

MY LITTLE PONY
Season 9

Student Counsel
EP 911

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STUDENT COUNSEL

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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 and she cuts them off, she learns it doesn't have to be all or nothing.*

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 doesn't know what Trixie's talking about—when suddenly her horn glows. She excuses herself and vanishes. Trixie rolls her eyes, takes a bite of food, and patiently waits for Starlight to return. Starlight BAMFS back and explains. She enchanted the knocker on her office door so she never misses a student in need—just now Yona needed advice on her latest braid creation—she turns to Trixie, “Sorry, what were you saying?”

Starlight prepares for the upcoming (TBD-Pony-Thanksgiving-ish) holiday weekend—Sunburst is coming into town, Maud and Mudbriar are hosting, she and Trixie are making dessert, etc.—but her glowing horn continually draws her back to her office where a litany of student problems interrupts her efforts: Yona is struggling in her dance class, Gallus is losing feathers, Smolder finds the school drafty, Ocellus is having an identity crisis (“*I can be anything, but who am I?*”), etc. It's clear that Starlight enjoys her work, but it's equally clear that the daily barrage of student problems leaves time for little else. Still, she encourages her students to continue to come to her with their problems—anytime. When her horn again signals somepony in need of counseling, Starlight appears in her office to find—Trixie. Confused, Starlight asks why her friend summoned her to her office and Trixie explains that it's the only way to get a hold of her. Trixie has had to prepare everything for the celebration herself so far and wonders if Starlight isn't a little too committed to her students' problems. Unfortunately, Starlight has to excuse herself mid-conversation to help with another one: Silverstream is worried about the weekend. She has a big project on Ursas due after the break and doesn't know how to make time for that and for both of her families (familiar much?). Frustrated, Trixie reminds her friend that Sunburst will be arriving soon and they still have to finish dessert for the celebration. Realizing she's let things get out of hand, Starlight tells Silverstream the counselor's office is closed and she'll have to figure out the best course of action for herself. Later, at Maud's Friendsgiving dinner Starlight ignores several horn signals until finally both of Silverstream's parents show up in a panic—Silverstream is missing!

Worried not only for her student, but that she has ruined several holiday celebrations (both of Silverstream's families' as well as her friends'), Starlight take the blame, explaining how she cut Silverstream off. Silverstream's parents are beside themselves. How could Starlight abandon their child in her time of need?! 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. But when Starlight returns to school to look, her friends follow right behind. There's no way they're going to let her deal with this alone. But when they find no trace of Silverstream in the classrooms or the library, the group starts to worry. Could she have ventured into the Everfree Forest to do Ursa research on her own? Having some experience with Ursas, Trixie leads the charge into their known habitat. Unfortunately all Starlight and her friends find are the bears themselves—and it seems that they too are having a bit of a gathering. In a fit of terror, Starlight's friends scatter before she has a chance to magic them all away.

As Starlight's search party scatters, each running from their own bear, Starlight BAMFS around the forest, and gathers them up. Unfortunately the bears continue to pursue the group who quickly take refuge in the Castle of the Two Sisters. Inside the ruins, Starlight bemoans the situation. If only she had just continued to do her job this never would have happened—and she still hasn't found Silverstream. At that moment they all notice a light coming from inside the treehouse. Of course! It's the first place they should have looked. As the group rushes inside and up to Silverstream's room, they find the Hippogriff deep in research mode—Ursa books and diagrams plastered around the room *Beautiful Mind*-style. Silverstream looks up, surprised to see them. Starlight explains the situation and her student apologizes. Once Starlight “encouraged” her to figure things out for herself, she decided to get as much of her project done as she could and just lost track of time. Relieved her student is safe, Starlight whisks them all back to Maud's cave where Silverstream and her grateful parents join in on the holiday celebration. Starlight again apologizes for letting Silverstream down. It looks like time off is just not an option for a school counselor, but Silverstream's parents and her friends beg to differ. It's not one thing or the other. Being available 24/7 is unreasonable, but so is cutting her students off completely. Starlight realizes the best path is somewhere in between.