

MY LITTLE PONY
Season 9
Growing Up Is Hard to Do
EP 922
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GROWING UP IS HARD TO DO

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Logline: When the Cutie Mark Crusaders tire of being treated like little kids and feel ready to take on a grown up adventure, the three of them actually become grownups. Unfortunately, growing up isn't everything they'd hoped it would be.

In a series of quick beats we watch as the CUTIE MARK CRUSADERS struggle with being too young to do anything they want: At Ponyville station they prepare to board the Manehattan Express to visit Babs Seed until APPLEJACK appears and nixes the idea – they're far too young to take the train alone; At the edge of the Everfree Forest they're set to accompany FLUTTERSHY on a mission to help a sick cragadile, until the older pony refuses to take them along – it's far too dangerous a job for foals; At Twilight's castle they beg to help the Princess study a unique and ancient magical artifact, until TWILIGHT tells them no – ancient magic isn't something for young ponies to play with. Denied at every turn, the trio wander Friendship Castle despondent. Why is it that they are too young to do anything exciting? As they find themselves in the room with the ancient artifact the three of them decide that everything would be better if they were older. As they all wish they were grown ponies, the ancient artifact GLOWS and with a FLASH, the trio are shocked to find their wish has been granted. The CMCs are grown ponies!

Delighted at the turn of events, the CMCs excitedly run from the castle to enjoy their newfound freedom. They can do anything they want now! In a series of fun beats we watch as they enjoy the benefits of adulthood. They sit at the café like grown ups. They head into the Everfree Forest, and nopony stops them (though they quickly run out when things get scary). They shop in the market place with nopony to tell them what they can or can't buy. They are even mistaken for their sisters (except for Scoot, who's a different color and claims to be Dash's cousin). Of course this proves problematic as the actual older ponies soon appear. Ducking out, the trio decide to head somewhere where they won't be discovered and in a burst of excitement realize they can now take the train – and nopony will stop them! After an excited ride, running up and down the cars, sitting wherever they like, and confusing conductor ponies who watch three grown ponies act like kids, they arrive in the next town. Ready to continue the grown up pony fun, they soon come upon a TRIO OF YOUNG PONIES in an argument. The unicorn of the young trio explains, the town's water supply has run low and the three friends disagreed as to which kind of pony is best suited to solve the problem. The disagreement turned into a fight and now they aren't speaking. Inspired, the CMCs realize that not only do they get to have fun like their older sisters, but they can solve friendship problems like them too!

Diving into the problem, the grown up CMCs each pair with one of the young friends who explain their position on the town's problem. The falls that provide water to the town have diminished over time as erosion and debris have clogged the mountain streams. The young earth pony thinks her kind should be the ones to fix the problems since it's a simple matter of clearing rocks and trees. The young pegasus

thinks her kind should solve it by just providing more rain to swell the streams and clear it that way. The young unicorn is certain that magic is the best way to clear things up. Validating each of the young ponies opinions, the CMCs are quickly able to diffuse the fighting by pointing out that none of them are wrong. Each kind of pony could solve the problem on their own, but a faster and more effective solution would be for the three of them to work together. In a quick montage they join forces with the younger ponies to show them what they mean and with a quick application of earth pony strength, pegasi weather control, and unicorn magic they clear the stream and get the falls flowing at full strength again! Unfortunately, when they head back to town they discover that nopony was prepared for the water supply to be restored and the town is starting to flood. What's worse, it seems their new young friends' issue was just a reflection of one that had already gripped the town. As they explain how they fixed the problem, several of the town elders admonish them. This is what happens when the ponies work together—problems only get worse. As the townsfolk continue to argue about what kind of pony is to blame for their predicament, the CMCs realize they might just be in over their heads.

As the flood waters continue to rise, both the CMCs and their new young friends try to convince their elders of the benefits of working together, but to no avail. In fact an OLDER UNICORN in the town points out that working together is exactly what got them into this mess and the best thing to do is have the various kinds of ponies keep to themselves entirely. As the rest of the town murmurs in agreement, the CMCs realize they have no choice and send word to their sisters. They need help! Already worried and searching for their sisters, AJ, Dash, and Rarity arrive and are shocked to find their younger sisters are now their age. With no time to address the magical goings on, the (actual) older ponies get to work on trying to solve the issue for the town by providing an example of how different ponies working together actually fixes problems. As they, the CMCs, and their new young friends, work together on reducing the flood waters and getting the town's water supply stable, the townsfolk, learn from their example and slowly join in until everything is back to normal. Grateful for the help, the young ponies thank their new friends and say goodbye. On the way home the older ponies admit they don't know how to reverse the spell that made the CMCs grown ups. Looks like they'll have to talk to Twilight. For their part, the CMCs admit it was fun being grown ups at first, but understand now that some problems are too big for them. It was a relief when their sisters came and saved the day. They tell their older counterparts that they realize jumping ahead and missing out on all the experiences they might have had made them unprepared. They wish they were young again so they could grow up the right way and with a magical FLASH their wish is granted. The CMCs return to normal, grateful for the experience, but even more grateful to be young again. Meanwhile, back in the town, the trio of young friends continuing to spread the idea of working together, while the older unicorn who argued for the division of the pony races slinks off. And as the unicorn turns a corner she transforms, revealing she was actually CHRYSALIS!