered useless.

ANGLE ON elsewhere in the castle - the M6 have managed to sneak in and see all this. They assess the situation: Twilight's family is trapped and the Crystal Heart isn't in its rightful place. Instead it's being held in a dark crystal spire by King Sombra's throne. Twilight asks Discord if he can free her family so that they can get to Sombra? Discord: "Ugh, fine. But after that I'm out. I'm really just not feeling this today." Twilight is incredulous. What if something goes wrong? What if they need him? Discord: "You've got this, remember you're on a streak!" Wink!

Once Twilight gives the signal, Discord poofs over to her family at the same time the M6 charge at King Sombra. They combat his dark magic with their friendship magic and wrestle over the crystal heart, trying to move it from the dark spire to its rightful place. Once Cadance, Shining Armor, and Flurry Heart are free, they take over the battle for the crystal heart so that the M6 can go after Sombra himself. With an Elements of Harmony-style power up, the M6 encircle Sombra and blast him. At the last second, Sombra throws up a dark crystal shield to protect himself. It shatters, taking the brunt of the impact, but Sombra still seems to dissolve in a shadowy burst.

Twilight hugs her family, giving Flurry an extra squeeze. Everypony celebrates! It was touch and go, but Sombra will never defeat them as long as the Tree of Harmony exists and they can channel the Elements. ANGLE ON a lingering shadowy cloud, "overhearing" this. It dissipates and reforms at...

SC. 17 - EXT. PONYVILLE TRAIN STATION – NIGHT

The train pulls into the station, the doors open and out of several different cars pours a shadowy smokey cloud. The Station Agent, (who we're calling Gleaming Trestle - if there's a pre-established pony we don't know about let's use him/her), cowers behind his podium. The smoke coalesces and takes the shape of a battle-worn Sombra. Weakly, he says if Twilight Sparkle and her friends won't be defeated while they have the Elements of Harmony, then the Elements of Harmony must be destroyed. He spots Gleaming Trestle, "And you're going to tell me exactly where I can find them!" OFF Gleaming Trestle's cowering in terror we...

END PART ONE.

ACT FOUR

SC. 18 - EXT. PONYVILLE TRAIN STATION – LATER

The Mane 6 and Spike come back to Ponyville after a long train ride from the Crystal Empire. Dash: "Sure would've been nice if Discord gave us a ride home, but he just took off!" Trying to defend him, Fluttershy says once Discord sets his mind on something, it's hard for him to shake it. One time he invited her over for scones but she'd had a bunch of chores to do at the sanctuary so she said perhaps another time and he did all her chores *plus* Angel's so she could go over.

Twilight says it's ok, they know how Discord is by now. And hey, they were able to defeat Sombra and rescue her family with his help. If Discord wasn't in the mood to be their personal chauffeur afterward, no big deal. She's just happy to be back in Ponyville. No more ponies trapped in despair. Or evil tyrannical kings trying to enslave everypony. Applejack: "Uh, Twilight?" Applejack nods her head toward the station agent pony who is cowering behind his counter. Twilight: "Gleaming Trestle, are you OK?" Gleaming Trestle pokes his head out, his eyes are glowing green and he says: "We ran out of tickets! There are just too many of you that want to board the train!" The Mane 6 and Spike look around, confused. Other than Gleaming Trestle, they're the only ones at the station. Still, Gleaming Trestle continues to look around fearfully at the "angry ponies" that clearly aren't there. Twilight approaches him cautiously and touches him with her horn. He shakes his head and comes back to himself. "What a nightmare!" They ask him what happened? He doesn't know, one minute he was helping a customer, the next minute he was living a nightmare where angry ponies were about to trample him to get on a train. "It's literally my greatest fear." Twilight gulps. Seeing your greatest fear? This is a spell Sombra has used on her before. That's not good. They all rush off into Ponyville. CUT TO:

SC. 19 - INT. EVIL LAIR – SAME

Tirek, Chrysalis, and Cozy Glow are in a full-on battle royale to figure out who's the baddest bad guy. Tirek hurls a chair at Chrysalis, who turns into a butterfly so it misses her. Cozy Glow: "Oh yeah? Take this!" Then she gently blows the butterfly. It slams into the wall and turns back into Chrysalis. Cozy Glow is triumphant, but then Tirek sets a heavy rock in her lap. She can't move. Then we hear a booming: "ENOUGH!" REVEAL Grogar is back! "Insignificant fools. When I am not able to babysit you, Chrysalis is the only one cunning enough to be in charge." Tirek is cowed: "Yes, Grogar." But Cozy pokes "Grogar", who screeches and transforms back into Chrysalis. Cozy: "You're not that cunning, your majesty."

A beat as they all look at each other, battle-worn and panting. Tirek: "This is getting us nowhere." Chrysalis: "On that we can agree." Cozy: "Why don't we call a temporary truce? Let's all just sit down and take a breather." Tirek: "Fine. But because I think it's a good idea, not because you said it." They all go to take seats at a table, Tirek taking a seat at the head of the table. Chrysalis: "Wait why do you get to sit at the head of the table. You're not in charge." Tirek: "I wasn't trying to be in charge, I was just taking the seat that was closest to me. It's not a big deal." Chrysalis: "Then switch with me. I'll sit at the head of the table." Tirek refuses and they glare at each other. Just like that, our villains have taken one step forward, two steps back.

SC. 20 - EXT. PONYVILLE STREET – MOMENTS LATER

The girls are running through the street - they suspect Gleaming Trestle was under Sombra's fear spell, but how? They defeated him! Pinkie: "Did we?" He dissolved into smoke and everything! Pinkie (high pitched): "Did he??" What's going on? Just then, they pass Granny Smith, who is wandering through the outskirts of Sweet Apple Acres, her eyes glowing green: "No. No no no no. Every last apple is rotted?! How will we get through the winter? HOW?" Twilight touches her horn to Granny's forehead. Granny "wakes up", grateful to be free of that spell. Now Twilight is pretty sure Sombra somehow got away, and what's worse - he's starting to target ponies who are close to them. But why? Revenge? Just then, they hear a big BOOM coming

from Sweet Apple Acres. They look and there's a puff of smoke coming from the barn. Applejack: "Big Mac!!" They rush to:

SC. 21 - INT. SWEET APPLE ACRES – BARN

They throw open the barn door to find Discord and Big Mac are just playing Ogres and Oubliettes. Discord: "What? You can't expect me to play this game like a normie. (to Spike) Are you finally joining us?" Applejack: "Didn't you notice everypony is acting different?" Discord: "No, this game is intense!" They tell Discord about their suspicions that Sombra is in Ponyville. Discord says that's impossible, they defeated him. Pinkie (super high-pitched): "*Did we??*" The girls and Spike say maybe not. Since this isn't their first battle, maybe he learned something from his past defeat. Discord wonders why he would have come here? Pinkie: "To get his revenge on our families and friends and everything we hold dear!" Twilight gasps: "Starlight!"

SC. 22 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE – MOMENTS LATER

Everypony gets to the castle and...Starlight's missing! CUT TO:

SC. 23 - EXT. PONYVILLE – SAME

CLOSE ON Starlight running away from an unseen figure. PULL OUT to reveal she's running away from Sombra - he's right on her tail!

ACT FIVE

SC. 24 - EXT. PONYVILLE – CONTINUOUS

Sombra is still chasing Starlight. Sombra: "You will tell me the source of the Elements of Harmony's powers!" Starlight: "Never!" She uses her horn and blasts Sombra, knocking him off balance. Taking advantage of his temporary disorientation, she takes off for Twilight's Castle. She needs help and fast!! She poofs away!

SC. 25 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE – CONTINUOUS

Starlight teleports into the castle to find Twilight, Spike and the rest of the girls. Starlight: "Thank goodness you're back! Sombra's here and he's looking for the Tree of Harmony!" Twilight: "Where is he now?" Starlight tells Twilight she lost him in Ponyville but he can't be too far behind her. Twilight says she and the rest of the Mane 6 will hold him off. Starlight needs to go to the Tree and protect it. Twilight: "If we fail, Starlight, you're the last line of defense!" Starlight: "I won't let you down!"

SC. 26 - EXT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE – GARDEN - SAME

REVEAL Starlight is actually just outside the castle...but she's under King Sombra's trance!

Sombra: "Ah, but you will!" His horn glows as he uses his power to show her her greatest fear, letting Twilight down... by leading him right to the Tree of Harmony!!!

SC. 27 - INT. EVERFREE FOREST – FANTASY – SAME

Sombra's fear scenario continues: Starlight races through the wood toward the Castle of the Two Sister ruins...

SC. 28 - EXT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE – GARDEN – CONTINUOUS

Sombra: "YES! Keep going!"

SC. 29 - INT. CAVE OF HARMONY – FANTASY – SAME

Starlight pants as she arrives by the Tree of Harmony. Then she hears Sombra's evil laughter. Sombra appears. Starlight: "No! You won't get through me!" Sombra: "I won't have to. You're not really here, but thank you for showing me the way. You've been most helpful!" Starlight: "NOOOO!" Off this we MATCH CUT TO:

SC. 30 - INT. EVIL LAIR – SAME

Chrysalis yelling: "NOOOO!" She turns into a bear, then a dragon, and pushes at something O.S. REVEAL she's pushing Tirek, who is sitting at the head of the table with his arms crossed like a petulant child. Then SMASH! Cozy has pony-kicked the table in half. Cozy: "There. Now it's a square. There is no head of the table." The villains take their positions around the table. Tirek: "Actually there is. It's not a perfect square. I'm still at the head of the table." Chrysalis growls and pounds at the table until it's chipped away into a very small circle. nopony is at the head.

Cozy: "Ok, now that we've got the table settled, let's try to each say one nice thing about each other." They sit in silence. Cozy: "OK. I'll start. Tirek, you have great penmanship. I always found your letters to me aesthetically pleasing." Tirek: "Of all the things I taught you, mentored you through, *penmanship* was the only compliment you could come up with?" Cozy: "Excuse me, but your 'mentorship' landed me in Tartarus so, no, I don't have anything complimentary to say about it." Chrysalis: "You have a little vein that pokes out on your forehead when you're angry. It's funny." OFF Cozy Glow's most menacing face as she turns on Chrysalis....

SC. 31 - EXT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE – GARDEN

Starlight still under the effect of Sombra's spell, screaming, "NOOOO! I'm so sorry!" Twilight, Spike and the girls rush toward her. Twilight wakes her up with her magic. Twilight: "Starlight! Are you ok?" Starlight says she was having a nightmare where Sombra made her show him where the Tree of Harmony is. All the ponies' faces go white. Even Discord looks concerned: "Oh dear, perhaps I should have taken this whole thing a bit more seriously." Starlight tries to stand, but she's clearly a bit weak. Twilight: "Spike, look after Starlight. Discord--" Discord: "On it." He snaps his fingers and they all disappear and reappear in...

SC. 32 - INT. CAVE OF HARMONY – MOMENTS LATER

The Mane 6 and Discord arrive to find Sombra has already been working on destroying the tree. Dark crystals jut out from its roots. When he spots them, Sombra: “You’re too late!” He’s about to deliver a magic blast that will shatter the tree’s already weakened foundation when Discord surprises everyone by jumping in the way of the blast. He gets hit! Sombra’s dark energy ripples through Discord for a beat before Twilight rushes in and tackles her friend out of the path of the blast. She manages to save Discord, but now nothing stands between Sombra and his intended target. He blasts at the Tree, and his dark crystals magnify his blast, flooding the tree with his dark magic. The tree expands and cracks unable to hold itself together against the dark energy. One by one the Elements of Harmony burst and shatter. The Tree of Harmony is destroyed!

ACT SIX**SC. 33 - INT. CAVE OF HARMONY – CONTINUOUS**

Sombra laughs evilly. Finally he’s destroyed the source of their magic. Now they are powerless to stop him. Not only will he take back the Crystal Empire, but why not all of Equestria!? The girls gather around Twilight and Discord, in shock and devastated. They can’t believe the Tree of Harmony is gone. They can feel it, a part of them is missing.

Sombra uses this to his advantage and surrounds them all with dark crystals. His dark magic takes over, the Mane 6 and Discord become listless and sad. Discord tries to rally but he’s still too weak to do much, “We...we have to do something.” Fluttershy: “What? What can we do?” Twilight: “Without our elements, we aren’t strong enough to defeat him.” Pinkie: “Soooooooo sad!” Discord tries to snap his fingers, but: “I’m out of magic.” Fluttershy: “Then I think we’re doomed.” Discord looks at his friends. “No. You girls are stronger than you think. Listen to me...” He tells them that Fluttershy will always be kind. Applejack will always be honest, Rarity will always be generous, and Rainbow Dash will always be loyal. Pinkie will always make people laugh and Twilight will always be magical. Nothing and no pony can ever take that away from them – elements or no. Twilight says he’s right. “We’re still us and we’ve still got each other and as long as we’re together, I won’t stop fighting for my home.” Twilight struggles to kick at the dark crystals. A beat, then another hoof joins her - Applejack! The crystals start to crack under Applejack’s strength which encourages the rest of the Mane 6 to use their magic, hoofs and hindlegs to kick and shatter the dark crystals.

From Sombra’s POV, the dark crystal prison shatters spectacularly and the M6 face him with fierce determination. Sombra: “No. I destroyed your power. This shouldn’t be possible!” He tries to blast them but his magic has no affect on them anymore. Twilight: “We don’t need the Elements of Harmony to have friendship. And didn’t you know? *Friendship is magic.*” They keep walking toward him, he backs up and tries blasting them one final time but Twilight bampfs up a mirror and the blast hits the magical mirror, ricochets, and hits Sombra with his own dark magic. His horn grows rainbow colored crystals that prevent him from using it anymore. Sombra: “NO!!!!” You haven’t seen the last of me!” Sombra runs off and the girls look at each other, exhausted. Discord pops up, full of energy. “Come on, let’s get you out of here!” He snaps and they all disappear and reappear in...

SC. 34 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE – MOMENTS LATER

Discord and the Mane 6 pop into the throne room. Twilight: “Wait a second, I thought you were completely drained.” Discord: “My dear, I’m the Lord of Chaos. It would take much more than a blast from a would-be-king to permanently put me down for the count.” Rainbow Dash: “Then why didn’t you help us defeat him?” Discord: “Because, you needed to know that even without the Tree of Harmony and all its powers, you aren’t powerless. And you girls proved that to yourselves today. You never would have learned that if I’d taken care of everything for you. You’re welcome!”

Just then, Starlight and Spike, who were anxiously awaiting their return, run into the throne room. Starlight: “You’re back! Did you save the tree!?” Twilight hangs her head, as do the other girls. Spike: “Oh no. What are you going to tell Celestia and Luna?” Twilight: “The truth, I guess.”

SC. 35 - INT. CELESTIA'S CASTLE – LATER

The Mane 6 and Discord go to Celestia and Luna, and Twilight confesses that the streak of harmony is over. They failed and the Tree of Harmony was destroyed. Celestia and Luna look at the brave ponies in front of them. Celestia says it’s true, the streak of Harmony has been broken and the Tree is a grave loss, but they didn’t fail. In fact, they learned perhaps one of the most important lessons of all. There will always be obstacles and mistakes and unfortunate things that happen, but it’s what you do afterwards that makes you who you are. “You girls were knocked down today, but you got back up and stood together against what should have been impossible odds.” They were brave and selfless and there for each other. And because they got back up, Equestria and the Crystal Empire didn’t fall victim to Sombra’s evil. The princesses are grateful and very proud. Twilight and her friends smile. Celestia says they’ve earned a break and they should go take it. Quickly, before the new school year begins!

The girls head out, but Discord remains. Celestia turns to him and Luna and tells them what happened today never should have been able to occur. There is no way Sombra could have come back to Equestria on his own. Luna: “You believe he’s working with somepony?” Celestia: “I do. A very powerful somepony.” Discord says he supposes he will have to wait to retire and promises to keep an ear out and watch out for their girls. Celestia: “Good. Until we know who or what is behind Sombra’s return, our work isn’t finished.”

SC. 36 - EXT. EVERFREE FOREST – LATER

Sombra is trying to run away when Grogar shows up and grabs him. “Where do you think you’re going?”

SC. 37 - INT. EVIL LAIR – MOMENTS LATER

Grogar and Sombra return to the evil lair. Grogar: “Look who I found, broken and defeated once again--what have you done??” REVEAL the room is in shambles. Grogar looks around at the broken chairs, the “obstacle course”, and the tiny table. Cozy Glow, Tirek, and Chrysalis look up

guiltily from behind some playing cards. Grogar: “Are you playing...Go Fish?” Cozy Glow: “It’s the only thing we could agree on doing!” Grogar: “And whose idea was this?” A beat, then Tirek, Chrysalis, and Cozy Glow all point to each other. “He’s in charge! / She’s in charge!”

THE END.