

MY LITTLE PONY
Season 9

The Last Crusade
EP 912

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Premise: December 4th, 2017
Outline: January 12th, 2018

THE LAST CRUSADE

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Logline: Scootaloo's parents return to Ponyville with plans to move their family to the farthest corner of Equestria; could this be the end of the Cutie Mark Crusaders?

TEASER**SC. 1 - INT. SCOOTALOO'S AUNTS' HOME - DAY**

SCOOTALOO, SWEETIE BELLE, and APPLE BLOOM are putting together a Cutie Mark Crusader scrapbook, full of photos and stories of the ponies they helped. Scootaloo's AUNT HOLIDAY (Earth pony) and AUNT LOFTY (Pegasus), bringing cookies and tea to the trio, are amazed at all the great tales. The CMCs have brought so much good to other ponies! They must be a very special group of friends indeed. The CMCs beam.

Scootaloo thanks her Aunts for letting her friends stay over for the weekend so they could work on their project together. Holiday says Apple Bloom and Sweetie Belle are welcome to visit any time! But now, Lofty had better walk them all to the train station, or they'll miss their ride back to Ponyville.

SC. 2 - INT. PONYVILLE EXPRESS - SOON

On the train, Apple Bloom and Sweetie Belle enthuse about how nice Scoot's aunts are. "I wish they lived closer to Ponyville!" Sweetie Belle says. Scootaloo agrees – she loves visiting her aunts on the weekend, but they're just too far away to stay with all the time. But it's okay, because she's got her whole week planned. Tonight she's staying over at the School of Friendship, then with the Cake Family, then Rainbow Dash is hanging out with her, then she's over at Sweetie Belle's house... Apple Bloom comments that it's a lot to keep track of, but Scootaloo doesn't mind. She loves visiting everypony. And it's just until her parents get back. Which reminds her – Aunt Holiday gave her a letter from them! Scootaloo rummages through her things and pulls out the letter. But as she reads, she gapes. "What's wrong?" Sweetie Belle asks. Scootaloo grins – nothing! Her parents are coming home!

END TEASER**MAIN TITLES****ACT ONE****SC. 3 - INT. MISS CHEERILEE'S SCHOOL – DAY**

Scootaloo is having trouble concentrating on the lesson. She keeps making up excuses to go look out the window, or open the classroom door. After the third excuse, "Uh, Miss Cheerilee? Sure looks like the chalkboard erasers could use some dusting..." Cheerilee gives up and decides to move onto another activity – show and tell. Does anypony in the class have

something they want to share?

Scootaloo's hoof flies in the air, and Miss Cheerilee wearily calls on her. Scoot stands up proudly and tells the whole class that her parents are coming home today! "You don't live with your parents?" Says a surprised DIAMOND TIARA, "that's weird." Scootaloo shakes her head. Her parents are the best wildlife photographers in all of Equestria. So they have to travel to really far away, dangerous places for their job. It wouldn't be safe for Scootaloo to come along – so they've made arrangements for her to stay here with her friends. Scootaloo brags about some of their daring adventures, and the class is mostly impressed. But Diamond Tiara thinks that Scootaloo's making it up.

Just then, the door bursts open, and a cragadile charges into the classroom! The students gape! The creature gnashes its teeth, and Miss Cheerilee tries to keep everypony calm... When suddenly, Scootaloo's dad, SNAP PIXEL, an Earth pony, leaps into the room – very Steve Irwin. He grins to the cragadile, "Easy, Gumdrop. High time for you to be back in your crate for your nap." He dodges around the creature and shoos it toward the door. The cragadile resists until Scootaloo's pegasus mom – MANE ALLGOOD, enters and points a no nonsense hoof. "And that means now," she tells the creature. Cowed, it exits. Snap doffs his (Aussie-like) hat to the kids and grins roguishly. "Sorry, Scoot. Didn't mean to make such an entrance. We brought back a few friends from our latest adventure." Scootaloo runs to hug her dad and mom, so thrilled to see them both. Miss Cheerilee gives up – in light of everything, class is dismissed. Scootaloo's parents invite Apple Bloom and Sweetie Belle to join them at the sweet shop so they can catch up on their daughter's adventures. "And get one of those mocha chip malts," Snap adds – they don't have things like that in the jungle!

SC. 4 - EXT. PONYVILLE SWEET SHOPPE – LATER

Scootaloo has just finished telling her parents about how the CMCs all got their matching cutie marks. Her parents beam – they're so proud of Scootaloo. Scoot is thrilled they're home – there's so much she's been waiting to show them and do with them. "I hope you're staying for a long vacation this time!" She says. "Oh, you'll be seeing PLENTY of us," Snap smiles. "Really?" Scootaloo brightens. Mane nods – because they've taken a job that will let them all live together. Scootaloo cheers, and her friends leap up to dance joyfully around with her.

Scootaloo's parents smile and explain they never intended to be away for so long in the first place, the job just kept getting extended. But with all that's been happening in Equestria lately – the loss of magic, Sombra's return... They wanted to make sure Scootaloo was in safe hooves. That's when the other horseshoe drops – "We'll stay in Ponyville just long enough for you to pack your things." Mane adds. Scootaloo and her friends stop dancing. Wait – why? Snap explains that they're all moving to Shirelanka. "Isn't that the farthest place in Equestria from Ponyville?" Apple Bloom asks, aghast. Snap nods – that's where their new job is. Scootaloo and her friends share a horrified look – moving?! Could this be the end of the Cutie Mark Crusaders?

SC. 5 - INT. CMC CLUBHOUSE – LATER

Scootaloo miserably starts to pack her things in the clubhouse. “Can’t you just tell them you’re not going?!” Demands Sweetie Belle. Scootaloo disconsolately says she tried that. Her parents said that Scoot belongs with her family. She’s close to tears – she loves her parents, but she loves Ponyville too – and all her friends, and her school, and their clubhouse... Apple Bloom looks determined as she gives the others a pep talk. “We’re the Cutie Crusaders, y’all! We’ve faced way tougher problems than this! We just need to come up with a plan!” That perks up Scootaloo a little bit – their track record IS pretty good when it comes to solving impossible problems. Sweetie Belle nods – that’s right! Together, they’re invincible!

Reinvigorated, the CMCs go into planning mode. WHY do Scootaloo’s parents want to move? Because that’s where their new job is. “So what if we get them a job HERE instead?!” Sweetie Belle suggests. It’s a great idea, Scootaloo agrees! If only they can convince her parents that there’s a creature here worth studying/photographing. Sweetie Belle says she’s sure FLUTTERSHY can help. Apple Bloom agrees – she’s got all kinds of cool creatures at her Animal Sanctuary!

SC. 6 - EXT. FLUTTERSHY’S ANIMAL SANCTUARY – SOON

The CMCs eagerly go on a tour of the sanctuary as Fluttershy tries to help them in their search for a photo-worthy creature. “Well, sloths look awfully cute in pictures...” She says. Apple Bloom asks if there’s something more...energetic. Fluttershy nods – the birds have lots of energy. Just look at those ducks! “They’ve been swimming in circles all morning!” She smiles. The CMCs share a look. Scootaloo explains that her parents study really rare, exotic creatures – does Fluttershy have any like that? Fluttershy’s eyes widen – she knows just the animal! She takes them through a series of gates (almost like Jurassic Park, just so it seems like they’re going through a lot of security)...And quietly whispers – “look over there.” We PAN the grassland to see... a turtle. “Is it behind the turtle?” Sweetie Belle whispers. Fluttershy shakes her head – it IS the turtle. “He has very rare birthmark in the shape of a heart,” Fluttershy explains happily. It appears the CMCs have struck out.

SC. 7 - EXT. ROAD TO PONYVILLE – SOON

But as the trio of fillies trudges back to town, Apple Bloom hasn’t given up hope. Sure, Fluttershy didn’t have a creature that could help, but that doesn’t mean there isn’t one around that nopony ever heard of. “Then how would WE hear about it?” Sweetie Belle asks. Apple Bloom grins – she has an idea...

SC. 8 - EXT. EVERFREE FOREST – LATER

Scootaloo leads her parents to the edge of the forest, showing them some weird, huge, clawed footprints. Snap is intrigued – they’re like no creature’s he seen before. Scootaloo nods – if she had to guess, she’d say it was the Banshee Beast of the Everfree Forest. Mane frowns – the what? Scoot explains that legend says the strange creature has claws, wings, and two tails – and that it only shows up when there’s no moon in the sky. Its existence is a true mystery! If only somepony could prove that it’s real... Scootaloo’s parents share a look – they’re clearly tempted by the challenge.

Scootaloo, encouraged, continues in a grave voice, “There’s no pictures of it, but ponies know it by its strange yodeling call.” There’s silence. Scootaloo says louder, “BY ITS STRANGE YODELING CALL!” Suddenly, there’s a weird yodel from the forest! Scootaloo’s parents dash into the forest after it. “Wait!” Scoot calls in surprise, “don’t you want to get your camera?!” “No time!” Snap puffs. He and Mane charge into the forest, in top-creature-tracking mode. They follow snapped branches and the beast’s footprints to find... Sweetie Belle using her horn to levitate a huge stump with “claws” at the end, making footprints. She gapes and tries to signal Apple Bloom in the tree above her – too late. Apple Bloom gives another yodel through a rolled up tube of paper. Scoot’s parents look up at them, then frown to Scootaloo, who shrugs... “Heh. Guess you solved the mystery...” Mane suggests that they’d all better get back to town. They’ll be leaving in two days, and they’ve got a lot to take care of. On this reminder, the CMCs share worried looks.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SC. 9 - INT. CMC CLUBHOUSE – NEXT DAY

Despite their setback, Scootaloo’s friends won’t let themselves sink into despair yet. Besides, Apple Bloom has a new idea – what they need to do is show Scootaloo’s parents how inseparable the CMCs are! Once they realize how important Scoot’s friends are to her, there’s no way they’d try to tear them apart. She hands out instructions for each of the CMCs for mission “Best Friends Forever,” and the three ponies begin... QUICK CUTS:

SC. 10 - EXT. PONYVILLE STREETS – SOON

As Mane buys fruit from a kiosk, Apple Bloom, Scootaloo and Sweetie Belle play Buckball nearby – Apple Bloom bucking the ball to Scootaloo, who zooms into the air with a scooter trick to send the ball flying into Sweetie Belle’s basket. They loudly proclaim (for Mane’s benefit) “Can’t have a Buckball team without three ponies! We’re so lucky to have just the right combination of friends! I can’t imagine playing the game with anypony else!” But Mane, though she smiles, doesn’t seem to get the message.

SC. 11 - EXT. PARK – SOON

Snap is taking a picture of a flower, when the CMCs pop up behind it, wearing PLAY COSTUMES (reuse) and rehearsing lines. As they take a bow, they all enthuse in raised voices: “Three ponies is the perfect number to put on this play! I don’t know what I’d do without you two! We sure are great when we’re together!” But Snap has already turned to photograph another flower...

SC. 12 - EXT. RESTAURANT – SOON

Mane and Snap are eating when the three CMCs trot by. Apple Bloom loudly states: “WOW!

Having three specially-connected Cutie Marks like ours is super rare!” Sweetie Belle yells back, “YEAH! Princess Twilight says that it means we’re meant to always be friends!” “We’re so lucky that we have each other!” Scootaloo adds. Mane and Snap smile to the CMCs. “You have such loyal friends, Scootaloo,” Mane smiles. The CMCs grin – are they finally getting through to Scoot’s parents?! Then Mane adds, “You three can be pen pals when we leave!” Snap adds, “and the Ponyville Express runs past our new place once a year for Hearthswarming. You all can visit then!” The CMCs droop.

SC. 13 - INT. SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP – TWILIGHT’S CLASSROOM – SOON

Apple Bloom leads her friends into the classroom. “Guess we weren’t bein’ obvious enough,” she tells them – it’s time to take things up a notch! Which is why she borrowed a spell book from Zecora that has just the potion they need to show Scoot’s parents that the CMCs are inseparable. “See?” Apple Bloom reads, “On this potion, please depend. Any separation will mend! Friends together til the end!” And Twilight’s classroom has all the ingredients they need.

Mixing up the potion, the CMCs each dip a hoof in and touch it to one of their friends’ hooves. There’s a magical poof, but nothing seems to have happened... Until the CMCs try to let go, and discover their hooves are stuck together. “I didn’t know it worked like that!” Apple Bloom yelps. The CMCs comically try to pull themselves apart, but after tumbling into the walls and knocking things over, they realize they’re stuck like three legged racers. “Well, at least now I CAN’T leave,” Scootaloo says, trying to find a bright side. TWILIGHT SPARKLE comes in to see what all the noise is about, and gapes at the CMCs’ sticky problem. “I can explain...” Apple Bloom says. Twilight shakes her head and uses her magic to unstick the trio. “I don’t know how this happened, and I’m not sure I want to,” Twilight says. Then she adds empathetically, “I know it’s hard on you three that Scootaloo is leaving tomorrow.” Scootaloo blurts that it’s not fair! She never asked to leave Ponyville! Twilight says she understands how Scoot feels, and she’s sure her parents are only doing what they think is best for her. “They never cared about that before!” she says, then runs out of the school, upset.

SC. 14 - EXT. SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP – LATER

Apple Bloom and Sweetie Belle catch up to Scootaloo, who apologizes for her outburst – she’s just so sad to be leaving her friends. “You can’t leave us if we’re with you.” Apple Bloom says. Sweetie Belle agrees – “Cutie Mark Crusaders Forever means forever. If you go, we go too!” Scootaloo smiles at her friends...

SC. 15 - EXT. STREETS OF PONYVILLE – THAT NIGHT

In the cover of darkness, the trio sneaks off, saddlebags packed, running away together. They haven’t quite worked out where they’re going to go, and but at least they’ll be together! The trio doesn’t get far when RARITY, APPLEJACK and RAINBOW DASH step out of the shadows, blocking their way. The CMCs gasp – how did their big sisters/friend know they would try to run away together? “Cause it’s what WE’D have done,” Rainbow Dash says. In a sweet heart-to-heart, Applejack points out that she knows the fillies are sad – it hurts to say goodbye. But the three of them will always be friends, no matter where they are – “that’s what truly carin’ about

somepony means.” Rarity adds that it’s “only for now” – and until the trio are grown ponies, she’ll do everything in her power to make sure they visit often. Rainbow Dash hugs Scootaloo and tells her that she’s gonna miss her to the sky and back, but she understands that Scoot’s parents want her to be with her family. Scootaloo hugs her friend and admits that even though she loves her parents...The rest of Ponyville is like family to her too – Dash, and the CMCs...And everypony! She just wishes she didn’t have to choose.

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

SC. 16 - EXT. STREETS OF PONYVILLE – RESUME

As Dash takes Scootaloo home, Apple Bloom and Sweetie Belle start to trudge off after their sisters. But something’s nagging at Apple Bloom – Scootaloo’s parents said she had to be with family. But her parents aren’t her only family... Sweetie Belle’s eyes widen. That’s right! “Now what are you two cookin’ up?” Applejack asks. Apple Bloom tells her sister that they have one last idea to keep Scootaloo in Ponyville. “We’ve been through this, sugar cube,” AJ says. But Sweetie Belle adds her plea to Rarity – if they have even the tiniest chance to stay with their friend – they have to try! Wouldn’t Rarity and Applejack do that for each other? The older sisters share a look. “They do have a point,” Rarity accedes. Applejack sighs, “How can we help?”

SC. 17 - EXT. PONYVILLE – NEXT MORNING

As her parents lead her to the train station, a very-sad Scootaloo begins to bid farewell to everything and everypony. “So long, curb that tripped my scooter.” “Bye favorite cupcake eating spot.” “See ya, Pipsqueak. Don’t forget to clean the classroom erasers.” But as her family makes her way toward the ponies assembled to see her off, she doesn’t see Sweetie Belle and Apple Bloom anywhere. Or, come to think of it, Applejack, Rarity, OR Rainbow Dash! Scootaloo’s spirits dip even lower, if possible. “I guess they were too sad to say goodbye,” she sighs. Scootaloo’s parents try to cheer her up, but nothing works. For the first time, they seem to be realizing what a big deal this is.

SC. 18 - EXT. PONYVILLE TRAIN STATION - SOON

The ponies board the train, and Scootaloo sadly looks out the window as Ponyville starts to slip away. Then, suddenly, a FLASH OF RAINBOW streaks by the window. “STOP! STOP THAT TRAIN!” Rainbow Dash bellows. Applejack, galloping along, tosses her lasso in through the conductor’s window and pulls the train to a stop. Ponies poke their heads out the window to see what’s going on...

And Sweetie Belle, Rarity and Apple Bloom hurry up with Aunt Holiday and Aunt Lofty! “Snap Pixel! I can’t believe you’d come all this way and not visit!” Holiday says. “Did I mention she’s his OLDER sister?” Lofty smiles to the CMCs. Snap automatically defers, “Holiday! We were just in such a hurry...” Holiday holds up a hoof. “Before you go, I think you should see

something.” And Lofty presents Scootaloo’s parents with the CMC scrapbook – photos all finished and in place. “What is this?” Asks Mane. Scootaloo explains – those are pictures of all the ponies that the CMCs helped...But when Apple Bloom and Sweetie Belle finish the scrapbook? Rarity smiles, “they had a little help.”

Pixel and Mane are amazed by the pictures (which, as photographers, really speak to them). “You three helped all these ponies find their cutie marks?” “Not just that,” Lofty adds. “They solve friendship problems too. They’re a real team. Be a shame to tear them apart by moving.” Scootaloo’s parents share a conflicted look. “We know you want Scootaloo to be with her family,” Sweetie Belle says. “But we have a different suggestion,” Apple Bloom adds. Holiday steps forward. “Scootaloo can live with us. We’ve been looking for an excuse to move to Ponyville. And she can visit you whenever you like. But this way, she can finish up school here with her friends. And keep helping others.” Mane and Snap aren’t sure. “Why don’t you ask Scootaloo what she wants?” Rainbow Dash says.

Scootaloo’s parents ask if she wants to stay with her aunts in Ponyville, and Scootaloo says YES! Snap and Mane actually look relieved. They admit the only reason they were taking the permanent job in Shirelanka was because they thought it was what Scootaloo wanted. IF she’s happy in Ponyville, they’ll keep doing their travelling animal photography job – but they’ll try to visit more often. Scootaloo hugs them, and then her friends and Aunts. “Every family is different,” Holiday smiles, “you just happen to have a whole lot of friends in yours.” The assembled ponies cheer, and the CMCs high five – looks like they have a lot more crusading ahead of them... Together!

END