

MY LITTLE PONY
Season 9

The Last Problem
EP 926

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The Last Problem

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Logline: *In the series epilogue—years from now, Princess Twilight, ruler of Equestria, is expecting a visit from an old friend with a problem. Concerned about solving it, she looks back on the time she and the Mane Six spent together.*

SC. 1 - EXT. FUTURE CANTERLOT – DAY

We open on Canterlot and although it's recognizable as Canterlot, it's not the city we know. As many Griffons, Yaks, and Hippogriffs fill the streets as ponies and in the center of the town square is an Albert Memorial-style statue of the Mane Six, immortalized in stone. High above, an ADULT DRAGON, soars over Canterlot Castle's gates.

SC. 2 - INT. FUTURE CANTERLOT – CONTINUOUS

As the dragon strides into the throne room we sense something familiar about his purple scales. "Hello, Spike," comes a voice and he looks up to see TWILIGHT SPARKLE, but not the one we know. She's taller, more regal—a Celestia-style version of Twilight—her hair a flowing field of stars fading into a pre-dawn sky. Twilight tells SPIKE she's glad the official envoy to the Dragonlands could come to Canterlot so quickly and Spike admits he hurried. He hasn't seen Flurry Heart in a long time. Twilight is eager to see her niece as well and is expecting her at any moment. Twilight admits she's concerned. Apparently the young alicorn is having a problem and, though Twilight isn't sure what it is, Cadance certainly seemed to think it was serious. Twilight can't help but wonder what the problem might be and it's made her think of the days when she and her friends lived in Ponyville. Spike points out that the Mane Six certainly dealt with their fair share of problems in their day and he wonders if Flurry's problem is anything like the kind they all used to face. As they both consider this the screen goes all flashback-wavy as we TRANSITION TO:

SC. 3 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE – FLASHBACK (OUR PRESENT) – DAY

Back in the time with which we are most familiar, regular, normal, non-Celesti-fied, Twilight bustles around the Castle of Friendship. Spike follows her around as she careens from room to room, making sure that everything is packed and labeled for the big move to Canterlot which is only a few day away! The MANE SIX arrive to help, not exactly surprised to see her in a state. Twilight owns it. She may be over freaking out about being ready to rule, but she'll always be a detail oriented pony who makes lists of her lists. Her friends agree. They just wanted to make sure she wasn't overwhelmed and she assures them she's not—she has everything well in hoof. In fact, she asks them if they need any help. They all stare at her confused and Twilight realizes something obvious that she'd just been too busy to focus on. Her friends won't be moving to Canterlot with her. It's silly that she hadn't thought about it, but of course it makes sense. They all reassure her that nothing is really going to change. They'll always be available to help with whatever

she needs and, in fact, each are making preparations for her coronation. Putting on a brave face, Twilight offers to help.

SC. 4 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES – DAY

Twilight helps Applejack as she oversees the bushels of apples they'll be sending to Canterlot for the coronation. Applejack admits that even though her family is growing, (with Big Mac and Sugar Belle married), she'll always have responsibilities on the farm. That won't ever change and she wouldn't want it any other way. Twilight understands and before Applejack can even waste a breath reassuring her, Twilight blurts out that she knows her friend will always be ready to help her with anything. Applejack agrees. No matter what's going on at the farm, she's always be willing to lend a hoof to the new ruler of Equestria.

SC. 5 - INT. PARTY PLANNING ROOM – DAY

In Pinkie's secret party planning room, Twilight says it's clear from the stacks and stacks of files that Pinkie keeps on everypony she's ever met that she'll always be busy making all them happy, and that won't change. Pinkie tells her that's true. Lucky for Twilight she happens to be one of those ponies. Pinkie pulls out a MASSIVE FILE that she sets down with a loud <THUD>. Twilight asks if it's hers. Pinkie tells her no—Twilight's file is WAY bigger. This file is all of Pinkie's ideas on how to spruce up the parties and galas in Canterlot. Pinkie figured that Twilight would probably need help with that and she definitely wants Twilight to know she's ready to do her part. Twilight knows she doesn't have anything to worry about on that score. Good, Pinkie says, as she pulls out an even bigger file. Because she has some questions for Twilight about the coronation after-party...

SC. 6 - EXT. SWEET FEATHER SANCTUARY – DAY

Twilight looks on as Fluttershy conducts a chorus of SONG BIRDS who will be providing the music when Twilight assumes the throne. Pinkie and Rarity wanted to go with canons and trumpets, but Fluttershy convinced everypony that the songs of nature's creatures would be the most appropriate. Twilight couldn't agree more. Suddenly, Fluttershy has to take a break from music rehearsal—she needs to change the bandages on Priscilla Opossum's sprained tail and give Harry the Bear his fiber supplement. It's pretty clear to Twilight that Fluttershy will always have her hooves full at the Sanctuary. Even so, Fluttershy also reassures her friend. Between Dr. Fauna and even Angel Bunny (who has recently developed a sense of responsibility), the Sanctuary will be well taken care of any time Twilight needs her help for anything.

SC. 7 - EXT. WONDERBOLTS ACADEMY – DAY

Twilight watches, impressed, as Rainbow Dash leads a squadron of Wonderbolts through a choreographed routine of trick flying as they prepare for the airshow that will take place when Twilight is crowned. Dash lands and Twilight tells her she isn't surprised that her

friend is not only organizing the whole thing, but is flying in it as well. Of course, Dash tells her. She is a Wonderbolt, after all, but there's no amount of perfectly synchronized flying that will ever keep her from answering the call whenever Twilight needs her.

SC. 8 - INT. CANTERLOT BOUTIQUE – DAY

Later, in Canterlot, Twilight tries on her coronation gown behind a dressing screen while Rarity waits on the other side—offering advice for how to put on the most amazing coronation gown that's ever existed. She also assures Twilight that because of her shop, she'll be in Canterlot practically all the time and as busy as her fashion empire keeps her, she too will always be ready to help Twilight with anything she needs. Right now, Twilight needs help with a zipper and Rarity disappears behind the screen. After a beat, she reappears with Twilight who is, in fact, wearing the most amazing coronation gown that's ever existed. As the two of them stare in the mirror, Rarity admits that she always knew Twilight would be ready to lead Equestria, but this particular gown really sells it.

SC. 9 - EXT. CANTERLOT – DAY

Finally, coronation day arrives and Twilight is crowned. CELESTIA and LUNA tear up. It's everything we want it to be and the culmination of everything we saw the Mane Six preparing.

SC. 10 - INT. CANTERLOT – THRONE ROOM – SOON AFTER

After the post coronation party, everypony once again congratulates Twilight before heading back to their lives. Finally, it's just Twilight, Spike, and the two sisters. Twilight shares with them her concerns. Despite her friend's reassurances that things won't really change, she knows they will and if feels like living apart from them is only the start. Luna points out that change is the one constant we can always rely on. Celestia tries to comfort her, explaining that she and her friends may be apart, but they'll always be together too—that's what friendship is. But to Luna's point, they too have to leave to prepare for their trip to the Silver Shoals, though, of course, they'll only be a scroll away. Twilight knows it's true. After they leave, Twilight turns to Spike. Change might be the only constant, but she can think of another one—Spike will always be with her. Actually, Spike, says, he was planning on hanging out with Gabby before she and all the rest of the Griffinstone delegation head back. Spike offers to stay, but Twilight insists that he go. Alone in the giant, empty throne room, Twilight looks out, uncertain what the future holds.

ACT TWO

SC. 11 - INT. CANTERLOT – TWILIGHT'S BEDROOM – ONE YEAR LATER

Spike enters holding a pancake with a candle on it. It's Twilight's one year anniversary as ruler of Equestria and Spike wants to celebrate with her before he leaves for his overnight in Griffinstone. He and Gabay have a crazy fun sleepover planned, but he definitely wanted Twilight to know he hadn't forgotten about her special day. From off screen we

hear Twilight thank him as Spike looks on in shock. As we PULL OUT we see why: Twilight has changed over night. She asks Spike what's wrong as she gets out of bed and looks in the mirror to find she has transformed into her Celestia-style form. She starts to freak out, and Spike offers to cancel his plans. Twilight takes a few breaths and calms down. She tells Spike he doesn't need to cancel. She knows how much he was looking forward to his slumber party. Besides, Twilight has five of the best friends in Equestria who are ready to answer the call at a moment's notice. She knows they'll be able to make her feel better and immediately BAMFS off to talk to them.

SC. 12 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES – DAY

Twilight finds Applejack running around like a mare on fire, trying to handle everything at the farm. Big Mac and Sugar Belle just had a BABY and the two of them are exhilarated and delirious and exhausted (the way new parents are). With both of them side-lined, Applejack has Apple Bloom and Granny doing their best to bring in the harvest, but it's a struggle to keep up. She's so busy she almost doesn't even notice Twilight's transformation, but as soon as she does, she asks Twilight if she's all right. Does she need her to stop working and help? Twilight looks out at the harried farm and realizes her friend is already taxed. Even though her own situation has her concerned, Twilight plays it off, telling Applejack there's no need to abandon her own responsibilities just because she has a new "hair-do." Applejack asks if she's sure and Twilight insists. Grateful, AJ rushes back to dealing with the farm. Disappointed, but not despondent, Twilight reasons to herself, she has four other friends she can go to for comfort.

SC. 13 - EXT. PONYVILLE – DAY

In the town square, Twilight discovers Pinkie is throwing an anniversary party for Cranky and Matilda that looks to outdo their wedding. Despite Cranky's insistence, she's really done it up and all of Ponyville takes part. As she shuttles from stall to stall at her Anniversary Carnival, she notices Twilight and wonders at first why she's come in costume. Then she bemoans the fact that she didn't think of it. Ugh. Next year she's definitely going to add a masquerade ball. Twilight tries to explain that she isn't in costume. In fact that's what she's come to talk about. Apparently, she's changing and she isn't sure what it means. Unfortunately, Pinkie is a little distracted by all the goings on and Twilight realizes she might not offer the best advice at the moment.

SC. 14 - EXT. SWEET FEATHER SANCTUARY – DAY

Twilight walks up to the sanctuary to find the place has expanded exponentially with the help of their newest employee, Discord, who uses his powers to ensure they always have enough space for every animal. Off Twilight's surprise, Discord explains with Fluttershy spending more and more time at the Sanctuary, he could tell which way the wind was blowing and rather than cause all kinds of trouble trying to get her attention (he casts a sideways glance and Angel who rolls his eyes), he decided to make himself integral to the whole operation. Discord goes on to say that he assumes Twilight wants to talk to her

friend about her hair, but explains Fluttershy is in the far reaches of the property. He opens a portal revealing Fluttershy who, with the help of Dr. Fauna, has just delivered a baby Hippo to a glowing set of Hippo parents. Twilight looks on and smiles. She tells Discord to close the portal. It's fine, Fluttershy has more urgent matters to attend to.

SC. 15 - EXT. WONDERBOLTS ACADEMY – DAY

At the Wonderbolts Academy, Rainbow Dash, reveals that Spitfire is on a much deserved vacation and has left her in charge. It's a lot of responsibility and, personally, Dash thinks Spitfire is grooming her to take over. Why else would she take a vacation right before finals week?! Dash clearly has her hooves full and even though Twilight really needs some reassurance about her own situation, it looks like Dash's situation is more fraught.

SC. 16 - INT. CANTERLOT – DAY

Alone, back in Canterlot Castle, Twilight looks through her mail, she reads the first letter and we realize it's from Rarity as her VO starts...

SC. 17 - EXT. YAKYAKISTAN – RARITY FOR YOU, NORTH – DAY

We watch as Rarity goes to cut the ribbon and open the newest branch of her fashion empire, but at the last second, instead of cutting the ribbon, Rarity STOMPS on it. When in Rome! Rarity goes on to explain in VO how much she's looking forward to branching out her business, though she's heard Twilight has some issues she's worried about. Rarity offers to help, just as soon as she returns. As the Yak customers mull about in her shop excitedly smashing around as they peruse the yak fashion, Rarity admits she isn't exactly sure when that will be.

SC. 18 - INT. CANTERLOT – DAY

Twilight finishes the letter and <SIGHS> as Spike returns from his sleep over. He asks Twilight if the rest of the Mane Six were able to help her with her becoming Celestia anxiety and Twilight admits they weren't. She reached out to everypony. Literally. She even reached out to Sunset Shimmer, but apparently it's Prom in her world, whatever that is. Everypony is so busy with their own lives, she didn't want to bother them with it. Sure her transformation is strange, but that doesn't mean it's bad. She doesn't even know why it bothered her. Spike says it's pretty reasonable to have been anxious about it. Still, Twilight points out, it's not exactly a threat to Equestria or anything. Celestia handled everything all by herself for a thousand years. Maybe she needs to handle the little things on her own. Clearly conflicted, Twilight mopes off. As Spike considers her words we...

ACT THREE

SC. 19 - INT. CANTERLOT – THRONE ROOM – DAY

Twilight sits on her throne listening to a Guard give a boring report about how everything in Canterlot is... well, pretty good, actually. Nothing to report, really. Spike bursts in and tells Twilight there's an emergency and he needs her help.

SC. 20 - INT. CASTLE OF FRIENDSHIP – DAY

Spike takes her to the old map room to find... all of her friends sitting in their old thrones. They each explain how life is full of changes and they are all super busy and, of course, always ready to answer the call, but more than that. They will always be there for Twilight. She's more than the ruler of Equestria, she's their friend. They are there when she needs them whether it's an Equestria emergency or a hair emergency. Rarity points out that her new do looks amazing, by the way. Spike makes a proposal. They all have new and different responsibilities, but they still need to be reminded of their friendship and keep in touch. He suggests that every moon they all meet at the Castle of Friendship for a Friendship Council. That way they can discuss anything that they need each other for, or just to hang out. All of them agree it's a wonderful idea. Change happens, but friendship is forever if they put in the effort. Twilight is super pleased. Everypony is happy. Off this satisfying scene, another WAVY-LINES TRANSITION bring us out of our present day flashback to...

SC. 21 - INT. FUTURE CANTERLOT – DAY

Future Twilight looks to grown Spike and compliments him on his excellent idea so long ago. The Friendship Council was a truly important thing to keep them connected through all manner of changes. She hopes Flurry Heart's problem can be solved so elegantly. Just then an older SMOLDER enters and breaths out a message for Twilight. Everypony got her message and everything has been prepared. Twilight nods, pleased, just as the doors to the throne room open and an older GALLUS, now Captain of the Royal Guard, enters leading PRINCESS FLURRY HEART. Twilight hopes she can help her with whatever her issue may be. Flurry admits she's been learning how to be the best princess she can, since she'll have to take over for her mom and rule the Crystal Empire some day. She even has a pupil of her own, and that's who she's come to talk to Twilight about. She doesn't know what to do with her. Her student is brilliant, but a bit bookish. In fact, she'd rather spend more time with books than ponies. Flurry isn't sure if she has any friends. Twilight shares a smile with Spike—she knows exactly what to do.

SC. 22 - INT. FUTURE CANTERLOT – HALLWAY – CONTINUOUS

Leading Flurry and her YOUNG CHARGE through the castle Twilight explains that a long time ago, she knew another bookish young pony who hadn't learned the value of making friends yet. Flurry leans down for an aside to her student, "She's talking about herself." As they continue down the hall, Twilight goes on to tell the young pony that she did make friends and meets with them every moon to strengthen that bond—even a magic as strong as friendship has to be encouraged and tended to—BUT, she's made

arrangements for a special convening of her Council of Friendship to help her and Flurry Heart figure out what to do, though she has an idea already.

SC. 23 - INT. FUTURE CANTERLOT – COUNCIL OF FRIENDSHIP – CONTINUOUS

As they enter we see Twilight's Friendship Council—the rest of the Mane Six—have gathered. They are older, but not in a design-heavy way, (Rarity's mane has a streak of gray, etc.). Twilight goes on to say that she and her friends shared everything over the years, from parties to perilous adventures and, yes, things have changed—nothing ever really stays the same—but change isn't necessarily bad and sometimes it's necessary to grow. Flurry asks what she can do to help her student and Twilight isn't sure there's anything for Flurry to do. Friendship is something a pony has to figure out for themselves, but she does know where her student might go to start her journey—the same place where she learned her first lessons about friendship. Twilight looks to her friends. If they agree, she suggests Flurry's young student move to Ponyville!

MUSIC MONTAGE – SONG

A BIG SONG about the how change is eternal, but friendship is too, it's just up to you. As the song goes on, we visit everypony in the future we haven't yet seen...

SC. 24 - INT. FUTURE SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP

We see the School where slightly older versions of STARLIGHT and SUNBURST lead all manner of CREATURES (some we have never seen before) through the school. As Twilight sings about how the school helped lead Equestria into a future where friendship is shared with all creatures, we see the grown up versions of the CMCs (already designed!) teaching classes!

SC. 25 - EXT. FUTURE SWEET APPLE ACRES

We see images of Sweet Apple Acres. A slightly older Big Mac and Sugar Belle sit on the porch watching their two children run around the farm. The song continues, explaining that even at a place where it seems like nothing ever changes, that isn't exactly true...

SC. 26 - EXT. PONYVILLE

As the song reaches its climax we come back to where it all started and watch as the Mane Six welcome Flurry's young student. Twilight and Flurry and the others look on as she walks around the town meeting ponies who are sure to become her new friends as we...

FADE OUT

THE END.