MY LITTLE PONY
Season 9

The Point of No Return
Ep 905

LOCKED SCRIPT

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TEASER

FADE IN:

SC. 1 - EXT. SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP - DAY

SPIKE is staring up into the sky and suddenly DUCKS as a blur of pegasus wings and mail ZOOMS overhead... We hear a comical OS <CRASH>. Spike calls in the opposite direction--

1 SPIKE
Twilight! Mail's here!

REVEAL - Muffins stands out of her crash landing, happily oblivious, and turns an arrow-side pointing down HEAVY BOX right side up. Then she <SHAKES> it to make sure it's okay.

Twilight and Spike rush over--

2 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Are you alright?

3 MUFFINS
Mmhm! Just had a REALLY heavy delivery today.

Muffins nods to the box. Spike looks hopeful. His next line is pointed - his intended audience is a clueless Twilight.

4 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?

5 MUFFINS
It's for Twilight.

Spike slumps. Twilight smiles at Muffins, who flies off.

6 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Thank you! Huh, it's from Princess Celestia.

Spike suddenly coughs FLAME - producing a LETTER.

7 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:

8 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.

9 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.

10 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--

11 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.

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

She unfurls a scroll and sighs with nostalgia.

13 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
And here's my extra, extra credit report on "The Impediments of Using Magic in Everyday Chores"!
(reads, laughs)
Still so true!

14 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.

15 SPIKE (CONT'D)
Hold this.

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

16 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Oh no, oh no, oh no...

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

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

Twilight levitates the book over.

18 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.

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

END TEASER

ACT ONE

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.

20 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.

21 SPIKE
Had a perfect record--

22 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:

23 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).

24 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!

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

Dusty gives her a grandmotherly wink.

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

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

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

28 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 - 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 as she looks at the book.

29 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
And then Celestia sent me to Ponyville and I forgot all about this! Dusty Pages prided herself that no books were damaged or lost on her watch. And I failed her! I've failed MYSELF!

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

Twilight rushes off. Spike shrugs and flies after her.

31 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. Spotting a few OTHER PONIES, Twilight immediately pulls Spike aside and they duck behind a corner.

32 SPIKE (CONT'D)
(whispering)
Uhhh...Why are we hiding? Don't you want to return your book?

33 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
(whispers back)
Yes, but 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!

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

Twilight levitates a LIBRARY CARD with a GOOFY PICTURE OF YOUNG TWILIGHT on it from her saddlebag.

35 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
A late book is a big deal, Spike! What if Dusty Pages revokes my library card? Or bans me from ever entering the building again?!

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

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

38 SPIKE
You sniff books?

39 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
You don't?
(then, sighing)
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.

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

41 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Thanks, Spike.
(readying herself)
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.

42 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.

43 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
(gruff voice)
I have a book to return.

44 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.

45 LIBRARIAN PONY (CONT'D)
Need some recommendations from the new releases section?

Twilight can't help but lean in, interested.

46 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.

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

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

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

49 LIBRARIAN PONY
(puzzled)
Dusty *who*?

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

50 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.

51 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.

52 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.

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

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

Then Twilight freezes, realizing what she just said.

55 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.

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

The librarian smiles.

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

Spike smirks and nudges Twilight smugly.

58 SPIKE
See?

Spike passes the book over.

59 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.

60 LIBRARIAN PONY (CONT'D)
(reading)
Number one-eight-nine-oh-five. 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.

61 LIBRARIAN PONY (CONT'D)
Ohhhhh, wow. Eeeesh. Haven't seen a book this late in, well, *ever*. You need to go see First Folio in the "Grossly Overdue Book Return Office for Ponies Who Should Know Better."

Twilight wilts in utter shame and takes the book back.

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

63 SPIKE
And that office would be...

64 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.

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

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

67 SPIKE
And their faithful dragon companions.

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

68 SPIKE (CONT'D)
Hey, looks like First Folio left a note on the door.

69 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Abandon hope all ye who enter?

Spike leans forward to read the pinned note.

70 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.

71 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.

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

Twilight's face transforms from panic to determination.

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

74 SPIKE
Good, cause I'm starving!
(then)
Oh. You mean to find First 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--

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

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

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

78 SPIKE
<sigh> Fiiiiine.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Spike considers, rubbing his chin.

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

84 PONY CUSTOMER
Sounds great!

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

85 MOONDANCER
Twilight? Is that you?

Twilight looks up to see her old friend, MOONDANCER.

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

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

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

88 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
First Folio? YES! I mean, thank you.

First Folio smiles as Twilight sits with them.

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

90 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Yeeeeah. I was hoping I could talk to Dusty Pages about that.

91 MOONDANCER
Oh, Dusty Pages left the library moons ago. Didn't you know?

Twilight shakes her head in surprise.

92 FIRST FOLIO
I heard she was forced to leave. It's so sad. She loved the library.

Twilight's jaw drops.

93 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Wait. <u>Forced</u> to leave?

94 FIRST FOLIO
Mm-hm. She had a perfect librarian record, until one careless pony didn't return a book and ruined it all.

95 MOONDANCER
Are you okay, Twilight?

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

96 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.

97 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.

98 SPIKE
Twilight, what's wrong?

Twilight levitates the book out of her bag.

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

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.

100 SPIKE
Twilight! The library is that way!

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

102 SPIKE
What about your late fees?

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

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

105 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.

106 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.

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

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

Meathead gestures to yet more signs:

109 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.

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

111 MEATHEAD PONY
Dusty Pages?

112 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
(brightening)
Yes!

113 MEATHEAD PONY
Hold on.

He disappears and returns.

114 MEATHEAD PONY (CONT'D)
She moved to Silver somethin'...
Shoals? Seas? Surfer? Whatever.

He passes Spike a stack of MAIL.

115 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. SILVERSTABLE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY - 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-- *

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

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

117 SPIKE *
I hope so. It's the last "Silver" *
spot on the map we haven't looked. *

SC. 13 - INT. SILVERSTABLE 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.

118 SPIKE
Whoa. This place is--

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

She looks around in horror.

120 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.

121 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).

122 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
There she is! Here we go...

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

123 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
Aarrgghh!

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

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

CUT TO:

SC. 14 - EXT. SILVERSTABLE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY - THE DOCKS - LATER *

A FEW OLD MARES and OLD STALLIONS from Silverstable 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.

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

127 APPLE ROSE
Sure have.

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

128 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Annndddd...

129 APPLE ROSE
She had to leave early to get to her *fengbi de ti* session.

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

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

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

133 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Thank you!

Twilight trots off, Spike following.

134 SPIKE
Wow, Dusty sounds like one busy pony.

135 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. SILVERSTABLE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY - MONTAGE *

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

-- IN THE GARDEN. Several retirees slowly go through graceful motions, doing *fengbi de ti* - literally "closed hoof," the MLP version of Tai Chi. Twilight and Spike approach an OLD MARE and she very, very slowly 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 SILVERSTABLE 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!

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

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

137 SPIKE
You sure you want to interrupt her?

Dusty boogies and strums like a rockstar.

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

139 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>.

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

141 DUSTY PAGES
(smiling)
Twilight Sparkle? My stars! It's so wonderful to see you! What are you doing here?

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

Dusty spots Spike's bag of mail!

143 DUSTY PAGES
You brought my mail! Oh, thank you!

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

144 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.

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

Twilight hangs her head.

146 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.

147 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.

148 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. Suddenly dismissive and curt:

149 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 SILVERSTABLE CLUB - SHORTLY AFTER *

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

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

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

151 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-

152 SPIKE
And yours will, too?

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

Spike raises a suspicious eyebrow.

154 SPIKE
Really?

155 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.

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

Twilight facehoofs and groans.

157 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.

158 SPIKE
Why don't you ask her?

159 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
She didn't seem to want to talk...

160 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...

161 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. SILVERSTABLE 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.

162 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
A SQUISHY FRUIT FOODFIGHT TOURNAMENT?

Spike holds up a white flag and announces--

163 SPIKE
Hey, everypony! We come in--

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

164 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--

165 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.

166 DUSTY PAGES
TIME OOOOOUT!

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

167 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.

168 SPIKE
We're not actually here for the game.

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

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

Twilight nods. Dusty leads them to the sidelines.

171 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I know I ruined your life by not returning my book on time. And I will do <u>anything</u> I can to make it up to you. Even promise to never take a book out of the library again, if that's what it takes.

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

172 SPIKE
That...Is not the reaction we expected.

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

Twilight blinks, surprised.

174 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
You're not?

175 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.

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

177 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
What was it?

178 DUSTY PAGES
Freedom!

179 SPIKE
From books?

180 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!

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

Dusty nods and smiles.

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

Dusty motions to the beauty around them.

183 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.

184 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.

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

186 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
But it'll have a stain!

187 DUSTY PAGES
That doesn't change the truth inside it.
(then)
Wait. Did you even <u>read</u> that thing?

Twilight blushes and stares at the book.

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

She wipes the fruit away and reads the title aloud.

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

190 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.

191 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
... *The Impossible Pursuit.*

Spike and Dusty <LAUGH>. Twilight looks sheepish.

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

CUT TO:

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

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

193 FIRST FOLIO
Your total late fees come to...

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

195 FIRST FOLIO
...Twenty eight bits.

196 SPIKE
That's it?!

197 FIRST 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.

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

199 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Uh...Is that really necessary? It just seems so permanent. I mean, I did return the book after all...

Spike <CLEARS HIS THROAT> pointedly.

200 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
Okay. Letting the perfection go.
(deep breath, then)
You want me to reshelve this for you?

Twilight nods to the book.

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

202 SPIKE
In that case...Can we keep it? It might be a good reminder to keep around.

203 FIRST FOLIO
You sure? This one has a stain.

Twilight and Spike share a smile.

204 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
That's what makes it perfect.

END EPISODE.

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