

MY LITTLE PONY
Season 9
Frenemies
EP 908
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FRENEMIES

Outline by Michael Vogel

TEASER**SC. 1 - INT. VILLAIN'S LAIR/GROGAR'S CHAMBERS – DAY**

GROGAR paces in front of his large super villainy throne in his cavernous, super villainy chamber as he plots super villainy things (it's all very super villainy). He studies images in smoky tendrils that float above a large, mystical table in front of him (Design note: the lair, the throne and the table are reminiscent of Twilight's throne room throne and map, almost as if Grogar used them as inspiration for his lair). A <CRASH> interrupts his study. COZY GLOW enters, telling Grogar that TIREK tried to suck up CHRYSALIS' magical energy again and she blasted him into the armory. Grogar says he'll deal with it in a second. Cozy leaves as Grogar reaches for a strange magical artifact on the table. A <ROAR> from outside the room causes him to drop the artifact. Tirek enters telling Grogar that he can't trust Cozy Glow, she's a liar. Grogar says he doesn't trust ANY of them. Tirek grunts and walks out as Grogar sighs heavily and returns his attention to the table. The doors <SLAMS> open and Chrysalis enters, haughtily announcing that if he doesn't plan on attacking anypony anytime soon she doesn't know why she's wasting her time here with a bunch of villain wannabes. Grogar grits his teeth.

SC. 2 - INT. VILLAIN'S LAIR/ LIVING QUARTERS - CONTINUOUS

Grogar STORMS into the main chamber, towering over the others and demands that they put their ridiculous differences aside and work together. Immediately the petty, villainous bickering starts up again as they all protest, but Grogar shouts at them to STOP! He conjures a dangerous-looking ball of magical electricity and floats it toward them threateningly. He reminds them of what happened to Sombra and informs them that they have two choices – band together to defeat the Mane Six, or stop having to worry about making choices ever again. “Now, who's up for option number one?” Intimidated, all three villains slowly raise their hands/hoooves.

ACT ONE**SC. 3 - INT. LEGION OF DOOM – DAY**

Cozy Glow puts the finishing touches on a banner and hangs it between two stalactites in the evil lair. On it are crudely painted versions of Cozy, Chrysalis, Tirek and Grogar with fireworks and stars surrounding them. She admires her work. Nothing says teamwork like an inspirational banner! She sets off to find the others to get them pumped for teamwork training! She finds Tirek listening to classical music and lifting a stack of weights as he stares at a self-portrait of himself towering over the rest of Equestria (End of Season 4 sized). He is obsessed with becoming big and powerful again. Cozy sweetly reminds him that they have a team meeting scheduled. Without looking up, Tirek calmly reminds her that he didn't agree to team meetings, and he's busy. Cozy giggles and says that Grogar

left her in charge and he wants them to make sure they are ready to work together. “Grogar didn’t leave you in charge.” Tirek corrects her. Cozy waves a hoof, “Oh, Tirek, you are such a kiddler!” She says she’ll get things ready and come check on him in a bit. Next Cozy hunts Chrysalis down. She hears the changeling queen complaining to somepony and, peeking around a corner, discovers Chrysalis talking to a log (the remains of her Mane 6, Twilight golem from 813). She explains to the log that she doesn’t know WHAT Grogar’s plan is but is eager to get her revenge on Starlight Glimmer and the others. She is annoyed, impatient and as a result she has a VERY short fuse. She gets mad about... well... pretty much anything and everything. Cozy approaches EXTRA smile-y and says, “Oh, gosh, I’m awfully sorry to interrupt, but it’s time for a team meeting.” Chrysalis turns to the log “You see what I’m talking about? All planning no action!” Cozy reminds Chrysalis that Grogar left her in charge. Chrysalis: “He did not. Nor would I care. NO ONE is in charge of Chrysalis!” But no one is as annoying as Cozy Glow, and eventually she wears Chrysalis and Tirek down and they join her team meeting.

Cozy explains that in order to work together they need to trust each other. Chrysalis powers up her horn threateningly and says if she’s to trust Tirek he needs to stop trying to absorb her magical essence! Tirek spits out the essence he was absorbing and denies he was doing anything wrong. Cozy clears her throat and reminds the others that Grogar left HER in —“NO HE DIDN’T” the others scream. Cozy’s sweet demeanor cracks for a split second, but she forces a smile and says that regardless of WHO was left in charge, she just KNOWS they can be a team if they really apply themselves!

Cozy Glow begins to SING a rousing upbeat anthem about getting what you want by working as a team (DESTROY THEM TOGETHER). Tirek can barely contain his disdain and Chrysalis straight up REFUSES to be a part of a musical number. But Cozy is persistent and as she continues to sing, we go into an insanely twisted version of an 80’s movie montage as Cozy runs Tirek and Chrysalis through a series of team building and trust exercises. Rather than getting better, Tirek and Chrysalis’ bad attitude takes over the song, eventually causing even Cozy Glow to get annoyed. The song devolves into an evil bickering mess as Grogar enters, witnessing his team of villains in an even WORSE fight than they were in before.

Grogar intervenes and says he’s disappointed in all of them. He assumed they were capable of putting their petty differences aside to defeat the Mane 6. Apparently, he was wrong. Chrysalis demands to know what they are waiting for! Tirek questions whether Grogar even HAS a plan. Grogar insists that for his plan to be effective, they must wait until Twilight takes the throne. Cozy says she is SURE Grogar has a truly amazing plan, but suggests that just hanging around waiting isn’t what they all signed up for. Grogar agrees, and says he has a mission that will help them in their attack on the ponies AND force them to learn how to work together. Tirek questions why they should listen to him. What makes HIM so powerful? The rest of them have come close to defeating the Mane 6, he’s just an ancient bedtime story. Chrysalis reminds them all that SHE’S nearly defeated them more than once, SHE’S clearly the most capable. A fight breaks out as the villains all begin bickering with each other ONCE again. Grogar sighs heavily and

unleashes a mighty magical blast that slams them ALL against the wall of the lair. He reminds them that although they've all TRIED to defeat the ponies, they've also ALL FAILED (multiple times in Chrysalis' case). He has more power than all of them combined... and this is just a FRACTION of his strength. THEY are going to go retrieve the rest of it for him. With the villains sufficiently cowed, Cozy asks what he needs them to do. Grogar waves his hoof and smoky tendrils appear around them, illustrating his tale. Hundreds and hundreds of moons ago, he was defeated at the hooves of Gusty the Great. It was a fearsome battle and Gusty only bested him by taking possession of the Bewitching Bell, his magical talisman and a source of great power. It was too powerful to be destroyed and so Gusty hid it high atop Mt. Everhoof and used her magic to create an enchanted wind that would forever blow around the mountain, making it impossible for anypony to get to the summit. Grogar explains that the three of them will travel to Mt. Everhoof, figure out how to reach the summit, retrieve the bell and bring it back to him.

“Go up to the top of a mountain and bring back a bell?” Chrysalis mocks, “This is supposed to be challenging?” SMASH CUT TO:

SC. 4 - EXT. BASE OF MT. EVERHOOF - CONTINUOUS

The three villains stand at the base of the ridiculously massive and impossible to climb Mt. Everhoof and stare up at Gusty the Great's magical winds howling around the snowcapped peaks.

“Well, it SOUNDED easier than it looks” Chrysalis says to her log with a shrug.

ACT TWO

SC. 5 - EXT. BASE OF MT. EVERHOOF - RESUME

Cozy turns to the others and says she thinks the FIRST thing they should do is—but Tirek and Chrysalis are already making their way up the mountain, each on their own. Chrysalis says she is more than capable of retrieving a magical trinket on her own. Tirek is sure if he gets there first he can absorb the magic in the bell and get SUPER SWOLE! Cozy sighs. If this is the road they're all going to go down, she's going to make sure SHE gets the bell first, proving to Grogar that he should trust HER the most (until her inevitable betrayal).

SC. 6 - EXT. MT. EVERHOOF/VARIOUS LOCATIONS – CONTINUOUS

Cozy and Chrysalis quickly realize that the winds are too powerful for either of them to fly to the top so all three of them are grounded and Mt. Everhoof isn't going to make it easy for ANY of them:

Cozy loathes physical exertion (why do things yourself when you can manipulate OTHERS into doing them for you) and is clearly NOT built for the wilderness. She quickly gets lost and her attempts to befriend cute woodland creatures Disney Princess

style don't go well (the animals see through her right away). Cozy THINKS she's found her 'in' when she meets a strange Pony hermit and tries to manipulate her into helping Cozy reach the top. But the old (and slightly off kilter) hermit keeps thinking Cozy needs "rescuing" from wandering up into the dangerous mountain and prevents her from making any progress! Cozy finally manages to ditch the hermit and is so excited at making ANY progress that she cheers loudly, causing an avalanche that sends her alllllll the way back down to the base of the mountain.

Meanwhile Tirek is having problems of his own. Not being at full-strength, he decides the best strategy is to outsmart the mountain, building more and more complex devices to help him scale Everhoof (Basically Tirek is Wile. E. Coyote and the mountain itself is the Road Runner). No matter WHAT Tirek tries, the wind, rocks, ice, trees or any one of a hundred other natural occurrences seem to be out to get him.

Chrysalis fares slightly better than the others, as she transforms into a series of different creatures that can traverse any kind of terrain or obstacle easily (think Madame Mim in *Sword in the Stone*). However, things get tricky when she passes the cave of a gigantic OPHIOTAURUS (Head and front hooves of a Bull, back body of a serpent). Chrysalis automatically turns into another Ophiotaurus to fight the beast... and the beast is instantly smitten. Worse, once the Ophiotaurus has caught her scent, it's able to track her anywhere no matter WHAT she transforms into (apparently monster-love is blind). Chrysalis is finally forced to "break-up" with the monster, leaving the heartbroken beast behind as she continues up the mountain.

SC. 7 - EXT. TOP OF MT. EVERHOOF – CONTINUOUS

Chrysalis arrives at the summit where she finds a strange cave with ancient symbols and runes etched into the stone around the edges. Cackling that she is clearly the best of the worst, she stalks towards the cave... and is blasted back by a magical barrier. She tries everything she can think of: blasting the barrier with her horn, changing into a large creature and bashing it, becoming a small creature to look for cracks, etc. But NOTHING works. Annoyed, she admits to her log that although she WAS good enough to get to the top on her own, it seems that she will in fact need the help of the other losers to figure out how to get INTO the cave...

SC. 8 - EXT. BASE OF MT. EVERHOOF – LATER THAT EVENING

As the sun sets, the windy mountain gets much colder. A cranky, angry Cozy Glow finds Tirek building a campfire to stay warm. Freezing, she forces a smile and approaches, asking him sweetly how HIS day went and if he would care for some company. One look at the dirty bedraggled Cozy and Tirek bursts out laughing, his day wasn't as bad as HERS apparently. Cozy Glow finally snaps, dropping her sweet façade and laying into Tirek. The two of them are so busy screaming at each other that they don't realize that his fire has also caught the attention of the Ophiotaurus that slinks out of the shadows staring hungrily at them. It waits for them to notice it, but they continue arguing. Finally, with a

<ROAR> it catches their attention. They stare at the giant monster about to devour them...

ACT THREE

SC. 9 - EXT. BASE OF MT. EVERHOOF – RESUME

Cozy and Tirek back away as the Ophiotauros stalks hungrily towards them. Tirek shoves Cozy in front of him. “Eat her, she’s less gamy!” Suddenly the creature sniffs the air and gets nervous. Chrysalis stalks out from the shadows and berates the poor creature who flees, heartbroken all over again. Before Tirek and Cozy can say anything even close to a thank you, Chrysalis makes it clear that she did NOT save them out of any kindness or care for their well-being. SHE made it to the top and couldn’t get into the cave without them. She helped because she NEEDED them. No other reason. The villains agree to go to the top of the mountain together but decide to wait for morning. Until then, they’ll spend the evening by the fire. At first none of them says anything, they’re tired, cold and they just plain dislike each other. But eventually boredom sets in and Cozy Glow asks a question about how Chrysalis managed to ponynap the Mane 6 in the Season 6 finale. Always happy to brag, Chrysalis explains how she did it, impressing the others. The three of them start sharing more stories about their favorite subject, their hatred and disdain of the Mane 6. Before you know it the three of them are actually ENJOYING each other’s company! Maybe working with each other won’t be the worst thing in the world... as long as it results in revenge on their enemies!

SC. 10 - EXT. MT. EVERHOOF MONTAGE – THE NEXT DAY

The next day the three set out again, THIS time together. In a montage we see them face the same obstacles they faced alone the day before. But now that they’re a team, they overcome the challenges easily! They EVEN appear to actually be having FUN together (of course for them fun is still blowing up the hermit’s cottage, scaring the woodland creatures and generally causing all kinds of chaos and destruction). In no time at all, the three of them arrive at...

SC. 11 - EXT. TOP OF MT. EVERHOOF – CONTINUOUS

The villains approach the mysterious cave and Chrysalis reveals the magical barrier that blocks their entry. Cozy suggests Tirek just absorb the magical energy, but when he tries his body shrivels up and he instantly spits the energy out, saying that it tastes like burnt hair! DISGUSTING! Apparently, when Gusty cast this protective barrier, she shielded it from being absorbed by magical beings. Clever. Tirek studies the barrier and says that he DOES recognize the spell used to create it. At full power, he could break the shield easily. However, he would need to absorb the magic of all four alicorn princesses to have that much juice. “What about the magic of one changeling queen?” Cozy asks. Tirek and Chrysalis turn to the little Pegasus, what is she talking about? She explains that Chrysalis wouldn’t GIVE her magic to Tirek, jut LEND it so they can retrieve the bell, then he will RETURN it. “But how do I know I can trust him?” Chrysalis asks. Cozy shrugs.

Chrysalis asks Tirek if it would work. He responds that he thinks it would be enough to open a small hole in the shield. “Big enough for a tiny annoying pegasus.” He would keep it open long enough for Cozy to get in and get out. Each of them will have to trust the other to retrieve the bell. They take a moment to size each other up and then agree. Tirek absorbs Chrysalis’ magic, growing larger and stronger as Chrysalis fades, grows weaker, and finally collapses. He uses his magic to open a small hole in the shield and Cozy rushes in. The strain of keeping the gap in the shield open wears on Tirek, until the barrier nearly collapses. At the last second, Cozy rushes out with the Bell and dives through the shield. Cozy and a weakened Chrysalis watch Tirek warily. But as agreed, he opens his mouth and magical energy flows back to Chrysalis, reviving her.

The three villains stand regarding each other strangely. Tirek admits that working with them seemed like a smarter way to accomplish what he wanted. Cozy says working together felt right, she feels like she’s on the verge of understanding something she’s never fully grasped. Chrysalis reluctantly admits that she hasn’t felt whole since she lost her hive. Working with them to get the bell made her feel like her old self again, like a piece of her had been returned. The air around them starts to glow and sparkle with magic. It seems like the three villains may actually have discovered the magic that has eluded them for so long... the magic of friendship!! Tirek and Cozy Glow close their eyes, letting this positive feeling wash over them. But Chrysalis looks around with wild eyes and screams “NO!” disrupting the magical moment.

Cozy and Tirek shake their heads, trying to understand what just happened. Chrysalis says she’s seen it happen before, when Starlight Glimmer convinced her hive to embrace Friendship. She doesn’t care what Grogar wants them to do. She doesn’t care if it makes sense. She will NEVER. EVER. DO ANYTHING that leads them down the path of embracing Friendship. She turns to the others and says that if Grogar believes that emulating their enemies and working as a team is the way to defeat them then he may not be all he thinks he’s cracked up to be. The three of them got pretty far on their own being selfish, self-serving and deceitful. She sees no reason to stop now. “So what? You think we should go off on our own and fight the ponies?” Tirek asks. “It didn’t work great before,” Cozy reminds her. “No.” Chrysalis says grinning, “I think we DO work well together, but I see no reason for us to continue helping GROGAR become more powerful. Let him think we’re his lackeys. Let him THINK we are helping him achieve HIS goal. In the meantime, we will assure that we achieve what WE’VE always wanted. “A truce until we defeat our enemies.” Tirek agrees, nodding. “And THEN... we break the truce and it’s every villain for themselves!” Chrysalis nods, “Who needs friendship... mutually agreed upon destruction is so much more reliable.”

SC. 12 - INT. VILLAINS LAIR – LATER

Grogar looks pleased as the villains stand before him with the Bewitching Bell. Apparently, they’ve finally embraced the idea that teamwork is the way to succeed against their enemies. “OH yes!” Cozy exclaims, “You truly HAVE taught us SO much.” Tirek nods, “It’s logical, together we can defeat anything in our way to get what we

want.” Chrysalis bows her head, “You’ve shown us exactly what we need to do next.” She says with a sly grin to the others, “We simply cannot wait...”

THE END