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MY LITTLE PONY

Season 9

The Beginning of the End, Part I & II

EP 901 & 902

Premise by: Joanna Lewis & Kristine Songco

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THE BEGINNING OF THE END, PART I & II

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We OPEN on a beautiful, magical land populated by alicorns. A kindly old alicorn watches the sun rise. He turns to another alicorn with a smile and says: “It’s almost time. The girls are coming home.”

At the same time, Princess Celestia is also watching the sun rise with interest—her horn isn’t glowing. The sun is rising on its own!

CUT TO Discord’s realm. It’s chaos as usual, with flowers growing from the sky, floating staircases, etc. Discord opens a tea cupboard and... there are teacups inside! AND THEY’RE NEATLY STACKED!! Discord gasps - what’s going on?!

Back in Canterlot, Princess Celestia finds Princess Luna and tells her the sun rose on its own today. Princess Luna says the moon rose on its own as well. Discord poofs in: “Something is terribly wrong! The teacups were in the tea cupboard!!” Princess Celestia and Luna share a look. This can only mean their time on Equestria is coming to an end.

END TEASER.

ACT ONE

We start back in at Twilight’s School of Friendship. It’s the end of the school year and the students are excited for summer to begin. The Mane 6, Starlight, and Spike gather together. They start to talk about their summer plans: Fluttershy has some work to do at the sanctuary, Rainbow Dash has summer Wonderbolt training, Rarity has to get her resort collection to all her boutiques, etc. As excited as they are for summer, they tell Twilight what a great school year it was for everypony. At first they weren’t sure about this whole teaching thing, but they have to admit, it’s really gratifying feeling like they’re making a difference to the next generation of ponies. Twilight beams with pride, just as she gets a summons from Celestia and Luna.

Back in Canterlot, Celestia and Luna explain the situation to Discord. After hundreds of years of defeating bad guys, making peace, and spreading love, Equestria is close to achieving harmony. When that happens, Celestia and Luna’s time here will come to an end. Since Discord is tied to them, he’s going too. You can’t have chaos without harmony, so if one of them goes, all of them go. The sun, the moon, and Discord’s realm - these are all signs that it’s almost time. Discord is upset - he doesn’t want to go anywhere. He likes it here, with Fluttershy and...other things, probably, but mostly Fluttershy. He also can’t believe the princesses are acting so calm! Celestia and Luna explain they’ve always known they wouldn’t stay in Equestria forever - after all, they

inherited their mantle from Gusty the Great long ago, after she defeated Grogar. Quite frankly, they're looking forward to "retirement". Discord asks who's going to take over?

Just then, Twilight enters. Discord: "Right, obviously Twilight." Celestia asks Twilight about her school, and Twilight gushes about how amazing it is! She really feels like she's found her purpose with the students and the school. This is what she's meant to do. Celestia and Luna share a look. Twilight: "What did you call me for?" Celestia makes up an excuse: "Just...wanted to show you a new painting Discord made for us!" Luna elbows Discord and he poofs up a weird painting of Celestia and Luna playing tennis with a pineapple. While Twilight pretends to admire the painting, Discord and Celestia have a quick aside - maybe they shouldn't tell Twilight just yet. She's so happy right now, and this is big news. Discord agrees.

Meanwhile, in some dark corner of Equestria, we see a hooded figure find King Sombra's horn. The unseen figure works some magic...and the figure of King Sombra starts to form!

ACT TWO

We CUT TO a dark forest where 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. Meanwhile in Tartarus, we see previously defeated villains Cozy Glow and Tirek who also suddenly vanish from their cells and reappear on another plateau, right next to Chrysalis.... and Sombra! Who brought them all here? A shadowy figure says "I did." He reveals himself as Grogar. The villains gasp - they've heard of Grogar. They thought he was just a fairy tale, but obviously he's much more than a fairy tale if he has this kind of power in Tartarus. Grogar explains he brought them all here because he has an evil plan. All of the villains were defeated by the Mane 6 because they worked together and they have the Elements of Harmony. He presents them with a TBD thing and explains he's found the Elements of Disharmony. If the villains lay low while he collects them all, they can team up and finally defeat the Mane 6! The villains think this might actually work... and even if they don't, they're too scared of Grogar to speak out against him except for Sombra who doesn't want to wait. He demands that Grogar give him the element they have so he can defeat the ponies responsible for his downfall. Grogar indulges him. While he collects the remaining Elements of Disharmony, Sombra is welcome to test his element's power, but then he must return. Grogar is certain they must work together to defeat the ponies.

Back in Canterlot, Celestia and Luna are watching over Equestria, when they notice a group of pegasi having a fun race in the sky. Celestia says it's such a little thing, but she's always wanted to do that. Luna: "Me too!" The sisters share a smile - why don't they, then? With that, they fly off! They have a blast doing a quick little race, and when they return they realize they've always been so tied up with royal affairs, they didn't have time to do simple things. They decide to go

off and do things on their “Princess bucket list.” The sun and moon are on autopilot, Equestria is as close to harmony as it’s ever been, so there’s nothing to worry about, right?

CUT TO Sombra standing on the outskirts of Ponyville. He smiles as his long shadow stretches toward Twilight’s Castle and her school beyond. At the School of Magic, we find Twilight and Spike. Now that it’s summer, Twilight finally has time to sit back, relax, and...make lesson plans for next year! Spike groans. Unbeknownst to them, Sombra’s shadow creeps in and summons a dark crystal to the room. Suddenly, Twilight and Spike act snippy towards each other. Sombra’s dark form smiles wickedly, and we follow him as he does the same thing to the rest of the Mane 6. The dark crystals start to take an effect - Applejack is mean to Granny Smith, Rainbow Dash’s ego gets the best of her with the Wonderbolts, etc. (From Tartarus, Grogar summons a fiery portal-viewer that allows him to see what Sombra’s doing. He complains to the other villains that Sombra’s going off-book. “What are you going to do?” “Let’s see how this plays out...”)

Sombra continues to work his sabotage and gets everypony to gather together at Twilight’s castle. It isn’t long before they all turn on each other and start yelling in a huge fight!

ACT THREE

It seems like Sombra’s plan might actually work...until Starlight walks in and yells at everypony to stop. Something must be wrong because this isn’t them! The Mane 6 have gone through so much together, there’s no way these petty arguments are really tearing them apart. She has an idea - maybe they need to go to the Tree of Harmony to recharge, remind themselves why they’re the keepers of the Elements of Harmony, and maybe have a picnic? It could be that they’re all just hungry.

The Mane 6, Starlight, and Spike go to the Tree of Harmony (with Sombra following in the shadows). Just like he did before, Sombra tries to summon dark crystals to keep the Mane 6 fighting. But once the Mane 6 do a little meditating by the tree, they’re reconnected with the Elements of Harmony and all of Sombra’s dark crystals shatter. Suddenly, the Mane 6 have no idea why they were mad at each other. Maybe they just needed to reconnect with the tree? They leave, but Sombra stays behind. Now, not only does he know that the Tree of Harmony is the source of their power - he knows where it is, and he knows it’s unguarded. We juxtapose Sombra’s evil laugh with...

Celestia and Luna are having a blast doing their bucket list. They have to put their hair in baseball caps so it will be harder to recognize them. Celestia says she’s actually never worn a hat. Luna: “Me neither!” They don hats, and their unicorn horns poke out the front. “Maybe that’s why.” In quick shots, we see them do a watermelon eating contest, ride a ferris wheel, playing ding dong ditch, etc.

Back with the Mane 6, they're glad they got over their fight, but they can't help but feel like fighting in the first place was so out of character for them. They recall what happened to them, what kind of thoughts went through their minds, and how their actions seemed to be motivated by fear, almost like someone was controlling them, but who? Starlight finds remnants of one of the dark crystals and the M6 immediately recognize it as the work of King Sombra. But that's impossible, they defeated him a long time ago. If he somehow returned and got into the school then he's been spying on them. "Do you think he followed us to the Tree?" Uh oh...

Everypony rushes to the Tree of Harmony, but it's too late. Sombra's magic has worked its way through to the tree's roots. The Mane 6 arrive just in time to see the tree destroyed!

END PART ONE

ACT FOUR

AS WE WERE: The Mane 6 stare at the tree, which lays in broken blackened pieces, its crystalline features and broken bits of the Elements of Harmony litter the ground like carnival confetti. Sombra laughs, victorious. "Finally! I've put an end to your meddling!" He disappears. The Mane 6 all look to each other in horror, heads hung low, eyes brimming with tears. How could this have happened? They can feel it, a part of them is missing. The tree is really and truly gone.

Meanwhile, back in Tartarus, Tirek insists that since Sombra is clearly off on his own, and Grogar is nowhere to be seen, he is the defacto new leader because he's the scariest. Cozy Glow laughs, insisting that he's not scary, he's her best friend! Just then, Grogar enters and in his deep and terrifying voice says that if he's ever not around, Chrysalis is in charge because of her cunning. Tirek: "Yes, Grogar!" But Cozy pops out from behind "Grogar" and pokes 'him' eliciting a shriek. Grogar transforms into Chrysalis. Cozy Glow: "Nice try." Chrysalis is about to retaliate when the real Grogar enters, full of piss and vinegar. He throws rocks into walls in his rage. Terrified, Chrysalis apologizes and says she'll never impersonate him again! Grogar says her impression was weak but not unflattering, it's Sombra that he's angry with. He's gone rogue! The minute Grogar has the power he needs to reopen the portal to Equestria, Sombra is doomed!

BACK ON: the Mane 6, realizing they will need to tell Celestia and Luna about the tree. Also about Sombra. How is he back? But if he is, he'll be headed to the Crystal Empire for sure, to awaken his Umbrum army. And they will need all the help they can get. They leave Starlight in charge at the school and head for Canterlot.

Meanwhile, in a beautiful snowy covered park inside the Crystal Empire, Princess Cadence, Shining Armor and Flurry Heart are having a family fun day, making snowponies, and having a

picnic when dark crystals start forming in the snow. Cadence: “It can’t be.” Sombra: “But it is! I’m back! Miss me?” Shining Armor tries to blast Sombra with magic from his horn but Sombra is ready for it. He misses. Shining Armor: “Cadance, take Flurry and head to the heart. Get a message to Twilight! I’ll hold him off.” Sombra just laughs. “No pony’s coming to save you, I took care of Twilight and her friends. They no longer have the Elements of Harmony. You’re all alone!” He blasts a cage of black crystals around Shining Armor, Cadence and Flurry Heart, disabling their magic with his dark crystals on their horns. Sombra: “Nothing stands between me and my Umbrum army! You will all be my slaves as I take my place as King!”

ACT FIVE

The Mane 6 plus Spike run into the throne room in Canterlot, breathless. Twilight: “Celestia? Luna?” No pony’s there. Twilight hangs her head. She can’t help but feel like they’ve failed spectacularly. The tree is gone, their powers are gone. Celestia and Luna are gone! Sombra is back and more powerful than ever and she won’t be able to warn her family in the Crystal Empire in time! The girls don’t know what to tell her. Things are bleak.

Just then, Discord pops in. He’s a little miffed, he spent all afternoon unorganizing his tea cups and no pony showed up to his tea party. Didn’t they get his invitations? He sees they’re upset. Why the long faces? Fluttershy hugs him, so glad he’s here. Twilight says she is too! He’s exactly the friend they needed! He needs to take them all to the Crystal Empire immediately! Sombra’s back.

Discord pops them all into the Crystal Empire. They look around, dark crystals snake around everything and they spot Cadance, Shining Armor, and Flurry Heart in a dark crystal cage. Twilight says she and Spike will do whatever they can to free her family, Discord will deal with Sombra since he’s the only one now who has the power to face him, and the rest of the girls will find the crystal heart and hide it so Sombra can’t use it!

Spike and Twilight use magic, hammers, hind leg kicks, anything they can to free her family. Discord and the girls find Sombra holding the heart and beginning a chant to raise his Umbrum army but before he gets into it - Discord pops in next to him, grabs the heart from Sombra and passes it to Rainbow Dash who passes it to Applejack, who passes it to Pinkie, who passes it to Rarity, who passes it to Fluttershy, Sombra in pursuit the whole time. Sombra gets angry and tries to blast Fluttershy with magic but Discord dives in the blast’s path, shielding her, firing his own magical blast at the same time. Sombra gets knocked back. The girls cheer, but then Discord collapses. The girls cry, “DISCORD!”

ACT SIX

The girls are huddled around Discord. Just as Twilight, Spike and Twilight's family arrive, the Mane 5 hand the crystal heart off to Cadence, Flurry, and Shining Armor (their horns still unable to produce magic/covered in crystals), and tell them to run. Discord's eyes flutter open. He tells Fluttershy and Twilight "You will have to go on without me!" They tell him they need him. They can't do anything without the Elements of Harmony. Discord says of course they can. Fluttershy will always be kind. Applejack will always be honest, Rarity will always be generous, Rainbow Dash will always be loyal. Pinkie will always make people laugh and Twilight will always be magic. Nothing and no pony can ever take that away from them – elements or no. Twilight says he's right.

Just then Sombra's menacing silhouette overshadows them. They stand hoof in hoof protectively between Discord and Sombra. Bravely facing him with nothing but themselves. Sombra laughs. They're no match for him. The girls say they know but there's nowhere else they would be than between their friend and danger. Sombra blasts them... The girls close their eyes, bracing themselves for the impact, only it doesn't come. They peek their eyes open to find they are all fine. Their elemental magic protected them! The girls realize the power was inside them the whole time. Enraged, Sombra tries again, but again, his blast bounces harmlessly off the forcefield of the M6's friendship. Sombra screams in frustration and insists it's no matter, they will never stop him! Twilight notices something behind him and says, they don't have to! Reveal that Discord has opened a portal to a cell in Tartarus behind Sombra. Rainbow Dash: "All we have to do is this!" She charges, headbutting him into the portal! Before it closes, Sombra screams: "This isn't over!" The girls and Discord all hug and jump. Twilight turns to Discord: "Wait a second. I thought you were too weak to do anything, how'd you open that portal to Tartarus?" Discord: "I'm offended you have to ask. Twilight. I am the Lord of Chaos! You think one blast from a Would-Be-King would do me in? Please. I just needed you girls to realize you had everything you needed all along right in here." He points to their hearts, then poofs away in a happy face cloud. Twilight: "ARE YOU KIDDING ME?"

Back in Tartarus, Sombra disappears from his cell and reappears cowering before Grogar. "You disobeyed me and now they are stronger than they ever were before! Do it again, and you will cease to be. I brought you back, I can send you away." Sombra: "Yes, Grogar."

Later, in Canterlot, Celestia and Luna get back from their adventures with treats and goodies to find Discord waiting for them in their throne room. "Did something happen while we were away?" Discord: "Just a bit, Sombra returned and destroyed the Tree of Harmony." Celestia and Luna: "WHAT? How is that possible?" Discord: "Not sure, but what I am sure of is there is no way Sombra could have come back on his own. So there is something or someone very powerful and very malevolent out there." Celestia: "Sister, we can not retire just yet." Luna nods in agreement. Discord: "I couldn't agree more."

Back in the land of Alicorns, the kindly old alicorn turns away from a looking glass. He will have to postpone the party. Filled with pride, he says “My girls still have work to do. I’ve waited a couple thousand years, what’s a little while longer?”

THE END.