

MY LITTLE PONY
Season 9
The Last Crusade
EP 912
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THE LAST CRUSADE

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The CMCs are doing a presentation for the School of Friendship – highlights of their best moments and adventures together. Their shared experiences have taught them that friendship can get you through anything, even the toughest times! The class is very impressed by their Tutors, but things are interrupted as TWILIGHT SPARKLE comes in with news –SCOOTALOO’S PARENTS have come home!

Scotaloo is excited to see her family. Her parents (think a combo of Steve Irwin and Jane Goodall) have to travel A LOT for work as wildlife photographers, and since their jobs can take them to dangerous places, Scootaloo stays in Ponyville as a latch-key kid with a rotation of sitters – sometimes with SWEETIE BELLE and APPLE BLOOM’s families, sometimes watched by RAINBOW DASH, sometimes checked on by the Cakes, Miss Cheerilee or even Spike. And her AUNTS LOFTY and HOLIDAY live one town over and visit on the weekends. Scootaloo misses her parents and can’t wait to hear about all their dangerous, cool adventures. She just hopes they’re staying home for a long vacation this time. That’s when her parents drop the bombshell – they’ll be spending PLENTY of time together, because they’ve accepted a permanent, stay-put job in the farthest corner of the world from Ponyville – and they’re taking Scootaloo with them. They’ll go in three days. Apple Bloom, Sweetie Belle, and Scootaloo are horrified– is this the end of the Cutie Mark Crusaders?!

Apple Bloom reminds her friends that they’ve faced tough challenges before – they can’t give up! What they need is a plan. Sweetie Belle agrees – maybe they can get Scoot’s parents a LOCAL job they’ll love, so they won’t have to move so far away! If they can convince her parents there’s a creature here worth studying/taking pictures of, they’ll stay! But the creatures they rustle up with FLUTTERSHY’s help don’t seem exotic enough, so they “make up” a creature. It isn’t long before their Loch Ness-ish beast is revealed as a hoax, and the Crusaders are back to square one.

Apple Bloom has a new idea – what if they show Scoot’s parents how inseparable the CMCs are? Maybe that’ll make her family decide to stay. But the hints they drop – that you need three ponies for a Buckball team, that they’re exactly the right amount to put on a play, that they have matching cutie marks – fail to make an impression. Scootaloo’s parents think it’s great that she has such loyal friends: “You can be pen pals. And the Ponyville Express runs to our new house once a year for Hearthswarming – they can visit then!” Determined, the trio kicks things up a notch, and Apple Bloom mixes an “Inseparable” potion from Zecora’s spell book – which instead of working metaphorically, GLUES the CMCs together – one hoof for each, like a permanent three-legged-race. Twilight magically unsticks them – another plan failed, with one day left.

Desperate, Scootaloo makes a plan to run away with her friends, but when they head out of Ponyville, RARITY, APPLEJACK and RAINBOW DASH are waiting for them. The CMCs are shocked! How’d their big sisters/friend know what they had

planned?! “Cause it’s what WE’D have done,” Rainbow Dash says. In a heart-to-heart moment, Scootaloo sadly tells Dash that though she loves her parents, the rest of Ponyville is like family to her too. Dash, and the CMCs, and everyone. She doesn’t understand why her parents don’t get that. Wheels start turning in Dash’s head.

Meanwhile, Apple Bloom and Sweetie Belle prepare a goodbye present with the help of their sisters, who offer their own heartfelt advice. Applejack says she knows Apple Bloom is hurting – but Scootaloo will always be her friend, no matter where she is – that’s just what truly caring about somepony means. And Rarity tells Sweetie Belle that it’s an “only for now” thing – and until they’re all grown ponies, she’ll make sure they visit as often as they can.

The big moving day arrives, and a sad Scoot starts saying goodbye to everything and everycreature in Ponyville (“goodbye, curb that tripped my scooter,” “goodbye favorite cupcake eating spot,” etc.) Apple Bloom and Sweetie Belle give Scootaloo their gift – it’s a scrapbook of all the ponies the CMCs have helped. Scootaloo shows her parents, and for the first time, they seem to get it (as photographers, this speaks to them). They realize how incredible the CMCs are together, and how much Scootaloo’s friends and home must mean to her. But, they really want her to have family around her, they feel so bad for leaving her on her own for so long...

Just then, Rainbow Dash flies in with AUNT LOFTY and AUNT HOLIDAY. (Dash got them up to speed on what’s happening, and what it means to Scootaloo.) Holiday tells her little brother (Scoot’s dad) that she has her own solution – Scootaloo can live with Lofty and her. They’ll make sure Scoot visits her parents often. But this way, she can finish school in Ponyville, stay with her friends, and continue to help others. Scootaloo’s parents consider this – and they finally ask Scootaloo if it’s what she wants. Scoot says YES! Her parents admit that the only reason they were taking the permanent job is because they thought it was what Scootaloo wanted. If she’s happy in Ponyville, they’ll keep doing their travelling photography job – but they’ll try to visit more often. Scootaloo hugs them – and then Dash, thanking her for her help in solving the problem. Dash smiles – every family is different, and Scootaloo just happens to have a whole lot of friends as part of hers. The CMCs cheer – looks like they’ll keep on crusading – together!