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MY LITTLE PONY

Season 9

Between Dark and Dawn

Ep 913

Teleplay First Draft

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Outline: Gail Simone
Teleplay 1st Draft: Gail Simone

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TEASER**SC. 1 - EXT. APPLE FAMILY ORCHARDS - DAY**

*

The ground <SHAKES> at a slow, rhythmic pace (with giant, OS footfalls), BOUNCING the apple trees with each impact.

The MANE SIX are galloping through the trees, SPIKE flying overhead, TWILIGHT SPARKLE in the lead.

1 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Remind me how this happened again?

The M6 duck as a huge, dry tongue whips overhead ponderously. Instead of hitting anypony, the tongue snakes around a tree, uprooting it effortlessly from the ground, and SNAPPING it OS.

REVEAL: a massive, big-as-a-house, droopy-eyed snapping turtle: APPLESNAP. He contentedly munches an apple tree, roots and all.

2 APPLEJACK
And why there a giant turtle eatin' my family's entire Summer crop?!

3 FLUTTERSHY
Oh dear. Mr. Applesnap said he was hungry, but he promised me he would only take a few small bites!

4 RAINBOW DASH
I don't think that thing knows what "small" is.

Applesnap takes several steps forward, shaking the ground, trees, and the M6.

5 PINKIE PIE
Look on the bright side! Free bouncy castle, am I right?

With each bounce, Pinkie does a fun flip/pose into the air.

Suddenly Applesnap's tongue whips out and grabs Spike, pulling him toward its mouth. Spike <STARTLES>.

6 RARITY
Spikey-Wikey!

Twilight goes into action mode--

7 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Applejack and Pinkie, you distract him. Rainbow Dash, Rarity, and Fluttershy, let's save Spike!

With a nod, in an almost stylized SUPER-HERO team up line, the Mane Six move into action. They're a team. They've got this.

Applejack bucks apples and Pinkie lobs them in front of Applesnap's nose. He pauses, Spike still entangled in the turtle tongue, but outside its mouth.

Rarity uses her magic to tie a bow around the turtle's nose, shutting his mouth.

Fluttershy sternly tells the turtle--

8 FLUTTERSHY
Mr. Applesnap, I'm only asking nicely
once. Let my friend go!

Applesnap releases his tongue. Spike's wings are gooey with turtle-saliva and he can't fly. As he falls, Rainbow Dash zooms in to catch him.

Meanwhile, Twilight is hovering near the turtle's head. She powers up her horn to touch it to him...

9 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
And now a simple teleportation spell
should--

10 CELESTIA (O.S.)
(royal Canterlot voice)
HALT, INTERLOPER!

The M6 startle and turn to see the very regal CELESTIA and LUNA flying toward them, battle ready.

11 LUNA
Stay back, friends! My sister and I
will handle this!

ANGLE - the M6 gape and fall back, the fliers landing.

12 RAINBOW DASH
All the times we've actually needed
their help, and they show up for THIS?

Together, the two princesses touch horns to the turtle, their magic making it shimmer and TELEPORT AWAY.

ANGLE - Twilight frowns, perplexed.

13 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
That's just what I was about to do!

But Celestia and Luna are clearly proud of themselves.

14 LUNA
Goodness, sister, that was fun!

15 CELESTIA
(to the Mane Six)
No need to thank us. To be honest,
we've recently realized we like being
part of the action...

16 LUNA
Part of a TEAM!

17 CELESTIA
To have hooves on the ground when
there's a problem to be solved!

Celestia and Luna hoof-bump and <LAUGH> happily.

On the Mane Six - confused, and a little put-out.

18 APPLEJACK
Y'all think they're gonna be doin'
this a lot?

END TEASER

MAIN TITLES

ACT ONE:

SC. 2 - INT. FOREST ROAD - DAY

*

Rainbow Dash studies a map, the CMCs following her.

19 RAINBOW DASH
<grr> I can't read this thing! How am
I supposed to lead a Filly Guides hike
if the map makes us MORE lost?

WHOOSH - Luna and Celestia descend from the heavens.

20 CELESTIA
Did somepony say lost?

21 LUNA
Not for long!

Luna and Celestia blast magic through the trees, bending them
like parting the Red Sea, to reveal a path to the CAMPSITE.

22 CELESTIA
Your path is clear, and your day is
saved!

23 RAINBOW DASH
Um, the hiking part was kind of the point, but...Thanks?

SC. 3 - INT. SUGARCUBE CORNER - DAY

*

MRS. CAKE hurries up to Pinkie, looking upset.

24 MRS. CAKE
Oh, now this is just terrible! Miss Cheerilee ordered cupcakes for school today and I forgot to make her order!

25 PINKIE PIE
Oh, that's no big! We can just--

Celestia and Luna blast into the shop, ready to help.

26 CELESTIA
Students going hungry? Not on our watch!

27 LUNA
Let us bake, sister!

The two alicorn princesses begin levitating ingredients past a gaping Pinkie and Mrs. Cake's head.

28 MRS. CAKE
Well put twigs in my tail and call me a Timberwolf.
(then)
Do you think they'll use royal icing?

SC. 4 - INT. SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP - FLUTTERSHY'S CLASSROOM - DAY *

Fluttershy walks in to greet her students.

29 FLUTTERSHY
Good morning, class! I--OH!

REVEAL - Celestia and Luna are teaching class.

30 CELESTIA
Hello, Fluttershy. My sister and I heard your students have a big test coming up.

Luna nods, fierce - as though this is dire.

31 LUNA
So we're giving extra lessons. We won't let any creature be unprepared!

ON the STUDENTS - just as uncomfortable/shocked as Fluttershy.

SC. 5 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - DAY

*

The Mane Six and Spike sit around the table, in deep discussion.

32 APPLEJACK
And they harvested every single apple
on the farm! Even the unripe ones!

33 FLUTTERSHY
It's not that we don't appreciate
their help...

34 RARITY
But Celestia and Luna suddenly think
we can't handle anything on our own!

35 RAINBOW DASH
Yeah! How are we supposed to learn to
be rulers of Equestria with them
fixing every teensy problem for us?

Twilight looks worried - this speaks to a deep fear.

36 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Maybe the Princesses changed their
minds. Maybe they don't think we can
handle the responsibility of
protecting Equestria after all!

37 SPIKE
Or maybe today was a one-time thing
that's never going to happen again.

Celestia and Luna burst into the room.

38 CELESTIA
Ah! A strategy meeting! What is the
danger this time? A rampaging beast?
Evil spell? Friendship problem?

39 LUNA
We're ready to do whatever we can.

Twilight looks to her friends awkwardly.

40 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Uh...Well...We appreciate the help,
but we know you have WAY more
important ruler-y things to do, so...

The sisters shake their heads.

41 LUNA
We've spent more than enough time in
the throne room. Real life is
happening out here!

Twilight gapes. That was...Unexpected.

42 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Wait - that's what this is about?
You're...Sick of being princesses?

43 CELESTIA
Not exactly... Battling the Everfree
Forest made us realize we've missed so
much spending our days ruling...

44 LUNA
And our nights patrolling dreams...

Celestia addresses the ponies in turn, ending on Fluttershy:

45 CELESTIA
We wanted a chance to do the things
YOU do. Save the day. Adventure with
friends. Manicure anteaters.

46 SPIKE
I'm pretty sure Fluttershy is the only
pony that does that.

47 RAINBOW DASH
Well, there are way more fun things to
do in the world than follow US around.

48 PINKIE PIE
Ooh! You should make a list of alllll
the stuff you never tried but always
wanted to! There's a lotta little
gotta-oughta things out there to do!

The Princesses share a look, the idea lighting their faces.

49 CELESTIA
What an intriguing idea.

50 LUNA
Let's DO it, sister!

51 CELESTIA
Only, it's much harder to justify a
vacation from the castle when it's not
an "emergency" we're responding to...

Twilight cheerfully volunteers. Her friends nod agreement.

52 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
We'll cover your royal duties! It'll
be a good chance for us to practice
for when you retire.

53 CELESTIA
Well...If you're sure you don't mind
the extra effort...

Twilight flips her hoof with a <PSHHH> - no big deal - as
Celestia continues--

54 CELESTIA (CONT'D)
We'd love for you to handle the Grand
Galloping Gala while we're gone.

55 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Suurrrrrreeee.

The princess sisters share a joyful look and head out.

56 CELESTIA / LUNA
Wonderful! / Thank you, Twilight!

Twilight sheepishly turns to her friends.

57 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
What did I just agree to, exactly?

SC. 6 - INT. CANTERLOT CASTLE THRONE ROOM - DAY

*

Celestia levitates a scroll and a plumed pen as she starts to
write (NOTE: we don't see text). Luna leans in - they're both
as delighted as kids on their first slumber party.

58 CELESTIA
Fun Not Yet Had. Ooh, Sister! I can't
wait to start planning our time off!

59 LUNA
Imagine! A chance to do whatever we
want! And you know what THAT means...!

They respond simultaneously, gleefully, but with different
answers, the first hint that they might not be on the same page.

60 CELESTIA / LUNA
ADVENTURE! / RELAXATION!

They pause, puzzled by each others' responses for a moment.

61 LUNA

It's just that I spend each night in everypony's intense dreams. So I could use some real-world downtime.

62 CELESTIA

I understand. But for me, every day is real-world. Meetings and decrees, and meetings about decrees, and decrees about the meetings. I need EXCITEMENT.

They turn away from each other - this is awkward.

63 LUNA

I'm not sure how we can both be happy. Unless...

64 CELESTIA

We take turns doing what we like!

Excited, they touch horns. A glowing magical heart appears.

65 BOTH

SISTER TRIP!

66 LUNA

And I have the PERFECT accessories for us to wear! Wait right here!

Luna <TELEPORTS> OS and returns, levitating two SHIRTS that match in their awfulness, from the WORST tourist in Florida. Celestia's eyes go wide in distaste, Luna takes no notice.

67 CELESTIA

We'll be... Twinsies.

68 LUNA

Just like regular pony tourists! I knew you'd love it!

69 CELESTIA

I have a few things for us too.

Celestia <TELEPORTS>, returning with two RUGGED PACKS. She levitates items out as she names them--

70 CELESTIA (CONT'D)

Sunglasses, bugspray, ice boots, hoof sanitizer, and dehydrated ice cream!

Luna eyes the packets, not sure about it all - especially the ice cream, which she opens and shakes. Flakes fall out of the package into an unappetizing pile.

71 CELESTIA (CONT'D)
What do you think?

Celestia studies her, anxious. Luna melts.

72 LUNA
It's perfect, Sister.

They share a warm hug.

SC. 7 - EXT. CELESTIA'S CASTLE - DAY

*

The Mane Six stand outside the castle gates as the princesses, now fully-laden and very touristy, get ready to go.

73 CELESTIA
--and we've left instructions of all
you need to prepare for the gala.

Twilight looks a tad overwhelmed, but she rallies.

74 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
If it's written down, I'm sure we can
handle it. Have fun!

75 LUNA
One more thing. To make sure we can
fully relax on our trip, you'll be in
charge of raising the sun and moon.

The Mane Six (except Pinkie) and Spike are taken aback - <GASP>.

76 PINKIE PIE
Oooooo. That's not a terrifying level
of responsibility or anything.

Twilight gives a <NERVOUS LAUGH>. Celestia levitates a circular AMULET - half dark moon, half shining sun - to Twilight.

77 CELESTIA
We have put a small part of our power
in this amulet. You can activate it
with your magic at any time.
(smiles)
Preferably dawn and dusk.

Twilight takes the amulet with a mix of confidence/reverence.

78 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
We won't let you down, princesses.

With a smile, Celestia and Luna turn to go. As soon as their backs are turned, Twilight faces her friends, fretting.

79 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
If only we just had to rule Equestria!
I don't know anything about galas!

80 FLUTTERSHY
Don't worry, Twilight. I'm sure Pinkie
has some wonderful party plans.

Pinkie rushes in with a TUB OF WATER.

81 PINKIE PIE
Whoooo wants to bob for alligators?!

She sticks her head in the water and comes up dripping, with Gummy on her head. Twilight DOES NOT look reassured.

SC. 8 - EXT. CANTERLOT - ROAD - DAY

*

The Princesses trot along the road, enthused, happy, like anyone at the BEGINNING of a happy road trip.

82 CELESTIA
Remember, sister, from now on, we are
regular, care-free ponies.

83 LUNA
Right! We're leaving the princess life
behind. We're not even going to FLY!

Celestia has started to spread her wings to take off. She closes them quickly.

84 CELESTIA
Of course! How new and different! It's
just like Pinkie Pie said...

ROAD TRIP MUSIC <BEGIN> - bouncy, fun - and the "Lotta Little Oughta" song begins, and the sisters walk in step, singing--

85 CELESTIA / LUNA
*There's a lotta little things you
gotta do in this world
There's a lotta little things you
oughta try.
Just a pack of punchy plunges other
ponies all take
That have princess-pony passed us
right by!*

The princesses stop and take silly photos of themselves with a LOCAL LANDMARK - Equestria's biggest horseshoe. They pose with a bad, cross-eyed statue of themselves (hewn out of redwood, like a bigfoot carving). They hacky-sack a pinecone between each other as they walk on, happy.

86 CELESTIA / LUNA (CONT'D)
*You can't saunter on a sojourn behind
castle walls.
You can't throw a throne down on the
beach*

87 CELESTIA
So we're gonna be absconding

88 LUNA
Do a little vagabonding!

89 CELESTIA / LUNA
*And this sister trip is gonna be a
peach!*

Celestia and Luna pick peaches from a tree on the roadside.
Juicy bites, happy faces.

Celestia levitates the scroll out and they look at it, heads
together, enjoying their adventure.

90 CELESTIA
So should we do a little lotta?

91 LUNA
I gotta think we oughta!

92 CELESTIA / LUNA
*And together, no adventure's outta
reach!*

They happily head off down the road together, <MUSIC ENDS>.

DISSOLVE TO:

SC. 9 - EXT. CANTERLOT ROAD - AN HOUR LATER

*

ON THE SISTERS' HOOVES - no longer prancing. Slow, sore and
dragging. TILT UP to the sisters themselves, thirsty, hot,
exhausted like every tourist on their third day of Disney World.

93 LUNA
*Being a regular pony is HARRRRD! I'm
tired, and I'm thirsty, and I'm tired
and I'm hungry and my hooves hurt and
I'm TIRED!*

Celestia winces with each growing whine from Luna.

*

94 CELESTIA
*I AM TOO.
(then)
(MORE)*

CELESTIA (CONT'D)

Perhaps we can rest at that
refreshment stand up ahead!

Luna looks to where Celestia points - a SMALL, ROADSIDE
REFRESHMENT STAND UP AHEAD.

SC. 10 - EXT. REFRESHMENT STAND ON REMOTE ROAD - DAY

*

A slightly scruffy SALESPONY runs a FIZZY LEMONADE STAND (as
advertised on a pictorial wooden sign). He wears a straw hat
with lemons adorning it.

95 LUNA

Two fizzy lemonades, please!

The Salespony gapes from Luna to Celestia. Then he bows.

96 SALESPONY

Your MAJESTIES! You grace my humble
stand with your presence!

97 CELESTIA

No, no, no, good sir. We're on
vacation, and we want to be treated
just like REGULAR ponies.

98 LUNA

Regular THIRSTY ponies!

99 CELESTIA

It's a royal decree! If we were giving
them. Which we aren't. Because we're
regular ponies.

Luna and Celestia smile big. The Salespony straightens and
looks at them funny, then shrugs--

100 SALESPONY

Well, okay. But my citrus squeezer is
broken, so thirsty, REGULAR ponies
have to use the BACK-UP system.

*

PAN TO a weird, rusty wreck of a lemon squeezer-- a hoof pump
with a treadmill that looks like zero fun to use.

The sisters react in dismay.

CUT TO:

A sweaty Celestia uses the squeezer, levitating lemons into the
machine, as an exhausted Luna runs on the treadmill.

101 SALESPLONY *
I'm TOLD it can be a mite TEDIOUS,
though!

A tiny drop of juice slowly drips into a single glass.

102 CELESTIA
Sister. Did you ever think maybe
there's a REASON we never did all
these things before?

OFF LUNA'S sweaty agreement...

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SC. 11 - INT. CANTERLOT CASTLE - DAY *

Twilight paces as she studies the scroll's instructions. The *
rest of the Mane Six and Spike watch as she tries to stay in
control.

103 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Okay - we'll take the party planning
one step at a time.

104 RARITY
Oh no, darling.

105 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
We...Won't?

106 RARITY
No, I mean, this isn't a humdrum,
snacks-in-bowls party. This is the
GRAND GALLOPING GALA!

Twilight looks even more freaked out. Dash hiss-whispers:

107 RAINBOW DASH
Not helping.

108 SPIKE
Why don't I read the list.

Spike takes the list from Twilight, takes a deep breath.

109 SPIKE (CONT'D)
We need to...
(very fast)
(MORE)

SPIKE (CONT'D)

Polish the armor, rally the guards,
bubble the punch, glitter the carpets,
puff the pastry, float the floats, and
release the royal butterflies.

Twilight's friends gape. She tells them weakly--

110 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

And that's just the first paragraph.

*

SC. 12 - EXT. FOREST ROAD - DAY

*

The princesses walk slowly side by side, still a bit frazzled.

111 LUNA

Celestia, since we're both a little
tired, maybe the first thing we do
shouldn't be TOO wild...

Celestia levitates out the list and studies it.

112 CELESTIA

Exactly what I was thinking. ZIP LINE!

113 LUNA

(semi-forced smile)
Zip line...?

114 CELESTIA

(super-excited)
ZIP LINE!

*

SC. 13 - EXT. ZIP LINE GORGE - SOON

*

(Can be a reused gorge, just need a line across it). Celestia
and Luna zoom over the gorge - Celestia squee-ing with glee,
Luna's eyes shut tight as she holds her zipline in a deathgrip.

115 CELESTIA

WHEEEEEEEEE!

CUT TO:

SC. 14 - EXT. OTHER SIDE OF THE GORGE - SOON

*

Celestia trots away from a stand, levitating matching mugs - one
with her happy zip-line photo, one with Luna's miserable one.

116 CELESTIA

Now every time we have tea, we can
remember this magical day!

Luna gamely takes her mug and tucks it in her bag.

117 LUNA
I'm glad you enjoyed yourself. But
now, we're going to do something I've
ALWAYS wanted to do, but never could,
because of my night shift!

118 CELESTIA
(momentarily excited)
Is it another zip-line?

A beat. Dry:

119 LUNA
No.

SC. 15 - INT. PONYVILLE POST OFFICE - DAY

*

The two princesses step in and Luna does a big TA DA--

120 LUNA
It's the POST OFFICE!

121 CELESTIA
It is indeed.

122 LUNA
Just think! All the mail in Equestria
goes through here! Isn't that AMAZING?

Luna trots up to the counter.

123 LUNA (CONT'D)
ONE STAMP, please!

MUFFINS gives Luna a stamp. She delightedly takes the stamp and
puts it on a postcard of the Grand Galloping Gala. She hands the
postcard to Muffins, then turns to Celestia, giddy.

*

*

124 LUNA (CONT'D)
Waaaaaaait for it...

Muffins hands the postcard to Celestia. Celestia blinks to
Luna.

*

125 CELESTIA
You didn't need a stamp if you were
just going to give this to me.

126 LUNA
It's about the PROCESS.

*

SC. 16 - INT. HUGE UNDERGROUND CAVERN - NIGHT

*

The sisters are climbing down ropes in a huge dark cavern. They are wearing hardhats with lights on them. Celestia is delighted. But this is clearly of no interest to Luna.

127 CELESTIA
Did you know that nopony has EVER
explored the bottom of these caverns?

128 LUNA
Gee. I wonder why.

SC. 17 - INT. PONYVILLE DAY SPA - DAY

*

Luna is delighted and Celestia smiles nervously. LOTUS BLOSSOM and ALOE smile at the duo.

129 LUNA
TWO COMPLETE MANE-OVERS, PLEASE!

CUT TO: Luna's hair is being PERMED, her MAKEUP is done, and her hooves are being painted PINK. It might look a little silly, but she's happy.

130 LUNA (CONT'D)
I've always WANTED to try this! Isn't
this so different and FUN, sister?

WHIP PAN to Celestia, sitting in her chair fuming. She's been given a complete goth mane-over. She's got 80's spiky black hair and she could not hate this more.

131 CELESTIA
<growl>

A less-bouncy REPRISE of "Lotta Little Oughta" starts over a MONTAGE--

--EXT. SEASIDE CLIFFS

The recently made-over princesses watch an INCIDENTAL PONY do an impressive CLIFF DIVE off the heights.

Luna looks down the huge drop and shakes her head... But Celestia runs up behind her and pushes her off as they dive together.

132 CELESTIA / LUNA (V.O.)
*There's a lotta little things you
gotta do in this world
There's a lotta little things you
oughta view.*

IN THE WATER - Luna pops up, her new manestyle now bedraggled. Celestia playfully splashes her, oblivious to her sister's fury.

133 CELESTIA / LUNA (V.O.)
*And our little lotta lists may be a
little bit long
And take a lotta little bother to do!*

--INT. PONY ART SHOW (reuse from "Flurry of Emotions) - The sisters are once again looking normal. Luna is looking at the paintings in reverent awe. Celestia taps a hoof, bored.

134 LUNA (V.O.)
*But I'm sure it gets much better, by
the by and beyond*

135 CELESTIA (V.O.)
*And after darkest night, there comes a
new dawn.*

--EXT. EVERFREE FOREST - Celestia and Luna sit in an elephant-riding tent on a running MANTICORE. Celestia leans forward in excitement, Luna looks queasy.

Luna levitates the list and checks it--

136 LUNA
It's my turn to do the choosing.

Celestia levitates the list away from her.

137 CELESTIA
After river rapid cruising.

Now the sisters are doing a magical tug-o-war with the list. It rips and they both fall BACKWARD.

138 LUNA / CELESTIA
This adventure isn't too fun to be on.

SC. 18 - INT. CELESTIA'S CASTLE - COURTYARD - DAY

*

Twilight Sparkle uses her magic on a LARGE FOUNTAIN filled with PUNCH, her horn putting bubbles into the PINK LIQUID. Spike races in, panicked, and yells--

139 SPIKE
TWILIGHT!

Twilight jumps and gives a burst of magic. Now the punch bubbles like a boiling cauldron. She frowns.

140 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Spiiiike! Now the punch is too bubbly!

141 SPIKE
We've got bigger problems.

SC. 19 - INT. CELESTIA'S CASTLE THRONE ROOM - CONT.

*

As Spike leads Twilight in, the rest of the Mane Six rush towards her, each with a serious problem, panicked.

142 FLUTTERSHY
Twilight! The castle birds have sore throats and can't sing for the party!

143 RARITY
The royal FABRIC supply is out of purple SEQUINS and HONESTLY, how am I supposed to even DECORATE?

144 APPLE JACK
The royal street sweepers went on strike! Did you even know there WERE royal street sweepers?!

Twilight looks worried, but rallies.

145 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Okay, that's a lot. But nothing we can't handle! Think of it as practice for when the princesses retire. We won't let a few problems stop us--

The doors bust open as FANCY PANTS, JET SET, and UPPERCRUST storm in, looking snooty, magically carrying trays of food. Behind them, Pinkie calls--

146 PINKIE PIE
Incoming!

147 FANCY PANTS
Princess Twilight. These PETITS FOURS aren't PETITE enough!

He eyes his tray of petit fours and levitates a measuring tape near the desserts with a sniff. Jet Set levitates a CREME BRULEE up toward Twilight's nose.

148 JET SET
And this creme brulee's crust isn't CRUSTY enough!

Uppercrust uses magic to pour a glass of water from a bottle.

149 UPPERCRUST
(snooty AND offended)
The sparkling water isn't sparkling
enough OR water-y enough! This gala is
going to be a DISASTER.

Twilight looks horrified. Rainbow Dash asides to her friends--

150 RAINBOW DASH
I hope Luna and Celestia APPRECIATE
everything we're doing while they're
off having FUN!

SC. 20 - EXT. FOREST - DAY

*

Luna and Celestia are on a picnic, having no fun at all, not even looking at each other, a basket on the ground between them.

151 CELESTIA
(edge of sarcasm)
Well, I hope you're enjoying yourself
on your SUPER-exciting PICNIC, sister.

Luna pulls a thorn out of her hindquarters, testily.

152 LUNA
I WOULD be, Sister, if you hadn't made
us HIKE here through a million
PRICKLEBUSHES.

153 CELESTIA
Well, they do hurt less than that
caterwauling catfight YOU dragged us
to.

154 LUNA
That was PONYLIACCI and it's OPERA!
And you made us leave early even
though it was still my turn to decide
what we were doing!

Celestia has had enough. She stands.

155 CELESTIA
Oh, just face it, Luna. You're NEVER
happy.

Luna scowls and stands, facing Celestia.

156 LUNA
Because you don't WANT me to be happy.
You resent having to share power since
you ruled day AND night for so long!

Celestia looks hurt.

157 CELESTIA
Luna, that's not TRUE. The sun rules
the sky in the daytime, and at night,
the MOON takes its rightful place, and-

Luna squares off angrily, her horn starting to GLOW with magic.

158 LUNA
This isn't a metaphor, Celestia.
It's about US!

159 CELESTIA
CALM DOWN, LUNA!

160 LUNA
No! And don't you dare use your Royal
Canterlot voice on me!

Luna blasts her magic! Celestia FLINCHES - but the magic goes
past her and packs up the picnic basket.

161 LUNA (CONT'D)
I think this adventure would be better
if I did it by MYSELF.

Luna turns to go, levitating her basket with her. When she
faces CAM, we see she looks sad. Celestia CAN'T see this, and
she reacts in hurt anger.

162 CELESTIA
FINE. I just remembered something I
forgot I always wanted to do. BE
ALONE!

Luna turns back at the edge of the clearing, eyes teary.

163 LUNA
Guess we have the same thing on BOTH
our lists, then.

And she runs off.

164 CELESTIA
Luna, wait--

But she doesn't. Celestia sighs and slumps sadly.

END ACT TWO

*

ACT THREE:

*

SC. 21 - INT. CELESTIA'S CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - DAY

*

Rainbow Dash BLURRS past CAMERA, putting up streamers.

Below, the other Mane Six and Spike bustle around at top speed, doing party prep. Twilight levitates a BUFFET TABLE into place and magics a TABLECLOTH on it. Applejack bucks pieces of fruit onto it to form a centerpiece. She calls OS--

165 APPLEJACK

Pinkie! You got those appetizers yet?

Pinkie bounces by on a POGO STICK.

166 PINKIE PIE

Still mashing the guacamole!

Rarity rushes in, levitating DRAPES, looking mortified.

167 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

Great! You have the--

168 RARITY

Don't even TALK to me about these decorations. I had to use FAKE SEQUINS!

Fluttershy is looking outside and turns to tell the others--

169 FLUTTERSHY

Um, the courtyard is FULL of ponies waiting to get in.

170 RAINBOW DASH

And we're nowhere NEAR ready!

171 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

(frustrated growl)

How do Celestia and Luna get all this done by themselves EVERY YEAR?!

172 UPPERCRUST (O.S.)

<laugh> Oh, how droll.

Uppercrust has poked his head into the throne room.

173 SPIKE

What's the funny part, exactly?

174 UPPERCRUST

The princesses NEVER do all the gala planning by themselves.

175 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
They...Don't?

176 UPPERCRUST
Goodness no. That's what the gala
planning committees are for. NOpony
could handle all this.
(looks at Rarity)
Are those...Sequins?

Rarity <GROWLS>. But Twilight has had an epiphany.

177 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
New plan, everypony! WE'RE GOING TO
DELEGATE!

SC. 22 - EXT. CASTLE COURTYARD - EXT

*

The Mane 6 and Spike (minus Twilight) run into the courtyard and start DELEGATING LIKE CRAZY! The CANTERLOT ELITE (including SASSY SADDLES, JET SET, and HOITY TOITY) are surprised as--

178 RAINBOW DASH
(To Fancy Pants)
YOU! You're on FOOD duty!

He is surprised, but nods.

179 RARITY
(to Sassy Saddles)
I need gemstones and PURPLE SATIN!

Sassy Saddles takes off. Jet Set is trying to edge away, but she comes face-to-face with an empowered Fluttershy.

180 FLUTTERSHY
Tell the ponies at the gates that
there's a slight delay on the gala!
(then, apologetic/shy)
If it's not too much trouble, I mean.

Jet Set hurries off. But AJ is eyeing the heap of garbage the royal street sweepers have abandoned in the courtyard. To Spike:

181 APPLEJACK
Now, who can we get to handle the
royal street sweepers' garbage?

Pinkie runs in, holding a leash that runs OS. APPLESNAP lumbers after her toward the garbage, eyes it, and takes a happy bite.

182 PINKIE PIE
I'm DELEGATING!

*

SC. 23 - EXT. BEACH - BRIGHT DAY

*

ON Luna sits on a chaise lounge, drinking a SMOOTHIE. She doesn't look that happy, but she pretends she is.

183 LUNA
Ahh. Things are so much more relaxing
without my bossy sister.

Nearby, a MARE trots along with her younger FILLY SISTER. Two other SISTER UNICORNS (same manestyles, different colors) magically toss a ball back and forth to each other. Two other sisters play a patty-cake game with their hooves.

Luna <SIGHS> and slurps her drink, depressed.

SC. 24 - EXT. SKY - DAY

ON Celestia falling through the sky wearing a backpack, wings folded, a bit preoccupied-looking and not all that excited.

184 CELESTIA
Who NEEDS a gloomy sister moping
around all the time ANYWAY.

She pulls a rip cord, and a PARACHUTE opens above her...Printed with the royal, smiling images of Celestia and Luna.

Celestia looks up and <SIGHS>.

SC. 25 - INT. HOSPITAL INTERIOR - NIGHT

*

A NURSE puts lotion on Luna's severe sunburn, Luna REACTS.

185 LUNA
<pained grunt> (then) <cooled sigh>

186 NURSE
Honestly, princess. Didn't you wear
ANY sunblock?

187 LUNA
That's a thing?
(sigh)
I guess I'm not used to so much time
in the sun. Celestia would have
warned me...If she were here.

SC. 26 - EXT. DEEP FOREST - NIGHT

*

ON a secluded, scary spot in the deep woods, Celestia is standing on the only tiny patch where a bit of moonlight is shining through.

We hear <CRICKETY FOREST NOISES> and see eyes peeping out of the woods. She is holding a map and turning it upside-down and rightside up with her magic, clueless.

188 CELESTIA
Now, was it two left turns and a
right, or two right turns and a left?
LUNA always handled the directions!

A timberwolf <HOWL> in the distance. Celestia recoils a bit.

189 CELESTIA (CONT'D)
<involuntary shudder>

SC. 27 - EXT. FORK IN THE FOREST ROAD - NIGHT

*

An arrow in the road indicates the path to a MOUNTAIN SUMMIT. Luna and Celestia, each come to the fork in the road from opposite directions. They did not expect to see each other.

190 CELESTIA
Oh! Hi.

191 LUNA
Hi.

192 CELESTIA
I didn't know climbing Mt.
Fillymanejaro was on your list.

193 LUNA
I wanted to watch the sunrise.

194 CELESTIA
I'm...Here for the moonset.
(awkward beat, then)
So, how did the rest of your day go?

195 LUNA
(clearly exaggerating)
Oh, amazing. Top-notch. Best ever,
really.

Celestia droops sadly, not realizing Luna's covering.

196 CELESTIA
Yeah. Me, too.

The sisters don't meet each other's eyes, but they clearly miss each other.

197 CELESTIA (CONT'D)
You, uh... Can walk up with me. If you
WANT, I mean.

198 LUNA
Well. Since we're GOING the same way--

SC. 28 - EXT. MT. FILLYMANEJARO SUMMIT - NIGHT

*

Beautiful spectacular view, Luna sits to watch the sunrise.

199 LUNA
What a beautiful view. It must be
amazing in the sunlight.

This touches Celestia, who sits beside her.

200 CELESTIA
I think the night is pretty special,
too.

Together, they look up at the twinkling stars.

201 LUNA
You know... Being with your sister all
the time is hard. But being WITHOUT
her is even harder.

Celestia smiles and puts a hoof around Luna.

202 CELESTIA
I wouldn't trade you for any of the
adventures on my list.

203 LUNA
Not even the Zip-line?

204 CELESTIA
Not even the Zip-line.

205 LUNA
I'm sorry I said those things before.
I don't really think you're power-
hungry. Sometimes it's just...Hard
being the little sister.

206 CELESTIA
Sometimes being the big sister is hard
too.

They lean close as the sun begins to rise. Oddly, the moon
doesn't budge. For a moment, both hang in the sky together, two
kinds of celestial light at once.

The sisters stare, puzzled, mouths agape.

207 LUNA

The sun and the moon together...at the same TIME?

208 CELESTIA

I've never seen anything like THAT before!

209 LUNA

Wow, I guess we ARE a metaphor!

Celestia turns to her sister and speaks to Luna from the heart.

210 CELESTIA

You know, I think it's alright for two sisters to like different things.

211 LUNA

Right. They don't HAVE to do every single thing together to know they care about each other.

The two sisters share a big hug, the sun and moon shining in the sky behind them.

Then, in the sky, the moon goes down. Then up. Then the sun goes down, and up. Then they bounce in the sky. The sisters share a look.

212 CELESTIA

You think maybe Twilight's having trouble with the amulet?

213 LUNA

We'd better go check.

(then)

AFTER we stop for ice cream?

214 CELESTIA

White chocolate raspberry?

215 LUNA

And black licorice walnut!

216 CELESTIA / LUNA

WITH LOTS OF SPRINKLES!

217 LUNA

See? We agree on the important stuff.

Celestia raises a teasing eyebrow and looks toward the edge of the mountain.

218 CELESTIA
Like base jumping to get down?

Luna grins.

219 LUNA
Don't push it, sister.

END EPISODE.

*