

MY LITTLE PONY
Season 9

Student Counsel
EP 911

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STUDENT COUNSEL

Outline by Josh Haber

Logline: Starlight Glimmer relishes her role as school counselor and encourages the students to come to her anytime about anything, but when always being available becomes too much, she learns it doesn't have to be all or nothing.

TEASER**SC. 1 - EXT. FIELD NEAR PONYVILLE – DAY**

While Starlight and Trixie enjoy a picnic, Starlight explains how much she loves her job at the school. As Trixie can well understand, being able to use the experiences from her checkered past to help those younger than her feels great. Trixie admires her friend, though she wishes they could spend more time together. Starlight says she doesn't know what Trixie's talking about—when suddenly a bracelet around one of her hooves starts to glow. Starlight excuses herself and vanishes. Trixie rolls her eyes, takes a bite of food, and patiently waits for her friend to return. Starlight BAMFS back and explains: She enchanted the door to her office so that her bracelet glows anytime there's a knock. She never wants to miss a student in need—just now Yona needed advice on her latest braid creation—she turns to Trixie, “Anyway, what were you saying?”

END TEASER**MAIN TITLES****ACT ONE****SC. 2 - INT. SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP – STARLIGHT'S OFFICE – DAY**

A troubled Silverstream sits in Starlight's office. The young Hippogriff wants to describe a shower to her Seapony relatives who have never had the experience, but she just can't settle on the right words. She goes over a long list of potential adjectives, but none really seem to capture the right feeling. Starlight offers some suggestions, but they only add to Silverstream's indecision. Stumped, Silverstream leaves to give it some more thought just as Trixie shows up with a list of errands for her and Starlight to do. Starlight is confused, she can't just pick up and go during her office hours – just then there's a knock on her office door and her bracelet glows. Starlight opens the door to see a line of students waiting to see her. Trixie sighs. She knows Starlight's been busy, but she hopes she didn't forget that they were supposed to start preparing for the upcoming Mares Day holiday weekend (i.e. a Pony take on a Spring-themed, May Day-type thing). Sunburst is coming into town, Maud and Mudbriar are hosting, she and Trixie are making a cake, etc. Remembering, Starlight looks from Trixie to the line of students, “Riiight.”

SC. 3 - EXT. PONYVILLE – LATER

As they head through town Starlight apologizes to Trixie. She has been busy, but that's no excuse for forgetting what they have to do. Obviously she needs to be available to her students, but she's certain she can do it all and promises to make time for their errands too... just as soon as Trixie reminds her what they are. Trixie rolls her eyes and goes over their list. Maud needs streamers for the Mare Pole. Mudbriar wants them to pick up a bouquet of flowering sticks. Sunburst has asked that they visit the antique shop and pick up the genuine, pre-Equestrian, Mare's Day serving dish that he has on reserve there. Lastly Trixie wants them to meet at Sugarcube Corner where Mrs. Cake will go over her special Mare's Day cake recipe with them so they're sure to get it right. They decide to divide and conquer and divvy up the tasks but before they can start, Starlight's bracelets goes off. She tells Trixie to start and she'll catch up – she's sure it'll be quick. With that, she vanishes.

SC. 4 - INT. SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP – STARLIGHT'S OFFICE – CONTINUOUS

Starlight appears in her office to find Sandbar on the verge of tears. He knows his friends all care about him, but he can't help feeling inferior. They're all so special and unique and he's just... just... A PONY! As he starts crying, Starlight SIGHS and tries to comfort him.

SC. 5 - EXT. PONYVILLE – LATER

Starlight appears next to Trixie outside the flower shop, but Trixie asks her what she's doing there. Trixie was supposed to pick up the flowering stick bouquet and Starlight was supposed to get the streamers. "Right. Got it." Starlight replies, but before she can run off to the party supply store, her bracelet glows again. With a meek, apologetic smile she vanishes again. Trixie SIGHS.

MONTAGE

In a series of quick scenes we watch as Starlight bounces back and forth between...

- INT. STARLIGHT'S OFFICE – where Silverstream now needs advice on how to describe the function of a towel to her sea dwelling relatives. Off Starlight's eye roll...

-INT. PARTY SUPPLY SHOP – Starlight's hoofs are full of streamers when her bracelet goes off. Quickly she hands the streamers back to the shopkeep and vanishes.

-INT. STARLIGHT'S OFFICE –Smolder complains that the school is drafty, but a still smoking Gallus maintains that's no excuse for breathing fire everywhere.

-INT. ANTIQUE SHOP – Starlight asks for Sunburst’s serving dish but the shop keeper tells her Trixie’s already picked it up. Starlight sets out after her, but her bracelet glows again.

-INT. STARLIGHT’S OFFICE – Starlight helps Ocellus deal with an identity crisis. *“I can be anything, but who am I?”* Suddenly, Silverstream sticks her head in, *“When you two are done I kind of need help describing how to hold your breath to somepony who’s never had to do it.”* Starlight SIGHS and looks at the clock.

-INT. SUGARCUBE CORNER – a harried Starlight appears, but it’s already dark. Mrs. Cake tells her Trixie left, but not to worry – she told her everything she’ll need to bake a Mare’s Day cake. Disappointed, Starlight unloads on Mrs. Cake. The whole day’s gone by and she hasn’t helped with a single thing. She loves her councilor work and wants her students to come to her about anything, anytime, but that doesn’t leave time for much else. Mrs. Cake breaks in to stop her rambling and to tell her, *“Your hoof is glowing, dear.”* Starlight looks down at her bracelet and SIGHS as we... END MONTAGE.

SC. 6 - INT. SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP – STARLIGHT’S OFFICE – SOON AFTER

Starlight POOFS into her office to find—Trixie. Confused, Starlight asks her friend why she summoned her to her office and Trixie explains that it’s the only place she’s sure she can find her. Starlight starts to apologize, but Trixie says she understands. Starlight is committed to her job, maybe too committed, but Trixie respects it—even if she has had to do everything for the celebration herself. Starlight starts to promise that she’ll be more available, when she’s interrupted by a knock at her door. Silverstream sticks her head in again and asks if Starlight has a minute. Seeing Starlight’s job is never done, Trixie shakes her head and tells Starlight not to worry—her students need her more than she does. Guilty she’s let her friend do all the work, Starlight tells Silverstream the counselor’s office is officially closed for the break. She assures the young Hippogriff that she can figure out how to deal with whatever the problem is herself and with that, she and Trixie vanish to get ready for their celebration.

SC. 7 - INT. – MAUD’S CAVE - NIGHT

Later, at Maud’s Mare’s Day celebration Starlight’s bracelet starts to blow up—getting glowing signal after glowing signal—until eventually, Starlight has to take it off and hide it under a rock. Finally both of Silverstream’s parents show up in a panic—Silverstream is missing! [Production note - if it’s difficult production-wise to redesign the mom as a Hippogriff, it can just be her brother Terramar, though there is definitely comedy to be had from Mom not being used to her land form.]

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO**SC. 8 - INT. – MAUD’S CAVE – RESUME**

Starlight doesn’t understand, did Silverstream not come home for the weekend? Both parents confirm that she never showed. They explain that they knew she had a big project due after the break, but just assumed she would do the work at home in between visiting her two families and celebrating the holiday—come to think of it that does sound like a lot. Could Silverstream have been so worried about how to split her time that she just decided not to come home at all? They all look to Starlight. Surely this is the kind of problem a student would talk to their counselor about. Starlight fumfers, explaining that Silverstream came to her with a lot of things, but admits that the last time she kind of shut her down. The parents stare at Starlight, stunned. How could she do that? Starlight takes total responsibility, but her friends come to her defense. Starlight always goes way beyond the call of duty for her students. This is just one unfortunate circumstance. Still Starlight feels responsible. She tells her friends to continue with their holiday and assures Silverstream’s parents that she will fix the situation and find Silverstream.

SC. 9 - INT. SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP – VARIOUS – SOON AFTER

Starlight appears at the school. She shouts out for Silverstream, but there’s no answer. She proceeds to pop around the campus, checking everywhere from classrooms, to the library, to the stream running through campus (in case her student is hiding out in Seapony form)—but the school is definitely empty.

SC. 10 - INT. SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP – DORMS

Finally, Starlight pops in on the dorms to find Silverstream’s room. It’s empty too, but she does see a collection of books and papers on the Cockatrice. Determining that the dangerous creature must be the subject of Silverstream’s big project, Starlight worries her student went off into the Everfree Forest on her own to finish her research. In a panic, Starlight charges out of the school and toward the forest.

SC. 11 - EXT. SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP – CONTINUOUS

As Starlight blindly gallops along the road out of the school, she crashes into all of her friends who have come to help. Starlight feels awful. Not only has she ruined everyone’s Mare’s Day celebration, but one of her students is missing, and all because she decided to take some time off. Trixie admits she feels somewhat responsible for Starlight’s councilor lapse and is determined to set things right. The rest of her friends can’t imagine enjoying their Mare’s Day celebration knowing Starlight is dealing with such a huge problem. Starlight appreciates what a great group of friends she has and shares with them what she’s discovered. Trixie explains that she has a lot of experience telling ponies that she has experience with

the dangerous animals of Everfree Forest, and she leads the charge as they all head off to find Silverstream together.

SC. 12 - EXT. EVERFREE FOREST – DAY

Following the research Starlight discovered in Silverstream’s room, the gang head into the heart of the forest, where the lair of the Cockatrice is said to be.

Unfortunately, all Starlight and her friends find is the animal itself—and it seems like it’s having a holiday gathering of its own! Unwittingly stumbling onto a migrating flock of Cockatrices, Starlight’s friends scatter before she has a chance to magic them all away. As they all blindly run off in different directions with their eyes shut tight to avoid the petrifying stares of the mythical creatures we...

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

SC. 13 - EXT. EVERFREE FOREST – RESUME

As Starlight BAMFS around the forest trying to help her friends, we cut back and forth between the members of the search party as they each deal with their own, terrifying chicken-snake. Sunburst tries a spell to counter the beast’s stare, Trixie lobs smoke globe after smoke globe to try to escape, Maud and Mudbriar use a combination of rocks and sticks to defend themselves—unsuccessfully as Mudbriar is turned to stone (though nobody but Maud notices a difference. Maud, *“I didn’t think I could love him any more.”*), etc. Unfortunately, the Cockatrice(s?) prove too much for all of them and ultimately Starlight has to grab her friends one at a time and teleport them to the safety of a nearby clearing. But soon the horrifying birds sniff them out, and the chase is on again until ultimately, the group takes refuge in the Castle of the Two Sisters (carrying the “statue” of Mudbriar the whole way).

SC. 14 - INT. CASTLE OF THE TWO SISTERS – CONTINUOUS

Inside the ruins, Starlight bemoans the situation and swears to never take time off from her counselor duties ever again. When her friends counter that that sounds like a bit of an overreaction, Starlight isn’t so sure. If she had just done her job instead of galloping off to a holiday celebration, Silverstream would be safe and her friends would be enjoying their wonderful party. Instead, her student is still missing, and everypony she cares about is stuck in a miserable, old, falling down castle being chased by horrible beasts. To top it all off, she’s exhausted the only lead she had. It looks like Silverstream didn’t journey into the forest to study the Cockatrice after all, and she’s back to square one with no idea where to look. At that moment they all notice a light coming from inside the Student’s Treehouse. Of course! It’s the first place they should have thought of.

SC. 15 - INT. TREE HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The group rushes inside and—after some confusion figuring out the layout of the interior—find their way to Silverstream’s room. Inside they find the young Hippogriff deep in research mode—wading through even more Cockatrice info than was in her dorm room (books, pictures, and diagrams are plastered around the room and on the walls *Beautiful Mind*-style). Silverstream looks up, surprised to see Starlight—and her entire entourage—in the tree house. Starlight explains the situation, her parents are worried sick, etc. Silverstream apologizes. Once Starlight “encouraged” her to figure things out for herself, she decided to get as much of her project done as possible before the holiday break. That way she could spend her weekend focused on splitting time between her two families. Unfortunately, she didn’t count on how fascinating the world of the Cockatrice is and she completely lost track of time. Do Starlight and her friends know that Cockatrice migrate to the Everfree Forest once a year? She can’t imagine anything as dangerous as a whole flock of those creatures. Starlight rolls her eyes and looks to her friends and with a glance at the Mudbriar “statue.” Yes. They are familiar.

SC. 16 - INT. MAUD’S CAVE - LATER

Back in Maud’s cave, the celebration resumes with Silverstream and her family in attendance. Mudbriar is back to normal with a newfound appreciation for rocks. He and Maud are even closer now. Silverstream’s parents are grateful for their child’s safe return and apologize for coming down so hard on Starlight earlier. But Starlight isn’t so sure they weren’t right to be outraged. She apologizes to Silverstream for letting her down. She shirked her duty and even though it turned out that Silverstream was safe, things could have been a lot worse. Silverstream points out that Starlight can’t supervise her students 24/7 and her parents agree. Trixie and Starlight’s other friends chime in as well. Of course being the student councilor is a big responsibility, but never taking time off is unreasonable. On the other hand, cutting her students off completely doesn’t make much sense either. Starlight nods it agreement, realizing that the best path is somewhere in between. Everyone agrees and returns to the celebration as we...

END