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MY LITTLE PONY  
Season 9

**The Beginning of the End, Part I**  
Ep 901

**Teleplay First Draft**

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**SC. 1 - EXT. CELESTIA'S CASTLE - ENTRANCE**

TWILIGHT is urgently galloping to the castle with SPIKE on her back. She enters and sees...

**SC. 2 - INT. CELESTIA'S CASTLE - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS**

RARITY, APPLEJACK, RAINBOW DASH, FLUTTERSHY, and PINKIE PIE are already there. Twilight runs towards them.

1                    FLUTTERSHY  
Oh good, we're all here!

2                    TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
So everypony got an urgent summons to the castle with no explanation?

3                    PINKIE PIE  
Yup! I just love a good mysterious summons. What's it about? Do you think it's a surprise party--hey, why are we running?

In the middle of Pinkie's line, Twilight caught up to where her friends were gathered and ran right past them. They all follow after her.

4                    TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
Because something could be terribly wrong! Somepony turned bad, another evil creature back for revenge...

5                    APPLEJACK  
Don't you think you're being a little paranoid?

6                    TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
Why else would the princesses send scrolls in such a hurry?

7                    RARITY  
Twilight does have a point. And they'd know better than to make us all worry.

8                    PINKIE PIE  
Better safe than sorry. Plus, I like it when you run so fast, the walls get all blurry. (LOOKING AT WALLS) Weeee!

9                    RAINBOW DASH  
Race ya!

The Mane 6 and Spike get to the entrance of the throne room.

**SC. 3 - INT. CELESTIA'S CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Everypony bursts in.

10                    CELESTIA  
Girls, thank you so much for coming.

11                    TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
What's wrong? What can we do?

12                    LUNA  
That's just it. Nothing's wrong.  
Everything is perfect!

The Mane 6 look at each other, panting and perplexed.

13                    APPLEJACK  
Did y'all call us down here just to  
tell us that?

Celestia and Luna nod. Rarity sits down, a bit winded from running over here.

14                    RARITY  
With all due respect, majesties, you  
might want to save your urgent summons  
for matters that are a bit  
more...urgent?

The princesses chuckle.

15                    LUNA  
There is more to it. Equestria is  
currently enjoying it's longest period  
of harmony in recent history.

16                    CELESTIA  
And it's all thanks to you, Twilight.  
And your friends, of course.

The ponies and Spike smile bashfully.

17                    SPIKE/RARITY/RAINBOW DASH  
Who, us? / Oh, pshaw! / About time you  
noticed!

18                    TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
Well, we can't take all the credit.  
The Elements of Harmony have really  
helped.

19                    SPIKE  
(WHISPERS) Just say thank you.

20                    TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
Thank you.

21                    LUNA  
No, thank you. Because of your  
efforts, there has been less and less  
for us to do!

22                    CELESTIA  
So, after much consideration, my  
sister and I have decided... it's time  
for us to retire.

Everypony reacts, surprised. DISCORD suddenly poofs in.

23                    DISCORD  
The royal princesses retiring!? Such  
breaking news! I have so many  
questions. Who'll take over? Who will  
run Equestria? Will it be someone  
tall, dark, and handsome or will it be  
the Lord of Chaos?

Discord bats his eyelashes coquettishly and poofs up a bunch  
of floating claws that point to himself. Celestia and Luna  
just look to Twilight. Discord follows their gaze.

24                    DISCORD (CONT'D)  
Ugh. Fine, go with the obvious choice.

Off Twilight's look of shock, we...

**END TEASER**

**MAIN TITLES**

**ACT ONE**

**SC. 4 - INT. CELESTIA'S CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - RESUME**

Twilight is still in shock.

25                    TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
You're retiring--?

26                    PINKIE PIE  
Princesses can retire??

27                    LUNA  
Of course we can! I, for one, am  
looking forward to a little R&R, maybe  
a trip to the Silver Shoals.

28                    TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
    (still processing )  
--And you want me to take your place?

The princesses smile and nod.

29                    LUNA  
With the help of your friends, of  
course.

30                    CELESTIA  
We can't think of anypony more worthy.  
Over the years we've watched you grow.  
You've faced task after task...

31                    LUNA  
...challenge after challenge...

32                    DISCORD  
...countless adversities. Yes, yes, we  
get it.

33                    CELESTIA  
...And you've always prevailed.

34                    TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
Thank you, but that doesn't mean that  
I'm--that we're ready to do what you  
do!

35                    CELESTIA  
Of course you are. I realize this is a  
lot to take in, but...

36                    RAINBOW DASH  
Nope! Makes perfect sense. We're  
awesome. Do we get to move in here?  
(TO OTHERS) I call dibs on the spire.

Twilight looks at Rainbow Dash in shock.

37                    TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
Just like that?

38                    APPLEJACK  
I'm with Rainbow Dash. It makes sense.  
We've always had Equestria's best  
interests at heart.

39                    TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
That's a fair point, which should be  
taken into consideration when we have  
a roundtable discussion--

40                    RARITY  
I'm in too. Of course, we'll all need  
a wardrobe update. (to Celestia) And I  
would love to pick your brain about  
that hair when you have a moment.

41                    FLUTTERSHY  
As long as we all have each other, I'm  
sure we can do it.

42                    PINKIE PIE  
Yay!

Pinkie gets a huddle started for a 6-way high five.

43                    PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)  
Protectors of Equestria on three. One,  
two--

They all notice Twilight hasn't joined them yet. They look at  
her expectantly. She takes a <DEEP BREATH>.

44                    TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
(NERVOUS RAMBLING) Okay. Okay! Yes.  
Yes to what you're saying about the  
future of all of Equestria and being  
in charge of it.

She joins the huddle.

45                    MANE 6  
Protectors of Equestria!

46                    LUNA  
(UNDER, TO CELESTIA) She's taking this  
better than we thought.

Twilight turns to the princesses.

47                    TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
It'll be a bit of an adjustment, but I  
imagine the transfer of power will be  
a lengthy process which will give me  
plenty of time to--

48                    PRINCESS CELESTIA  
Actually, we just need a few days to  
put together a little ceremony.

49                    TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
A few days?!

Everypony exchanges a look, as if to say "here we go..."

50                    TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)  
But... but that's so soon! Shouldn't  
there be some sort of training  
program? That lasts weeks, no, months -  
if not years?

51                    PRINCESS CELESTIA  
Everything you've gone through over  
the years has been a training program.

52                    TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
OK, but there's got to be a guide or a  
rule book?

Discord conjures up a thick tome.

53                    DISCORD  
Yes, I have it right here: "How To  
Rule Equestria" by No pony  
McPretendsmith.

Luna's horn glows and the book vanishes. Discord frowns.

54                    PRINCESS LUNA  
You don't need a book to teach you all  
the things you've already learned.

Twilight looks like she's about to faint.

55                    PRINCESS CELESTIA  
Twilight, you'll be fine. We have the  
utmost confidence in you.

56                    PRINCESS LUNA  
We just hope you have the same for  
yourself.

57                    DISCORD  
Oh, I'm absolutely certain she does.

Off Twilight's uncomfortable look...

MATCH CUT TO:

**SC. 5 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - MOMENTS LATER**

The same uncomfortable look.

58                    TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
I am totally not confident about this!

The Mane 6, Spike, and Discord all watch as Twilight starts  
to pace.

59                    DISCORD  
That's what I thought. I was being  
sarcastic before.

Everypony glares at Discord. He shrugs.

60                    DISCORD (CONT'D)  
What? This is all so predictable.  
Now's the part where you all tell  
little Sparkle here that everything's  
going to be fine. But she won't  
believe you. <SIGH> I don't need to be  
here for this.

With that, Discord pops out. Twilight resumes her pacing. As Twilight paces, her friends routinely do things around her: Applejack moves a chair so that she can flop down in it when she takes a pause. Rarity floats a cup of water onto the table. Spike brings in some paper and a quill.

61                    TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
It's just, there's so much to figure  
out and it's all happening so fast!

She flops down in the conveniently placed chair.

62                    TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)  
I think I need some--

Rarity nudges the water over to her.

63                    TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)  
Thanks. (SIPS WATER, THEN) Okay. I'll  
feel much better about this once I  
make a plan.

She looks down and sees the paper is already in front of her. Spike puts the quill in her hoof.

64                    TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)  
Oh. Wow. It's like you--

65                    SPIKE  
--knew you were going to react this  
way? We did.

66                    PINKIE PIE  
Classic Twilighting.

67                    TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
"Twilighting?" You... you made me a  
verb?

68                    RARITY  
It's not a bad thing, darling. We just  
know this is all part of your process.

69                    APPLEJACK  
I hate to say it, but Discord was  
right.

70                    RAINBOW DASH  
This is stage one. You get big news,  
and at first you're like "No!" But  
then you pace, and you chart, and you  
worry...

71                    FLUTTERSHY  
It's okay. You go ahead and "Twilight"  
and we'll all be here for you.

They all smile at her patiently.

72                    TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
You're all acting so calm, but this is  
a big deal! I don't even know where to  
start. Who will take over the School  
of Magic?

73                    RARITY  
Starlight.

74                    TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
What will happen to my castle?

75                    SPIKE  
Nothing.

76                    TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
What will we do if something big  
happens and the princesses aren't  
there to help?

77                    RAINBOW DASH  
Um... If you think about it, they  
literally almost never help.

A beat as everypony thinks.

78                    APPLEJACK  
Huh.

79                    PINKIE PIE  
And we still always win.  
    (rapid-fire)  
    (MORE)

PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)

Like when Sombra almost took back the Crystal Empire, or when Chrysalis pretended to be Cadance, or when Tirek came back and absorbed all the magic, or the other time Chrysalis tried to take over, or with Cozy Glow and the school. <DEEP BREATH> Am I missing anything?

Everypony answers in a routine chorus:

79A RARITY  
Pony of Shadows.

79B SPIKE  
Starlight when she was evil.

79C FLUTTERSHY  
Discord when he was evil.

79D APPLEJACK  
Do Flim and Flam count?

80                      RAINBOW DASH  
See? We've almost always done things without the princesses' help. Which makes sense now because it was all just training for you to take over.

81                      SPIKE  
And it worked. I mean, if you think about it, there hasn't been a single villain that we couldn't defeat.

CUT TO:

**SC. 6 - EXT. EVIL LAIR - ESTABLISHING**

Establishing shot of an evil-looking cave in a dark, murky landscape, surrounded by a lava swampland.

**SC. 7 - 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. 8 - INT. DARK FOREST - SAME**

QUEEN CHRYSALIS is talking to a something O.S.

82                      CHRYSALIS  
One day, you'll see. I will defeat Twilight Sparkle and her friends, and they will pay for stealing my kingdom!

REVEAL she's talking to a log like a crazy lady. Suddenly, she vanishes.

**SC. 9 - INT. TARTARUS - SAME**

We PUSH IN on two "prisons" near each other. TIREK is in one of them. Then we hear...

83                    COZY GLOW  
Pssst! Tirek!

84                    TIREK  
(ANNOYED) What is it now?

REVEAL COZY GLOW in the neighboring prison with a pile of rocks that look vaguely like Tirek.

85                    COZY GLOW  
Should I put my "best friends rock sculpture" here...?

She scooches it over two inches.

86                    COZY GLOW (CONT'D)  
Or here?

87                    TIREK  
Does it matter?

88                    COZY GLOW  
Yes! I want you to be able to see it so it can always remind you of what good friends we are.

89                    TIREK  
Our relationship is purely mentor-mentee. Friendship is not on the table.

90                    COZY GLOW  
Of course it's not, silly. There is no table in here.

Tirek rolls his eyes.

91                    TIREK  
I never thought I'd long for the days when I was bored and alone for all eternity.

Suddenly, they vanish from their cells!

**SC. 10 - INT. EVIL LAIR - CONTINUOUS**

Cozy Glow and Tirek appear in a dark, evil-looking room. They look around, confused.

92                    TIREK  
What is the meaning of this?

They look over and see that Chrysalis is there too.

93                    CHRYSALIS  
Lord Tirek.

94                    TIREK  
A changeling?

95                    CHRYSALIS  
Chrysalis, Queen of the Changelings.

96                    COZY GLOW  
Don't worry, she's evil like us. (TO  
CHRYSALIS) Hi, I'm Cozy Glow!

Chrysalis barely deigns to acknowledge Cozy Glow with a patronizing glance.

97                    CHRYSALIS  
(IGNORING HER) Was it you who brought  
me here?

98                    TIREK  
No. We were summoned from Tartarus.

Chrysalis reacts, impressed.

99                    CHRYSALIS  
Tartarus, you say? Whoever pulled you  
out of there must have been somepony  
very powerful, indeed.

Just then, they hear an <EVIL LAUGH>. King Sombra emerges from the shadows!

100                   CHRYSALIS (CONT'D)  
King Sombra! Could it be?

101                   COZY GLOW  
All my evil heroes in one place, and  
me without my autograph book!

102                   TIREK  
So it must have been you who brought  
us all here.

103                   SOMBRA  
Ha! Why would I waste my energy on  
you? I was gathering strength for my  
return, when I was summoned here.

104            COZY GLOW  
Ooh, I just love a good mysterious  
summons!

Suddenly, an OMINOUS FIGURE emerges from the shadows. He speaks with a deep, raspy, almost metallic voice (ala Megatron or Dr. Claw).

105            GROGAR  
It was I who brought you all here.

106            CHRYSALIS  
And you are?

The figure rises from the shadows to its full height, dwarfing the other villains.

107            GROGAR  
You may call me... Grogar.

The villains all gasp.

108            CHRYSALIS/SOMBRA/TIREK  
The Grogar? / I've heard of you. / I  
thought you were a legend.

109            GROGAR  
I assure you, I am very real. And now  
each of you will be part of my evil  
plan.

Off of Grogar's ominous smile, we...

**END ACT ONE**

**ACT TWO**

**SC. 11 - INT. EVIL LAIR - RESUME**

Tirek, Sombra, Chrysalis and Cozy Glow sit around an evil plotting table overshadowed by Grogar.

110            COZY GLOW  
Grofar? Not ringing any bells.

111            GROGAR  
GROGAR! I have been away too long if  
my name no longer strikes fear into  
the heart of one so tiny--

Cozy glares and starts to charge, but Tirek holds her back.

112            TIREK  
Grogar is ancient and extremely  
powerful. I remember hearing of his  
tyranny when I was a foal.

113            SOMBRA  
I too have heard tales of the "Father  
of Monsters."

114            GROGAR  
(nods) I gave life to the foulest of  
creatures and allowed them to run  
wild, taking what they wanted and  
destroying the rest! It was a glorious  
fear-soaked epoch of darkness in  
Equestria...

115            CHRYSALIS  
Until Gusty the Great banished you.

Grogar snarl/roars at Chrysalis, who cowers.

116            GROGAR  
That fool believed she could defeat  
me, the mighty GROGAR, for good. She  
only weakened me temporarily.

117            COZY GLOW  
Um... Tirek is really old. If he knew  
you when he was a foal, we have  
different ideas about what  
"temporarily" means. (off Tirek's  
look) Sorry, you look great for your  
age. It's a total compliment.

118            GROGAR  
Silence! I have spent millennia  
gathering power from every corner of  
the world, biding my time... watching,  
waiting for the perfect opportunity to  
seize control of Equestria!

119            CHRYSALIS  
And that moment is now?

120            GROGAR  
It is close at hand. If we work  
together.

The villains just stare at him for an awkward beat, then...

121            TIREK  
(like it's a foreign concept)  
Together?

122            CHRYSALIS  
You mean (with disgust) help each  
other?

123            SOMBRA  
King Sombra does not require "help."

124            GROGAR  
Really? How has that worked out for  
you? For any of you?

The villains all look away, none meeting each others' eye.

125            GROGAR (CONT'D)  
I've seen each of your humiliating  
defeats at the hooves of six puny  
ponies. And do you know why they've  
always bested you?

126            CHRYSALIS  
Because they cheat.

127            TIREK  
Because they are annoyingly lucky.

128            SOMBRA  
Technically, it was their dragon that  
was my undoing.

129            COZY GLOW  
I'm just kid, so...

130            GROGAR  
ENOUGH! It is because they work  
together. (rolling his eyes) I told  
you the answer before I asked the  
question! (THEN) They use their  
abilities and powers together! Where  
one is weak another is strong and thus  
unified, they are a formidable force.  
And we shall use their own strategy to  
defeat them.

131            CHRYSALIS  
What are you suggesting?

132            GROGAR  
I suggest nothing. I am Grogar. I  
demand we work together. And Equestria  
will be ours!

Tirek, Chrysalis and Cozy's interest is piqued but Sombra  
frowns.

133            SOMBRA  
Ours? Your offer holds no interest for  
me. I will not share the spoils of my  
efforts.

Tirek, Chrysalis and Cozy remember themselves, nodding and  
MURMURING in agreement as if that's what they thought the  
whole time.

134            SOMBRA (CONT'D)  
I will take back the Crystal Empire on  
my own and I will destroy anypony who  
gets in my way!

Grogar smiles an evil smile.

135            GROGAR  
Such confidence. Would you be willing  
to wager on your chance of success?

Sombra looks to him, intrigued.

136            GROGAR (CONT'D)  
Go. Try to take back your kingdom. I  
shall send you there myself. If you  
prevail, you may keep it. (to the  
rest) And you may all go free. But  
when you fail, you will submit to me.

137            SOMBRA  
And if I refuse this...proposal?

138            GROGAR  
Than I shall return you to the  
darkness from which you were summoned.

139            SOMBRA  
Fine. But it is a waste of your time  
as I will crush those who defy me. I  
will defeat all who--

Grogar waves and Sombra vanishes, mid-vamp. Grogar turns to  
the others.

140            GROGAR  
I'd advise the rest of you to prepare  
to work together. Sombra will be back  
sooner than you think.

With that, Grogar stalks out. Cozy takes to the others.

141            COZY GLOW  
Well, you two are in luck because I  
know a lot about how to make friends.

OFF Tirek and Chrysalis' looks of pure disgust, CUT TO:

**SC. 12 - INT. SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP - TWILIGHT'S OFFICE - DAY**

STARLIGHT GLIMMER tentatively opens the door to Twilight's office.

142            STARLIGHT GLIMMER  
Twi? You in here? The girls told me  
the--

She gets hit in the face with the end of a mile-long scroll.  
REVEAL Twilight, way at the other end, furiously scribbling.

143            TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
So much to do, not enough time. No! I  
already did that. Wait. Nope. I  
didn't. OOOH, NOT ENOUGH TIME!

Spike pops out from behind a huge color coded chart of the Canterlot Castle. Twilight has different wings of the castle dedicated to each of the MANE 6.

144            SPIKE  
(WHISPER-YELLS TO STARLIGHT) HELP!  
She's spiraling. We're at the "my plan  
needs a plan" stage of a Total  
Twilight Melt Down.

Starlight nods.

145            STARLIGHT GLIMMER  
Got it. (THEN) Twilight?

Twilight doesn't even notice that Starlight is there. She cross references another list.

146            TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
Did I write down "eliminate redundant  
lists" on my School of Friendship to-  
do list, or my personal to-do list?

147            STARLIGHT GLIMMER  
TWILIGHT!

Twilight jumps.

148            TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
Starlight! Oh good, you're here. I  
need to talk to you.

149            STARLIGHT GLIMMER  
Okaayy.

150            TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
Hang on, I had "talk to Starlight"  
written down on one of these. Just let  
me find it so I can cross it off...

Twilight rummages through her lists, there are scrolls  
EVERYWHERE.

151            STARLIGHT GLIMMER  
Wow, this is bad.

152            TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
What do you mean?

153            STARLIGHT GLIMMER  
I mean, this Twilighting is the worst  
I've ever seen.

154            TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
You say Twilighting too? Well, excuse  
me, but this is the first time I've  
ever been asked to run A CONTINENT!

Starlight backs up a bit. Twilight's having a moment.

155            STARLIGHT GLIMMER  
You're right. You're right. (CHANGING  
THE SUBJECT) So what did you want to  
talk to me about?

156            TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
Ah here it is. I wrote it down.  
(READING) *Starlight, you have  
blossomed into one of the strongest,  
smartest, most caring ponies I know  
and I can't think of anypony better to  
leave in charge of my castle and the  
School of Friendship. So what do you  
say?*

Starlight gets an idea. Then, rather dramatically:

157            STARLIGHT GLIMMER  
WHAT? You want me to take care of the  
castle and RUN THE SCHOOL?

158            TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
Yes...

159            STARLIGHT GLIMMER  
I'm not ready for that. I can't. I've  
never run a school before! I'm barely  
good at being the guidance counselor!  
What if I don't do the right things?  
(MORE)

STARLIGHT GLIMMER (CONT'D)

What if the students realize I'm not qualified to be in charge and it turns into anarchy? What if--

160            TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
Starlight! Get a hold of yourself. You've risen to every challenge you've ever faced. You can do anything you put your mind to. You've got this.

Starlight smiles at Twilight and nods.

161            STARLIGHT GLIMMER  
Mmmmmhmmmm. And so do you. See what I did there? You just said everything you need to hear.

162            TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
(LAUGHS) Nice try, but running a school and running Equestria are very different things! Now if you don't mind, I have about seven thousand four hundred and thirty two more things to take care of before my coronation!

Twilight starts to hyperventilate and Spike immediately hands her a paper bag to breath in. He looks to Starlight.

163            SPIKE  
It was a valiant effort.

164            STARLIGHT GLIMMER  
Well, on the plus side, if she keeps this up, I can't think of anything she won't be prepared for.

**SC. 13 - EXT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE - DAY**

Crystal Ponies scatter and run, mothers hide their foals, shopkeepers close and board up their windows, it's panic in the streets as Sombra marches in.

165            SOMBRA  
Hahaha! Flee before the mighty Sombra!

His eyes glow green. Dark smoke pours out of them, engulfing nearby ponies with dark magic. An image of Sombra's eyes superimposes over their faces and when the smoke clears, the ponies go from panicking to a zombie-like trance of sadness.

166            SOMBRA (CONT'D)  
Yes. Cower before your king.

CRYSTAL EMPIRE GUARDS rush up to defend the city, but Sombra uses his magic (his eyes superimpose over theirs) and they go dark, falling in line behind him.

Sombra's turned guards herd the remaining ponies together and Sombra blasts them all with dark magic. As Sombra saps the citizens' will, Dark Crystals spring up all over the streets, cracking windows and doors.

167                    SOMBRA (CONT'D)  
Now for the pretenders that dare to  
sit on MY throne!

He marches his mind-controlled army toward the castle.

**SC. 14 - INT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE CASTLE - ROYAL STUDY - SAME**

SHINING ARMOR opens the door to find CADANCE furiously scribbling a magical scroll to Twilight.

168                    SHINING ARMOR  
The guard says Sombra's breached the  
castle!

169                    CADANCE  
(FINISHING SCROLL) Hurry, Twilight! We  
need you!

POOF! The scroll disappears.

170                    CADANCE (CONT'D)  
Do you have Flurry Heart?

171                    SHINING ARMOR  
(shock) I thought you had her.

Their eyes go wide. They race out of the room and into...

**SC. 15 - INT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - SAME**

Cadance and Shining Armor run in to find Sombra holding baby FLURRY HEART, surrounded by crystal empire guards.

172                    SOMBRA  
Looking for somepony?

Cadance and Shining Armor stop dead in their tracks.

173                    SOMBRA (CONT'D)  
I'll be taking those.

He takes their crowns and gives them Flurry Heart.

174            CADANCE  
You won't get away with this.

175            SOMBRA  
Oh, but I already have! Hahahaha.

Sombra encases the royal family in a dark crystal prison,  
puts a crown on his own head and sits on the throne.

176            SOMBRA (CONT'D)  
Ah. It feels good to be KING!

**SC. 16 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE HALLWAY - LATER**

Spike and Starlight run down the hall.

177            STARLIGHT GLIMMER  
The next time I'm thinking of saying  
Twilight's prepared for anything, I'm  
just not going to say it.

178            SPIKE  
Good plan.

They run into the rest of the Mane 6 (Rarity still has a face  
mask on, Applejack has apple leaves in her mane, Rainbow Dash  
has half her Wonderbolt's uniform on, etc.

It's clear they all dropped whatever they were doing to get  
there in a hurry). They all burst into the throne room.

**SC. 17 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Twilight is pacing, looking over the scroll from Cadance. She  
looks up at her friends.

179            TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
Thanks for coming so quickly--

Before any of them can speak, Discord poofs in wearing  
reading glasses and holding up a letter:

180            DISCORD  
Sure thing, but if you're going to be  
the ruler of Equestria, you may want  
to work on your penmanship. This looks  
like it says, "Sombra's back and he's  
taking over the Crystal Empire."

181            TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
That's exactly what it says!

182            RARITY  
But how is that possible?

183            RAINBOW DASH  
Didn't we kick that guy's flanks?

184            TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
We did. But somehow, he's back and  
it's up to us to save the Empire and  
my family!

185            FLUTTERSHY  
Shouldn't somepony tell Celestia and  
Luna.

186            DISCORD  
Oooh. Good point. One of us should  
probably loop in the real rulers of  
Equestria.

Twilight shakes her head.

187            TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
No. If we're going to take over, we'll  
need to handle things like this on our  
own.

188            DISCORD  
My word, Twilight. Could this mean you  
finally have the confidence you need  
to be the ruler the princesses believe  
you can be?

The whole room looks hopefully at Twilight.

189            TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
Not exactly. But I do have confidence  
in the Elements of Harmony! When we  
have those, nothing, not even Sombra  
can stand in our way!

Everyponies' faces fall. Twilight turns to Starlight.

190            TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)  
Starlight, you stay here and take care  
of the school. Discord, can you take  
us to the Tree of Harmony?

191            DISCORD  
<SIGH> I suppose. But you didn't need  
the "Elements" the last time you  
defeated Sombra.

192            TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
My family is in danger. I'm not taking  
any chances.

193            PINKIE PIE  
She's got a point.

194            RAINBOW DASH  
We are sort of unstoppable with those things.

195            DISCORD  
Very well, all aboard the Discord express.

Discord snaps and has a conductor hat on and turns his body into a train car. Everypony looks a little hesitant to climb in.

196            DISCORD (CONT'D)  
Honestly, none of you are any fun when there's grave danger.

He snaps and they all disappear!

**END ACT TWO**

**ACT THREE**

**SC. 18 - INT. CAVE OF HARMONY - LATER**

The Mane 6, Starlight, Spike, and Discord pop in.

197            RARITY  
I am always impressed at just how gorgeous the Tree of Harmony is.

198            PINKIE PIE  
So sparkley! Why don't we come down here more often?

199            DISCORD  
Yes, yes. It's very shiny and pretty and we could gaze at it all day, but don't you have more important things to do? I know I do.

Twilight fires up her horn and the Elements Of Harmony float from the tree to their respective ponies. Rarity does a happy little shimmy when she gets hers.

200            DISCORD (CONT'D)  
Hmm, the tree looks sad when you're all wearing its shiny bits.

They look to the tree. It does seem a little lackluster now without the Elements of Harmony. With a snap of his fingers, a happy face appears on the tree.

201            TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
I'm sure it'll be fine. We'll return  
the elements as soon as we defeat  
Sombra.

202            RAINBOW DASH  
So what are we waiting for? Let's go  
kick some evil king flank!

Twilight turns to Discord again.

203            TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
Discord, it'd be fastest if you could--

Discord rolls his eyes.

204            DISCORD  
Ugh. Fine. But after this you're on  
your own. (SARCASTIC) After all, you  
have the Elements of Harmony now, and  
that's all you need, right?

With a snap of his fingers, the Mane 6 and Spike are  
transported to...

**SC. 19 - EXT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE - GATES - CONTINUOUS**

The ponies appear at the "gates" to the Crystal Empire. But  
as in 302, the gates are now dark crystals.

205            RAINBOW DASH  
That can't be good.

206            DISCORD  
Dark crystals. Classic Sombra.

207            PINKIE PIE  
(HOPEFUL) Maybe it's just dirty?

Twilight takes off in a gallop towards the city. The rest  
follow, except Discord who pouts.

208            DISCORD  
Not even so much as a "Thanks for the  
ride, Discord!" It's enough to make a  
God of Chaos self-conscious.

With that, he vanishes in a POOF.

**SC. 20 - EXT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE - MOMENTS LATER**

The Mane 6 and Spike peek into the city from behind a  
building. All around them, the crystal ponies look like  
they're enslaved - heads hung, desaturated, flat hair, etc.

209            APPLEJACK  
Sombra's definitely been here.

210            RARITY  
Mind control is already bad -- is it  
really necessary to give them horrible  
hairstyles as well??

211            SPIKE  
Um, Twilight, if things are this bad  
already--?

212            TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
--then my family is in serious  
trouble!

**SC. 21 - INT. CRYSTAL CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - LATER**

Sombra lounges on the crystal throne, casually twirling the crystal heart on his hoof (like a basketball). He's obviously made himself at home. Dark crystals jut out from the floor, and Shining Armor, Princess Cadance, and Flurry Heart are trapped in a dark crystal cage.

A feisty Flurry Heart keeps trying to fire magic blasts at Sombra, but the dark crystals make the blasts fizzle.

213            SOMBRA  
It's cute that you think that will do  
anything.

214            CADANCE  
It might not work, but we'll never  
stop trying. You'll never truly hold  
us captive, as long as we have--

215            SOMBRA  
--Let me guess.  
(mocking)  
"I'll never truly hold you captive, as  
long as you have hope." Is that what  
you were about to say?

216            CADANCE  
No. You'll never truly hold us  
captive, as long as we have friends to  
break us out.

Cadance looks at something over Sombra's shoulder. REVEAL the Mane 6 at the doorway, poised for battle.

217            PINKIE PIE  
Surprise!

With that, they all charge towards Sombra.

218                    SOMBRA  
<CHUCKLES> You think you've ambushed  
me? I've been expecting you.

Sombra's horn glows. The Mane 6 freeze mid-gallop. ON  
TWILIGHT: as in 301/302, Sombra's glowing green eyes are  
superimposed over hers which go dark as his mind powers take  
effect. We see flashes of her greatest fear:

- Sombra defeats the Mane 6 in a shadowy battle.
- Twilight hangs her head in defeat in front of Celestia and  
Luna, who are sitting on their thrones.

219                    CELESTIA  
Oh Twilight. How disappointing.

As the windows in the throne room darken in shadows:

220                    LUNA  
Equestria was in your care -- and you  
let it be destroyed.

BACK TO SCENE: Sombra chuckles. REVEAL the rest of the Mane  
6, struggling to maintain their stature and color under  
Sombra's fear spell.

221                    SOMBRA  
You should all just surrender. Nothing  
can defeat your greatest fears.

Twilight strains then suddenly her eyes clear as she snaps  
herself out of the trance and glares at Sombra, still a  
little bit shaky.

222                    TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
We don't need to defeat them. We just  
needed to face them long enough to  
distract you!

Sombra spins around -- REVEAL Spike has broken the dark  
crystal cage and freed Twilight's family.

The rest of the M6 free themselves from the spell. Rainbow  
Dash zips over to the crystal heart and tosses it towards  
Cadance, who flies out the window.

Sombra rushes to the balcony as Cadance replaces the Heart  
beneath the castle.

223                    SOMBRA  
NO!

Sombra is about to go after Cadance but Rainbow Dash zips in front of him. REVEAL all six ponies have him surrounded. Sombra narrows his eyes and starts to turn into a cloud of shadows.

Starting with Twilight, the Mane 6 fire up the Elements of Harmony. They float and contain Sombra's shadow cloud within their circle. Sombra tries to fire shadowy blasts at the Mane 6, but his magic fizzles out. Cadance flies back up.

224                    CADANCE  
It's cute that you think that will do  
anything.

Sombra turns solid again and surveys the scene.

225                    SOMBRA  
<ANGRY GROWL> You may have won the  
battle, but I shall win the war!

With that, Sombra turns into a shadow that "runs away", bursting upward from the Mane 6's circle and flying O.S.

CUTAWAYS throughout the Crystal Kingdom: the Crystal Heart begins to spin and the dark crystals in the castle recede into the ground. The crystal ponies go back to normal. The sun shines a little brighter.

Back with the Mane 6: looking out at the Empire from a balcony as they stop glowing with the power of the elements and float back down.

226                    RAINBOW DASH  
I don't know what war Sombra thinks  
he's gonna win since we totally just  
wiped the castle with him.

Flurry Heart flies in and hugs Twilight with a tiny explosion of <GIGGLES>. Shining Armor and Cadance gather around.

227                    SHINING ARMOR  
Thanks, Twily.

228                    TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
No problem.

229                    PINKIE PIE  
That was fun!

230                    APPLEJACK  
And easy.

231            RARITY  
As far as magical battles go, that was  
a cakewalk.

232            PINKIE PIE  
Ooh, "cakewalk".

233            RAINBOW DASH  
I mean, Sombra basically ran away!

234            FLUTTERSHY  
Yeah, what a pushover.

Everypony laughs.

235            TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
Normally, I'd say we should go after  
him, but I'm not really worried.

236            RARITY  
Really??

237            SPIKE  
Does this mean--?

238            TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
I still don't feel like I'm one  
hundred percent ready, but will I  
ever?

239            APPLEJACK  
Knowing you? Nope.

240            TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
I have you guys, and we have the  
Elements, and together -- we've never  
failed. We'll be okay.

241            RAINBOW DASH/PINKIE  
PIE/SPIKE  
Yeah we will! / Woohoo! / Did we just  
skip to stage seven?

242            SHINING ARMOR  
Twilight -- Cadance, Flurry and I are  
so proud of you. Equestria will be  
lucky to have you at the helm.

243            CADANCE  
Almost as lucky as we are to have you  
as our sister and auntie!

All three of them hug Twilight and off this tender family moment we...

DISSOLVE TO:

**SC. 22 - INT. CAVE OF HARMONY - LATER**

The Mane 6 return to the tree. Twilight floats the elements back to their rightful places. The tree glows again and Twilight smiles in satisfaction.

As the Mane 6 walk away...

244                      FLUTTERSHY  
What should we do to celebrate?

245                      PINKIE PIE  
I vote for a cakewalk!

We PAN UP to a shadowy cloud floating high on the cave's ceiling. Sombra's glowing green eyes appear! Suddenly, the ground starts shaking and six enormous dark crystals erupt from the ground all around the tree.

246                      APPLEJACK  
What's going on?

247                      TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
I don't know.

Sombra takes his solid form right in front of the Tree, which is now surrounded by dark crystals. Before the girls can do a thing, Sombra's horn glows with a huge crackling ball of dark energy and he blasts the crystal nearest him - it fragments and all the other crystals light up and in turn blast the tree, targeting each Element of Harmony. The elements shatter! The tree is destroyed.

Off of this we...

**END PART ONE**