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MY LITTLE PONY
Season 9

Sparkle's Seven
Ep 904

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TEASER**SC. 1 - INT. SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP - TWILIGHT'S OFFICE - DAY**

A wild-eyed SPIKE bursts into Twilight's office.

1 SPIKE
Twilight! Look at the scroll I
just got!

TWILIGHT SPARKLE and STARLIGHT GLIMMER turn in surprise as Spike holds up the scroll with a picture of a tin-foil, slightly ratty TOY CROWN.

Twilight gapes to Spike. Rising excitement, almost giddy.

2 TWILIGHT
Spike! Do you know what this
means?!

Spike nods, grinning. Starlight leans in.

3 STARLIGHT
Uh, I don't. What's so exciting
about a toy crown?

4 SPIKE
Oh, this is no toy crown.
(paints the picture)
It's the hard-won helm of the
Sibling Supreme!

5 STARLIGHT
(nods like she gets it)
Ohhhhhhh. (then) Yeah, still
doesn't mean anything.

6 TWILIGHT
It's part of a game my brother and
I used to play when we were little.

DISSOLVE TO:

SC. 2 - INT. TWILIGHT'S FILLYHOOD HOME - DAY - FLASHBACK

YOUNG SHINING ARMOR races YOUNG TWILIGHT (BABY SPIKE on her back) to their house, beating her there. Shining Armor grins at Twilight. She comically fumes.

7 TWILIGHT
We competed over EVERYTHING.

Twilight and Shining Armor make clay pots. Twilight's is great, Shining Armor's sags. It's Twilight's turn to grin.

TWILIGHT VELVET and NIGHT LIGHT share a concerned look.

8 TWILIGHT (CONT'D)
To keep it friendly, our parents
made us an accomplishment chart.

Twilight's parents show their filly and colt the new CHART -
an "Accomplishment Chart" with a picture of each kid.

9 TWILIGHT (CONT'D)
They gave Shining Armor and me a
gold star every time we did
something special. Helping...

Night Light is struggling with groceries. Twilight stops
reading to help.

10 TWILIGHT (CONT'D)
Sharing...

Shining Armor is about to bite into an apple. He sees a
hungry Baby Spike watching him, and he uses his magic to
split it in two and offers him half. Spike smiles.

11 TWILIGHT (CONT'D)
Getting good grades...

Twilight proudly trots in, magically floating a SHEET OF
HOMEWORK with a SMILY FACE on it.

12 TWILIGHT (CONT'D)
Even telling a really funny joke!

Shining Armor finishes telling a joke, and Twilight, her
PARENTS and Baby Spike MOS LAUGH.

13 TWILIGHT (CONT'D)
And at the end of each week, we'd
add up the stars.

Twilight dances from hoof to hoof and Shining Armor tries to
see around their mother as she consults the Gold Star chart.
Their mom turns and gestures with a smile to Twilight (one
extra star on her side of the chart than Shining Armor's).

14 TWILIGHT (CONT'D)
The sibling with the most would win
the crown of the Sibling Supreme--
and bragging rights--til next time!

Shining Armor smiles ruefully and lifts the Sibling Supreme
crown onto Twilight's head. She poses proudly.

SC. 3 - INT. SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP - PRESENT

Starlight looks at Twilight wryly.

15 STARLIGHT
Guess that explains your love of
charts. Aaaand so much else.

16 SPIKE
 (dreamy)
I always wanted to be Sibling
Supreme one day. Maybe this letter
means it's finally my chance!

Twilight seems not to hear him, lost in thought as she
fixates on the scroll. Starlight arches an eyebrow.

17 STARLIGHT
Wait - you're all still doing the
gold star thing?

18 TWILIGHT
 (twinge of angst)
Not since Shining Armor left home
to be Captain of the Canterlot
guard and took the crown with him.

19 SPIKE
So no more competition...Until now!
 (reads scroll)
Meet me at Celestia's Castle to
decide once and for all who is the
true Sibling Supreme.
 (beat, to Twilight)
Race ya there.

She grins, and they both TAKE OFF. Starlight watches them
go, and calls after them, bemused.

20 STARLIGHT
Guess I'll...Watch the school?

END TEASER

MAIN TITLES

ACT ONE

SC. 4 - INT. CELESTIA'S CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - DAY

Twilight and Spike enter to find PRINCESS CELESTIA, a not-
happy PRINCESS LUNA, and SHINING ARMOR waiting for them - and
Shining Armor has the Sibling Supreme crown on his head.

21 TWILIGHT
<gasp> You're wearing it?!

Shining Armor uses his magic to take off the crown and levitate it onto Celestia's throne. He smiles to Twilight.

22 SHINING ARMOR
Good to see you too, Twily. Look, I know you've always held a grudge because I walked away with this...

Twilight tries to play it cool and fails miserably.

23 TWILIGHT
Grudge? Pff. What grudge? Just because you've had it for waaay longer than you should have, and I never got a chance to win it back--

24 SHINING ARMOR
That's what this is.

Spike giddily elbows Twilight as Celestia steps forward to explain-

25 CELESTIA
With the return of Sombra, Princess Luna and I felt it was time to reinforce the castle's defenses.

Luna shoots her sister a pouty/annoyed look.

26 LUNA
I said we could do it ourselves, but some ponies are a bit stubborn.

Spike looks back and forth between them, concerned, but Celestia smoothly ignores her.

27 CELESTIA
So I asked our old Captain of the Guard to handle the job.

Shining Armor preens, looking pretty pleased with himself.

28 SHINING ARMOR
I've taken the security here to a new level. The only thing I need now is somepony to test it.

Shining Armor looks pointedly at Twilight. She gapes.

29 TWILIGHT
You want me to break in to
Celestia's castle?!

Shining Armor nods.

30 SHINING ARMOR
If you can get past my defenses,
steal the crown, and get out,
you'll be Sibling Supreme forever.
(off Twilight's grin)
BUT, if you fail, I keep the crown.

31 TWILIGHT
DEAL! (then) Wait...Are you sure
this counts? Mom and Dad aren't
giving us any stars.

32 CELESTIA
I will represent their authority.
And thank you, Twilight. Your help
will reveal if there are any holes
in our security.

Luna rolls her eyes.

33 SPIKE
Hope you like losin', Shiny! We're
kinda experts at gettin' past
shield spells.

34 SHINING ARMOR
(grins)
Too bad there aren't any. The
castle's protection has to work by
itself. That's why I've designed a
multi-tiered, impenetrable, triple-
backed up line of defense.

Twilight and Spike share a worried look.

STYLIZED "OCEAN'S 11" MONTAGE OF DEFENSES - as Shining Armor
narrates, we see renderings of his defenses with cool slide-
ins and side-cuts.

-EXT. CELESTIA'S CASTLE - a ring of GLIMMERING DUST surrounds
the castle. STARSWIRL the BEARDED uses his magic on it,
making a see-through SHIELD OF LIGHT rise around the castle.

35 SHINING ARMOR (V.O.)
The castle is surrounded by shards
of Queen Chrysalis' throne.
(MORE)

SHINING ARMOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Thanks to Starswirl, its anti-magic powers are now tuned to stop anycreature from using a spell to get inside.

-EXT. MAIN GATES - guarded by a SQUAD of CANTERLOT GUARDS.

36 SHINING ARMOR (V.O.)

The only way in is through the main gates, which are heavily guarded by Canterlot's Finest.

-INT. CELESTIA'S CASTLE - HALLWAY - Guards are posted at every doorway.

37 SHINING ARMOR (V.O.)

And even if you could get in, which you can't, I've doubled the ranks of security. Ponies protect every hallway and door - which can only be opened with Royal Guard medals.

PUSH THROUGH THE HALLWAY to the Throne Room. A Guard Pony puts his medallion to the door. It swings open to INT. THRONE ROOM as Shining Armor narrates...

38 SHINING ARMOR (V.O.)

But, if you still manage to pass the impassible guards, the throne room is the safest spot in Equestria. Because it's filled with-

REVEAL - the rafters and room are filled with patrolling, glaring GEESE. They begin <HONKING>.

I/C Spike - he raises disbelieving brows. Oh, c'mon.

39 SPIKE

Geese?

40 SHINING ARMOR

Nature's alarm system. Plus they bite.

Shining Armor rubs a red spot on his foreleg and winces.

BACK TO THE MONTAGE -- INT. THRONE ROOM. The thrones glow with a magical forcefield. A THIEF PONY sneaks toward them.

41 SHINING ARMOR (CONT'D)

The thrones are surrounded by a magic field. Just one hoofstep will trigger its pit trap.

The floor opens under the thief, and he plummets from view.

I/C Twilight - she nods, serious.

42 TWILIGHT
Wow. Sounds like there's no way to
get in by hoof.

Shining Armor smiles - he's so onto her.

43 SHINING ARMOR
You can't fly in either.
(off Twilight's surprise)
I know what you're thinking, Twily.
Which is why I set up air defenses.

BACK TO MONTAGE - EXT. CASTLE - Steampunk-style WINDMILL
TURBINES are propped on the castle roof. As they spin, their
<GUSTS> of wind blow back a few BIRDS that try to fly past.

44 SHINING ARMOR (CONT'D)
Giant fans keep any creature from
flying too close to the castle.

CAMERA TRAVELS DOWN and PUSHES UNDERGROUND - where a Guard
pony stands in INT. CATACOMB PASSAGE and seals the door out
with bricks and mortar.

45 SHINING ARMOR (CONT'D)
And the entrances to the tunnels
under the castle have been sealed.
There's no getting in from
underground, either.

MATCH DISSOLVE TO:

SC. 5 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - DAY

A chalk drawing of the catacombs. As we pull back, we see
that the room is set with several BLACKBOARDS, INTENSE
DIAGRAMS (of the Mane Six and Spike doing "football play"
versions of a heist), and CASTLE BLUEPRINTS. Twilight and
Spike face the rest of the Mane Six.

46 TWILIGHT
So that's what we're up against.

ON APPLEJACK, RARITY, PINKIE PIE, FLUTTERSHY and RAINBOW DASH
- looking unsure.

47 APPLEJACK
That's a barrel and a half of
obstacles, plus a bushel and peck
of impenetrability.

48 RARITY
And all this is to win some
fillyhood competition with your
brother?

49 TWILIGHT
It's more than that! Okay, it's
exactly that.
 (adds last minute)
And to help protect Celestia's
castle.

50 FLUTTERSHY
If it means that much to you,
Twilight, we're in.

51 PINKIE PIE
I was already in. C'mon, who
doesn't want to party with geese?!

52 RAINBOW DASH
Of course we'll help. But...How?!

Dash gestures to the daunting diagrams. Spike steps forward-

53 SPIKE
Shining Armor may have come up with
some great security, but he'll
never expect Twilight's plan.

Twilight begins assigning roles, very military commander.

54 TWILIGHT
We play to our strengths. Pinkie,
you'll distract the guards with a
surprise party.

Pinkie salutes, very official.

55 PINKIE PIE
Sir, yes sir, Twilight sir!

56 TWILIGHT
Applejack, you'll buck your way
into the sealed tunnels. Rainbow
Dash, you're faster than those wind
turbines. You'll fly in. Rarity,
you're in charge of making us guard
costumes so nopony detects us, and
Fluttershy, you'll charm the geese.

The Mane Six brighten - that all sounds feasible! Until
Spike <COUGHS> up a scroll with a burst of fire.

57 SPIKE
It's from Shining Armor. (reading)
Dear Twily, Hope your plan isn't
just...(scanning ahead, then)
He...He guessed the whole thing!

58 TWILIGHT
What?!
(reads, building ire)
Pinkie party, Rarity costumes,
Applejack bucking...Signed the
future Sibling Supreme?! Come on!

Rarity levitates the letter away from Twilight.

59 RARITY
Twilight, darling. No pony knows you
better than your own brother.

60 TWILIGHT
So you're saying I should give up?

[note: the following is a ponified version of George
Clooney's speech "the House always wins" from Ocean's 11]

61 RARITY
I'm saying your brother will win.
No matter how brilliant your plan
is, no matter how many variations
you try, it will be something your
brother expects and he'll always
win. Unless--

With a WHIRL or other dramatic flourish, Rarity suddenly dons
her SHADOW SPADE ATTIRE and tells the others in noir fashion:

62 RARITY (CONT'D)
When that perfect chance comes
along you do something he can't
expect. Then, you'll win.

They all stare, impressed. Then...

63 SPIKE
You've been practicing that speech,
haven't you?

64 RARITY
A little bit. It felt like I rushed
it. Did I rush it?

65 SPIKE
No it was good. I liked it. I'm
still not sure I understand it
though.

66 RARITY
Shining Armor suspects Twilight
will mastermind this plan. Which
is why we must do the opposite!
So... I shall lead this daring
heist - and each of you shall
choose your own unexpected roles!

67 APPLEJACK
That's...Definitely surprisin'.

68 RAINBOW DASH
What's the opposite of flying?

69 RARITY
Allow me to demonstrate...

Rarity twirls her trenchcoat in a WIPE TO--

SC. 6 - INT. CANTERLOT - SEEDY JUICE JOINT - FANTASY SETTING

Possibly in a FILM NOIR setting, as we're seeing through
Rarity's imagination...

Rarity, dressed as SHADOW SPADE, and Rainbow Dash, dressed in
similar attire, BURST through the doors.

A few NE'ER DO WELL PONIES drinking smoothies look up in
surprise/fear. They scatter when Rarity demands--

70 RARITY
We're looking for a pony with
information.

Only the SERVER PONY at the Juicebar is left. He huddles back
as Rarity and Rainbow Dash approach.

71 RAINBOW DASH
We got questions, and you're gonna
serve us up some answers, juice
jockey.

72 RARITY
Where is the secret entrance to the
passages under Canterlot Castle?

73 SERVER PONY
Shining Armor sealed them all.
There is no secret entrance.

Rarity leaps atop the bar and meets him eye-to-eye.

74 RARITY
There's always a secret entrance!

75 RAINBOW DASH
Yeah. So make like a glass of OJ
and spill.

Rainbow Dash juices an orange between her hooves.

76 PINKIE PIE (V.O.)
Ooh! Ooh! I know what I can do!

As Pinkie's voice interrupts, the scene DISSOLVES TO--

SC. 7 - EXT. SKY - FANTASY SETTING

Track with a hot air balloon, getting higher and higher from the ground below.

77 PINKIE PIE (V.O.)
You're gonna need a lookout, so I
can be your eye in the sky!
(then)
Too low, silly, up here!

The CAMERA TRACKS past the balloon up to...**SC. 8 - EXT. SPACE!**

Pinkie and Gummy, both in space suits, float by. (Gummy is upside down. He licks his helmet and his tongue gets stuck to the glass.

78 PINKIE PIE
You can see everything from space!
Plus, I always wanted to visit.

Pinkie moonwalks across the sky, then bounces off an asteroid and slides around Saturn's rings.

As she does, Saturn grows comical eyes and a mouth.

79 SATURN
Hello, Pinkie! That tickles!

DISSOLVE TO:

SC. 9 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - RESUME

The other ponies are all looking at Pinkie in disbelief.

80 PINKIE PIE
Whaaaat?

Applejack shakes her head.

81 APPLEJACK
How about somethin' a little more
down to earth. Like...

SC. 10 - EXT. CANTERLOT - STAGE - FANTASY SETTING

AJ in a Country-Western outfit plays guitar. The Guards all leave their posts to listen.

82 APPLEJACK (V.O.)
I distract the guard ponies with a
farewell performance by my alter
ego, famous country western super-
star, Apple Chord?

83 TWILIGHT (V.O.)
I didn't know you had an alter-ego.
And why would she be giving a
farewell performance?

84 APPLEJACK (V.O.)
Well, it's a long story...

SC. 11 - EXT. STAGE - FANTASY SETTING

YOUNG APPLEJACK <PLAYS> her guitar for a few ponies. It's really good. They <APPLAUD> as she finishes.

85 APPLEJACK (V.O.)
Back on the farm, playin' music was
about makin' ponies smile.

A SEEDY-LOOKING MANAGER approaches Young Applejack after her performance and floats over a contract and a stack of bits. Young AJ gapes, and signs the paper.

86 APPLEJACK (V.O.)
Wasn't long before she was signed
by a big time music label. She was
playin' concerts every night--

SC. 12 - EXT. BIGGER STAGE - FANTASY SETTING

Young Applejack performs on a real stage with fancy lighting and a costume. We don't see the crowd, but from their <CHEERS AND APPLAUSE>, we know it's a big one! AJ grins.

87 APPLEJACK (V.O.)
And travellin' every day. Hittin'
all the hot spots - Appeloosa, the
Grand Ol' Old Gray, Manehattan...

More shots of AJ performing - but with each one, her smile gets smaller.

SC. 13 - EXT. BACKSTAGE - FANTASY SETTING

As AJ steps offstage, she looks at a photo in her guitar case-

A smiling GRANNY, BIG MAC, and APPLE BLOOM.

Young AJ wipes a tear, missing them.

88 APPLEJACK (V.O.)
But the more famous she got, the
less the music meant. How could she
make ponies smile when she wasn't?

Her manager storms in and points for her to go back onstage.

SC. 14 - EXT. STAGE - FANTASY SETTING

Young Applejack hits a <HIGH NOTE> and her voice gives out.
The crowd <GASPS>.

89 APPLEJACK (V.O.)
Her manager made her sing and sing
until her voice gave out...Only
then did he let her go home.

Her manager storms onstage and points a hoof OS. Young AJ hangs her head and walks away.

SC. 15 - EXT. FARM - FANTASY SETTING

Normal-Aged AJ plays guitar with several FOALS and FILLIES.

90 APPLEJACK (V.O.)
She tried to reinvent herself, and
found her love of music again,
teachin' fillies and colts to play
guitar. And wouldn't ya know it,
one day, her voice came back!

AJ opens her mouth, and sings! The little ones <CLAP!>

SC. 16 - EXT. STAGE - FANTASY SETTING

A grinning normal-aged AJ in a COUNTRY WESTERN OUTFIT takes the stage and plays guitar.

91 APPLEJACK (V.O.)
She was able to return to music
and be a success on her own terms!
And finally, after a long, happy
career, she began her goodbye tour.

SC. 17 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - RESUME

Now it's Applejack's turn to have the ponies look at her in disbelief.

92 RAINBOW DASH
You thought all that up just now?

93 APPLEJACK
Maybe.

94 RARITY
It's absolutely perfect.
Fluttershy, how about you?

Fluttershy looks down, nervous.

95 FLUTTERSHY
I guess the opposite of what I'm
good at is being in small spaces...

96 SPIKE
That's it! We'll be the world's
most daring acrobatic spies!

DISSOLVE TO:

SC. 18 - INT. CASTLE VENTILATION SYSTEM - FANTASY SETTING

Spike and Fluttershy, in SPY GEAR, wriggle through a tiny duct space. Spike leads the way, wearing SPY GOGGLES.

97 SPIKE
Special Agent Fluttershy, target
detected below.

98 FLUTTERSHY
It's almost too easy.

Fluttershy slides open a grate and dives through.

SC. 19 - INT. CELESTIA'S THRONE ROOM - FANTASY SETTING

Fluttershy spins, dips and rolls through a FIELD OF LASERS surrounding the crown.

She reaches it and flips it up with a kick.

Its shiny surface reflects the lasers back to their source and... <BOOM!> destroys their generator.

SC. 20 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - THRONE ROOM

Twilight shrugs to the others.

99 TWILIGHT
I guess I'm the only one left that
still needs a plan.

100 RARITY
Oh no, darling, that IS the plan.
You...Shall do nothing!

Twilight gapes, horrified - her, give up control?! Spike
asides to Rarity.

101 SPIKE
Shining Armor definitely won't
expect that.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SC. 21 - EXT. CANTERLOT CASTLE - DAY

Applejack trots up near the main gates with her guitar. The
CANTERLOT GUARDS exchange confused looks as she sets up.
Shining Armor, on patrol, squints from the castle walls.

102 SHINING ARMOR
Applejack? What are you doing?

103 APPLEJACK
Applejack? Heh, heh, who's that? My
name's Apple Chord and I've got a
couple of songs to play for ya
today. Go ahead and clap your
hooves if you know 'em. This one's
called "Barrel Full Of Hay!"

She quickly starts <PLAYING GUITAR> as the perplexed guards
look on.

104 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
And a one, and a two and a -- *My
love is like a barrel...*

SC. 22 - EXT. NEAR CANTERLOT - SAME TIME

A Hot Air balloon is tethered to the ground. Inside ride
Pinkie and Gummy. Spike and Fluttershy cling to the far side
of the balloon - they'll be hidden from any eyes below as
they approach. Rainbow Dash briefs Spike and Fluttershy--

105 RAINBOW DASH
The Wonderbolts did a flyby, and
the only way past those giant fans
and into the castle ducts is here--

Rainbow Dash holds up a diagram for Spike and Fluttershy.
Like the Deathstar, there's a tiny weakness in the defenses.

106 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
But there's no room for mistakes!

107 PINKIE PIE
Just like space travel!

Pinkie pulls a space helmet on, and pops one on Gummy. She
detaches the tether and the balloon begins to float up.

108 FLUTTERSHY
Uh, Pinkie, we're not actually
going INTO space, right?

109 PINKIE PIE
No, silly! I'm dropping you two
off as soon as we're close to the
fans. Then I'm going into space.

SC. 23 - EXT. CANTERLOT CASTLE BACK WALL - SOON

Twilight walks along the wall, looking at the flowers. She
startles as Shining Armor comes around the corner.

110 SHINING ARMOR
I know you're up to something,
Twily.

111 TWILIGHT
Nope. Just looking at the flowers.

112 SHINING ARMOR
Right. I'll be watching you.

Shining Armor walks off, suspicious. Twilight gives a small
grin and says to herself--

113 TWILIGHT
Maybe Rarity's plan will work!

Until there's a shout from above.

114 PINKIE PIE (O.S.)
Ponyville, we have a problem!

Twilight looks up to see --

IN THE SKY - the Hot Air Balloon whips back and forth out of
control and gets caught in the CROSS WINDS of the fans!

ON TWILIGHT, going from worry to determination. She takes
off, flapping skyward.

BELOW - the Guards look up, concerned, turning away from Applejack's concert.

115 GUARDS
<worried walla>

AJ <STOPS PLAYING>, annoyed.

116 APPLEJACK
Looks like Apple Chord's farewell
tour shoulda started in Las
Pegasus.

Applejack trots up to the guards. They don't even notice her, watching as Twilight saves Pinkie and Gummy above.

117 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
Oh, well. A distraction's a
distraction.

She shrugs and unfastens one of the guard's medallions, pulling off a quick lighthoofed grab.

SC. 24 - EXT. SKY - CONTINUOUS

Twilight uses her magic to float the hot air balloon basket toward the ground with Pinkie and Gummy inside. She does a quick circle around it.

118 TWILIGHT
Where's Spike and Fluttershy? Did
they make it into the castle?

119 PINKIE PIE
(disappointed shrug) That's the
kind of thing you can only see from
space, where I didn't get to go.

120 TWILIGHT
Let's hope Rarity and Rainbow Dash
had better luck...

SC. 25 -EXT. CANTERLOT - SEEDY JUICE JOINT - SAME

Rarity (still in Shadow Spade attire) and Rainbow Dash arrive outside the Juice Bar from Rarity's fantasy sequence, but there's a sign on the door with a picture of a clock.

121 RARITY
What's this? Closed?!

A RANDOM PONY walks by.

122 RANDOM PONY
The Seedy Juice Joint is always
closed around this time.

Rarity grabs him by the collar.

123 RARITY
How are we supposed to shake down
Ne'er Do Wells for information if
the Seedy Juice Joint is closed?!

124 RANDOM PONY
 (perfectly friendly)
What sort of information did you
need?

125 RAINBOW DASH
Um... the location of a secret
entrance to the passages under
Canterlot Castle?

126 RANDOM PONY
You mean that one?

The Random Pony points to a Guard Pony standing in front of a
bricked-up archway. Rarity immediately lets him go,
straightens his collar.

127 RARITY
Yes. Thank you. That will do
nicely.

As the Radom Pony walks off, Dash and Rarity look over at the
Guard who takes off his helmet to reveal...

128 RAINBOW DASH
Oh no. The guard is Zephyr Breeze?!

Dash pulls Rarity around a corner and the two of them peer
back. Sure enough, ZEPHYR BREEZE stands in uniform, looking
at his own reflection in his helmet. Rarity brightens.

129 RARITY
Honestly, dear, this couldn't be
more perfect.

130 RAINBOW DASH
How is this perfect!? He may be
Fluttershy's brother, but he's the
most annoying pony in Equestria,
and he's totally obsessed with me,
and we have to come up with a way
to distract him, and--

Rarity just stares at Dash, raising her eyebrows.

131 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Ooooooh no! No way! Uh, uh!

WIPE TO:

MOMENTS LATER

Rarity shoves a glamorized (make-up, gown, etc.) Dash toward Zephyr.

132 RARITY
I know this isn't your choice
assignment, but you have to admit
it's unexpected.

133 RAINBOW DASH
Ugh. Fine! Just hurry up and unseal
that passageway.

With that, Dash straightens her dress and walks up to Zephyr who grins at her.

134 ZEPHYR BREEZE
Rainbows! I knew you wouldn't be
able to stay away when you heard I
got this job. The mares love a pony
in uniform, amiright?

135 RAINBOW DASH
Not really.

From around the corner, Rarity CLEARS HER THROAT.

136 RARITY
<AHEM>!

137 RAINBOW DASH
I mean, yeah. Totally. Why don't
you step in the light so I can see
how <UGH> handsome you look in it.

As Dash leads Zephyr away from the archway, Rarity rushes up and uses her magic, straining to pull a few bricks loose.

138 ZEPHYR BREEZE
(preening) I told the supply
sergeant that gold wasn't really my
color, but apparently they're not
big on input. Still, I manage to
pull it off, don't you think?

139 RAINBOW DASH
Oh yeah. You're real guard
material.

Dash looks over at Rarity who's pulled a few bricks free.

140 ZEPHYR BREEZE
Wow, it is so good to see you being
honest with yourself about your
feelings for me, Rainbows.

141 RAINBOW DASH
Yeah. That's me. Super honest.

Dash grits her teeth and looks again to Rarity who's freed enough bricks for them to get through. She motions for Dash to follow and while Dash sneaks away, Zephyr keeps talking.

142 ZEPHYR BREEZE
Honesty is key. For reals. I mean,
take me. I never saw myself as a
castle guard, but now, I kinda feel
like guarding is my calling. Plus,
I'm seriously good at it, so...

He continues, oblivious, as Dash sneaks past him and into the catacombs.

SC. 26 - INT. CANTERLOT CATACOMBS - CONTINUOUS

Dash runs along the darkened passage way toward Rarity who lights the way with her horn.

143 RAINBOW DASH
Ugh. It's a good thing you got the
passageway open when you did. I
don't think I could imagine
anything worse than listening to
Zephyr for one more second.

144 RARITY
Luckily you don't have to imagine.

With that, Rarity turns her horn and illuminates the passage, dark, slimy, and small, it disappears into the gloomy distance. A rat scurries by.

145 RARITY (CONT'D)
I hope the others are having an
easier time of it.

SC. 27 - EXT. CANTERLOT CASTLE WALL - SAME

Fluttershy and Spike cling to the side of the castle, barely hanging on by a window sill as currents of air from the giant fans whip past. Spike shouts above the gale.

146 SPIKE
AT LEAST YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY
ABOUT BEING IN A SMALL SPACE!

147 FLUTTERSHY
We can't fly in this wind. Come on!

Fluttershy pulls herself into the window and drags Spike up. As Spike gets his head above the frame he looks into the castle and sees - the throne room, and the crown!

148 SPIKE
Fluttershy, look!

SC. 28 - INT. CELESTIA'S THRONE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Spike prepares to flap over and grab the crown, but Fluttershy holds out a hoof. She points to the ceiling where the flock of ALARM GEESE line the rafters sleeping.

149 FLUTTERSHY
(whisper) We'll have to glide to
the throne. No flapping.

Spike nods and spreads his wings as the two of them take off in a wide arc, silently spiraling toward the throne.

Unfortunately, just as they turn to come in for a landing, the doors to the room swing open and Luna appears.

In a flurry of flaps, Spike and Fluttershy make a detour behind the throne and out of sight, but the moment their hooves and claws touch the ground the PIT TRAP activates.

All the sound wakes the GEESE who take flight with a barrage of HONKING. Luna rolls her eyes and turns, heading back into the hall.

150 LUNA
Sister! The "alarm geese" are at it
again.

Fluttershy and Spike barely cling to the back of the throne as the honking Geese circle above. Spike tries to wave one of them away, but slips and falls, dragging the both of them into the pit.

SC. 29 - INT. OUBLIETTE BENEATH THRONE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Spike and Fluttershy tumble to the stone floor of a small, cell-like enclosure with a THUD. Spike looks up.

151 SPIKE
I think we can still fly out. If
we're fast we might be able to get
the crown before Luna comes back.

Immediately the ceiling above (the floor of the throne room) slides shut -- they're trapped.

152 SPIKE (CONT'D)
Or not. Sorry, Fluttershy. Looks
like we're in a small space after
all. But it's not so bad, is it?

PAN to Fluttershy, hyperventilating.

SC. 30 - EXT. CASTLE - SAME

Twilight stands in front of the castle. Suddenly, Shining Armor appears at the gates. Twilight quickly picks a flower and makes a show of smelling it. Her brother just points to his eyes, then to her indicating, "I'm watching you."

Twilight looks anxiously over at Applejack, who's still trying to engage the guards with her guitar playing, but nopony is paying her any attention. Twilight frets.

153 TWILIGHT
We should have heard by now.
Something must have gone wrong.

154 PINKIE PIE (O.S.)
Probably several somethings.

PAN to Pinkie using Gummy like a stapler, as she tries to fix a big rip in her balloon.

155 TWILIGHT
No lookout, no distraction, and no
word from the ponies inside...

As Twilight talks we do a series of stylized slide-in wipes (a la Oceans Eleven) that divide the screen into sections depicting our girls:

- Rarity and Dash wandering aimlessly through the slimy disgusting maze of catacombs under the castle.

- Spike doing his best to calm Fluttershy in full freak out as she tries to find a way out of their prison.

- Twilight, Pinkie, and AJ outside just as we left them.

156 TWILIGHT (CONT'D)
I'm starting to think this whole
operation might be a giant flop.

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

SC. 31 - INT. UNDER CELESTIA'S THRONE ROOM - DAY

Fluttershy zips around the small room in a panic, feeling along the edges of the walls for some kind of way out.

157 FLUTTERSHY
Come on. Come on.

158 SPIKE
Geeze, Fluttershy, I thought your whole "small spaces" thing was just part of the plan to be unexpected. I didn't realize you were really claustrophobic.

159 FLUTTERSHY
I didn't used to be, but once I got trapped in the Castle of the Two Sisters and Angel Bunny and I were separated. Now whenever I'm in a small space it's all I can think about! I was so worried he felt alone and forgotten.

160 SPIKE
I know what that's like.

Fluttershy stops her frantic search and looks at him.

161 FLUTTERSHY
What do you mean?

162 SPIKE
I was always excited to be a part of Twilight's and Shining Armor's rivalry, like I was their little brother, but they never really thought of me that way.

163 FLUTTERSHY
I know both Twilight and Shining Armor have a special place in their hearts for you, but sibling dynamics are hard. Trust me.

164 SPIKE
Ugh. Right. Zephyr.

165 FLUTTERSHY
(nods)
Honestly, he could learn a thing or
two from you about being a little
brother.

As Fluttershy and Spike share a smile, the wall behind them
slides open to reveal Rarity and Rainbow Dash, mid-argument --
they don't even notice the others.

166 RARITY
I'm sick of trudging through these
slimy corridors too, but you
shouldn't try every lever you come
across. Half of them are traps.

167 RAINBOW DASH
And the other half might open a
secret passage to the castle.

168 RARITY
I'm not convinced it's worth the
risk.

Rarity glances over to Spike.

169 RARITY (CONT'D)
Oh, hello, Spike.
(back to Dash)
Even if we did find our way into
the castle, we'd still have all
those guards to contend with and--
(looks back, realizing)
SPIKE! FLUTTERSHY!

They all embrace.

170 RAINBOW DASH
What are you guys doing down here?

171 SPIKE
We kind of fell through the floor.

172 FLUTTERSHY
I don't think our plan is working.

173 RARITY
Perhaps we should make our way back
outside and reevaluate the
situation.

174 RAINBOW DASH
Fine. As long as you're okay
trudging through those slimly
corridors again.

Off Rarity's frown...

SC. 32 - EXT. CASTLE - LATER

Twilight paces back and forth, looking up occasionally to see
Shining Armor is still watching her.

175 SPIKE (O.S.)
<PSSSST!>

Twilight looks up to see Spike, Rarity, Dash, and Fluttershy
around a corner. Spike waves to her to come over.

Twilight gets Pinkie and AJ's attention and the three of them
head over to meet the rest.

176 TWILIGHT
What are you all doing out here?

177 RAINBOW DASH
The plan didn't exactly go as
planned.

178 RARITY
In retrospect it might have been
too unexpected.

179 TWILIGHT
Every part of the plan failed? Now
I'll never get the crown.

180 PINKIE PIE
On the upside we got a lot of
valuable information.

181 APPLEJACK
About what?

182 PINKIE PIE
About how totally impenetrable
Shining Armor's security is!

Twilight drops her head into her hoof. Spike steps up and
puts a claw on her shoulder.

183 SPIKE
Maybe if doing things the
unexpected way didn't work, we
should go back to doing them the
Twilight way.

Twilight looks up, confused.

184 TWILIGHT
You mean, the totally expected way?

185 SPIKE
It may not be a surprise, but you
have a pretty good record for
planning things.

The others all nod in agreement. Twilight looks at them
encouraged.

186 TWILIGHT
Maybe you're right. Thanks for the
pep talk, Spike.

187 SPIKE
That's what little brothers are
for.

188 TWILIGHT
Okay...

As Twilight talks we WIPE TO a...

ANOTHER STYLIZED "OCEAN'S 11" MONTAGE - as Twilight lays out
her new/old plan, we see it unfold in real time with more
cool slide-ins and side-cuts.

189 TWILIGHT (V.O.)
Pinkie will distract the guards
with her best party ever.

-EXT. CELESTIA'S CASTLE - the guards wander away from the
main gate, marveling at a collection of party decorations
strewn around the courtyard. As they walk past a PIÑATA it
slowly turns to reveal it's PINKIE!

190 PINKIE PIE (V.O.)
No problem. Some of those new
guards are so young, they haven't
even had their cute-ceañera!

One of the guards looks up at the Pink-ñata but his helmet is
too big and it falls over his face. He removes it and sets it
down where a hoof reaches in from off screen and grabs it.

REVEAL - it's Rarity, and the helmet is the last piece in her perfect guard outfit.

191 TWILIGHT (V.O.)
Rarity will disguise herself as a
guard and use the medallion
Applejack was able to take earlier
to get into the castle.

CLOSE - on a guard's star medallion which Rarity floats out of AJ's hat and onto her uniform.

192 APPLEJACK (V.O.)
I reckon that's the one part of our
unexpected plan that worked --
unexpectedly.

PUSH THROUGH THE GATES to follow Rarity as she walks past other guards and into the throne room.

193 RARITY (V.O.)
(with accent)
And if I'm stopped by any guards
I'll use my real speaking voice to
cover our tracks.

[Note - the accent Rarity uses should be similar to her parents']

I/C Spike - he stares at her in disbelief.

194 SPIKE
Wait. Your real speaking voice? You
mean the way you normally talk is
made up? I don't understand.

195 RARITY
(back to normal voice)
<NERVOUS COUGH> Never mind.

BACK TO THE MONTAGE -- EXT. ABOVE THE CASTLE - In her element, Dash dips and soars past the gusts of air generated from the windmills, navigating the gauntlet with ease.

196 TWILIGHT (V.O.)
Meanwhile, Rainbow Dash will fly
circles around those wind machines
and get into the castle from above.

-EXT. CATACOMBS - Zephyr hands his helmet to another sour-faced guard while a MASON PONY re-bricks up the archway.

197 ZEPHYR BREEZE
Too be fair, it was never made
specifically clear to me what
"guarding" actual means.

The sour-faced guard rolls his eyes and Zephyr slinks off.

198 TWILIGHT (V.O.)
With the entrance to the catacombs
resealed, we'll have to make our
own way in...

REVEAL - Twilight and the rest peering at the new guard from around the corner. Twilight turns and leads them off.

CLOSE - on Twilight making an "X" in the bare rock beneath the castle. AJ looks at the rock face uncertain.

199 APPLEJACK (V.O.)
I'm strong, Twilight, but I'm not
sure even I can buck through solid
rock.

200 TWILIGHT (V.O.)
Which is why we'll bring in a
specialist.

MAUD steps out of the shadows. She gives the rock face a few taps, then nods. At Maud's direction, AJ bucks the rock making a new entrance to the catacombs and they all file in.

-INT. THRONE ROOM - The M6 all reach the throne room at the same time.

201 TWILIGHT (V.O.)
And finally, Fluttershy will disarm
those alarm geese with her natural
disarming affinity with animals.

Fluttershy flies up and nuzzles with the GEESE who surround her in a feathery hug as we...

MATCH DISSOLVE TO:

SC. 33 - INT. CELESTIA'S THRONE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The same scene in real time. The ponies all stand at the edge of the throne room looking at the crown.

202 RAINBOW DASH
I can't believe that whole plan
worked.

203 SPIKE
I guess sometimes the best plan is
the one you expect.

204 TWILIGHT
All I have to do now is fly over
and take the crown and I'll be
Sibling Supreme forever.

But just as Twilight spreads her wings to take flight,
Shining Armor steps out from behind the curtains.

205 SHINING ARMOR
Not exactly.

Both Princesses follow him out and, stand on either side of
the throne. Twilight's expression drops.

206 TWILIGHT
Oh, come on!

207 SHINING ARMOR
I have to admit, it was kind of
unexpected for you to do everything
exactly how I thought you would.
But you should know by now there's
no way to beat the true SIBLING
SUPREME!

Twilight <SIGHS>, exasperated. Celestia steps forward.

208 CELESTIA
I am sorry, Twilight, but it looks
as though Shining Armor has truly
won the crown.

From off-screen, Spike <CLEARS HIS THROAT>.

209 SPIKE
That's the thing about looks...

As they all turn to look at Spike, he reaches behind his back
and pulls out -- THE CROWN!

210 SPIKE (CONT'D)
...they can be deceiving!

Confused, they all do a double take and see that the crown on
the throne is, in fact, gone!

Twilight and Shining Armor rush forward in disbelief.

211 TWILIGHT
Spike!

212 SHINING ARMOR
How in Equestria did you do it?

213 SPIKE
Come on. You two don't think you
have the only sibling rivalry? I
had an inside pony help.

Spike motions to Luna and Celestia turns to her sister in shock.

214 LUNA
I told you we should have handled
the security ourselves.

SC. 34 - INT. THRONE ROOM - FLASHBACK

Spike explains in a replay of the scene when Twilight and Spike first came to the Castle.

215 SPIKE (V.O.)
It wasn't hard to miss there was
some disagreement on the whole
"security" thing.

As before Luna shoots her sister a pouty/annoyed look.

216 LUNA
I said we could do it ourselves,
but some ponies are a bit stubborn.

As Spike looks back and forth between them, as before - he continues to narrate.

217 SPIKE (V.O.)
So, while Shining Armor went on and
on about all his improved security
measures, Luna and I struck a deal.

In a previously unseen angle, Spike sidles up to Luna, whispering in her ear. As a smile spreads across her face...

SLIDE TO:

SC. 35 - EXT. NEAR CANTERLOT - FLASHBACK

Fluttershy and Spike cling to the side of Pinkie's hot air balloon. Pinkie gives them the thumbs up and they disengage.

218 SPIKE (V.O.)
Once Luna was on board, I just had
to do my part...

As they fly past, Spike sticks out a claw, ripping a hole in the balloon causing air to rush out and Pinkie to lose control. As he and Fluttershy tumble toward the castle...

SLIDE TO:

SC. 36 - EXT. CASTLE - FLASHBACK

As before, a despondent Twilight drops her head into her hoof and Spike puts a reassuring claw on her shoulder.

219 SPIKE (V.O.)
...and make sure we stuck to
Twilight's plan so we'd all arrive
in the throne room at the same
time.

SLIDE TO:

SC. 37 - INT. THRONE ROOM - FLASHBACK

As from moments ago, they all arrive to see Shining Armor step out from behind the curtains.

220 SPIKE (V.O.)
I knew Shining Armor would let it
play out until the last possible
second.

A victorious Shining Armor strides toward his sister as Spike continues.

221 SPIKE
Then, while everyone was distracted
by his victory gloating, all Luna
had to do was float the crown over
to me.

From a previously unseen angle, Luna does exactly that as we...

SLIDE TO:

SC. 38 - INT. THRONE ROOM - PRESENT

As Spike finishes, everypony stares up at him in awe. Finally, Celestia give a little <COUGH>.

222 CELESTIA
It seems as though we need to make
adjustments to account for threats
inside the castle as well as out.
(then) If you agree, sister.

Luna gives her sister a smirk.

223 LUNA
I think it's worth discussing.

224 CELESTIA
Indeed. And I apologize for not
taking your concerns more seriously
before.

225 TWILIGHT
But who gets the crown?

226 SHINING ARMOR
Yeah. Which one of us is Sibling
Supreme?

Luna looks at them and smiles.

227 LUNA
Oh, I think the answer should be
fairly obvious.

With that she floats the crown onto Spike's head. He beams
and everypony gives a good natured laugh.

228 SHINING ARMOR
Of course!

229 TWILIGHT
I have to agree. If anypony's
earned it it's you, Spike.

230 SHINING ARMOR
The little brother we've always
had!

Shining Armor and Twilight rush over and give Spike a big hug
as we...

IRIS OUT ON SPIKE AND...

END.