

MY LITTLE PONY
Season 9
The Point of No Return
EP 905
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THE POINT OF NO RETURN

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TEASER**SC. 1 - EXT. SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP- DAY**

TWILIGHT SPARKLE and SPIKE are heading out, when MUFFINS crash lands right in front of them. Once Muffins composes herself, she trots over to deliver a large, brown package to Twilight. The letter within is from none other than Princess Celestia herself! In the letter, Celestia explains that she has been doing some extensive cleaning in the castle back in Canterlot and finally got to Twilight's old room. She'd discovered a bunch of items that Twilight had left behind—a photo of Twilight with her family, some old school papers, and a few tchotchkes. Twilight is excited to revisit all of her old forgotten mementos, until she reaches the bottom of the box. "Oh no!" Twilight gasps as her eyes land on the last item.

Spike peers in to take a look, and doesn't see the problem. It's just a library book. Twilight shakes her head in a panic. Not just any library book. "This book is...OVERDUE!"

END TEASER.**SC. 2 - INT. SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP- HEADMARE'S OFFICE-
CONTINUOUS**

Twilight stashes her box of mementos and paces back and forth across her office, having one of her signature freak-outs. She laments to Spike that she has never had a late book before, but this one's been overdue for *years*. How could she have let this happen?!

We ZOOM IN to Twilight's panicked expression. FLASHBACK-- A sweet old librarian mare, DUSTY PAGES, tells pre-alicorn Twilight how important the book is (it's very rare) and that it must be taken care of and returned as soon as possible. Younger Twilight assures her that the book is in good hooves—she'll have it back right away! But as TS puts the book in her room, Celestia fatefully summons her as in episode 101...And the book falls behind her desk, forgotten.

Spike, hearing the story, is unconcerned. He assures Twilight that it's probably fine or Celestia wouldn't have bothered sending the book... right? But Twilight won't accept this explanation—she must get to Canterlot immediately and turn it in, even if the fines are going to be astronomical. "Come on, Spike! I have to fix this!" Spike sighs and follows her. They take off flying.

SC. 3 - EXT. CANTERLOT LIBRARY- LATER

As Twilight and Spike land and approach the library, Twilight hesitates. “What’s goin on?” Spike asks. “Just go in there and give it back...” But Twilight starts going through all the possible things that could go wrong— She could be restricted from the rare book wing. She could have her library card revoked forever! She could be banned from ever reading anything again! Spike rolls his eyes. He’s pretty sure they can’t do that. Twilight says even if he’s right, she is supposed to be setting a good example as a princess... how is it going to look if everypony finds out about this?

But Spike encourages her. He points out that she’s dealt with much worse than an old library book—she’s super brave! Plus, won’t it feel good to have it off her conscience? Twilight agrees that apologizing to the old librarian, Dusty Pages, is at the top of her list. She suppresses her embarrassment and confidently heads inside.

SC. 4 - INT. CANTERLOT LIBRARY – CONTINUOUS

Twilight looks around, confused. She doesn’t even know the right desk to go to return an overdue book, since it’s never happened before! Twilight approaches the checkout desk and meekly asks the LIBRARIAN PONY if Dusty Pages is around—she’d like to speak with her, if possible. “Dusty who?” the librarian replies. Twilight is shocked—how can this pony not know the head librarian at her own place of work? Twilight starts describing her in hopes that she might just be new to the job and made a mistake, but nothing is ringing a bell for the young librarian.

Finally, Twilight is forced to admit (after much whispering and “WHAT?”s) that she has an overdue book. The Librarian pony says she’ll take care of it. But when she sees how overdue the book is, she raises her eyebrows. Ohhhh. For THIS book, Twilight needs to go to the “Long Overdue and Excessive Fines Office,” in the library’s basement. Twilight thanks her and takes off, hoping to find Dusty and end this embarrassment.

SC. 5 - INT. CANTERLOT LIBRARY- BASEMENT OFFICES- MONTAGE

But first she has to FIND the office. Twilight and Spike attempt to navigate their way through a maze of hallways and offices (past the damaged books return, shudder). Finally Spike spots a sign at the end of a very long hallway. We ANGLE ON the door looking gigantic and scary. Twilight begins the walk down the Hallway of Shame...

SC. 6 - INT. HALLWAY- LONG OVERDUE AND EXCESSIVE FINES OFFICE- CONT.

When they finally reach the door, Twilight tries to push it open. It’s locked! “Hey, look!” Spike says, pointing at a scribbled note stuck to the door. “Looks like they are out to lunch at the Tasty Treat.” Twilight narrows her eyes, determined. “Then we’ll just have to go and meet them. I can’t wait another minute to return this book to them.” She does a quick calculation of how many more fees she’s racked up just having this conversation.

SC. 7 - INT. TASTY TREAT RESTAURANT- CONTINUOUS

Inside the restaurant (from Ep #612), SAFFRON MASALA and CORIANDER CUMIN rush around serving the bustling lunch crowd. We PAN OVER to a table where Spike sits across from Twilight, who is hiding behind a menu and whispering: “Tell me if you see any librarian-type ponies!” Spike, who points out that they’ve already tried this at three other restaurants, finally approaches a couple of ponies with promising cutie marks, but they mistake him for a waiter and give them their order. Spike, helpful dragon that he is, fills their glasses and runs the ticket into the kitchen.

Twilight’s about to give up, when MOONDANCER spots her. Twilight’s glad to see her old friend. Moondancer invites Twilight to sit with her friends - a group of three mares sitting nearby, including an old blue mare with orange glasses and books for a Cutie Mark (from Ep #512). Twilight joins them, and Moondancer asks why she’s in town. Twilight says she...Just wanted to visit the old library and say hi to Dusty Pages for old time’s sake. Moondancer shakes her head. Dusty left moons ago. Twilight’s jaw drops. “Head librarian for thirty-two years,” the blue mare tsks, “then she just up and left.” “If you ask me, it was because of that book that was never returned—,” the other mare says.

Twilight gasps. She continues to listen, eyes getting wider, as the librarian ponies gossip about Dusty’s once perfect-book return record being ruined, and her stepping down from her beloved job. Moondancer asks Twilight what’s wrong. “Uh...Too much curry,” she says, and runs off to tell Spike her worst fear -- the ponies didn’t actually say it but, did Dusty Pages get fired because of *her*?!

END ACT ONE.

ACT TWO

SC. 8 - EXT. CANTERLOT STREET- OUTSIDE DUSTY’S HOUSE- DAY

Spike follows Twilight as she races through Canterlot. Where are they headed now? Twilight frantically explains that they are going to Dusty’s house. “But what about the book?” Spike asks. “Don’t we have to take it back to the library?” Twilight says that she needs to give it directly back to Dusty, and then SHE can be the one to bring it back and victoriously return to reclaim her job. Twilight’s filled with guilt that she could have ruined a pony’s whole life with her carelessness – but this will fix everything!

When they arrive at the cottage and knock on the door, however, Dusty doesn’t answer. Instead of a sweet granny, it’s a MEATHEAD PONY that seems annoyed at Twilight’s interruption – he said NO SOLICITORS. She tries to find out where Dusty has moved. He tells her that Dusty can be found in a house on the other side of the city. Oh, and can Twilight take her all this mail he’s been getting for her? Twilight accepts the load and sets off for the new spot.

SC. 9 - EXT. DIFFERENT CANTERLOT COTTAGE - SHORTLY AFTER

Different house, same story. The PONIES inside are visiting on vacation (like a Canterlot Air B&B), so they don't have any answers. Being out-of-towners, they're comically convinced that Twilight is Princess Luna – alicorn, dark coat, etc. They suggest she asks next door - but "Uh, but before you go, could you raise the moon? We've always wanted to see that!"

Frustrated, Twilight and Spike trudge out to the street, getting several different answers from ponies to their question: "Dusty Pages? I think she moved to uhhh... Vanhoover?" "No, it was Ponyville!" "Oh that's right! She moved to the retirement community in Silver Shoals." Twilight decides to give that a try and hopes for the best. She's going to give this book back to Dusty, no matter what.

SC. 10 - EXT. SKIES OVER SILVER SHOALS- LATER

Spike rides on Twilight's back. She reminds him that he has wings. He says he knows, they're REALLY tired. Twilight assures him that it's okay because they made it! She points below to an adorable seaside village (from Ep #622), known as Silver Shoals (alt: Seaward Shoals). As they make their descent, Twilight promises that it will be a quick visit to Dusty Pages' residence and then they'll leave.

SC. 11 - EXT. "SILVERWOODS" RETIREMENT COMMUNITY- SHORTLY AFTER

Twilight and Spike turn a corner and are faced with an idyllic cluster of cottages surrounding a large building in the center. It's really lovely! "Whoa," says Spike once he sees the retirement community. "I know!" Twilight laments, completely missing his intent. "I can't believe that my actions sent poor Dusty into exile *here*, instead of the most wonderful place in all of Equestria—the Canterlot Library!" She rushes him inside, determined to find the librarian.

SC. 12 - INT. "SILVERWOODS" RETIREMENT COMMUNITY CENTER- CONTINUOUS

Twilight knocks on Dusty's door. No answer. But this has to be the right place! There's Dusty's photo on the door and everything! Spike notices there's a schedule sticking out from under the door (like on a cruise ship). It's a list of daily activities. Maybe Dusty's out doing one of those? Determined, Twilight proclaims they'll go to every last one until they find her. Spike sighs and follows...

SC. 13 - EXT. THE DOCKS- LATER

A group of Silverwoods old mares and stallions sit behind easels, painting watercolors of the seaside scene in front of them. Twilight and Spike approach and ask if Dusty is in the group. "Oh, you just missed her, dears!" says APPLE ROSE (cousin of Granny Smith), "She had to leave early to get her windsurfing lesson and then after that I think she has gardening club, and oh don't forget theatre night—," Twilight waves and thanks her.

SC. 14 - INT./EXT. SILVER SHOALS - MONTAGE

Twilight and Spike are rushing around town, but keep narrowly missing Dusty. We see them visit the community garden, try windsurfing, and go to a theatre production (where all the actors are retirees), with no luck. Spike starts to notice the older-but-active ponies there seem really happy, but Twilight is too distracted to realize it. She has to find that librarian!

SC. 15 - INT. PONY RUMBA STUDIO- LATER

A workout wear-clad Twilight and Spike enter the studio and finally spot Dusty Pages in the front of the Rumba aerobic class! She's teaching!! She laughs as she grooves along to the music. Twilight is so relieved. She is about to march up and give her spiel when Spike stops her. "Are you sure you want to interrupt her? She looks pretty happy!" Twilight assures him that Dusty will be so much happier when she receives the book back and she can go back to Canterlot and clear her name.

Twilight magically pauses the music and asks them all to "take five". Everypony seems annoyed that she stopped the fun, especially Dusty Pages. "Twilight Sparkle? What are you doing here?!" Twilight explains the whole situation with the overdue book and nervously apologizes. "It's all my fault and I'm so sorry. But it's all okay now since you can go back to Canterlot! You can have your old life back!"

"It's nice to see you dear, but there's no way I'm ever going back to that library!" Dusty retorts and turns the music back on. The Rumba-ing starts back up. Off Twilight's horrified face as we...

END ACT TWO.**ACT THREE****SC. 16 - EXT. THE DOCKS - LATER**

Spike and Twilight sit looking out at the water. Twilight is really confused. What is she going to do? If Dusty won't go back to the library, her perfect record will remain... imperfect. "And so will yours," Spike points out. Twilight has to admit – there's that too. Spike shrugs – Twilight had a reason for not returning the library book as soon as she got to Canterlot – so maybe there's more to Dusty's story too. Why doesn't Twilight ask WHY Dusty doesn't want to go back? Twilight agrees. She has to give it one last try! Just one problem – the next activity on the schedule is paintball...

SC. 17 - INT. SILVERWOODS PAINTBALL ARENA -- SOON

Twilight and Spike make their way into the paintball arena, and are quickly splattered with paintballs. Spike holds his claws up in surrender, and Twilight waves a white flag – she's just there to talk to Dusty! In cool action-hero style, Dusty swings down from a

rope in the tree. Twilight asks if they can talk just once more before she goes, and Dusty agrees – it's the least she can do after Twilight volunteered for target practice.

Dusty leads Twilight to a sheltered lean-to type area and takes off her paintball helmet. Twilight asks if she'll tell the story of why she doesn't want to go back to Canterlot. After she was ousted from her job, wouldn't she like to return in a blaze of glory with the missing book? Dusty explains that Twilight has it all wrong. She was READY to retire, but she was so busy being the perfect librarian that she didn't know how to quit! When Twilight's book never came in, it sparked something in her. Maybe her perfect record was less important than her happiness! Twilight ACTUALLY did her a favor.

Twilight still isn't convinced, and she continues to try and sell Dusty on the idea of going back—she can't let the idea of absolving herself of this guilt go! But Dusty refuses. She explains that perfection isn't everything—sometimes you need something unexpected to shake you out of your old patterns. It can turn out better than anything you could imagine. After all, didn't Twilight READ the book? TS blushes – er, no, she never got a chance. Twilight procures the book from her bag and reads the title aloud: “PERFECTION... the impossible pursuit”.

Turns out the book is about letting go of the idea of being perfect! Twilight has to laugh at herself. Dusty is happier than ever before at Silverwoods, and Twilight needs to accept that reality instead of her own “perfect” one. Finally, Twilight gets it.

SC. 18 - INT. CANTERLOT LIBRARY- LONG OVERDUE AND EXCESSIVE FINES OFFICE – NEXT DAY

One of the library mares from the Tasty Treat sits behind her desk, punching in a complicated series of numbers. Twilight bites her lip in anticipation for the damage—how much are her fines going to be? More than she'll ever be able to afford in her lifetime?! “Whatever it is... I'm ready to pay it.”

The library mare clears her throat and says, “Great. That'll be 13 bits.” WHAT?! That's it? Twilight is in shock. The mare explains that the fees cap out at a certain amount. The “excessive fines” threat is just to scare ponies into returning their books on time. But since Twilight's book is so out-of-date, she can actually keep it. They have an updated copy now – eleventh edition. Twilight laughs – maybe now, she'll actually be able to read it!

Twilight returns to the main library in awe at how everything turned out—perfectly imperfect. Spike has to agree, as he staggers under a huge stack of books/comic books he's going to check out – they didn't even HAVE these in Ponyville. Sometimes what seems like a bad thing turns out even better. And as the vacation ponies from earlier spot Twilight and ask to take their photo with Princess Luna...

END.