

MY LITTLE PONY
Season 9
The Summer Sun Setback
EP 917
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THE SUMMER SUN SETBACK

Outline by Michael Vogel

TEASER**SC. 1 - INT. VILLAIN'S LAIR/GROGAR'S CHAMBERS – NIGHT**

COZY GLOW catches GROGAR leaving the secret lair, and asks where their fearless leader is off to. He explains that since the villains were unable to retrieve his Bewitching Bell (ep 908), he needs to hunt down some other form of raw magical power so they'll be prepared to attack TWILIGHT SPARKLE and her friends. Once he's gone, Cozy, CHRYSALIS and TIREK agree that NONE of them are sold on Grogar OR his "plan", which consists of him disappearing a lot and not giving them anything to do. Tirek pulls out the Bewitching Bell (which they DID in fact retrieve) and the trio try to figure out what it does and how to activate it so they can use Grogar's power against him. However, the bell remains a mystery. Cozy recalls that in one of Twilight's boring lectures, she taught them that the library in Canterlot contains a wealth of magical information. She suggests they sneak out while Grogar is gone to gather some magical intel. The other two eagerly agree, ANYTHING is better than sitting around the lair doing nothing! "YAY" Cozy cheers clapping her hooves together, "ROAD TRIP!!!" Off the others' eye rolls...

END TEASER**MAIN TITLES****ACT ONE****SC. 2 - INT. CANTERLOT CASTLE– DAY**

Twilight is in her own personal heaven of charts, graphs and lists as she prepares for the Summer Sun Celebration. PRINCESS CELESTIA (having returned from her "sister trip" with Luna) checks in to see how the planning is coming along. Twilight says she is feeling good! After learning the importance of delegation during the craziness of the Grand Galloping Gala, Twilight is making sure not to take everything on all by herself this time. She thinks she might actually be getting a handle on all the party planning princess stuff and is making sure to log everything down so she'll be EXTRA prepared for next year's celebration! Celestia says sadly that this may be the last Summer Sun Celebration Twilight will have to worry about. Twilight wonders if the princesses have decided NOT to leave her in charge anymore. Did she do something wrong? But Celestia assures her it's nothing like that. She explains that for thousands of moons, The Summer Sun Celebration celebrated her defeat over Nightmare Moon. Once Luna returned, the day transitioned into a celebration of the sisters' reunion after so long apart. Now with the princesses preparing to transition the rule of Equestria over to Twilight, Celestia feels this is a tradition that may finally have run its course. Off of Twilight considering what Celestia said we TRANSITION TO:

SC. 3 - INT. CANTERLOT CASTLE/STAINED GLASS HALLWAY – LATER

Twilight relays her conversation with Celestia to the others (SPIKE, RAINBOW DASH, RARITY, PINKIE PIE, APPLEJACK, FLUTTERSHY and DISCORD who announces he doesn't want to be left out). She tells them that she wants to make this year the biggest most perfect celebration ever for Celestia and Luna. With that in mind, she has made a few adjustments to the plans. Everyone cringes, expecting Twilight to give them overly detailed to-do lists before going into overstressed panic mode (as usual). But Twilight smiles and says she's not going to stress out like she normally does and proceeds to give them one tiny notecard each, detailing simple clear specific tasks to each of them, saying she trusts them to use their talents to make everything perfect! The friends are impressed (even DISCORD says Twilight came off as "very regal"). It seems Twilight is finally growing into her role as a true leader! As Twilight rushes off to check in with the princesses, the others head out to get plans underway!

SC. 4 - EXT. CANTERLOT COURTYARD (OUTSIDE CASTLE) - CONTINUOUS

Chrysalis, Tirek and Cozy Glow show up to find the castle packed with ponies rushing to and fro (AND extra secure thanks to the upgrades put in place after Sombra's attack in 902). Even Chrysalis, a master of sneaking around unnoticed, doubts their success with the heightened security, the holiday preparations, the Princesses AND Twilight and co. around! They decide they'll need some kind of distraction to keep everypony busy so they can search the library uninterrupted.

Fortunately (for the villains), at JUST THAT moment, the ponies stop nearby to go over the to-do lists Twilight gave them. Applejack and Pinkie Pie are to check in with the earth ponies from Appleoosa to make sure all the food is delivered and ready. Rainbow Dash and Fluttershy have a meeting with representatives from Cloudsdale to get an update on the weather forecast, and Rarity and Spike have a sit down with the team of unicorns who have put together the fireworks show. Even Discord is given an important job: making sure Discord doesn't do anything Discord-y (to Discord's annoyance). As the ponies split up, Chrysalis realizes she's found the perfect way to distract everypony so they can find the book. She sends Tirek off to stop the Earth Ponies from delivering the food, directs Cozy Glow to cozy up to the pegasus in charge and mess with the weather, while she transforms into a haughty unicorn and heads off to stop the fireworks! If they screw up the ponies' silly little celebration, they'll be too busy fixing everything to notice the villains! With their plan in place we...

END ACT ONE**ACT TWO****SC. 5 - EXT. CANTERLOT CASTLE/OUTSIDE KITCHENS – LATER**

Applejack and Pinkie Pie meet BRAEBURN and a team of earth ponies who are busy unloading all KINDS of delectable treats off their wagons. Braeburn explains that thanks to Twilight's specific and clear instructions, they brought extra food AND extra ponies to make sure they could get everything unloaded and prepared in time. Applejack makes notes while Pinkie samples the goods "JUST to make SURE everything is up to Twilight's high standards." Applejack drags Pinkie off before she eats all the food, thanking Braeburn and the others for their hard work. Braeburn replies that earth ponies are strong and hard work is what they love best!

Nopony notices Tirek skulking around in the shadows. He uses his ability to absorb ponies' life force to take JUST enough energy to weaken the ponies (without causing total collapse). Braeburn drops a box of apples. Another pony says she doesn't feel great. A third pony says he felt fine a second ago but now can barely lift anything. Braeburn worries that they're all coming down with something! They should get away from the food in case they're contagious! As the earth ponies rush off, Tirek drags off wagons full of food.

SC. 6 - EXT. CANTERLOT CASTLE/ GARDENS – CONTINUOUS

Fluttershy and Rainbow Dash introduce themselves to an officious, stuffy Pegasus, FEATHER FLATTERWEIGHT. Feather anxiously asks if there are any problems. He wants to make SURE the princess of friendship is satisfied with the weather schedule they've planned. Rainbow Dash, having fun in her official capacity, says SHE'LL be the judge of that, and zips around messing with everything (causing Feather no small amount of anxiety). Fluttershy sweetly says that she's sure everything is fine and suggests to Rainbow Dash that they go back to give Twilight a glowing report.

Once they leave, Feather nearly collapses from stress. This is his big chance to impress the Princesses and he doesn't want to screw it up. "What YOU need is a good assistant" a voice pipes up. Feather turns to see Cozy Glow smiling sweetly at him. She explains that she's ALWAYS wanted to learn about weather and would be happy to help him so that she can learn from such a wise and learned Pegasus. As Feather agrees that he IS quite smart we CUT TO:

SC. 7 - EXT. CANTERLOT CASTLE/ OUTDOOR AMPITHEATER – CONTINUOUS

A troupe of unicorns practice spells for the fireworks show as Rarity and Spike watch, quite impressed. Rarity says it's simply breathtaking. The leader of the troupe, FYRE FLARE says they take great pride in using their magical abilities to bring joy to ponies and honor the princesses. Rarity assures her that they've gone above and beyond and they'll be sure to let Twilight know.

As soon as Spike and Rarity are gone, Chrysalis shows up in unicorn form and introduces herself as CRACKLE CROSSETTE. Fyre politely says they have enough unicorns for the scheduled performance. "Crackle" laughs, saying she would never use her magic for

something so trivial. Offended, Fyre asks what she means. Crackle says it makes her sad seeing unicorns with SO much magical ability wasting their talents on a simple show when they are clearly meant for so much more. After all, unicorns ARE the most powerful of all the ponies. Fyre and the other unicorns stop rehearsing to listen to Crackle, intrigued...

SC. 8 - INT. CANTERLOT CASTLE/STAINED GLASS HALLWAY – LATER

Twilight is thrilled! Everypony has reported in and it seems everything is going EXACTLY as it should (Even Discord has a glowing report. He's been completely UN-Discordy ALL DAY!). Celestia and Luna both say they're very impressed and suggest Twilight join them in the throne room to go over the details for the actual ceremony. Twilight leaves with them, but not before thanking her friends for helping out. She couldn't do it without them!

The friends all remark on how great it is to see Twilight really stepping up. She seems calm, confident and comfortable with the responsibility she's taking on. Rainbow Dash is thrilled that Twilight "finally realizes everything will be fine even if she isn't micro-managing every little detail!"

Suddenly Braeburn enters, barely able to walk, and explains to Applejack and the others that the Earth ponies are all sick and several wagons of food have gone missing. A royal guard rushes in and says something's wrong with the weather, there are multiple tornadoes and isolated thunderstorms on the loose. Fyre Flare enters in a huff and requests that Spike and Rarity inform the princesses that the unicorn troupe has decided NOT to do the firework show (they're too good for such a pedestrian display). The ponies don't understand how everything got so messed up so fast. Spike tells the others that they had all better come look out the window. The ponies rush to join him and see that the grounds below are a mess of sick earth ponies, pegasi chasing weather and angry unicorns. It's ... chaos!

"It Wasn't ME!" Discord swears as we...

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

SC. 9 - INT. CANTERLOT CASTLE/STAINED GLASS HALLWAY – RESUME

RESUME on the ponies, Spike and Discord observing the chaos in the courtyard. "What are we going to do?" Fluttershy asks. "Do about what?" They all turn to see Twilight. She forgot her checklist and just popped out of the throne room to grab it. Applejack sighs heavily, "We hate to tell you this Twi but—" "BUT we don't know what we're gonna do with everything already done!" Rainbow Dash interrupts. "Yea. We're gonna be SO bored!" Pinkie Pie adds, yawning heavily. Twilight laughs and says she's sure she'll find a few more tasks for them before the day is done.

As soon as Twilight heads back into the throne room the gang starts arguing about what to do. Applejack thinks they should come clean and just tell her what happened. But Rarity points out that may not be the best idea. Twilight is finally learning not to let her anxiety get the better of her. If she finds out about everything going wrong it's going to be simply devastating! Rainbow Dash turns to Discord and tells him to snap his fingers and just fix it all. He grumbles that he prefers MAKING chaos, not fixing it but is about to make an exception... until he realizes that he may be depriving Twilight of an important opportunity for character growth. He agrees with Applejack, they should tell her. But when they put it to a vote, the majority thinks that the best thing to do as her friends is take care of everything for her and get things back on track without her every having to know! Applejack reluctantly agrees that that DOES make sense and as long as everything gets fixed she won't be put in a position of being dishonest. "Well then let's hurry up and fix everything so you don't have to worry about that!" Rainbow Dash says as they all rush out of the castle.

SC. 10 - EXT. CANTERLOT CASTLE – MONTAGE

We cut back and forth as the ponies try to figure out what went wrong and how to get everything back on track. But everything they try seems to make things even more complicated.

- Applejack and Pinkie can't figure out WHAT'S wrong with the earth ponies. In Dr. Pinkie's "expert opinion" (which is highly suspect given her lack of medical experience) they aren't exhibiting any normal symptoms aside from exhaustion. But regardless, they're pretty useless. And the earth ponies that aren't "sick" are afraid to help or touch anything for fear of catching whatever the others caught. Applejack leads a team desperately trying to make more food to replace the missing wagons, but there's no way it's gonna get done in time.
- Fluttershy asks Feather Flatterweight what went wrong while Rainbow Dash comically wrestles tornadoes and storm clouds in the background. Feather is at a loss. EVERYthing was organized down to the last detail per his specifications. His assistant made sure of it. "Assistant?" Fluttershy asks. Feather looks around but she's nowhere to be seen. Feather panics. All the rainbows, light breezes and GOOD weather are missing! Only bad weather is left. He's at a loss for what to do!
- Spike and Rarity plead with the unicorns that the show must go on but they flatly refuse. Fyre Flare lays out Crackle's argument and starts convincing OTHER unicorns to take her side. She even manages to get Rarity thinking she may have a few good points (thankfully Spike is there to keep Rarity's hooves on the ground). No matter what they try they can't get the unicorns to budge and the crowd around them is getting unruly.

- As the ponies beg, plead, cajole and problem solve, Cozy, Chrysalis and Tirek (very pleased with themselves) manage to sneak into the castle and past the defenses easily.

In the midst of all the craziness, Twilight and the Princesses (having finished their meeting) are out and about taking it all in. Twilight keeps seeing her friends rushing around and acting very odd (particularly Applejack who seems to be avoiding her). She keeps asking if everything is okay but they all insist that things are fine! JUST FINE! TOTALLY FINE! DID WE SAY FINE YET? YEA FOR SURE SUPER DUPER FINE!

SC. 11 - EXT. CANTERLOT COURTYARD/END MONTAGE – CONTINUOUS

Twilight and the princesses watch as the others dash back and forth. Celestia observes that perhaps they have a different definition of “fine” than she does. Annoyed and saying that enough is enough, Twilight grabs ALL of her friends with her magic and demands to know what is going on! Applejack comes clean for all of them, explaining that things were going great but then somehow EVERYTHING turned into a giant mess. Twilight doesn’t understand why they didn’t just tell her that. They explain that because they were all SO impressed with the way she was handling the planning of the celebration, they didn’t want to tell her how bad things had gotten and send her back into Twilight panic mode. Off of Twilight’s expression Rarity admits that “saying it out loud does make it seem a poorly thought out strategy.”

It looks like Twilight IS in fact about to lose is. But... She takes a deep breath and lets it out slowly. She tells them that she said she wasn’t going to freak out and she ISN’T going to freak out. She looks out at the mess, thoughtful as she takes in the situation, and then turns to them:

“This is what we are going to do...”

SC. 12 - EXT. CANTERLOT/TWILIGHT MONOLOGUE MONTAGE – CONTINUOUS

While Twilight lays out her strategy to salvage the festival in VO, we watch as her plan is put into action.

- She goes to the unicorns and apologize for not giving them a more important role. She explains that something is wrong with the earth ponies and she would love them to use their magic to take a look. It’s a matter of “national security”. Pleased that they are given something worthy of their abilities they agree.
- With the earth ponies cured, Twilight has SOME of them go with Applejack to make more food and get to some serious baking. They ask the pegasi to help out by flying around Canterlot to grab more food and ingredients and rushing them back to the earth ponies to keep things moving at a brisk pace. Pinkie takes the

- rest of the earth ponies to work on a revised fireworks show WITH some of the unicorns.
- The remaining unicorns help the pegasi gather the rogue weather that's running amok. But even once it's contained, it's all still BAD weather. Not to worry, Twilight has taken that into account and knows EXACTLY what to do.
 - While all of this is going on we also cut to the Canterlot library, where our villains are going through all of the books until finally, Tirek finds EXACTLY what they are looking for!

SC. 13 - EXT. CANTERLOT/OUTDOOR AMPITHEATER – LATER

Thunder and lightning light up the sky in a violent display of weather. Storm clouds block the moon. As the clouds part, the unicorns use their magic to create the illusion of the mare in the moon. But the image fades and the storm dissipates. The moon disappears from the night sky as the sun begins to rise. Pinkie gives the signal and earth ponies set off cannons and fireworks at the same time that the unicorns create firework images of Celestia and Luna in the sky. Pegasi soar around them creating a beautiful tableau.

A slightly nervous Twilight steps forward and addresses the crowd. She tells them that this will be the LAST Summer Sun Celebration. The crowd gasps. She continues, "In honor of the countless contributions Celestia and Luna have made to Equestria, I have decided to change the name of the holiday. From this day forward it will be known as THE FESTIVAL OF THE TWO SISTERS." The crowd goes wild. Celestia and Luna are overcome with emotion and thank Twilight as she comes off-stage. Her friends all apologize. It's hard when your friend changes. You still want to treat them the way they USED to be. But they are all proud of Twilight. It seems her days of freaking out are behind her. Twilight laughs and says she HOPES that's the case, but JUST in case she ever DOES freak out again, she's glad she's got friends that will always be by her side no matter what. They all hug, EVEN Discord, who says it seems like Twilight is "almost nearly ready" for whatever comes next.

SC. 14 - EXT. FOREST OUTSIDE OF CANTERLOT – CONTINUOUS

As more fireworks dot the sky, Cozy Glow, Tirek and Chrysalis head back towards Grogar's lair, the book explaining how to use the Bewitching Bell in tow. Cozy is disappointed. All of that work to mess things up and the ponies STILL somehow managed to pull off the festival. Tirek holds up the book, reminding her that the goal wasn't to destroy the festival, it was to distract them to get the book. And distracting them proved to be exceedingly simple. As they sneak off into the night, Chrysalis looks back at Canterlot, the beginnings of an idea starting to form. It WAS all too easy to cause problems and get the ponies to turn on one another... perhaps this is something they should spend a bit more time considering. Off of her thoughtful expression we reach...

END