

MY LITTLE PONY
Season 9
Uprooted
EP 903
Outline by: Nicole Dubuc

Distribution:

Production:
Devon Cody
Jim Miller
Denny Lu
Mike Myhre
Zoe Borroz
Nicole Dubuc
Josh Haber
Jada McDermott

Discovery Family:
Linda Shima Tsuno
Beth Mohammed

Hasbro Studios:
Stephen Davis
Meghan McCarthy
Eliza Hart
Leslie Wishnevski
Finn Arnesen
Nina Scales
Tyla Bucher
Loretta Masters
Narae Song
Bill Cheungcp
Molly Shaffer
Emily Thompson
Kevin Farrell
Lauren Devereux
Michael Kelly

Hasbro Brand:
Jamie Cipolla
Julie Sanfilippo
Matt Riordan
Andrea Ehret
Samantha Lomow
Gretchen Forrest
Katherine Padilla
Brian Chapman

Premise: September 20th, 2017
Outline: October 2nd, 2017

UPROOTED

Outline by Nicole Dubuc

Logline: *When the Young Six learn that the Tree of Harmony has been destroyed, they feel like they need to honor its memory – if only they could agree on how to do that!*

TEASER**SC. 1 - EXT. WEIRD DREAMSCAPE – SKY**

HIPPOGRIFF SILVERSTREAM flies with RAINBOW DASH (who wears her Wonderbolts uniform). *“Congratulations, Silverstream,”* Dash says, *“You’re the first non-Pegasus Wonderbolt!”* Silverstream is honored and excited, but she starts to worry as Rainbow Dash goes on: *“You’re kicking off our show today, so go down there and show ‘em how it’s done!”*

Silverstream hears the <CHEERS> of the crowd below (too tiny to make out), the WONDERBOLTS waiting for her start flying, the air obstacle course ahead... And she panics. *“But I’m not wearing my uniform! And I missed the last two months of practice! And I forgot how to fly!”* With that, she changes into a SEAPONY and falls from the sky, YELLING!

She falls and falls, past odd things – a cow sipping tea, PINKIE riding a bicycle, etc. Finally, the strange AVATAR TWILIGHT of 822 appears and uses magic to stop her fall. *“Silverstream, this is just a dream!”* (SS: *“Ohhh! That explains the bicycle!”*) Recognizing Avatar Twilight as the one from the Tree of Harmony’s crystal caves, she asks what the Tree is doing in her dream. The Avatar continues that there’s no time to explain. In fact, she starts to fade as she delivers her message: *“You have to come help me. You and your friends are the key to my survival!”*

In a SPLIT SCREEN, we see each of the YOUNG SIX bolt upright in bed. *“The Tree of Harmony needs us!”*

END TEASER**MAIN TITLES****ACT ONE****SC. 2 - INT. TWILIGHT’S SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP – GREAT HALL – DAY**

TWILIGHT SPARKLE is using the downtime of summer break to prepare for the upcoming school year. An ever-patient SPIKE helps, waxing the floor and talking Twilight down when she realizes she only has twenty orange highlighters. *“That’s not enough! And it’s the only color! How will everycreature COLOR CODE THEIR NOTES?!”* Spike tells her he’s pretty sure that Twilight is the only one in the school, teacher OR student that uses the highlighter method. Besides, there’s plenty of time before school starts to order more. *“The students won’t be back until...”*

Just then, a frantic Silverstream flies in, followed by the rest of the Young Six. “*Uh, now?*” Spike finishes weakly, as YONA, last to enter, slips on the waxed floor and causes a comical pile up of all the students at Twilight’s hooves. “*Why are you back so early?*” Twilight asks, before suddenly panicking that maybe she sent out the wrong back to school date. As she frantically checks her notes, SMOLDER reassures the Headmare. “*We’re not here for school. We’re here because the Tree of Harmony called us.*” Twilight gives Spike a look, and GALLUS cockily adds, “*Don’t feel bad it didn’t reach out to you. We kinda have a special connection with it after last year.*” Twilight shakes her head and breaks the news to the students. The Tree couldn’t have reached out to them... Because Sombra destroyed it. The students gasp! It’s GONE?!

“*But...Doesn’t that mean Equestria is in danger?*” OCELLUS says, remembering from class that the last time the tree was in trouble, the Everfree Forest almost grew over Ponyville! Twilight says she’s surprised, but nothing like that has happened yet. Just in case, the Mane Six are on high alert in case anything strange happens. Still reeling from the news, the students decide - they have to go see this for themselves!

SC. 3 - EXT. TREE OF HARMONY RUINS – SOON

The students arrive at the tree, now a charred ruin with some branches and smashed crystals strewn about. Gallus is sure it’s gotta be a prank. But SANDBAR is sure Twilight would never joke about the tree. As the students look closer, they know he’s right. “*How could this happen?*” Ocellus asks, eyes sad and wide. If only they hadn’t gone home for summer break, maybe they could have saved the tree! Smolder is furious – she suggests they find this Sombra guy and teach him a lesson. Yona says it won’t do any good. “*That not bring back tree.*” But Silverstream rallies the others – they all saw and heard the tree avatar in their dreams, right?! “*How could it talk to us if it was really gone? MAYBE, if we all close our eyes and think really strong friendship thoughts... The tree will get better!*”

It sounds a little silly, but the students give it a try anyway. Sandbar peeks – is it working? But no, despite their happiest friendship thoughts, nothing changes. “*I guess it really is gone,*” Ocellus says sadly. “*Then we need to do something to honor it,*” Gallus says fiercely. Like in Griffonstone, there’s a statue of King Grover, so everygriff can see how awesome he was. The students agree that’s a great idea. That must be why the tree called them, using the last of its magic! Maybe being the key to its survival means making sure the memory of the tree survives!

But before they can start planning their arboreal homage, EMBER shows up with Twilight. The Dragonlord frowns at her subject, “*Smolder, what are you doing here? You’re supposed to be in the Dragonlands, helping with the gem harvest. You already spend ENOUGH time in school.*” Smolder says she knows, but this is important! The tree summoned her – and her friends. They need to do something for it – it’s like...A dragon quest! If she gets all her harvest chores done – can she come back? Ember rolls her eyes, but finally agrees.

Twilight tells the other students that they’ll all need permission from their lands if they’re staying for the rest of summer break. Gallus whips out a permission slip, “*I got hundreds. Just in case.*”

QUICK FUN MOS BEATS as the students make preparations to return to school:

SC. 4 - EXT. THE DRAGONLANDS – Smolder works at top speed, pulling gemstones out of piles of treasure, “harvesting” them faster than the other DRAGONS. When she amasses a huge pile, Ember finally nods and gestures – she can go.

SC. 5 - EXT. YAKYAKISTAN – Yona follows PRINCE RUTHERFORD around, with HUGE PUPPY DOG EYES whatever he does – smashing things, ruling, eating, etc. Finally, he throws up his hooves in frustration and nods. Yona bounces with joy, and hugs him.

SC. 6 - INT. CHANGELING HIVE – THORAX and some other CHANGELINGS watch as Ocellus uses visual aids to tell the story of the tree. The Changelings are all moved by her pictures, and nod and applaud.

SC. 7 - EXT. GRIFFONSTONE – Gallus sets up a bad-looking dummy of himself outside GRANDPA GRUFF’s home. Grandpa nods to Gallus as he walks by. Behind the dummy, REAL Gallus chuckles – he’ll never be missed.

SC. 8 - EXT. MT. ARIS – SEASPRAY stands proudly on a Hippogriff ship as he sails Silverstream back to school.

SC. 9 - EXT. TREE OF HARMONY RUINS – LATER – AFTERNOON

Sandbar welcomes the other students as they come back – since he already lives locally, he figured he’d get a head start on their project. Sandbar steps aside to reveal... The tree debris and stump are GONE. The other students GAPE in horror! What...Happened?!

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SC. 10 - EXT. TREE OF HARMONY RUINS – RESUME

“You did this?” Smolder gapes. Sandbar nods – he figured he’d clean up the place for their memorial of the tree. *“That’s what you guys were thinking, right?”* Sandbar says, starting to look worried. But no, the others clearly had different plans. Gallus takes Sandbar’s act as a betrayal. NOTHING should have been changed! This site was supposed to stay exactly the way it was forever, so future creatures could visit it and experience the tree! Sandbar defends his actions – they’ll still be able to see the tree, look! Sandbar takes the others to where he’s planted a small sapling. Ocellus breaks it to him gently that it’s not the same tree. Sandbar knows that, but it’s a symbol, right?

The others chime in with what they think they should do to honor the tree. Smolder says they need a monument – something really big and imposing, to show the tree’s power. Ocellus thinks they need a place for creatures to reflect on the tree’s gift to Equestria – the Elements of

Harmony. Silverstream thinks what they really need is pictures of the tree. As the students squabble, each convinced that THEIR way is the only way, Yona tries to get them to stop fighting. If they just listen to each other, she's sure they can agree... *"Well, we agree on one thing. We're not doing this together,"* Smolder growls. She stalks off to go work on her monument. One by one, each of the students turn their backs on each other to work on their own "BEST" way to honor the tree. Yona sighs.

SC. 11 - EXT. TREE OF HARMONY RUINS – SOON

Sandbar is tending his new small tree, watering it and speaking sweetly to it, when a loud MEGAPHONE VOICE interrupts him. He frowns and goes out to see...

SC. 12 - EXT. CASTLE OF THE TWO SISTERS – CONT.

Gallus has set up a garish circus-like show in the castle – basically the theme park version of a memorial. He speaks into a megaphone to a couple of TOURIST PONIES. *"STEP RIGHT UP and see the AMAZING SITE of the Tree of Harmony! Grown from the tears of a basilisk and tended day and night by Pony magicians, this is truly one of the Wonders of Equestria."* Sandbar stomps up and interrupts – that's not true. *"It's a good story! Honoring the tree is about giving it a legend that creatures care about!"* Gallus whispers. *"Well, can you keep it down? My sapling doesn't like the noise."* *"GOOD!"* Gallus says, *"It doesn't belong here anyway."* Sandbar says he's going to go get his tree some earphones, so it doesn't have to listen, and stalks off.

Undaunted, Gallus encourages the tourist ponies to take pictures beside a garish cut out of Twilight Sparkle. *"And don't forget our mascot, Treey the Tree!"* He adds, beckoning to Yona. She sighs and steps out in a Tree of Harmony mascot costume. *"Make sure to visit our Souvenirs of Harmony gift shop,"* Gallus adds.

SC. 13 - EXT. FOREST NEARBY – SOON

Smolder blows fire at a huge hunk of rock, slowly sculpting it with claws and flame. Yona walks up and asks what she's doing. Smolder explains that she's honoring the tree with a memorial statue. When creatures see it, they'll be struck with awe. Yona says it looks like a rock, not a tree. Smolder growls that she's not finished yet! Then she admits that she's having a hard time remembering exactly what the tree looked like. She feels bad for forgetting already.

SC. 14 - EXT. TREE OF HARMONY RUINS – SOON

Silverstream is painting the walls and ceilings with swirly colors and tree shapes. Yona enters to see what's happening, and Silverstream warns her to watch her step – the walls aren't dry yet. Yona asks what she's doing, and Silverstream says that the best way to remember the tree is to celebrate the colors of the elements. *"What do you think?"* She points to a painting on the wall. Yona squints at it and asks what it is. Silverstream says it's the tree, of course! *"Maybe I should label it,"* she adds thoughtfully.

Suddenly, water splashes over the mural. *“Oops, sorry!”* Ocellus says, as she (transformed into a large creature) staggers under the weight of a huge, decorative fountain. Silverstream is too busy trying to salvage her art to help, so Yona rushes to Ocellus’ aid. Ocellus thanks her and says she’s setting up a meditation garden, with symbols of all the elements of harmony, so creatures that visit here can honor the tree in quiet thought and contemplation. She closes her eyes to demonstrate, and Gallus’ megaphone-boosted cuts through the air, startling every creature. *“Wait, don’t go! You haven’t seen the inside yet!”* Gallus calls.

SC. 15 - EXT. CASTLE OF THE TWO SISTERS – CONT.

The tourist ponies beg off and thank Gallus for his er...Thorough tour. But they have to be going – there are other sights to see. *“None this cool!”* Gallus yells. Before he can pursue them, Smolder flies in, carrying her massive statue. Gallus flies up to stop her – she can’t bring that piece of junk into his Tree theme park. *“It’s not for your theme park, it’s for the tree,”* she argues. As they start a tug-of-war with the statue, Smolder loses her grip...

SC. 16 - EXT. TREE OF HARMONY RUINS – CONT.

...And the statue crashes down to the former site of the tree! It crushes Ocellus’ fountain, which DRENCHES Silverstream’s artwork. As it rolls toward the sapling, Yona dives to uproot the tiny tree, barely saving it in the nick of time. The once-noble site of the tree is a wreck – this isn’t honoring its memory, it’s destroying it.

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

SC. 17 - EXT. TREE OF HARMONY RUINS – RESUME

The students argue, blaming each other for ruining the tree’s memory. Each is so sure that what they were doing was what the tree would have wanted – if only the others hadn’t messed it up! Finally, Yona has had enough. She stomps her hooves and bellows for quiet!

Surprised, the rest of the Young Six turn to her. She tells them all that they’re going about this the wrong way. They’re all trying to remember the tree for what it was, not what it IS. *“You mean gone?”* Smolder asks, not getting it. Yona shakes her head and continues. Even though the tree isn’t here, it lives on in each of them. It brought them together, and they are better for it! Ocellus nods – Yona is right. They even became friends in the Castle of the Two Sisters – right in this spot. Gallus can’t believe they’re getting schooled by a Yak. Yona shrugs, *“Yaks know things not forever. That’s why smash and rebuild!”* And since they’ve already mastered the smashing part, maybe they should try rebuilding together.

But that still hasn’t solved the problem of what they should do for the tree. Yona says she has an idea. She runs off and comes back in pulling a sledge loaded with the tree’s branches and stumps, brought back from where Sandbar dumped it. Together they can use it build something that represents what the tree IS – the gateway to their friendship. *“What ponies call it?”* Yona

asks Sandbar. “*A clubhouse?*” He says. “*A TREE house,*” Silverstream enthuses.

And suddenly, the students start listening to each other and planning the house they’ll build together from the leftover wood.

BUILDING MONTAGE – VARIOUS LOCATIONS

The students work together to create their tree-house. Carrying logs together, hammering, Silverstream painting, Gallus using his megaphone as a chimney top, Sandbar planting his tree outside, etc. We only see small pieces of this, and save the big reveal for the end of the montage...

SC. 18 - EXT. TREE OF HARMONY RUINS – SOON

And finally, we see the finished house. “*It’s kinda messy,*” Ocellus says. She’s right. “*Yeah, like a bunch of different parts all put together,*” Smolder says. Silverstream nods enthusiastically – “*it’s just like us!*” The students share a grin – it’s true. Their clubhouse is crude, and oddly-shaped, but clearly made with love and the stamp of the six students that constructed it.

They laugh and pile inside. Then, something magical happens. The clubhouse begins to GLOW! The students gape in awe – what’s going on?! They leap outside again as the walls shimmer... And suddenly, the clubhouse begins to grow and stretch, finally becoming a beautiful, CRYSTAL TREEHOUSE, with the Elements of Harmony subtly represented in the design. “*See?! Friendship thoughts DID work!*” Silverstream bubbles happily.

Suddenly, Avatar Twilight appears – she tells the students that they did well. “*The spirit of the Tree of Harmony lives on in your selfless deeds and caring.*” And with that, she disappears.

Just as real Twilight and Spike rush in. Twilight says she felt the magic all the way over at the school – what happened?! She gapes at the treehouse in amazement. The students ask what caused it, but Twilight doesn’t have an answer. She remembers when the seed of the tree was first planted by the Pillars – they didn’t know what would happen. It looks like the tree is still continuing to grow and adapt as needed. Twilight is reassured by its presence, and a little awestruck. She’s not sure what this new development means – except that the elements of harmony are still with them, somehow. Spike shrugs – if you ask him it looks like friendship really is magic.

END