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MY LITTLE PONY

Season 8

The Point of No Return

Ep 905

Teleplay First Draft

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TEASER

FADE IN:

SC. 1 - EXT. SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP - DAY

SPIKE is staring at something OS, a weird look on his face.
As TWILIGHT SPARKLE TROTS up, Spike asks--

1 SPIKE
Uh, Twilight? When did we get a new
statue?

Twilight looks to where Spike is pointing.

MUFFINS' HINDQUARTERS stick straight up out of a shrub.

2 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
We didn't.

Twilight uses her magic to LEVITATE Muffins free of the
shrub. Muffins is clutching a package.

3 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
Muffins, are you okay?

4 MUFFINS
Mhm! Just making my deliveries.
(re, the shrub)
You really should clean your mailbox.
It's crawling with ants.

Twilight and Spike recoil as Muffins holds up a hoof, covered
in ants. Muffins flies off. Twilight calls after her--

5 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Uh, thank you!
(eyes the package)
It's from Princess Celestia.

Spike coughs FLAME - producing a LETTER.

6 SPIKE
So's this. (then) Really? She couldn't
have put it into the box?

Twilight levitates the letter from him and reads it aloud:

7 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
"Dear Twilight. I have been conducting
a thorough cleaning of the castle, and
I came across a few items of yours in
your old room. I thought you might
want them back."

Twilight brightens and uses her magic to open the box.

8 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
I didn't even know I'd left anything!
(then)
Awww, look!

She pulls out a hoof-made MACARONI FRAME with a PHOTO of YOUNG TWI, YOUNG SHINING ARMOR, and their PARENTS.

9 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
Remember this? It's the macaroni
picture frame Cadance helped me make
when I was a filly!

A piece of pasta falls off the frame. Spike deadpans--

10 SPIKE
Who could forget a masterpiece like
that?

Twi continues to lift items out of the box: A RETRO STARSWIRL FIGURINE, QUILLS, and a PILE OF SCROLLS. She beams.

11 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
My original Starswirl action figure!
And some my favorite school scrolls!

She unfurls a scroll and sighs with nostalgia.

12 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
My extra, extra credit report on "The
Impediments of Using Magic in Everyday
Chores"!
(then, aside)
I had *fun* researching that one.

13 SPIKE
I bet. Anything else in there?

Spike leans into the box and FALLS IN. His arm pops up from inside, holding AN OLD BOOK.

14 SPIKE (CONT'D)
Hey, what's this?

Twilight looks up from her essay... And gapes in horror.

15 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Oh no, oh no, oh no...

16 SPIKE
What's wrong? It just looks like an
old library book.

Twilight levitates the book over.

17 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Exactly! It belongs to the Canterlot
Library. That means it's...

She flips the book open. We see a CLOSE UP on the weathered
and stamped CHECK-OUT CARD inside. Twilight GULPS.

18 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
... OVERDUE!

END TEASER.

SC. 2 - EXT. SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP - RESUME

Twilight paces, levitating the book with her. Spike listens
and watches her go back and forth, like a tennis match.

19 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
You don't understand, Spike. I have a
perfect library book-return record!

Spike raises a claw.

20 SPIKE
Had a perfect record--

21 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
<groan> I've never turned in a book
even a minute late! And this one--

Twilight looks around to make sure nopony is listening. In a
HISSED WHISPER:

22 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
Has been overdue since I left for
Ponyville!

ZOOM IN to her eyeball (Ratatouille-flashback style) to...

SC. 3 - INT. CANTERLOT LIBRARY - FLASHBACK

Younger Twilight Sparkle stands at the CHECK-OUT COUNTER with
a stack of books. She levitates them into her bag. A sweet
old librarian mare, DUSTY PAGES, stamps the last book.

Dusty Pages smiles warmly at Twilight. She passes her *the*
book (from current day).

23 DUSTY PAGES
Make sure you bring this one back on
time. We've got a long waiting list of
ponies who can't wait to read it!

24 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I promise I won't let you down!

Dusty gives her a grandmotherly wink.

25 DUSTY PAGES
Of course you won't, dear. If there's
anypony I can trust to take care of a
book, it's you, Twilight Sparkle!

Twilight grins, proud.

ZOOM BACK TO:

SC. 4 - EXT. SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP - RESUME

We ZOOM back out of Twilight's eye. She's even more panicked.

26 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
And then Celestia sent me to Ponyville
and I forgot all about the book!
Dusty Pages was the nicest librarian
I've ever met. And I failed her!

27 SPIKE
(dry)
I take it we're going to Canterlot.

CUT TO:

SC. 5 - EXT. CANTERLOT LIBRARY - LATER

Twilight and Spike land a short distance from the Canterlot Library steps. Spike wastes no time and starts toward the doors, but Twilight hangs back, pensive.

Spike stops and turns around, calling to her--

28 SPIKE (CONT'D)
What are you waiting for, Twilight?
Let's go return your OVERDUE BOOK!

His last few words seem to echo. A few PONIES passing by look up. Twilight grins widely to them.

29 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Heh heh. (then, to Spike) SHHHH!

She pulls him aside and they duck behind a corner.

30 SPIKE
(whispering)
Why are we hiding?

31 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
What if somepony sees me in there?

32 SPIKE
Princess Twilight Sparkle in a
library? Alert the presses!

33 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
But what if the librarian is so upset
that she cuts off my access to the
rare book collections?

Twilight's eyes widen. She levitates a LIBRARY CARD with a
GOOFY PICTURE OF YOUNG TWILIGHT on it from her saddlebag.

34 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
What if she revokes my library card?
Or bans me from reading anything ever
again?!

35 SPIKE
Pretty sure that's impossible.

Twilight sighs.

36 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I know. I just feel so guilty! If I
can't set a good example in proper
library behavior, then what kind of
princess am I?

Spike pats Twilight's shoulder.

37 SPIKE
One that makes mistakes like everypony
else. Trust me, once you apologize to
Dusty Pages, you'll feel lots better.

38 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Thanks, Spike. Let's go.

Twilight starts out from her hiding place. Suddenly a RANDOM
PONY walks by. Twilight ducks back into hiding. Spike raises
an eyebrow at her. She grins sheepishly.

39 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
Uh, NOW let's go.

Spike shakes his head and follows her.

CUT TO:

SC. 6 - INT. CANTERLOT LIBRARY - CONTINUOUS

A few PONIES sit quietly at desks, reading. Twilight tiptoes past them, then stops and looks around, as though lost. She hisses to Spike--

40 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Spike! Where's the overdue book
return?

41 SPIKE
(shrugging)
Beats me. Maybe she knows.

ANGLE ON the CHECKOUT DESK where a YOUNG LIBRARIAN PONY(not Dusty Pages) stands. Twilight approaches.

42 LIBRARIAN PONY
How can I help, Princess? Need some
recommendations from the new releases
section?

The Librarian motions her hoof to a full BOOK CART. Twilight brightens, interested.

43 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Oh, those do look--

Spike elbows her.

44 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
I mean, uh, no books today, thanks.

A few ponies in the background audibly <GASP>. Twilight lowers her voice.

45 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
But I do need to speak with Dusty
Pages about a... Sensitive matter.

46 LIBRARIAN PONY
(puzzled)
Dusty who?

Twilight chuckles nervously, thinking she's made a joke.

47 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Dusty Pages! The head librarian?
She's worked here forever. Yellow mane
and purple glasses?

The Librarian Pony shakes her head, looking apologetic.

48 LIBRARIAN PONY
I'm sorry, Princess. No pony by that
name works here.

Twilight deflates.

49 LIBRARIAN PONY (CONT'D)
But maybe I can help. What did you
need to speak with her about?

Twilight bites her lip and looks to Spike. Spike casually
flips through a COMIC BOOK. He stops and leans in, using the
book as a shield to hide their mouths.

50 SPIKE
(whispering)
Just ask her where to return overdue
books. It's no big deal. It happens
all the time!

51 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
(whispering)
Not to me!
(then, deep breath)
Fine.

Then Twilight freezes, realizing what she just said.

52 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
Fine! Oh no. I didn't even think about
the late fine! A book out this long
will probably cost a thousand bits!

The Librarian Pony watches this exchange behind the comic
book quizzically.

Spike takes the initiative. He grabs the book out Twilight's
saddlebag and approaches the counter.

53 SPIKE
She-- I mean *we*, have an overdue book.

The librarian smiles.

54 LIBRARIAN PONY
Well, that's no problem at all. In
fact, it happens all the time!

Spike smirks and nudges Twilight smugly.

55 SPIKE
See?

Spike passes the book over. Twilight breathes a sigh of relief as the Librarian opens the front cover.

56 LIBRARIAN PONY
(smiling)
We'll just enter it into the system
and--

Her eyes bug out as she sees the date on the card. Her sunny demeanor changes.

57 LIBRARIAN PONY (CONT'D)
Ohhhhh, wow. Eeeesh. Haven't seen a
book this late in, well, ever. You'll
need to go to the "Long Overdue and
Embarrassing Fines Office."

Twilight wilts in utter shame and takes the book back.

58 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Don't pull any punches with those
names, do ya?

59 SPIKE
And that would be...

60 LIBRARIAN PONY
In the basement.

The librarian passes them a paper map.

CUT TO:

SC. 7 - INT. CANTERLOT LIBRARY - BASEMENT OFFICES

The corridor is DARK, COBWEBBED and SPOOKY. Twilight has her head down as she takes the walk of shame. Spike's wing gets caught in a cobweb and he pulls it free.

61 SPIKE
Whoa. Looks like nopony ever goes down
here.

62 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Nopony except rule breakers that
deserve to be shamed.

63 SPIKE
And their faithful dragon companions.

Spike notices something on the door at the end of the hall.

64 SPIKE (CONT'D)
Hey, there's a note on the door.

65 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Abandon hope all ye who enter?

Spike leans forward to read the pinned note.

66 SPIKE
(reading)
"Out to lunch on Restaurant Row."
(then shrugs)
Guess we'll have to try back later.

Spike turns to go. Twilight levitates him back.

67 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
No way! I can't wait another minute to
return this book! In the time it's
taken us to get here, I've already
racked up another--

Twilight looks up, doing the math in her head.

68 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
Seventeen bits in late fees!

Twilight's face transforms from panic to determination.

69 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
We're going to lunch!

70 SPIKE
Good, cause I'm starving!
(then)
Oh. You mean to find the pony that
works here.
(an idea)
Can we least get take out?

But Twilight is already racing down the hall. Spike hurries after her.

CUT TO:

SC. 8 - INT. TASTY TREAT RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS

A few customers are waited on by CORIANDER CUMIN and SAFFRON MASALA. At a table, Twilight peers around a menu and whispers to Spike--

71 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Tell me if you see any librarian-type
ponies.

72 SPIKE
Twilight, we've tried this at three
other restaurants already.
(off her pleading look)
Fiiine.

Spike goes to peer at ponies' cutie marks. A Pony customer notices him and waves a hoof.

73 PONY CUSTOMER
Waiter, we're ready to order.

74 SPIKE
Oh, I'm not actually a---

75 PONY CUSTOMER
Three samosas, two curry specials...

Spike, unsure what to do, pulls out a scroll and writes.

Twilight <GROANS> to herself and face-plants on the table.
Then she hears--

76 MOONDANCER
Twilight? Is that you?

Twilight looks up to see her old friend, MOONDANCER.

77 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Moondancer! How have you been? I'm
just visiting...No real reason. Heh.

78 MOONDANCER
Well it's good to see you! I'm just
meeting a librarian friend for lunch,
do you want to join us?

She motions to a pony at a table nearby - this is SADDLE
STITCH, who happens to be the late returns librarian.

79 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
LIBRARIAN? YES! I mean, thank you.

Twilight follows Moondancer to the table, where she's
introduced to the other pony.

80 MOONDANCER
Twilight, this is Saddle Stitch.

81 SADDLE STITCH
Good to meet you, Princess. Are you in
town for long?

82 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Just for a quick visit. I'm actually
hoping to visit with Dusty Pages. For
uh... old time's sake.

Saddle Stitch and Moondancer share a look.

83 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
What is it?

84 MOONDANCER
You didn't hear? Dusty Pages left the
library moons ago.

Twilight's jaw drops.

85 SADDLE STITCH
One day, she just up and went. If you
ask me, it was because of that book
that was never returned.

Twilight gasps and sinks in her chair. Oblivious, SS goes on-

86 SADDLE STITCH (CONT'D)
She had a perfect librarian record
before that. Such a shame that one
careless pony had to ruin it for her--

87 MOONDANCER
Are you okay, Twilight?

We PAN BACK OVER to Twilight, who looks pale and sick.

88 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Uh huh... Would... You excuse me?

Twilight rushes out of the restaurant, nearly crashing into
Spike, who is now wearing an apron and carrying plates. He
shrugs to the nearest dining ponies.

89 SPIKE
Too much curry.

SC. 9 - EXT. TASTY TREAT RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS

Spike (no longer in an apron), hurries out to find Twilight.

90 SPIKE
Twilight, what's wrong?

Twilight levitates the book out of her bag.

91 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Dusty Pages isn't working at the library anymore because I didn't return this book. Spike...I think I got her *FIRE*D!

Off Twilight's horrified face as we...

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SC. 10 - EXT. CANTERLOT STREETS - SHORTLY AFTER

Spike follows Twilight as she rushes through the streets of Canterlot. She clearly knows exactly where she is going.

92 SPIKE
But the library is back that way!

93 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Change of plans!

94 SPIKE
So you're NOT going to return the book?

95 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
No. Dusty Pages is! It's my fault she lost her job. So if I give her the book, *she* can return it and get her old job back! It'll fix everything!

They turn a corner and Twilight stops in front of a cute cottage. Twilight takes a deep breath and <KNOCKS>.

The door swings open. But instead of a sweet granny on the other side, it's a burly MEATHEAD PONY. He seems annoyed at the interruption.

96 MEATHEAD PONY
Didn't ya see the sign?!

He points and we PAN OVER to a sign with "NO" circle around a cheesy, smiling pony holding a briefcase.

97 MEATHEAD PONY (CONT'D)
"No Salesponies"!

98 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Oh, I'm not selling anything! I'm just looking for somepony who used to live here. I'm pretty sure this was her house...

99 MEATHEAD PONY
Dusty Pages?

100 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
(brightening)
Yes!

101 MEATHEAD PONY
Hold on.

He disappears and returns with a stack of MAIL. He passes the letters to Spike.

102 MEATHEAD PONY (CONT'D)
When you find her, can you give her these? Been stackin' up for years.

Meathead <SLAMS> the door. Twilight deflates.

Suddenly, a NEIGHBOR, watering her lawn, calls out--

103 NEIGHBOR
Did I hear y'all say you were lookin' for Dusty Pages? I think she moved to number seven on "Four Princesses Avenue," on the east side of town.

104 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Thank you!

105 SPIKE
Wow. Who names these streets?

CUT TO:

SC. 11 - EXT. FOUR PRINCESSES AVENUE - SHORTLY AFTER

The street of cottages looks almost identical to the one before, except each house is "princess" themed (i.e. Color schemes of each of the princesses-- blue and black for Luna, purple for Twilight, light pink for Cadance, etc).

106 SPIKE
Now it all makes sense.

Twilight trots ahead and stops in front of a Twilight-Colored house.

107 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
This should be number seven...

Spike points to the front door, which has a big version of Twilight's Cutie Mark painted on it.

108 SPIKE
Sure doesn't *seem* like Dusty Pages is
mad at you.

109 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Or maybe she stares at my cutie mark
every day, cursing my name!

110 SPIKE
So you're going with glass half empty.

Suddenly, two TOURIST PONIES burst from the door, carrying
MAPS and CAMERAS.

111 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Excuse me, do you live here?

112 TOURIST STALLION
(to his wife)
Sweetie, she thinks we look like
locals!

113 TOURIST MARE
(to husband)
See? I told you this would be more fun
than staying in a hotel!

114 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Are you guests of Dusty Pages? Do you
mind letting her know somepony is here
to see her?

115 TOURIST MARE
Dusty Pages is the owner of this here
"Princess B & B", if that's what you
mean.
(to husband)
Honey, doesn't she live in Silver
Shoals?

116 TOURIST STALLION
Yup. In the Silverwoods Community.

117 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Really? Thank you!

Twilight turns to leave. The Tourist Stallion leans in and
whispers something to his wife. Her eyes go wide with
excitement.

118 TOURIST STALLION
This is so embarrassing, but we just
realized who you are! Can we ask you a
quick favor?

Twilight stops and smiles, being gracious.

119 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Of course.

120 TOURIST MARE
We've always wanted to see you raise
the moon. Please, Princess Luna?

Twilight sighs. Spike giggles as we...

CUT TO:

Sc. 12 - EXT. SILVER SHOALS - LATER

Twilight and Spike land in front of a cluster of idyllic buildings, surrounded by trees. Very peaceful and lovely.

Spike reads a sign--

121 SPIKE
*Silverwoods Community-- for the best
Golden Years.*

122 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Finally! Time to go in there and fix
things. This has been *ridiculous*.

Twilight trots inside.

123 SPIKE
(to himself)
She said it, not me.

CUT TO:

SC. 13 - INT. SILVERWOODS RETIREMENT COMMUNITY - CONTINUOUS

Twilight and Spike walk down a beautiful hotel-resort-like hallway with doors to apartment units.

Each door has a PHOTO of the retiree pony who lives there and a BOUQUET OF FRESH FLOWERS on a table next to it. It's fancy.

Spike stops to smell some ROSES and grins.

124 SPIKE
Whoa. This place is--

125 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Terrible, I know!

She looks around in horror.

126 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
I can't believe that *my* carelessness
sent Dusty *here*, instead of living out
her days in the most wonderful place
in all of Equestria-- the Canterlot
Library!

ANGLE ON a doorway with DUSTY'S PICTURE on it: an adorable,
bespectacled granny with a huge toothy smile.

127 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
There she is. Let's set things right.

Twilight <KNOCKS> on the door. No answer.

128 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
Aarrgghh!

129 SPIKE
Maybe we should just wait here. She's
bound to be back soon.

130 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
No. We're fixing this now. Silverwoods
isn't that big. We can find her!

CUT TO:

SC. 14 - EXT. THE DOCKS - LATER

A FEW OLD MARES and OLD STALLIONS from Silverwoods sit behind
EASELS, painting watercolors of the seaside scene in front of
them. Among them is APPLE ROSE (cousin of GRANNY SMITH).

Twilight and Spike approach.

131 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
(to the group)
Sorry to interrupt, but we're looking
for Dusty Pages. Have you seen her?

132 APPLE ROSE
Sure have.

And that's all she says. Twilight tries to keep it together.

133 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Annndddd...

134 APPLE ROSE
She had to leave early to get to her
windsurfing lesson.

135 OLD STALLION
(interrupting)
Which is right before she leads the
Surveyor's Society class with me.

136 APPLE ROSE
Don't forget theatre rehearsal!
Dusty's playing the lead role...Again.

137 OLD STALLION
Then there's her band practice
later...

138 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Thank you!

Twilight trots off, Spike following.

139 SPIKE
Wow, Dusty sounds like one busy pony.

140 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
She's just filling her days with
distractions to cover the pain of
losing the best job ever.
(determined)
But not for long!

CUT TO:

Sc. 15 - INT./EXT. SILVER SHOALS - MONTAGE

Twilight and Spike rush around town, trying to follow the
schedule. At every turn, they narrowly miss Dusty.

-- ON THE WATER. Twilight and Spike are on a boat wearing
LIFE JACKETS. Twilight points. In the distance, there are a
few WINDSURFERS. Could it be her?

They climb onto two WINDSURFING BOARDS and sail out toward
the group. Just as they arrive, we PAN OVER and see that
DUSTY PAGES is climbing off her board and onto a little sandy
beach.

Twilight tries to wave and loses her balance, falling into
the water. Dusty trots off, unaware. Twilight is grumpy.

-- IN THE GARDEN. Several retirees practice using SURVEYORS
EQUIPMENT (Cosmolabes and Tachymeters) while the Old Stallion
from before leads the group.

Twilight and Spike approach him and he points to the gate. We
PAN OVER to see the tail end of Dusty leaving. Twilight
frowns.

-- IN THE BLACKBOX THEATRE. Twilight and Spike enter to see that a group of ponies in COSTUMES/ROBES are on stage, practicing. They all wear SILLY MASKS.

Twilight interrupts the rehearsal. One by one, the old ponies pull off the masks and shake their heads. None of them are Dusty. Twilight looks like she is going to lose it.

CUT TO:

SC. 16 - INT. THE SILVERWOODS CLUB - LATER

A nightclub style room with a stage and little tables with centerpieces. The place is empty, except for THE BAND who are <PLAYING> onstage. DUSTY PAGES is jamming on guitar.

Twilight and Spike enter. Immediately, Twilight is overjoyed. Finally! The pony they've been looking for!

141 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
DUSTY PAGES! There she is!

Twilight is about to march up on stage when Spike reaches out and stops her.

142 SPIKE
Are you sure you want to interrupt her? She looks pretty happy up there.

Dusty boogies and strums like a rockstar.

143 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Trust me, it's all an act. She'll be a lot happier when I deliver the good news that she can go back to working at the library!

Twilight trots up confidently and magically "holds" all the instruments away from their ponies. The music comes to a halt.

144 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
Take five, everypony!

145 DUSTY PAGES
(smiling)
Twilight Sparkle? My stars. What are you doing here in Silver Shoals?

146 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I've been looking all over Equestria for you!

147 DUSTY PAGES
Why? Is something the matter?

148 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
(solemn)
I let you down. And I can't forgive
myself until I set things right.

149 DUSTY PAGES
I don't remember you doing anything
wrong.

Twilight hangs her head.

150 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
You don't need to protect my feelings.
You told me to take special care of a
book I checked out from the Canterlot
library. And I never brought it back!

151 DUSTY PAGES
It was you that had the book out? The
one that broke my perfect record?

152 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I'm afraid so. But that's why I'm
here!

Twilight pulls out the book, triumphant.

153 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
Now you can bring it back to Canterlot
and get your job back!

She tries to pass the book to Dusty, but the old librarian
shakes her head. She trots back up to the stage.

154 DUSTY PAGES
No thank you. I don't ever need to see
that library again. Now if you'll
excuse me, I have band practice.

Off Twilight's confused and disappointed face as we...

END ACT TWO.

ACT THREE:

SC. 17 - EXT. SILVER SHOALS - THE DOCKS - THE NEXT DAY

Twilight and Spike sit looking out at the water. Spike skips
stones. Twilight looks sad.

155 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I don't understand. If Dusty Pages
won't go back to Canterlot Library and
explain everything, then her record
will remain... *imperfect*.

156 SPIKE
And yours will, too?

157 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Well...Yeah!

Spike shrugs.

158 SPIKE
You could've returned the book
yourself, but there was a reason you
didn't.

159 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
It was because I wanted to make things
right with Dusty.

160 SPIKE
So maybe there's more to her story,
too. I mean we came all this way...
Why not ask her?

Twilight stands up.

161 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
You're right. Not like a few more
bits on my late fine are going to make
a difference now.

162 SPIKE
I wonder what's next on Dusty's
schedule? Crochet? Disco lessons?

CUT TO:

SC. 18 - INT. SILVERWOODS PAINTBALL ARENA - SOON AFTER

Twilight and Spike enter a gated park-like arena with lots of
JUNGLE FOLIAGE and CRATES splattered with splotches of
colorful paint. There are no ponies in sight.

163 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
A PAINTBALL TOURNAMENT?

Spike holds up a white flag and announces--

164 SPIKE
Hey, everypony! We come in--

Suddenly, several PAINT BALLS (huge ones, like a water-balloon filled with paint-- not guns) splatter onto both Twilight and Spike.

165 SPIKE (CONT'D)
-- peace.

The paint balls keep flying!

Twilight TELEPORTS herself and Spike to safety behind a rock. She calls out from behind it--

166 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Stop! We just wanna talk to Dusty
Pages for a moment! *Please?!*

Out of nowhere, an unidentified PONY in a HELMET (Dusty Pages) swings down from a tree on a rope, Daring Do-style.

She tackles Spike and Twilight and corrals them over to a lean-to style hideout TENT.

167 SPIKE
Thanks for rescuing us.

168 DUSTY PAGES
You dears didn't stand a chance out
there!

She takes off her helmet, giggling.

169 DUSTY PAGES (CONT'D)
But you made great volunteers for
target practice.

Spike shares her grin.

170 SPIKE
Believe it or not, we're not actually
here for the paintball.

171 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I...Was hoping you'd give me another
chance to talk with you about what
happened with the library book.

Dusty passes Spike and Twilight some RAGS to clean up with.

172 DUSTY PAGES
I suppose I can take a time out for my
best reader.

173 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Best reader? Aren't you mad at me?

174 DUSTY PAGES
Why would I be?

175 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Because I ruined your life when I
didn't keep my promise! I never
returned that book and you lost your
job! Now you're stuck here in this
awful place and it's all my fault!

Dusty erupts into a fit of laughter.

176 DUSTY PAGES
Twilight, dear. You've got it all
backwards!

Twilight blinks, surprised.

177 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I do?

178 DUSTY PAGES
Well, most of it, anyhow.

Dusty sits down on a log and pats the spot next to her.
Twilight sits next to her.

179 DUSTY PAGES (CONT'D)
I'll admit, when that book never came
in, I was upset that my perfect
librarian record was ruined. But then,
I felt something exhilarating...

180 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
What was it?

181 DUSTY PAGES
Freedom!

182 SPIKE
From books?

183 DUSTY PAGES
From *myself*! I was so busy being a
perfect librarian all those years,
that I was too stubborn to know when
to call it quits!

184 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
So you left the library and moved here
because you *wanted to*? Not because you
got fired?

Dusty nods and smiles.

185 DUSTY PAGES
Twilight, your little mistake was the
greatest thing that could have ever
happened to me!

Dusty motions to the beauty around them.

186 DUSTY PAGES (CONT'D)
Now, I'm not afraid to try things I
might fail at. I'm learning more every
day. In fact, sometimes messing up
teaches me more than succeeding.

Twilight pulls the book from her bag and looks at wistfully.
She holds it out Dusty.

187 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
You're sure you don't want to return
this book and get that perfect record
back?

At this, a giant wayward PAINTBALL screams into FRAME and
comes SPLASHING onto the book!

Twilight <SHRIEKS> in horror.

188 DUSTY PAGES
Oh, that'll come out. It's washable.

189 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
But it'll have a stain!

Dusty looks at Twilight sideways.

190 DUSTY PAGES
Did you even *read* that book?

Twilight blushes.

191 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Actually, er... no. I guess I didn't.

She wipes the paint away and reads the title aloud.

192 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
(reading)
"PERFECTION."

193 DUSTY PAGES
And the next bit...

Dusty points her hoof at the cover. CLOSE UP on the title to
REVEAL that there is tiny writing below, as well.

Twilight brings the book closer to her face and squints to read it.

194 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
... *The Impossible Pursuit*.

Dusty and Spike burst out laughing. After a second, Twilight can't help but join in.

195 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
(sheepish)
Oh. Maybe I should keep this a little longer.

CUT TO:

SC. 19 - INT. CANTERLOT LIBRARY - LONG OVERDUE AND EXCESSIVE FINES OFFICE - NEXT DAY.

Saddle Stitch sits behind a desk piled high with stacks of books and papers. Twilight sits across from her, eagerly watching as Saddle Stitch tallies up the fines.

196 SADDLE STITCH
Your grand total late fees are...

197 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
However much it is, I'll cover it!
Uh...Do you have a monthly payment plan? Or maybe I could sell my vintage Starswirl figurine collection...

198 SADDLE STITCH
... thirteen bits.

199 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
That's it?!

200 SADDLE STITCH
Yup.

Twilight passes her a little stack of COINS.

201 SADDLE STITCH (CONT'D)
Great. Your account is back to normal.

Saddle Stitch STAMPS the book card, closes the cover with a snap, and tosses it into a box full of damaged books on the floor.

Twilight is surprised.

202 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
You're not going to re-shelve it?

203 SADDLE STITCH
 (shrugging)
It's an old edition. We've already
replaced it with a new copy.

204 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Then...Do you mind if I keep it? I
think it might not be a bad reminder
to keep around.

Saddle Stitch nods as we...

END EPISODE.