

MY LITTLE PONY
Season 9
Uprooted
EP 903
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Logline: *When the Young Six learn that the Tree of Harmony has been destroyed, they feel like they need to memorialize it – if only they could agree on how to do that.*

In a strange dreamscape, the TWILIGHT AVATAR of the Tree of Harmony appears with a message for each of the YOUNG SIX – she needs help right away, and they carry the key to her survival. In a split-screen jolt, YONA, GALLUS, SILVERSTREAM, OCELLUS, SANDBAR, and SMOLDER wake up from their shared dream – they have to get back the School of Friendship, right away! The Tree of Harmony needs them!

TWILIGHT SPARKLE and SPIKE are using the downtime of school break to prepare for next year's lessons. Twilight obsesses over every detail, but Spike reassures her that there's PLENTY of time before the school year starts... Cue Silverstream flying in, followed by the rest of the Young Six (Yona is last, slipping on a freshly-polished floor to cause a comic pile up at Twilight's feet). Twilight immediately panics that she sent out the wrong back to school date, but Smolder explains that they're not there for school, they're there because the Tree of Harmony called them. Gallus smirks that he can understand why Twilight's surprised – see, they kind of have a special connection with the tree, thanks to the events of last season. She shouldn't feel bad it didn't ask HER for help. Twilight is forced to break the news to them – the Tree of Harmony was destroyed.

The students can't believe it, so Twilight leads them to the remains of the tree – a charred ruin with snapped branches lying all around. Gallus still doesn't want to accept it – it has to be some kind of prank, right? But no, it's real. Twilight gives the students a moment with the tree before they head back home. Ocellus tells the others she feels so guilty – if they hadn't left for break, maybe this wouldn't have happened. Smolder is furious and wants to go after this “Sombra guy.” Yona is sad, and Sandbar is in shock. Silverstream rallies the others – how/why would the tree call them if it was gone?! MAYBE if they all close their eyes and think friendship thoughts, the tree will get better! The group tries it – to no avail.

Twilight returns – the students should be getting back to their homes now. But the young six don't want to abandon the tree – and as one, they tell Twilight they're staying until they've properly said goodbye and memorialized the tree somehow. Twilight is torn – she understands how they feel, but the site might be dangerous, and she doubts the students' guardians are going to want them in Ponyville during their break (perhaps the appearance of Ember to find where Smolder has run off to underscores this point!). She finally agrees that the students can stay, if it's okay with their guardians (Gallus whips out a permission slip. “I've got hundreds, just in case.”)

After quick comical beats of wheedling and chores in their various homelands, the students are allowed to reconvene at the tree. But when they return, they find the tree is GONE – Silverstream (first back to the site) has cleared the debris for their memorial site. Gallus sees this as a betrayal – NOTHING should have been changed; this site should

forever remain exactly as it was so future creatures could visit it and know the tree's significance! The other young six chime in, each with their own idea of the best way to remember such an important part of Equestrian (and their own) history. Naturally, they don't agree. Silverstream plants a new tiny tree, Gallus works on turning the site into a tour spot. Smolder makes a rock statue, Ocellus writes a poem, and Sandbar paints a picture that looks nothing like the tree ("I captured its inner spirit."). Only Yona stays passive, and she's the one who stops the escalating disagreement among her friends as each insists THEIR idea is what the tree would have wanted.

Yona finally stomps her hooves for quiet. Her friends are going about this the wrong way – they're all trying to remember the tree for what it was, not what it IS. She explains that even if the tree is gone, it lives on in each of them. It brought them together, and they are better for it! 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, but Yona shrugs philosophically. "Yaks know things not forever. That's why smash and rebuild!" Which is why she went to go get the tree wood Silverstream cleared away. Together they can use it to build something that represents what the tree IS – the gateway to their friendship.

As one, the students work together in a montage to build a clubhouse with the remains of the tree (think the Giving Tree). It's not pretty to look at when they're done, messy, and in different styles, but that kinda makes it the perfect representation of their friendship. And as the students all pile inside and laugh – something magical happens. The clubhouse begins to shimmer...And GROW! The students pile out in shock as the husk of the tree becomes a BEAUTIFUL CRYSTAL TREEHOUSE – with the Elements of Harmony subtly represented. Silverstream is beside herself – "See?! Friendship thoughts DID work!" Avatar Twilight appears one last time to tell the students they did well... And to remind them that the spirit of the tree lives on in their selfless deeds and care.