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MY LITTLE PONY

Season 8

The Point of No Return

Ep 905

Teleplay Second Draft

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Teleplay 1st Draft: Gillian Berrow
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TEASER

FADE IN:

SC. 1 - EXT. SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP - DAY

SPIKE is staring up into the sky at something OS. He shields his eyes. As TWILIGHT SPARKLE TROTS up, Spike asks-- *

1 SPIKE
Uh, Twilight? What is that? *

Twilight looks to where Spike is pointing. The shadowy figure loops and dips alarmingly toward them, revealing -- MUFFINS, flying quite haphazardly due to the HEAVY BOX she's carrying. *

2 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
(sigh)
The mail. *

Muffins CRASH-LANDS awkwardly nearby. Twilight and Spike rush up-- *

3 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
Are you okay? *

4 MUFFINS
Mhm! Just making my deliveries.
(re, the box)
This one was definitely the heaviest! *

Spike looks hopeful. *

5 SPIKE
Is it a deluxe set of Special Edition
Ogres & Oubliettes figurines that I'm
totally surprised by and haven't been
hinting that I need forever? *

6 MUFFINS
It's for Twilight. *

Spike slumps. Twilight beams, excited. *

7 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Must be the new textbooks I ordered!
Thanks! *

Muffins nods and flies off. But as Twilight goes to open the package, she notices something-- *

8 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
Oh. It's from Princess Celestia. *

Spike suddenly coughs FLAME - producing a LETTER. *

9 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:

10 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
"My Dearest 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.

11 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 BABY SPIKE, YOUNG TWILIGHT, YOUNG SHINING ARMOR and their PARENTS. *

12 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--

13 SPIKE
Who could forget a masterpiece like
that?

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

14 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
My G1 Starswirl figure! And some of my
favorite school scrolls! *

She unfurls a scroll and sighs with nostalgia.

15 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
Aw, look. It's my extra, extra credit
report on "The Impediments of Using
Magic in Everyday Chores"!
(reads, laughs) *

Still so true! *

16 SPIKE
Is my Smash Fortune comic in there? *
I've been looking for that for years! *

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

17 SPIKE (CONT'D)
Hold this. *

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

18 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Oh no, oh no, oh no...

Spike pokes his head out at Twilight's panic. Eyes the book. *

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

Twilight levitates the book over.

20 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.

21 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.

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

Spike raises a claw in a "point of order" gesture. *

23 SPIKE
Had a perfect record--

24 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:

25 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).

26 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!

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

Dusty gives her a grandmotherly wink.

28 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!

Dusty Pages points and we PAN OVER to an ORNATELY FRAMED
PICTURE of Young Twilight on the wall.

29 DUSTY PAGES (CONT'D)
After all, you still hold the "Best
Book Borrower" title...

30 YOUNG TWILIGHT
I hope I do forever!

Twilight grins, proud. She trots out of the library.

CUT TO:

**SC. 4 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE ROOM - A FEW DAYS LATER-
FLASHBACK**

(NOTE: Exact scene from Ep 1, sc. 2-3)

Twilight enters in a tizzy with the ELEMENTS OF HARMONY. *

Spike is holding a PRESENT for Moondancer. *

As Twilight carelessly tosses stacks of books aside, looking *

for the one on "The Mare in the Moon", we see OUR BOOK fall *

BEHIND THE BOOKSHELF! *

We ZOOM into the doomed-to-be-forgotten book and... *

CROSS FADE TO: *

SC. 5 - EXT. SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP - RESUME *

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

31 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! I've *

failed MYSELF! *

32 SPIKE

(dry)

I take it we're going to Canterlot.

Twilight rushes off. Spike shrugs and flies after her. *

33 SPIKE (CONT'D) *

The sooner the better, I guess. *

CUT TO:

SC. 6 - EXT. CANTERLOT LIBRARY - LATER *

Twilight and Spike land a short distance from the Canterlot *

Library steps. Spike starts toward the doors, but Twilight *

hangs back, pensive, looking around. *

Spike stops and turns around, confused and calling to her-- *

34 SPIKE (CONT'D) *

Whatcha waiting for, Twilight? *

Twilight feigns nonchalance as a PONY walks past. *

35 TWILIGHT SPARKLE *

Oh, nothing. Just...Enjoying the view. *

36 SPIKE *

Okay. Well, you wanna wait out here *

while I return your OVERDUE BOOK? *

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

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

She pulls him aside and they duck behind a corner.

38 SPIKE
(whispering)
Why are we hiding?

39 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
What if somepony sees me in there? I'm
the Princess of Friendship. Everywhere
I go, ponies recognize me. I'll stick
out like a sore hoof!

*
*
*
*

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

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

*

42 SPIKE
Don't you already have most of those
books in your collection at home?

*
*
*

43 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Yes, but the books in THERE have a
special Canterlot library-y smell!

*
*
*

44 SPIKE
You sniff books?

*
*

45 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
You don't?

*
*

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

*

46 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
Oh no. What if Dusty Pages revokes my
library card? Or bans me from reading
anything ever again?!

*

47 SPIKE
Pretty sure that's not a thing.

*

48 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

(sigh)
I used to LIVE in a library! If I'm
not a good example of proper book-
borrowing behavior, then what kind of
princess am I?

*
*
*
*

Spike pats Twilight's shoulder.

49 SPIKE

One that makes mistakes like everypony
else. Trust me, once you return that
book, you'll feel way better.

*
*

50 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.

51 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)

Uh, NOW let's go.

Spike shakes his head and follows her.

CUT TO:

SC. 7 - INT. CANTERLOT LIBRARY - CONTINUOUS

*

A few PONIES sit quietly at desks, reading. Twilight tiptoes
past them. Spike points to the MAIN DESK, where a YOUNG
LIBRARIAN UNICORN (NOT Dusty Pages), stands.

*
*

Twilight <GULPS>, then levitates a nearby plant to carry in
front of her face, "hiding."

*
*

When she reaches the desk, she tries a gruff fake voice.

*

52 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

(gruff voice)
I have a book to return.

*
*
*

53 LIBRARIAN PONY

Princess Twilight! So good to see you!

*

Twilight <SIGHS> and removes the plant. So much for
disguises. The Librarian motions a hoof to a full BOOK CART.

*
*

54 LIBRARIAN PONY (CONT'D)

Need some recommendations from the new
releases section?

*
*

Twilight can't help but lean in, interested.

*

55 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Is that the new edition of *
"Mooncurve's Seven Theories on *
Bending Time"?! I have been waiting *
for the release since-- *

Spike elbows her.

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

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

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

58 LIBRARIAN PONY
(puzzled)
Dusty who?

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

59 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Dusty Pages! The head librarian? *
She's worked here forever. *

Twilight riffles through her saddlebag and pulls out a PHOTO *
of a SWEET OLD GRANNY. The Librarian Pony shakes her head, *
looking apologetic. *

60 LIBRARIAN PONY
I'm sorry, Princess. I don't know her. *
Now, is there some other way I can *
help the Library's Best Book Borrower? *

She smiles, gesturing to the GOLD FRAMED PHOTO on the wall, *
now of ADULT TWILIGHT. *

61 TWILIGHT SPARKLE *
<slightly manic giggling> *

Spike casually flips through a COMIC BOOK. He stops and leans *
in, using the book as a shield to hide their mouths. *

62 SPIKE
(whispering)
Just ask her where to return an *
overdue book. It's no big deal. It *
happens all the time!

63 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
(whispering)
Not to me *it doesn't!*
(then, deep breath)
Fine.

*

Then Twilight freezes, realizing what she just said.

64 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.

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

The librarian smiles.

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

Spike smirks and nudges Twilight smugly.

67 SPIKE
See?

Spike passes the book over.

*

68 LIBRARIAN PONY
(smiling)
I'll just find it in the card catalog.

*

*The Librarian reads the title and turns to a CARD CATALOG.
With ease, she sorts through the cards.*

*

*

69 LIBRARIAN PONY (CONT'D)
(reading)
Number five-one-six-two-eight. Got it!

*

*

*

Twilight sighs with relief. Spike smiles.

*

*But as the Librarian floats out the card to examine it...Then
her eyes BUG OUT IN SHOCK.*

*

*

70 LIBRARIAN PONY (CONT'D)
Ohhhh, wow. Eeeesh. Haven't seen a
book this late in, well, ever.
(MORE)

LIBRARIAN PONY (CONT'D)

You'll need to see Vellum Folio in the
"Way Past Overdue Book Return For
Ponies Who Have Incurred Embarrassing
Fines Office."

*
*
*

Twilight wilts in utter shame and takes the book back.

71

TWILIGHT SPARKLE

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

72

SPIKE

And that office would be...

*

73

LIBRARIAN PONY

In the basement. Because of the shame.

*

Twilight sinks even lower.

*

CUT TO:

SC. 8 - INT. CANTERLOT LIBRARY - BASEMENT OFFICES

*

The corridor is DARK, COBWEBBED and SPOOKY. Sounds of <WATER
DRIPPING> and unidentified <CLANKING> abound.

*
*

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.

74

SPIKE

Whoa. Looks like nopony ever goes down
here.

75

TWILIGHT SPARKLE

Nopony except undependable rule
breakers who deserve all the horrors
this hallway holds.

*
*
*

76

SPIKE

And their faithful dragon companions.

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

77

SPIKE (CONT'D)

Hey, looks like Vellum Folio left a
note on the door.

*

78

TWILIGHT SPARKLE

Abandon hope all ye who enter?

Spike leans forward to read the pinned note.

79 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.

80 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Oh no. I can't wait another minute to
return this book! In the time it took
us to get here, I racked up another--

*
*
*

Twilight looks up, doing the math in her head.

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

Twilight's face transforms from panic to determination.

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

83 SPIKE
Good, cause I'm starving!
(then)
Oh. You mean to find Vellum Folio.
(an idea)
Can we least get take out?

*

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

CUT TO:

SC. 9 - INT. TASTY TREAT RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS

*

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

*

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

85 SPIKE
Twilight, we've tried this at three other restaurants already.

*

86 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
(growing panic)
And my late fines are already up
another 26 more bits!

*
*
*
*

87 SPIKE
<sigh> Fiiiiiine.

*
*

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

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

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

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

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

*

91 PONY CUSTOMER (CONT'D)
Do you think that's enough for the two
of us?

*
*
*

Spike considers, rubbing his chin.

*

92 SPIKE
I would probably order some Naan as
well? For the table.

*
*
*

93 PONY CUSTOMER
Sounds great!

*
*

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

94 MOONDANCER
Twilight? Is that you?

Twilight looks up to see her old friend, MOONDANCER.

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

*

96 MOONDANCER
Well it's good to see you! I'm just
meeting my friend, Vellum Folio, for
lunch, do you want to join us?

*

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

*
*

97 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
VELLUM FOLIO? YES! I mean, thank you.

*

Vellum smiles as Twilight sits with them.

*

98 VELLUM FOLIO *
Princess Twilight! Good to meet you! *
Did you know your picture's up in our *
library as the Best Book Borrower-- *

99 TWILIGHT SPARKLE *
Yeeeah. I was hoping I could talk to *
Dusty Pages about that. *

100 MOONDANCER *
Oh, Dusty Pages left the library moons *
ago. Didn't you hear? *

Twilight shakes her head in surprise. *

101 VELLUM FOLIO *
She loved the library, so it was *
really sad she was forced to leave. *

Twilight's jaw drops. *

102 TWILIGHT SPARKLE *
Forced to leave? *

103 VELLUM FOLIO *
Well, the whole thing's a mystery, but *
if you ask me, it was because of that *
book that was never returned. *

Twilight <GASPS> in horror. Oblivious, Vellum goes on- *

104 VELLUM FOLIO (CONT'D) *
She had a perfect librarian record *
before that. Such a shame that one *
careless pony had to ruin it for her--

105 MOONDANCER
Are you okay, Twilight?

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

106 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.

107 SPIKE *
That's why you only order spicy if you *
mean it. *

SC. 10 - EXT. TASTY TREAT RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS

*

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

108 SPIKE
Twilight, what's wrong?

Twilight levitates the book out of her bag.

109 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*!

*

Off Twilight's horrified face as we...

END ACT ONE**ACT TWO****SC. 11 - EXT. CANTERLOT STREETS - SHORTLY AFTER**

*

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

110 SPIKE
Twilight! The library is *that* way!

*

111 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Change of plans! *We're going to
Dusty's house. She used to invite me
over for tea all the time--*

*
*
*

112 SPIKE
What about your late fees?

*

113 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
*They're not as important as making
things right.*

*
*
*

114 SPIKE
*Wait, so you're NOT going to return
the book?*

*
*

115 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!

*

Twilight stops in front of a *house*. *She* 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.

116 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.

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

118 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Oh, I'm not selling anything!

Meathead gestures to yet more signs:

119 MEATHEAD PONY
No carolers either. No surveys, no
petitions, no free literature--

The Meathead tries to close the door. Twilight uses her magic to wedge it open.

120 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
No problem! I'm just looking for
somepony who used to live here. I'm
pretty sure this was her house...

121 MEATHEAD PONY
Dusty Pages?

122 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
(brightening)
Yes!

123 MEATHEAD PONY
Hold on.

He disappears and returns.

124 MEATHEAD PONY (CONT'D)
She moved to Silver somethin'...

Meathead tries to think. It's hard.

125 MEATHEAD PONY (CONT'D)
Uh... Silver Shoals? Silver Surf?
Whatever.

He passes Spike a stack of MAIL.

126 MEATHEAD PONY (CONT'D) *
When you find her, give her this. Been *
stackin' up for years. And tell her *
to CHANGE HER ADDRESS! *

Meathead <SLAMS> the door. Twilight and Spike look down at
the stack of mail and exchange a surprised look. *

CUT TO: *

SC. 12 - EXT. SILVER SHOALS - LATER *

A now exhausted Twilight and Spike (mail in a bag) land in *
front of an idyllic building, surrounded by trees. Very *
peaceful and lovely.

Twilight reads a sign-- *

127 TWILIGHT SPARKLE *
Silverwoods Community-- for the best *
Golden Years. This has to be it. *

Spike shows Twilight a list with a lot of check marks. *

128 SPIKE *
That's what you said the last seven *
times. We're running out of "Silver" *
places to try! *

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.

129 SPIKE *
Whoa. This place is--

130 TWILIGHT SPARKLE *
Terrible, I know! There's not a single *
bookshelf in sight. Poor Dusty. *

She looks around in horror. *

131 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D) *
I can't believe that my carelessness *
sent her here, when she could be *
happily surrounded by millions of *
wonderful-smelling books. *

132 SPIKE *
You realize that might just be a "you" *
thing, right? *

ANGLE ON a doorway with DUSTY'S PICTURE on it: an adorable, *
bespectacled granny with a huge toothy smile (Same pic from *
Sc. 6).

133 TWILIGHT SPARKLE *
There she is! Here we go...

Twilight takes a breath and <KNOCKS> on the door. No answer. *

134 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
Aarrgghh!

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

136 TWILIGHT SPARKLE *
No. We're fixing this now. This place *
isn't that big. We can find her!

CUT TO:

SC. 14 - EXT. SILVER SHOALS - 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.

137 TWILIGHT SPARKLE *
(to the group)
Sorry to interrupt your plein air *
painting, but we're looking for Dusty *
Pages. Have you seen her?

138 APPLE ROSE
Sure have.

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

139 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Annnnnnn...

140 APPLE ROSE *
She had to leave early to get to her *
meditation group.

141 OLD STALLION
(interrupting)
Which is right **before** she leads the *
Woodworking class with me. **Then she's** *
on to windsurfing! *

142 APPLE ROSE
Don't forget theatre rehearsal!
Dusty's playing the lead role... *
(jealous) Again. *

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

144 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Thank you!

Twilight trots off, Spike following.

145 SPIKE
Wow, Dusty sounds like one busy pony.

146 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. *

-- IN THE GARDEN. Several retirees **sit meditating**. Twilight
and Spike approach **an OLD MARE** and she **very, very slowly (Tai** *
Chi style) points to the gate. Twilight frowns. *

-- IN THE WOODSHOP. Retirees build various items: **FURNITURE,** *
BIRD HOUSES, etc. Twilight spots the Old Stallion from *
before. She approaches him and he apologetically points to *
the door. *

-- 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. No sign of her. In the distance, Twilight thinks *
she sees something. *

Twilight shields her eyes, tries to look closer and loses her balance, falling into the water. Twilight pops up, soaked and grumpy. *

-- 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!

147 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D) *
DUSTY PAGES! Finally! C'mon, Spike. *

Twilight is about to march up on stage when Spike stops her. *

148 SPIKE *
You sure you want to interrupt her? *

Dusty boogies and strums like a rockstar.

149 SPIKE (CONT'D) *
She looks pretty happy up there. *

150 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 <STOPS>. *

151 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D) *
Care to take five, everypony? *

152 DUSTY PAGES
(smiling)
Twilight Sparkle? My stars! It's so wonderful to see you! What are you doing here in Silver Shoals? *

153 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I've been looking all over Equestria
for you! I need to tell you something. *

Dusty spots Spike's bag of mail! *

154 DUSTY PAGES
You brought my mail! Oh, thank you! *

Dusty hugs Twilight, who looks even more uncomfortable. She
gently disentangles herself from Dusty. *

155 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
No. I mean, yes, we did, but that's
not why we're here. *

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

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

Twilight hangs her head.

157 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!

Dusty gapes in surprise. *

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

Twilight nods. She pulls out the book, sheepish. *

159 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
But now you can bring it to Canterlot
Library and get your job back! *

She tries to pass the book to Dusty, but the old librarian
shakes her head. *

160 DUSTY PAGES
No thank you! I don't ever need to see
that library again. Now if you'll
excuse me, I have somewhere to be! *

Dusty trots out of the nightclub. *

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

END ACT TWO.**ACT THREE:**

SC. 17 - INT. THE SILVERWOOD CLUB - SHORTLY AFTER

Twilight and Spike sit at an empty table. The band plays a
<SAD SONG>. Twilight looks bummed.

161 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
(to the band)
Do you mind?!

The band shrugs and switches to something more <UPBEAT>. It
still doesn't cheer Twilight up.

162 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
I don't understand. If Dusty Pages
won't go back to Canterlot Library and
explain everything, then she won't be
able to get her job back. Even worse--
her record will remain... *imperfect!*

Spike nods, but he knows what's REALLY going on here-

163 SPIKE
And yours will, too?

164 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Well... Yeah! But that doesn't matter
anymore.

Spike raises a suspicious eyebrow.

165 SPIKE
Really?

166 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Well, maybe a little bit. Oh no...
BITS! The late fines! How much do I
owe now?

Spike does a quick calculation, "counting" on his claws.

167 SPIKE
Uhh... You don't want to know.

Twilight facehoofs and groans.

168 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
It would have been worth all the bits
in Equestria if I'd made things right
with Dusty. I wish I knew why she
won't go back.

169 SPIKE
Why don't you ask her? *

170 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
She didn't seem to want to talk... *

171 SPIKE
You surprised her. And she probably
had something else on her schedule.
That thing is PACKED. C'mon, what've
you got to lose? *

Twilight considers that, and realizes... *

172 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Now that I've messed up this much...
Nothing.
(then)
You're right, Spike. It's worth a try.
Where do you think she went? Crochet,
bingo... *

CUT TO:

SC. 18 - INT. SILVERWOODS FRUIT FIGHT ARENA - SOON AFTER *

Twilight and Spike enter a gated park-like arena with lots of
JUNGLE FOLIAGE and CRATES splattered with colorful splotches.
Apple Rose and the Old Stallion run past, wearing HELMETS and
KNEE PADS. *

173 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
A SQUISHY FRUIT TOURNAMENT? *

Spike holds up a white flag and announces--

174 SPIKE
Hey, everypony! We come in--

Suddenly, several STRAWBERRIES, TOMATOES, etc. splatter onto
both Twilight and Spike. *

175 SPIKE (CONT'D)
-- Pieces. *

Twilight TELEPORTS herself and Spike to safety behind a rock.
Fruit <SPLATS> on the rock! She calls out from behind it-- *

176 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.

177 DUSTY PAGES *
TIME OOOOOUT! *

A huge TOMATO slides down Twilight's mane and PLOPS onto the *
ground, splattering everywhere. *

178 DUSTY PAGES (CONT'D) *
Looks like you two got smoothied. Next *
time, you should rent gear! *

Dusty actually cracks a little smile. Spike shares her grin. *

179 SPIKE *
We're not actually here for the game. *

180 TWILIGHT SPARKLE *
I... Was hoping you'd give me another *
chance to talk to you about the *
library book. *

181 DUSTY PAGES *
This really means a lot to you, *
doesn't it? *

Twilight nods. Dusty leads them to the sidelines. *

182 TWILIGHT SPARKLE *
I know I ruined your life by not *
returning my book on time. And I will *
do anything I can to make it up to *
you. Even step down as Princess of *
Friendship, if that's what it takes. *

Dusty looks thoughtfully at Twilight...Then bursts into a *
huge <PEAL> of laughter. *

183 SPIKE *
That...Is not the reaction we *
expected. *

184 DUSTY PAGES *
Twilight, dear. You've got it all *
backwards! I'm not upset with you. *

Twilight blinks, surprised. *

185 TWILIGHT SPARKLE *
You're not? *

186 DUSTY PAGES *
No! If I'm mad at anypony, it's me. *
All those years I spent hiding away in *
that library, trying to be perfect... *

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

187 DUSTY PAGES (CONT'D)
When your book never came in, I felt
something exhilarating!

*
*

188 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
What was it?

189 DUSTY PAGES
Freedom!

190 SPIKE
From books?

191 DUSTY PAGES
From perfection! I was too stubborn to
know when to call it quits. It took
your mistake to make me realize that I
wasn't living the life I wanted!

*
*
*
*

192 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
You mean you weren't fired? You left
the library because you wanted to?

*
*

Dusty nods and smiles.

193 DUSTY PAGES
Twilight, your late book was the best
thing that ever happened to me!

*
*

Dusty motions to the beauty around them.

194 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 getting it right!

*

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

195 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
You're sure you don't want to return
it and get that perfect record back?

*

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

*

Twilight <SHRIEKS> in horror.

196 DUSTY PAGES
Oh, good. It was a yellow one. You can still see the words! *

197 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
But it'll have a stain! *

198 DUSTY PAGES
That doesn't change the truth inside it. *
(then) *
Wait. Did you even read that thing? *

Twilight blushes and stares at the book. *

199 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Actually, er... No. I guess I didn't. *

She wipes the fruit away and reads the title aloud. *

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

201 DUSTY PAGES
And the next part... *

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.

202 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
... *The Impossible Pursuit.*

Spike and Dusty <LAUGH>. Twilight looks sheepish. *

203 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
Oh. That might've been useful to look at earlier. *

CUT TO:

SC. 19 - INT. CANTERLOT LIBRARY - EMBARRASSING FINES OFFICE - NEXT DAY. *

Vellum Folio sits behind a desk piled high with stacks of books and papers. Twilight and Spike sit across from her, eagerly watching as Vellum Folio tallies up the fines. *

204 VELLUM FOLIO
Your total late fees come to... *

205 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
However much it is, I'll cover it!
Uh...Do you have a monthly payment
plan? *

206 VELLUM FOLIO
...Twenty eight bits. *

207 SPIKE
That's it?! *

208 VELLUM FOLIO
Yeah. Most ponies don't know it caps
at a month.
(wink)
Probably because we don't tell them. *

Spike grins as Twilight passes over a stack of COINS. *

209 VELLUM FOLIO (CONT'D)
Thanks! Your account's back to normal.
Although we will be taking down your
Best Book Borrower picture. *

210 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I understand. You want me to reshelve
this for you? *

Twilight nods to the book. *

211 VELLUM FOLIO
(shrugging)
Nope. It's an old edition. We've
already replaced it with a new copy. *

212 SPIKE
In that case...Can we keep it? *

213 VELLUM FOLIO
You sure? This one has a stain. *

Twilight and Spike share a smile. *

214 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
That's what makes it perfect. *

END EPISODE. *

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