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MY LITTLE PONY V

"The Cutie Map - Part 1"

Episode 501

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TEASER

FADE IN:

SC 1. INT. TWILIGHT SPARKLE'S CASTLE, HALLWAY - DAY

A majestic hallway, solemn and beautiful and epic, with huge gemstones in the walls and a dramatic vaulted ceiling. It is utterly impressive.

APPLEJACK, RARITY, FLUTTERSHY, RAINBOW DASH, PINKIE PIE, and TWILIGHT SPARKLE all step BARELY INTO FRAME and look at the hallway as though they're afraid to enter.

They stand there for a beat in silence. They look like they have no idea what they're supposed to do.

SC 2. INT. TWILIGHT SPARKLE'S CASTLE, DINING ROOM - LATER

The Mane Six once again stand just outside the room looking in. They don't move.

SC 3. INT. TWILIGHT SPARKLE'S CASTLE, LIBRARY - LATER

They stand in the doorway, and once again the room seems entirely too magnificent in its empty splendor.

There's a nice long beat. Then...

1 RARITY
You know, you could put a chair
over there.

2 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Yeah...chair might be good.

And back to silence.

SC 4. INT. TWILIGHT SPARKLE'S CASTLE, THRONE ROOM - LATER

The friends are spread around the room, as though this is the only place in the entire castle where they are at least moderately comfortable. Pinkie Pie lounges in her throne. SPIKE is sound asleep in his throne.

3 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Let's go through this one more
time.

Rainbow Dash plops down in her throne with a GROAN.

4 RAINBOW DASH
We're been over it, like, a million
times, Twilight. We found all six
keys, defeated Tirek, and got this
sweet castle. End of story.

5 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Yes, but why.

6 APPLEJACK
I dunno, sugarcube, maybe it's just
your new house, and there ain't
nothin' more to it than that.

Now she sits in her throne.

7 RARITY
I must say, speaking strictly on
aesthetics...

She runs a hoof along her throne, then sits.

8 RARITY (CONT'D)
...there really doesn't need to be
more to it. It's all simply
divine.

As Fluttershy sits in her throne, she says...

9 FLUTTERSHY
I agree with Twilight. And Rarity
and Applejack and Rainbow Dash and
Pinkie Pie. And probably Spike.
There could be more to it, but
there could also not be more to it.

Twilight paces behind her throne, but doesn't sit.

10 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
As princess, I've chosen to spread
the Magic of Friendship across
Equestria. So why would the Tree
of Harmony want us to sit in a
castle in Ponyville? It doesn't
make any sense.

Frustrated, she plops down in her throne...

Just then, as each of them sits in their throne at the same
time, their Cutie Marks start to SHIMMER and GLOW! The
thrones go from gemstone violet to the BRILLIANT SILVERY
WHITE OF THE TREE OF HARMONY. The entire room starts to
RUMBLE and SHAKE!

TREE ROOTS grow out from the bases of their thrones and start to twist together and layer on top of each other into a CIRCULAR TABLE. As the Mane Six watch in astonishment, a THREE-DIMENSIONAL TOPOGRAPHIC MAP OF EQUESTRIA forms across the surface of the table. The entire thing glows exactly like the Tree of Harmony.

Suddenly, the shimmering light from their Cutie Marks SHOOTs OFF of their flanks and SPIRALs AROUND THE ROOM! The swirls of rainbow light zero in on one section of the map and turn into HOLOGRAMs of the Mane Six's Cutie marks floating just above its surface.

There's a beat where nopony says anything, then Spike SNORTLES himself awake.

11 SPIKE
 (with a yawn)
Is that new?

FADE OUT.

END TEASER

MAIN TITLES

ACT 1

FADE IN:

SC 5. INT. TWILIGHT SPARKLE'S CASTLE, THRONE ROOM - DAY

The Mane Six sit in their thrones, incredulous.

12 APPLEJACK
What the hay just happened?

13 PINKIE PIE
Our Cutie Marks started to glow and then the room shook and...wait, you are talking about the map, right?

Spike leans in and looks over the miniature Equestrian landscape.

14 SPIKE
This is incredible! It's got all of Equestria and a whole bunch more!

Fluttershy points to Ponyville on the map.

15 FLUTTERSHY
But if this is Ponyville...

She looks alllllll the way across the map to where the Cutie Marks are hovering.

16 FLUTTERSHY (CONT'D)
...why are our Cutie Marks over there?

The others study the map. Pinkie Pie smiles down at a particular section and waves.

17 PINKIE PIE
Hi, Mom and Dad!

The Cutie Marks hover above a mountainous area with a village nestled into a recession in the middle. The tiny village looks like two long blocks of buildings with a main street down the middle (like an EQUALS SIGN).

18 FLUTTERSHY
(off the village)
What is that place? It's on the other side of Equestria.

19 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I don't know. But it seems like the map wants us to find out.

20 APPLEJACK
Now hang on, y'all. We just got through fightin' that Tirek feller. I can't be gallivantin' across Equestria just 'cause some glowing map says to!

21 RARITY
As much as I adore this rather modern take on rustic design, I'm afraid I must agree with Applejack. How can we be sure that's what it means?

22 RAINBOW DASH
Yeah, and where did this thing come from, anyway?

23 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I don't know, but it has to be connected to the Tree of Harmony. Just look at it!

(MORE)

TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)

The Tree, the chest, this castle...and now the map. It's all related.

(earnestly)

How can we not follow it?

The others are hesitant. The village really is at the extreme end of Equestria. Rainbow Dash studies the expanse of land between Ponyville and the village.

24 RAINBOW DASH

You know what? There's a ton of room for dangerous adventures along that route. Count me in.

25 APPLEJACK

Aw shoot, I reckon you're right. Granny Smith can run my plow a little while longer.

26 PINKIE PIE

Well...I was planning on organizing my baking sheets, but okay!

27 RARITY

Very well, but I'm treating this as a research trip. I have no idea what ponies on that side of Equestria are wearing.

They all look at Fluttershy.

28 FLUTTERSHY

Maybe I'll just stay here with Spike.

29 SPIKE

Awesome! Me and Big Mac have a huge weekend ahead of us talkin' hoofball and trading hoofball cards and arguing about hoofball stats!

Fluttershy grimaces.

30 FLUTTERSHY

On second thought, maybe I'd better go with them. In case they need me.

31 SPIKE

Suit yourself. But he's got a Hock Fetlock rookie card I plan to sweet talk right into these hot little claws.

32 RAINBOW DASH
So it's settled? We're all going
to...
 (pointing to the map)
...there?

They all nod.

33 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Looks like it's time for a road
trip...

SC 6. EXT. PONYVILLE TRAIN STATION - DAY

Applejack, Pinkie Pie, Rainbow Dash, Fluttershy, and Rarity
wait at the train station next to a particularly long TRAIN.

34 CONDUCTOR (O.S.)
All aboard for Manehattan,
Greenlawn, Pinelawn, Little Gallop,
East Hoof Harbor, Horseshoe Falls,
Fillydelphia, Locust Valley, Bronco
Bay, Near Stirrup, Far Stirrup, Far
Far Stirrup, Really Far Far
Stirrup, and all points beyond!

35 RAINBOW DASH
Where's Twilight? We're gonna miss
our train!

Twilight races up with a scroll.

36 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Sorry I'm late! I had to write
down directions.

The scroll unfolds...all the way to the ground. Applejack
WHISTLES.

37 APPLEJACK
Wooo doggies! We best get a move
on.

They board the train and the doors close...

SC 7. MONTAGE

38 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (V.O.)
This train will only get us part of
the way...

The BACKGROUNDS ALTERNATE between day and night as the train zips past -- open fields, big city, raised tracks over water, low desert...

39 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (V.O.)
...and there's still a long way to
go once we reach the end of the
line.

DISSOLVE TO:

SC 8. NEW MONTAGE

Again the BACKGROUND CHANGE, but now the Mane Six are on hoof -- high plains, marshlands, snowy mountain village, and finally an almost lunar desert. They end up on top of a...

SC 9. EXT. ROCKY BLUFF - DAY

There are giant BOULDERS and strange trees littering the landscape (think Joshua Tree for reference). Twilight is consulting her scroll.

40 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I don't understand. According to
my directions, we should be right
on top of it.

41 PINKIE PIE
I hope we weren't reading the map
upside-down or something--

42 APPLEJACK
Look, y'all! Is that it yonder?

She points down the bluff to...

A VILLAGE -- two long, parallel blocks of structures bisected by a main street [*NOTE: The ponies should not notice that it looks like an equals sign*].

43 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
That's it! That's the place on the
map!

44 RARITY
Well let's get down there and find
the spa.

She starts off, but Twilight stops her.

45 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Wait. We don't know why the map
sent us here. We shouldn't just
walk right in, it could be
dangerous.

46 RAINBOW DASH
Yesss!!

47 PINKIE PIE
(deadly serious)
Stay behind me, everypony. I'm on
it.

SC 10. EXT. JUST OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE - LATER

Pinkie Pie crouch-runs and somersaults comically between boulders. She gives elaborate hoof signals to the others, who race along behind her. Finally, they all end up behind a giant rock at the edge of the village. They peek up over the top and see...

48 FLUTTERSHY
Oh, it's so cute!

And, indeed, it is cute. It's sort of a bland version of Main Street, USA, where every building is architecturally the same, differentiated only by signs or little details -- for instance, a CAFE on one side of the street has tables outside. Several VILLAGE PONIES go about their day [*NOTE: The Village Ponies are a variety of races and color schemes, but they are always SMILING, though this Stepford quality should be subtle here*].

49 RAINBOW DASH
This is where that map sent us? It
looks like the most boring place in
Equestria!

They continue to watch as the Village Ponies enjoy their town, still not quite picking up on the artificial sameness of it all.

50 APPLEJACK
It don't make a lick of sense!
That's just an ordinary village
full of ordinary folks.

51 RARITY
It could certainly use a few more
architectural flourishes...or any
architectural flourishes.

52 FLUTTERSHY

I think it's lovely.

53 PINKIE PIE

(cold-eyed)

I don't like it. I don't like it
one bit.

They look over at her in confusion.

54 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)

I know smiles. And those smiles?
They're just not right.

55 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

Forget the smiles...look at the
Cutie Marks!

ON TWO VILLAGE PONIES -- as they cross the street, we get a
clear view of their flanks. Both ponies have the SAME CUTIE
MARK. It looks like an EQUALS SIGN.

FIND OTHER VILLAGE PONIES -- at the outdoor cafe...coming out
of the grocery store...chatting on the corner...ALL HAVE THE
SAME EQUALS SIGN CUTIE MARK.

56 RAINBOW DASH

Okay, that's weird.

FADE OUT.

END ACT 1

ACT 2

FADE IN:

SC 11. EXT. JUST OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE - DAY

The Mane Six duck down behind their rock to confer.

57 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

An entire village with the same
Cutie Mark? How can that be?

58 RAINBOW DASH

I bet there's some sort of horrific
monster behind it!

59 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

Monster? What makes you say that?

60 RAINBOW DASH
I dunno, 'cause fighting a horrific
monster would be super awesome?

61 APPLEJACK
Reckon we oughta just head into
town and talk to some locals. Find
out what's goin' on.

62 RAINBOW DASH
Great idea, AJ, let's go.

63 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Wait. We should all go.
(masking her unease)
Together.

They all nod their agreement. Pinkie Pie sneaks one last
peek around the boulder.

64 PINKIE PIE
Those smiles are baaaad news...

On the cheerful Village Ponies, we go...

SC 12. EXT. VILLAGE MAIN STREET - DAY

The Mane Six move toward town. They are still trying to hide
behind the rocks, but not doing a great job of it. A black
pegasus, NIGHT GLIDER, sees them and waves with a wide, sunny
smile.

65 NIGHT GLIDER
Welcome!

The Mane Six, feeling foolish for sneaking around, awkwardly
straighten up and pretend they still have their dignity. As
they enter the main street, another Village Pony walks past,
fixing them with a wide-eyed smile.

66 VILLAGE PONY #1
Welcome!

67 APPLEJACK
(with a smile)
Howdy, stranger!

The Village Pony tips her head and smiles even wider. As
they enter the village, it looks like a clean, happy,
functional utopia.

68 FLUTTERSHY
 (in awe)
This must be the most pleasant
place in Equestria!

They take a few more tentative steps into town. Everypony keeps going about their business, but there is no doubt the Mane Six have been noticed. They are met with Stepford smiles from everypony they see.

69 VILLAGE PONY # 2
Welcome!

A silver unicorn with a blue mane -- PARTY FAVOR -- comes toward them. There is the subtle hint of something else behind his smile...

70 PARTY FAVOR
Welcome!

71 RAINBOW DASH
 (to herself, sulking)
Thanks a lot, map.

72 PARTY FAVOR
Pardon my forwardness, but...are
you an alicorn?

Twilight blushes.

73 APPLEJACK
That there's the Princess of
Friendship!

74 PARTY FAVOR
 (smiling warmly)
Well you've certainly come to the
right place for friendship.

He inspects them closely.

75 PARTY FAVOR (CONT'D)
You all have different Cutie
Marks...

An earth pony, this one white with a white mane, comes toward them. This is DOUBLE DIAMOND, and the urgency in his step goes unnoticed by the Mane Six. Again, very subtly, Party Favor backs away and lets Double Diamond take center stage.

76 DOUBLE DIAMOND
Welcome! What brings you to town?

The Mane Six shift uncomfortably.

77 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
We're not entirely sure.

78 DOUBLE DIAMOND
I see. Well, all are welcome here
in our little village. My name is
Double Diamond and this is Party
Favor.

79 APPLEJACK
Howdy, Double Diamond. I'm
Applejack, and this here's Pinkie
Pie, Fluttershy, Rarity, Rainbow
Dash, and Twilight Sparkle.

80 DOUBLE DIAMOND
(still smiling)
And you all have your own unique
Cutie Marks.

The Mane Six smile back uncomfortably.

81 DOUBLE DIAMOND (CONT'D)
Forgive my manners, please, make
yourselves at home. As I said, all
are welcome here.

82 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
If you don't mind...has there been
any sort of trouble here lately?

83 DOUBLE DIAMOND
Trouble?

He laughs, but it feels a bit fake.

84 DOUBLE DIAMOND (CONT'D)
Why, I don't think we've ever had
trouble in our village.

85 PARTY FAVOR
It's true. You'll see.

He smiles wide, proud of his town.

86 DOUBLE DIAMOND
Perhaps you'd care to speak to our
founder, Starlight?

Rainbow Dash finally smiles and whispers to Applejack.

87 RAINBOW DASH
Starlight. Now that's a horrific
monster's name if I've ever heard
one...

Applejack rolls her eyes, and the Mane Six follow Double
Diamond down the main street. Everypony they pass stops what
they're doing to watch, all with big smiles on their faces.

88 FLUTTERSHY
I wish everypony in Equestria was
as friendly as these ponies are.

89 PINKIE PIE
I've got my eye on them...

She smiles and waves to two Village Ponies.

90 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
Something's rotten in...whatever
the name of this village is that
we're in right now.

SC 13. INT. STARLIGHT'S COTTAGE - LATER

KNOCK KNOCK, and the door opens.

91 DOUBLE DIAMOND
Starlight? We have some new
visitors!

He enters, followed by the Mane Six. The cottage is spare --
a basic table and chair, a fireplace, a few paintings of just
solid colors.

92 RAINBOW DASH
 (quietly)
Be ready to fight. We don't know
what's gonna come through that
door...

93 STARLIGHT (O.S.)
Welcome!

Starlight enters from an adjoining bedroom. She is sweet-
looking, a little smaller than an average pony. She is
ghostly magenta with a pale electric-purple mane, a ponyfied
aurora borealis. And she has an EQUALS SIGN CUTIE MARK.

94 STARLIGHT (CONT'D)
I'm so pleased to have you here.

95 DOUBLE DIAMOND
This is Applejack, Fluttershy,
Pinkie Pie, Rarity, Rainbow Dash,
and Twilight Sparkle.

Starlight smiles.

96 STARLIGHT
Forgive my bluntness, but I'm
assuming it's Princess Twilight
Sparkle? We don't get many
alicorns around here.

97 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Yes. But Twilight is fine.

There's something uncomfortable about the scene. Starlight
doesn't offer them drinks or a seat. They all just sort of
stand there facing each other.

98 STARLIGHT
So...how did you hear of our little
village?

99 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
It's kind of a long story. Let's
just say we found it on a map.

100 PINKIE PIE
Technically it's a tree-chest-
castle-map.

101 STARLIGHT
Well, however you found us, we're
happy to have you. We're happy to
have anypony who wants to
experience true friendship for the
first time.

102 APPLEJACK
Say what?

103 STARLIGHT
Oh, indeed. That's what's so
unique about our village, you see.
Around here, we don't flaunt our
special talents because we don't
have any special talents to flaunt.

104 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Is that why you all have those
Cutie Marks?

Starlight smiles and lowers her head, as if to say, "Now this is a long story."

105 STARLIGHT
Perhaps it would be easier to
understand if I gave you a tour of
the village.

106 RAINBOW DASH
A tour? It's just one street,
right?

107 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
A tour would be...great!

MUSIC UP. It's a happy, high energy song in the style of "Be Our Guest" from BEAUTY AND THE BEAST.

SC 14. EXT. VILLAGE MAIN STREET - LATER

Starlight leads the Mane Six from building to building (residence or commercial building, all look basically the same). Around her, the Village Ponies do a knee-bend dance to the beat. Their choreography is as basic as it gets.

108 STARLIGHT
*Life's a smile in our small town/
For every frown gets turned around/
Show those shining pearly whites/
Don't let yourself be down.*

She runs past Village Ponies and leaves a trail of wide smiles in her wake.

109 STARLIGHT (CONT'D)
*Our Cutie Marks may look the same/
Because we aim to make our name/
As the one and only place/
Where we don't seek acclaim.*

*Our little nook/
Our little nook/
No pony's better, no pony's worse/
Here we don't suffer Cutie Mark's
curse/
Come take a look!*

Starlight struts down the street and it CROSS DISSOLVES into a RUNNING TRACK. As she sings, we see a RUNNER PONY with headband and GOLD MEDAL CUTIE MARK. A Village Pony steps up next to him, and the two begin to race...

110 STARLIGHT (CONT'D)
*We have the same capacity/
And he's like she and she's like
he/
No heartache and no bitterness/
In sameness we are free.*

Runner Pony leaves Village Pony in the dust. But as he runs past Starlight, his Cutie Mark changes into an EQUALS SIGN. It begins to GLOW, magically slowing Runner Pony down until Village Pony pulls even. Despite Runner Pony's best effort, the two cross the finish line at exactly the same time.

111 STARLIGHT (CONT'D)
*Your difference ends in argument/
But we don't vent, we don't resent/
So you may fuss and you may fight/
It's friendship you'll lament.*

A Brady Bunch style grid of ponies, each angry and yelling at one another. Starlight walks across the screen, leaving EQUALS SIGN CUTIE MARKS behind, and instantly the bickering ponies become smiling, singing, Stepford ponies.

112 CHORUS
*Our little nook/
Our little nook/
Nopony's better, nopony's worse/
Here we don't suffer Cutie Mark's
curse/
Come take a look!*

Starlight continues to sing as behind her, two BABY PONIES AGE PROGRESS. They are happy and smiling, but as they grow bigger, Cutie Marks appear.

113 STARLIGHT
*When ponies feel superior/
They might prefer to cause a stir/
They show off, boast, and put you
down/
And friendship won't occur.*

As they become full-grown adult ponies, one is clearly superior, LOOMING OVER THE OTHER, who cowers on the ground.

114 STARLIGHT (CONT'D)
*Can't you see your lives are
stark?/
Your Cutie Marks make things so
dark/
Come join in our utopia/
And give your hearts a spark!*

BACK TO REALITY -- and now the Village Ponies start to line up behind her as the song builds.

115 CHORUS
*Our little nook/
Our little nook/
No pony's better, no pony's worse/
Here we don't suffer Cutie Mark's
curse/
Come take a look!*

The whole village sings directly to the Mane Six, building toward a big finish...

116 CHORUS (CONT'D)
*Join our cause, join our way/
Lose your Mark and you may stay/
Then we'll all be perfect friends
with no more gifts/
Come on and be our friend/
You've got to comprehend/
That in our nook/
In our burg/
In our town/
You'll settle doooooown!*

END MUSIC. Starlight and the Village Ponies hold their poses. After an extended beat, Rainbow Dash ERUPTS IN LAUGHTER.

117 RAINBOW DASH
You're kidding, right? Give up our
Cutie Marks? No way!

118 FLUTTERSHY
Rainbow Dash, don't be so rude!

119 APPLEJACK
So lemme get this straight. Y'all
gave up your Cutie Marks so you
could be the same?

Random Village Ponies agree in unison.

120 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
How do you give up a Cutie Mark?

121 FLUTTERSHY
I don't think we should judge them.
They all seem perfectly happy with
their choice.

122 PINKIE PIE
Don't believe their smiles,
Fluttershy.

The Village Ponies' Stepford smiles start to falter. They seem utterly perplexed to see a group of friends having differing opinions. They look at one another in confusion.

123 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I'm sorry, I guess we're just a
little confused by all of this--

124 RAINBOW DASH
(still laughing)
I'm not confused! They want us to
trade in our Cutie Marks!

FIND Party Favor -- clearly troubled by all these differing opinions. He glances at Starlight and sees a SMILE OF SUPREME CONFIDENCE.

125 STARLIGHT
We have no judgments here in our
village. Each of us was confused
once, as well, blinded by the false
promise of our Cutie Marks.

126 RAINBOW DASH
Is she for real?

Twilight scowls at Rainbow Dash, then turns back to the Village Ponies.

127 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
When we were sent to this village,
we assumed it was to help in some
way, but...well, it doesn't seem
like you need any help.

128 STARLIGHT
Have you considered perhaps that
you might have been sent here so we
could help you?

Twilight doesn't know what to say. Starlight steps forward, her words intended as much for the Village Ponies as the Mane Six.

129 STARLIGHT (CONT'D)
After all, no pony has ever come to
our village and wanted to leave.
Why should you be any different?

She turns her back to the Mane Six and smiles at her fellow Village Ponies. They smile back.

130 STARLIGHT (CONT'D)
(to the Mane Six)
But that is entirely your choice.
Please, enjoy our little corner of
Equestria. We're all quite fond of
it. No doubt you will be as well.

She starts to walk off toward her cottage.

131 STARLIGHT (CONT'D)
Double Diamond, please help our
guests with whatever they might
need.

132 DOUBLE DIAMOND
Of course.

We STAY ON Starlight as she leaves the scene. Behind her, the Mane Six stand awkwardly before the Village Ponies. Neither side seems to know quite what to do next.

133 STARLIGHT
(to herself)
Well this will certainly provide a
boost to our little community...

She pauses and looks back at the Mane Six, shaking her head in disbelief.

134 STARLIGHT (CONT'D)
When the rest of Equestria sees
that a princess gave up her Cutie
Mark to join us, they'll finally
understand what we're trying to
accomplish.

And she walks OFF SCREEN with a smile, leaving Twilight and the others IN FRAME.

FADE OUT.

END ACT 2

ACT 3

FADE IN:

SC 15. EXT. VILLAGE MAIN STREET - DAY

The Mane Six stroll down the street, looking in shop windows and passing by smiling Village Ponies.

135 VILLAGE PONY #3
Welcome! Hope you decide to join
us!

136 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
A Cutie Mark is a representation of
a pony's unique talents and skills.
How is it possible to give it up?

She looks back and sees Double Diamond trailing behind.

137 DOUBLE DIAMOND
(helpfully)
Need something?

138 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
No, we're good.

She gives him an awkward smile and keeps walking. He always maintains a respectful distance, allowing them their privacy, yet there is no question his presence is intrusive.

139 RARITY
(aghast)
What in the name of Equestria is
that?!

She pulls up short outside a boutique. The SHOPKEEPER stands outside with a big smile. Several racks of cloaks hang outside. They look like plain burlap sacks.

140 SHOPKEEPER
Welcome! Care to sample some local
fashion? We've got cloaks this
month!

141 RARITY
Perhaps another time, good sir,
thank you.
(whispering, to Applejack)
No wonder nopony's wearing
anything.

142 FLUTTERSHY
Really, girls, they may do things a
bit differently than we're used to,
but that's no reason to be
impolite.

They come to the...

SC 16. EXT. VILLAGE CAFE - CONTINUOUS

...and take seats at an outdoor table. Village Ponies at other tables stare at them and smile. Double Diamond takes a position across the street and watches. He's not sinister; he's trying to give them space and yet be there for them, like Starlight asked. He's just not particularly tactful.

143 RAINBOW DASH

(quietly)

No, the reason to be rude is that they all keep staring at us like that.

144 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

Fluttershy's right. If we're going to get to the bottom of why the map sent us here, we'll need the help of these ponies.

145 APPLEJACK

You wanna know what I think? I think we ran off to the end of Equestria before we even knew what that map was!

146 PINKIE PIE

If we were at the end of Equestria, we'd be sitting on a big A! Get it?

147 RARITY

Really, Pinkie, this is hardly the time for jokes. We've come all this way and for what?

As the Mane Six start to disagree, their voices rise. Nearby Village Ponies notice.

148 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

Maybe you're right, but we're here now. And it sure feels like something's wrong.

149 APPLEJACK

That and two bits'll get you a cup of cider.

150 FLUTTERSHY

We shouldn't be bickering like this in front of our new friends.

(MORE)

FLUTTERSHY (CONT'D)

Really, Applejack, you're almost as bad as Rainbow Dash!

151 RAINBOW DASH
Hey, don't drag me into this.

A pink unicorn in an apron approaches. This is Sugar Belle.

152 SUGAR BELLE
Is this a bad time? Is your friendship ending? I can come back later.

153 PINKIE PIE
Are you crazy? We'd never let a disagreement get in the way of food!

154 SUGAR BELLE
(confused)
Okay, well...uh, my name is Sugar Belle. What can I bring you? We have muffins...

The Mane Six wait for the rest of the options, but they never come.

155 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Then I guess we'll take six muffins.

156 PINKIE PIE
Make that twelve.
(off Twilight's look)
What? I'm hungry.

Sugar Belle disappears back inside.

157 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Come on, girls, we've got to stick together. It doesn't matter what happened before; we're here now.

158 APPLEJACK
I guess you're right. And the sooner we figure out why, the sooner we can go home.

Sugar Belle reappears and sets down the muffins. She looks confused.

159 SUGAR BELLE
Forgive me for overhearing, but
just a moment ago you were
disagreeing. And now it sounds
like you're agreeing.

160 APPLEJACK
Huh?

161 SUGAR BELLE
Well, you had such differing
opinions. And Cutie Marks.

162 RARITY
We have differing opinions all the
time, darling.

163 SUGAR BELLE
 (genuinely confused)
But...you look like friends.

164 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
We are friends. A simple
disagreement wouldn't change
that...

ACROSS THE STREET -- Double Diamond watches the Mane Six talk
to Sugar Belle. His eyes narrow.

BACK ON THE MANE SIX -- Sugar Belle is still smiling, and
very curious to hear what they have to say.

165 SUGAR BELLE
I'm sorry, I'm just having a hard
time understanding. Different
talents lead to different opinions,
which lead to bitterness and
misery. So, why aren't you bitter
and--

Pinkie Pie SPITS OUT the muffin in a way that is not too
gross. She looks like she just ate something rotten.

166 PINKIE PIE
 (super forced)
Mmm...good...

167 SUGAR BELLE
It's all right, I know I'm not a
very good baker. At least, I'm not
any better than anypony else in the
village.

Out of the corner of her eye, she sees Double Diamond watching her from across the street. HE IS NOT SMILING. Her own smile falters, and she becomes uncomfortable.

168 SUGAR BELLE (CONT'D)
Well, I hope you enjoy our little
village!

Pinkie Pie is frantically wiping her tongue with her hooves.

169 PINKIE PIE
We will.

170 SUGAR BELLE
(quickly, whispered)
Come inside before you go. Meet me
downstairs.

And she smiles widely once more -- for Double Diamond's benefit -- then goes back inside.

171 RAINBOW DASH
Okay, that was weird, too.

172 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Let's all sit here and eat these
muffins and act normal. I think
we're being watched.

MANE SIX P.O.V. -- everywhere they look, Village Ponies are watching them and smiling.

173 RAINBOW DASH
Ya think?

174 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
No, not like that. I mean somepony
here doesn't want us talking to
Sugar Belle.

175 APPLEJACK
I got an idea. But you gotta eat
all them muffins, Pinkie.

176 PINKIE PIE
(distracted)
Me? Why me?

177 APPLEJACK
You got a stronger stomach than any
of us and that filly in there might
be our best chance at findin' out
what the hay is goin' on around
here.

Pinkie Pie studies the eleven muffins sitting before her. She looks like she might cry...

SC 17. INT. VILLAGE CAFE - MOMENTS LATER

The Mane Six enter, Pinkie Pie holding her stomach and looking a bit green.

178 APPLEJACK
 (loudly and stagy)
I can't believe you ate all our
muffins, Pinkie Pie! We best go
inside and get some more!

The door closes and they are alone.

179 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Nice work, Pinkie.

180 PINKIE PIE
I've accidentally eaten cardboard
tastier than that.

181 RAINBOW DASH
Come on, this way!

SC 18. INT. VILLAGE CAFE, BASEMENT - MOMENTS LATER

The Mane Six enter the creepy basement. A single candle lights the room. Sugar Belle is barely visible in the shadows.

182 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Hello? Sugar Belle?

She steps forward, but in this light her Stepford grin looks much more sinister.

183 SUGAR BELLE
Thank you for coming.

184 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Why did want us to come down here?

Sugar Belle steps forward again.

185 SUGAR BELLE
So nopony could see what's about to
happen...

Two others -- Night Glider and Party Favor -- step out from the shadows, both smiling, and start to close in, when...ON A DIME, the mood shifts.

186 PARTY FAVOR
Are you really the Princess of Friendship?

187 NIGHT GLIDER
Do you know Princess Celestia?
What's she like?

188 SUGAR BELLE
(to Pinkie Pie)
I love your Cutie Mark!

189 NIGHT GLIDER
How can you be friends with different Cutie Marks? Don't you end up hating each other?

190 RARITY
I should say not!

191 SUGAR BELLE
(off Fluttershy's Cutie Mark)
Look at this one, this one's great too! I'd love to have my special talent back, even just for a day...make something besides those disgusting muffins...
(self-consciously)
I mean, I love my life in the village, but sometimes...

192 RAINBOW DASH
So what's stopping you? Go get your Cutie Marks back.

The Village Ponies are confused.

193 PARTY FAVOR
Daydreaming is one thing, but you mean...actually having it put back on? That seems extreme.

194 SUGAR BELLE
I'm not sure Starlight would like that. She wants us all to be happy in our sameness.

195 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
How do you take somepony's Cutie
Mark, anyway? I didn't know that
was possible.

The Village Ponies light up.

196 NIGHT GLIDER
The Cutie Unmarking is a beautiful
experience. Starlight uses the
Staff of Sameness to magically take
them away and replace them with
these.

The Mane Six exchange a nervous glance.

197 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
But...no pony should keep you from
your Cutie Mark. It represents
such an essential part of who you
are!

198 NIGHT GLIDER
Oh, we're not kept from them.
They're in the vault, up in the
caves. We can visit any time we
like to remind us of the heartache
of a life with special talents.

199 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Can we visit this cave?

ON THE VILLAGE PONIES -- considering...

SC 19. EXT. ROCKY HILLSIDE - LATER

Starlight leads the Mane Six through a hillside littered with
huge boulders, Double Diamond at her side. The equals sign
of the village can be seen behind them at the base of the
hill.

200 STARLIGHT
I'm delighted you're interested in
our Cutie Mark vault! We hope
someday every pony in Equestria
will make a pilgrimage here to our
little village to have theirs
removed, too, and our message of
perfectly equal friendship can
finally spread across the land!

She and Double Diamond guide the way, which gives the others
a chance to whisper to each other.

201 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
This must be the reason we're here.

202 PINKIE PIE
Pilgrimaging?

203 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
No, helping those ponies get their Cutie Marks back! Couldn't you see how much they missed them?

204 FLUTTERSHY
Are you sure, Twilight? Maybe they missed them a little, but even they didn't seem all that unhappy.

205 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Then why did they want to meet us in secret? And why did they ask us not to tell Starlight who told us about the vault?

206 RARITY
They did seem keen to keep their distance from us. At least publicly.

207 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Something's not right...

208 STARLIGHT
Just through here!

She and Double Diamond disappear around a corner. The Mane Six exchange a look, then follow them into...

SC 20. INT. CAVE - MOMENTS LATER

They enter and their jaws drop...

209 STARLIGHT
Here is our Cutie Mark vault...

210 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I've never seen anything like it...

At the far end of the cave is a huge wall of GLASS COMPARTMENTS. Each compartment holds a FLOATING CUTIE MARK! *[NOTE: This could be like a wall-sized bakery case, with each Mark in its own backlit compartment, so the whole thing lights the cave with a sterile glow.]*

211 STARLIGHT
And here is the Staff of Sameness.

She approaches a glowing green STAFF resting on a rock alter. It is carved top to bottom with ancient runes. She picks it up and examines it lovingly.

212 STARLIGHT (CONT'D)
It was one of the great mage Meadowbrook's nine enchanted items. We are incredibly fortunate to have it here. This is the tool that allows us to free ourselves from our Marks.

She notices that the Mane Six are transfixed by the wall of Cutie Marks and takes advantage...

213 STARLIGHT (CONT'D)
I'm curious, how did the subject of the vault come up?

214 PINKIE PIE
(distracted)
Some ponies were telling us how much they missed their Cutie Marks and--

215 STARLIGHT
(eyes lighting up)
Were they!

216 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
(under her breath)
Pinkie!

217 PINKIE PIE
Oops.

Starlight's perfectly composed demeanor takes on an undertone of menace.

218 STARLIGHT
Well it seems you inspire all sorts of free thinking, don't you?

The tension inside the cave is palpable.

219 RARITY
We certainly don't intend to cause any disruptions to your charming little village--

220 STARLIGHT
Good. Let's just make sure of
that, shall we?

Double Diamond steps forward menacingly as a dozen VILLAGE
PONIES enter behind the Mane Six.

221 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
It's a trap!

She FIRES UP HER HORN -- but before she can launch a spell,
Starlight waves the staff and a CRACKLE OF PURPLE AND MAGENTA
MAGIC STREAMS ACROSS THE ROOM! The magic is comprised of the
same colors as Starlight herself, and could look something
like what came out of the Ghostbusters' proton packs.

ON TWILIGHT'S CUTIE MARK -- as it PEELS RIGHT OFF HER BODY,
leaving an EQUALS SIGN! Twilight fires her magic, but all it
does is trip one of the Village Ponies. He gets right back
up and GRABS HER.

222 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
My Cutie Mark! My magic!

Her Cutie Mark sails across the cave and into a waiting
compartment of the vault.

Meanwhile, Rainbow Dash flies a tight swirl around two other
Village Ponies.

223 RAINBOW DASH
Time to take out some bad guys--

Starlight's magic staff BLASTS HER and STEALS HER CUTIE MARK,
leaving an EQUALS SIGN. Her tornado-like spiral slows to
nearly nothing, allowing the Village Ponies to easily grab
her.

Applejack rears back to deliver an applebuck to a Village
Pony, when the magic STEALS HER CUTIE MARK and leaves an
EQUALS SIGN. She KICKS OUT, but it only barely knocks the
Village Pony back. He keeps coming and, along with another,
subdues her as well.

The staff BLASTS AGAIN AND AGAIN -- one Cutie Mark after
another FLOATS INTO THE VAULT! Finally, our Mane Six are all
left with EQUALS SIGN CUTIE MARKS! And all are being held by
the Village Ponies.

224 STARLIGHT
I don't blame you for what you
tried to do here today. You've
spent your whole lives thinking
those Marks are a good thing.

225 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Let us go!

226 STARLIGHT
(ignoring her)
Well now you can spend the rest of
your lives here with us. And we'll
teach you just how much better life
can be without your Cutie Marks.

ON THE MANE SIX -- horror in their eyes!

ON Starlight -- standing above them, glowing staff in hand,
backlit by a wall of imprisoned Cutie Marks. And right there
in the middle, the Cutie Marks of the Mane Six!

FADE OUT.

END