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MY LITTLE PONY
Season 7

Celestial Advice
Ep 701

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Friendship Lesson: Twilight learns you can let someone you love spread their wings and still have a place in their life.

TEASER

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

We OPEN ON SPIKE knocking on STARLIGHT GLIMMER'S door. Starlight answers.

1 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Hey Spike. What's up?

2 SPIKE
Just, uh, wanted to make sure you're ready for your big ceremony today.

3 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Yup. I still can't believe my friends and I are getting medals of honor.

As they talk, we see TWILIGHT teleport in behind Starlight's back, give Spike a wink, and quietly measure a blank spot on Starlight's wall.

4 SPIKE
Are you kidding? You totally deserve it! (stalling) After all, you saved Equestria... from Queen Chrysalis... with the help of Trixie, Thorax, and Discord...

5 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Um, yeah. I know what happened. I was kinda there?

6 SPIKE
Right. Uh, so what are you wearing?

7 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Not sure. Why, am I supposed to dress up?

8 SPIKE
No. I mean, you could. It's like Rarity always says: (impersonating Rarity) "There's no such thing as overdressed. You're just the best-looking pony in the room!"

Spike keeps looking at Twilight over Starlight's shoulder.

9 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
What are you looking at?

Starlight turns to look.

10 SPIKE
No, don't look--!

But Twilight teleports out just in time.

11 SPIKE (CONT'D)
Cuz there was a spider there but it's gone now sooo... Thanks, Starlight byeeee!

Spike walks off. Starlight looks confused, but shrugs it off.

SC.2 INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - TWILIGHT'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Twilight is writing measurements on a scroll. Spike walks in with a cocky swagger.

12 SPIKE
Heh heh. She had no idea. We're a good team, Sparkle.

13 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Sparkle? (laughs) Yeah we are. So, do you think she'll like it? I want this present to say "I'm so proud of you, both as a mentor and a friend. Equestria is safer thanks to you."

14 SPIKE
Oh. I thought you were getting her a mirror, like yours.

ANGLE ON a mirror in Twilight's bedroom. It's framed with cute pictures of Twilight and all her friends.

15 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I am.

16 SPIKE
Maybe you should get her a card, cuz I don't think the mirror will say all that. But I think she'll like it.

17 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
It's just what her room needs. The first thing she'll see when she wakes up is herself surrounded by all her friends!! I plan on giving it to her after the ceremony.

- 18 SPIKE
About that. Don't you need to get the castle ready for the celebration?
- 19 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Nah. Pinkie Pie's got that covered.

CUT TO:

SC. 3 INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - DINING HALL - SAME

PINKIE PIE is in the bare, undecorated dining hall. She pulls on a cord that is attached to something unseen above. Suddenly, bunting, balloons, tablecloths, centerpieces, etc., all fall perfectly into place. The room is instantly decorated! Pinkie wipes sweat off her brow like it was super hard to pull that cord.

END TEASER!

MAIN TITLES

ACT ONE

SC. 4 INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - DINING HALL - DAY

PONIES (including our Mane 6, SUNBURST, and DIGNITARY PONIES), and CHANGELINGS are gathered. Twilight is making a speech at the front of the room with PRINCESS CELESTIA and PRINCESS LUNA at her side. There's a podium of pink heart-shaped medals. Starlight, TRIxie, THORAX, and DISCORD are standing proud.

- 20 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
...Starlight, Trixie, Thorax, and Discord were brave in the face of danger, resourceful when things got challenging, and proved that the bonds of friendship, no matter how unlikely, are stronger than any adversity. By stopping Queen Chrysalis, not only did they save Equestria, they set the changelings free from her reign.

ANGLE ON the crowd. The ponies and changelings smile big. Discord poofs himself into the audience, dressed as a sports fan rooting for team Discord. He has a baseball cap and pennants with his silhouette on them.

- 21 DISCORD
Go Discord!

He poofs back on stage. Trixie rolls her eyes at him.

22 PRINCESS CELESTIA
That's why we're proud and honored to give them the Equestrian Pink Hearts of Courage.

Celestia and Luna magic the medals from the podium over to Starlight and her friends. Everypony starts to cheer, but Discord bows his head, then pulls it up, making Luna struggle to get the medal around his head. ON Pinkie trying to cheer:

23 PINKIE PIE
YAAA--oh--oh--nope--no--okay there it is. (beat) YAAAAAY!

Luna finally gets the medal on.

24 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
We are so proud of all of you.

Twilight's gaze lingers on Starlight for just a beat more. They share a smile as the crowd CHEERS.

SC. 5 INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - DINING HALL - LATER

The celebration is underway. Starlight and her friends are gathered, surrounded by changelings and Sunburst. Trixie is eating up the attention.

25 TRIXIE
It was the Great and Powerful Trixie's pleasure to save you from your imminent doom.

26 DISCORD
Yes. Because you did it all by yourself.

27 SUNBURST
I can't believe you managed to do it without magic.

28 CHANGELINGS
It was amazing! / No one's ever stood up to Chrysalis like that.

Off to the side, Twilight watches like a proud mama. Celestia walks up to her.

29 PRINCESS CELESTIA
It's a wonderful feeling, isn't it? Watching your student shine the way you always knew they could.

30 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
My cheeks are sore. I don't think I've ever smiled this much in my life.

31 PRINCESS CELESTIA
I can only imagine what that feels like.

Celestia winks at Twilight and leaves. Then Discord poofs up next to her.

32 DISCORD
Yes, Starlight is student of the year, isn't she? She has so much potential. So, what are we going to do with her? And by "we" I definitely mean you. Being her mentor and all, her destiny falls squarely on your shoulders.

33 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Oh don't you worry. I've planned enough friendship lessons to cover the next three years.

Discord just starts laughing.

34 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
What's so funny?

35 DISCORD
Clearly Starlight is beyond basic friendship lessons. She just won a medal, for Equestria's sake! I thought you were joking. (beat) You are joking, right?

36 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
<LAUGHS NERVOUSLY> Of course I was.

37 DISCORD
Obviously you should have a grand master plan for her, the same way Princess Celestia set you on a path that eventually made you a princess.

38 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
...Yup.

39 DISCORD
Oh good. I'm sure she can't wait to hear all about it!

Before Twilight can stop him, Discord poofs away.

ANGLE ON Starlight with Thorax.

40 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
So how's the whole ruling-a-kingdom
thing going?

41 THORAX
It's a bit... overwhelming. But we're
adjusting.

He gestures over to some changelings with Rarity and Applejack.

42 CHANGELING GIRL
(confused) So you can't have
friendship without makeovers?

42A RARITY **42B** APPLEJACK
She gets it. Not Exactly.

Rarity and Applejack both look at each other like the other one is crazy. Starlight smiles, amused. Just then, Discord poofs up next to her.

43 DISCORD
Oh Starlight! Princess Twilight has
something very important to tell us.
Well, just you really, but I'm nosey
and want to hear.

44 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Okay. (to Thorax) Would you--

Discord poofs himself and Starlight next to Twilight.

45 STARLIGHT GLIMMER (CONT'D)
--excuse me for a... never mind. (to
Twilight) What's going on?

46 DISCORD
Twilight was just about to reveal her
grand master plan for you.

47 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Really? I was kind of wondering what
we were going to do next...

48 DISCORD
Yes, I'd say we're both fairly
interested.

49 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Of course you are. And I do have a plan, obviously, but now's clearly not the time to do it. You should enjoy your party. I promise when the time is right for big announcements about your future, you'll know.

Just then, Trixie approaches excited.

50 TRIXIE
Starlight, come on! The Ponyville Chronicle wants to take our picture! (then) Ugh. You too, Discord.

As Starlight and Discord walk off, Twilight's face looks relieved. Then a mini Discord pops up on her shoulder. Twilight looks startled.

51 DISCORD
PSST. I see what you're doing.

52 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
You do?

53 DISCORD
Yes. You already planned the perfect moment during the party to make a grand announcement to everypony about your plan! Such a planner. Brava, Twilight. I can't wait to tell Fluttershy and the others!

54 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Discord, no...

But she's too late. He's already poofed away.

55 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
Great.

She rushes out of the room.

SC. 6 INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - LIBRARY - A FEW MOMENTS LATER

56 SPIKE (O.S.)
Twilight? Are you reading during a party again?

Spike opens the door and walks in. REVEAL Twilight is pacing back and forth, pouring over a very long list (that's starts to tangle the more she paces).

57 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
No, no, no. She's already good at that. She mastered this. She taught me about this one!

58 SPIKE
Wild guess: something's wrong.

59 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Spike, I'm a terrible mentor. Why didn't I come up with a path for Starlight? Princess Celestia had it all figured out for me-- <GASP> That's it!

CUT TO:

SC. 7 INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - MAP ROOM - A MOMENT LATER

Princess Celestia is patiently seated while Twilight again paces with her list. Spike stands by.

60 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I had years worth of friendship lessons ready to go, but when we were captured by Chrysalis, Starlight took charge and really stepped up. I don't think friendship lessons are enough for her anymore.

61 PRINCESS CELESTIA
So you have an overachieving student? Sounds familiar.

62 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
That's why I had to talk to you. You of all ponies would know what to do. I mean, you were me and I was Starlight. But for now, I need you to pretend you're you and I'm me.

63 SPIKE
Huh?

64 PRINCESS CELESTIA
(smiling) Go on.

65 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
When I was your student and you were in this place, you... (dawning on her) oh no.

Twilight looks at Celestia, who just gives a grim nod.

66 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
You sent me to Ponyville. Which means,
it's time for me to send Starlight
Glimmer away!

Off Twilight's sad face we...

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SC. 8 INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - LIBRARY - SAME

Celestia and Spike are as they were. Twilight looks bummed.

67 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I can't believe it. It really is time
for Starlight to go, isn't it?

Celestia comes over to comfort her.

68 PRINCESS CELESTIA
Only you can make that decision. It's
a difficult one, but your heart knows
what's right. Even as it hurts.

69 SPIKE
Where are you going to send her? (off
Celestia's look) Too soon?

Twilight stops her sulking and gets a determined look.

70 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
No. This is something I have to do.

Twilight looks at a map of Equestria.

71 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
(dread) Oh boy.

SC. 9 INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - DINING HALL - SAME

Discord is talking with Rarity, Fluttershy, Rainbow Dash
Applejack and Pinkie Pie.

72 FLUTTERSHY
(excited) Oh boy.

73 DISCORD
I know! Whatever Twilight's planning
for Starlight is going to be so
exciting!

74 APPLEJACK
Wonder why she didn't tell any of us
about it?

75 DISCORD
Probably because you're not as close
as you think you are. Just kidding.
She wanted it to be a surprise. Just
between us, she's getting ready to
make a big announcement!

76 PINKIE PIE
Eeeee. That's so exciting! And
surprising. Usually you tell your
party planner about all your plans for
your party.

77 RAINBOW DASH
Well, she definitely has one. I mean
when has Twilight not had a plan?

SC. 10 INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - MAP ROOM - SAME

Twilight is still silently looking at the map. Spike is bored
and picking at a scale. Celestia has drifted off a bit. Then:

78 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I GOT IT! Since defeating Chrysalis,
Starlight's given the changelings an
opportunity to revolutionize their
society. Maybe I can send her there...

As Twilight imagines what it would be like, she uses magic to
visualize her fantasy around them:

SC. 11 INT. CHANGELING HIVE - THRONE ROOM - FANTASY

We transition into Twilight's "fantasy" world. Starlight is
next to Thorax, who sits on the throne. A few CHANGELINGS are
gathered in front of them. A spectral Twilight, Spike, and
Celestia watch from the side. Spike waves his hand in front of a
changeling, who doesn't react.

79 SPIKE
Cool spell.

80 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
If Starlight goes to the changeling
hive, she can help them adjust to
their new way of life.

81 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Ok, friendship one-oh-one: Thorax and I are going to show you how to compromise.

82 THORAX
(stilted) I want to have honeysuckle nectar for lunch.

83 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
(stilted) I would like a sandwich. Oh no. What should we do?

84 CHANGELING #1
Attack! The winner gets to choose!

The changeling group all nod and murmur agreement.

85 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
OR, Thorax and I can talk about it and come up with a solution that works for everypony.

86 THORAX
(stilted) Starlight. How do you feel about honeysuckle and peanut butter sandwiches?

87 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
(stilted) Why, that sounds delicious.

Starlight and Thorax high-hoof and point to camera like cheesy motivational speakers:

88 STARLIGHT/THORAX
Compromise!

Spike eyes their cheesy pose warily.

89 SPIKE
Um, this doesn't seem like something Starlight and Thorax would do.

90 PRINCESS CELESTIA
This is Twilight's fantasy, Spike. There is no wrong way to fantasize.

91 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Thank you.

92 CHANGELING #1
Starlight Glimmer is a most apt and perspicacious pony!

93 SPIKE
Yeah, definitely a Twilight fantasy.

The changelings cheer and carry Starlight and Thorax off.

94 PRINCESS CELESTIA
This seems like a lovely path for Starlight. The Changelings have so much to learn about how to enjoy love through friendships. Starlight would be busy for a very long time, but her work there would be very rewarding.

Twilight's face falls a bit.

95 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Or dangerous. It would only take one changeling to deviate from the pack...

Her horn glows as the fantasy takes a dark tone and changes around them. Off to the side, a GOOFY CHANGELING sees Starlight Glimmer and changes into her, giggling.

SC. 12 INT. CHANGELING HIVE - COMMON AREA

As Starlight, the Goofy Changeling goes around to other changelings and insults them.

96 GOOFY CHANGELING (AS
STARLIGHT)
Hi, I'm Starlight Glimmer. What's your name?

97 CHANGELING #2
Cornicle.

98 GOOFY CHANGELING (AS
STARLIGHT)
PFFFT! HA! What kind of name is that?
(turns to another changeling) Your wings are soooo... um, see-through.

The changelings self-consciously look at their wings. As "Starlight" walks out of the room she announces loudly:

99 GOOFY CHANGELING (AS
STARLIGHT) (CONT'D)
I'm so glad I'm a pony. Are you like bugs or what?

SC. 13 INT. CHANGELING HIVE - HALLWAY - LATER

Actual Starlight walks out of her room to see a group of changelings. They turn on her and glare.

100 CHANGELING #2
There she is! Get her!

The changelings chase Starlight down the hallway. They run past spectral Spike, Celestia, and Twilight, who looks horrified. She dissolves the fantasy until we're back to:

SC. 14 INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - LIBRARY

Everything's back to normal.

101 SPIKE
Um, that probably won't happen.

102 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
But it could. I can't just send her off to Celestia-knows-where without thinking it through!

103 PRINCESS CELESTIA
Huh. I was not aware that I was an expression.

Twilight smiles sheepishly. Celestia doesn't seem to mind.

104 PRINCESS CELESTIA (CONT'D)
An appropriate one, of course, for even I don't know the answer. This is a momentous decision. You must consider all the possibilities.

Twilight starts pacing again.

105 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Rethink, rethink... What about the dragons?

106 SPIKE
Say what now?

107 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I can send Starlight to the Dragon Lands. She and Ember would definitely hit it off!

Her horn glows as the magical fantasy starts to take shape...

SC. 15 EXT. DRAGON LANDS - THRONE CLIFF

Ember is at her throne. Starlight goes up to greet her. Again, Twilight, Spike, and Celestia stand by. [NOTE: In the fantasy, Starlight and Ember sound like bros.]

108 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Emberrrrr!

109 EMBER
Starliiiiight!

They do a bro-hug high five.

110 EMBER (CONT'D)
You ready to do some death-defying
dragon stuff?

111 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Totally.

112 SPIKE
Okay, that doesn't sound anything like
Ember or Starlight.

113 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Who knows what their dynamic would be,
Spike?

SC. 16 EXT. DRAGON LANDS - SHOOTING RANGE - LATER

Starlight, Ember, and a couple other DRAGONS stand in front of targets made of rocks. Ember breathes fire and knocks a target down. Starlight does a magic blast that shoots down three of them! Ember gives Starlight a fist bump. Twilight's horn glows and the fantasy shifts to:

SC. 17 EXT. DRAGON LANDS - SKY - LATER

Ember is flying with other dragons. Starlight is riding on TORCH'S back, having a blast. Twilight, Celestia, and Spike float nearby.

114 SPIKE
(looking down) Freaky.

115 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Starlight will love it in the dragon
lands. In her letters, Ember said
dragons do a lot of fun things: The
Feast of Fires, the Dragon Bowl,
Clawchella... Starlight could be there
for a really long time.

Then Twilight's face falls. Her horn glows and the fantasy begins to shift:

116 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
But then again, not all dragons like
ponies as much as Ember does.

In the sky, we ANGLE ON GARBLE glaring at Starlight Glimmer.

SC. 18 EXT. DRAGON LANDS - CLIFF

Starlight walks by a bunch of dragons (no Ember) lined up at a cliff and jumping off. Garble calls out to her.

117 GARBLE
Hey, Twinkle Star!

118 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
It's Starlight Glimmer.

119 GARBLE
Star-kle Light-star?

120 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Starlight Glimmer.

121 GARBLE
Whatever. You wanna hang with us?

Garble grabs her and dives off the cliff. As they fall:

122 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
What are we diving into?

123 GARBLE
Lava!

124 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
WHAT?!

REVEAL they're heading straight for a pit of lava. From the ground, Twilight, Celestia, and Spike watch. Twilight is frozen in fear. Spike shakes Twilight out of it.

125 SPIKE
Twilight!

With Starlight inches away from the lava, Twilight closes her eyes and the fantasy dissolves.

SC. 19 INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - LIBRARY - BACK TO SCENE

Twilight is panting, horrified by her vision. Spike and Celestia stand by.

126 SPIKE
Twilight, this is crazy! Starlight's really good with magic. She could just stop herself from falling into a pit of lava.

127 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
What if she didn't realize it was
happening? (off Spike's look) You just
never know, Spike!!

Celestia and Spike exchange a knowing smile as Twilight paces.

128 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
I just need to think of someplace safe
to send her. Some place safe, some
place safe. Where do I feel safe?

She looks around.

129 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
A library. That's it! I could send her
to the Crystal Empire to continue her
magical studies with Sunburst!

Twilight's horn lights up as fantasy takes shape around them:

SC. 20 INT. CRYSTAL KINGDOM LIBRARY - FANTASY

A spectral Twilight, Spike and Celestia watch as Starlight
slathers a plain hunk of wood in a pink ooze. Sunburst has a
pile of spell books open all around him.

130 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
It'll be perfect! Sunburst's knowledge
of magic is only matched by
Starlight's abilities.

131 SUNBURST
I've got it! Try placing your horn
directly on the potion and picture the
clock you wish to make.

132 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
They could challenge each other into
becoming the most talented unicorns
Equestria has ever seen!!

Starlight closes her eyes and touches her horn to the pink
potion. The wood underneath it transforms into a beautiful
ornate Cuckoo clock with an adorable little bird. Sunburst and
Starlight smile at each other.

133 STARLIGHT
We did it! Quick, what's next?

134 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Of course, the study of magic is a life long pursuit and Starlight could be there for a while, especially once they start attempting the really complicated stuff!

Spike rolls his eyes.

135 SPIKE
And three...two...one...

Twilight's expression darkens, and so does the fantasy that surrounds them. Her horn glows.

136 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
What if they become too ambitious?

Sunburst and Starlight stare in wonder at three different open spell books.

137 STARLIGHT
I never would have thought to combine Starswirl's apparition spell with spatium flexibus! But what would happen if we added Sonambula's tempus objectus?

138 SUNBURST
If we do it just right, it should allow us to materialize an object that was lost in the past!

139 STARLIGHT
Let's do it.

Sunburst draws some runes on the floor in a circle. Starlight uses her horn to make the runes glow.

140 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
(whispers) No, don't do it.

But they can't hear her. There is a big burst of light, then the circle of runes turns into a black swirling vortex! Starlight and Sunburst SCREAM as the vortex starts sucking things into itself. Starlight and Sunburst hold onto desks and bookshelves, attempting to avoid being swallowed up by the crackling interdimensional hole they've created. But Starlight starts to lose her grip!

140a SUNBURST
Starlight! NOOOOOO.....

140b TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Starlight! NOOOOOO.....

141 SPIKE
Twilight! Snap out of it!

The fantasy around them fades.

SC. 21 INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - LIBRARY - SAME

Beads of sweat roll down Twilight's forehead and her eyes are wet with tears. Spike stands by.

142 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Starlight!

143 SPIKE
Easy, Twilight. It didn't happen.

144 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
(worried) But it could.

Spike is about to argue, but thinks better of it and bites his tongue.

145 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
I just don't think I can send her
anywhere. What am I going to do??

Celestia can't keep it in any more. She bursts out LAUGHING. ON Twilight's shocked and hurt face:

146 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
Are you laughing at me?

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

SC. 22 INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - MAP ROOM - SAME

Celestia finishes up chuckling. Twilight can't hide the hurt in her voice:

147 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I can't believe you're laughing at me.

148 CELESTIA
Oh, Twilight, I'm not. I'm laughing
because I had the exact same fears
you're having.

149 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
What?

150 CELESTIA
Let me tell you a story.

WE CUT TO CELESTIA'S FLASHBACK:

SC. 23 INT. CELESTIA'S SCHOOL OF MAGIC - LIBRARY - DAY

We see a young Twilight pouring over a stack of books while magically taking notes in a scroll.

151 CELESTIA (V.O.)
Once upon a time there was a very bright young filly. Her pursuit of knowledge was unparalleled! She was truly one of my best students.

SC. 24 INT. CELESTIA'S SCHOOL OF MAGIC - CLASSROOM - DAY

152 SPIKE (V.O.)
Are you talking about Twilight? I can't see what you're thinking about.

153 CELESTIA (V.O.)
Yes, Spike.

In the classroom, we see several students, including YOUNG MINUETTE, LEMON HEARTS, TWINKLE SHINE and MOON DANCER putting together a potion with beakers and vials. Everypony has a pot of dirt. YOUNG TWILIGHT is at a work station by herself with an already completed potion. She pours it on her pot of dirt. A GORGEOUS FLOWER instantly sprouts from it.

154 CELESTIA (V.O.)
I was constantly surprised and impressed with her discoveries.

Twilight smiles at Celestia, who smiles back. Twilight celebrates by giving her plant a high hoof. Then the other girls make their flowers grow (although none are as beautiful as Twilight's). They celebrate by high hoofing each other and giggling together. Celestia frowns.

155 CELESTIA (V.O.)
But I noticed that her pursuit of academia was preventing her from reaching her full potential.

156 SPIKE (V.O.)
You mean it was keeping her isolated and alone?

157 CELESTIA (V.O.)
(clears throat) Uh. Yes, Spike. (then)
I had a decision to make. But it
wasn't easy...

As Celestia gazes down at Young Twilight, we start her DRAMATIC THINKING MONTAGE:

SC. 25 EXT. EQUESTRIAN CLIFF - SUNSET

Celestia looks out over Equestria, with a gorgeous sunset as her back drop.

158 CELESTIA
Maybe I could close the library or
throw a party in the castle? She'd
have to talk to the other fillies
then...

She looks sadly away.

SC. 26 EXT. CELESTIA'S BALCONY - NIGHT

ON Celestia, looking sadly at the night sky, talking to the stars.

159 CELESTIA (V.O.)
But I knew as long as you were in
school, making friends would never be
your priority.

Tears fill Celestia's eyes.

160 CELESTIA
I must send her away!

She looks tortured by the revelation.

SC. 27 EXT. PONYVILLE TOWN HALL - SAME

Celestia is standing with MAYOR MARE when she notices Applejack, Rarity, Pinkie Pie, Fluttershy, and Rainbow Dash doing their own thing in the street in the BG.

161 CELESTIA (V.O.)
I knew there was a special group of
fillies in Ponyville, but I kept
inventing all kinds reasons why I
shouldn't send you...

SC. 28 INT. CELESTIA'S CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - SAME

Celestia is pacing back and forth in front of her throne.

162 CELESTIA
What if she runs into a manticore? Or what if she gets pulled into Tartarus? Or worst of all, what if she doesn't get along with anypony??

REVEAL: Celestia's GUARDS look concerned.

163 GUARD #1
Are we supposed to say something?

164 GUARD #2
I don't think so. Shhhhhh.

END FLASHBACKS.

SC. 29 EXT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - MAP ROOM - NIGHT

Celestia looks at Twilight tenderly.

165 CELESTIA
I kept you in Canterlot longer than I should have. Eventually, I realized all the anxiety I felt was because I didn't want you to go.

166 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Really?

167 CELESTIA
Of course! I loved having you as a student. You challenged me and taught me just as much as I taught you. I am embarrassed to admit it, but I was afraid if you made friends, you wouldn't need me anymore.

Twilight's eyes are bright with tears.

168 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Princess Celestia, that is so not true. I will always need you.

Celestia smiles a knowing smile at Twilight.

169 CELESTIA
I think Starlight Glimmer might feel the same way about you, if that's what you're afraid of.

A realization dawns on Twilight. She looks at her mentor sheepishly.

170 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Maybe it is. Just a little.

171 SPIKE
Oh it definitely is. Like a lot.

They both look at Spike.

172 SPIKE (CONT'D)
What?

173 CELESTIA
Here we are after all these years,
Twilight. We're living proof that
letting someone spread their wings
doesn't mean you no longer have a
place in their lives.

Twilight hugs Celestia.

174 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Thank you.

175 CELESTIA
And if you're still worried, you can
always make her write you letters!

Off them smiling at each other we CUT TO:

SC. 30 INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - HALLWAY - LATER

Sunburst is heading to the door, saying goodbye to Starlight.

176 SUNBURST
It was so good to see you. Come visit
soon, okay?

177 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Sure thing! I'd love to practice some
magic with you sometime.

Discord pops up in front of him.

178 DISCORD
That does sound fun, but Starlight,
you may not have time, depending on
what happens later tonight.

179 SUNBURST
What's happening?

180 DISCORD
You didn't hear? Just between you and me, Twilight's making a big announcement about Starlight's future! ...FUTURE! ...FUTURE!

Discord's voice echoes down the hallway into the party at the end. Everypony gets quiet. Discord poofs himself into...

SC. 31 INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - DINING HALL - CONTINUOUS

Everypony stares at Discord.

181 DISCORD
Oops. You all heard that? Well, you were going to find out later anyway.

SC. 32 INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - TWILIGHT'S BEDROOM - LATER

Twilight goes to her bed and magics up the wrapped present she had made for Starlight.

182 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Guess you might be more of a going away present now.

She steels herself up and walks out.

SC. 33 INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - DINING HALL - LATER

The party is still in full swing. Twilight reenters to find Spike and Celestia have already returned. Everypony (and Changeling) gets quiet and turns to Twilight. Twilight nervously sets her present down as Discord poofs up next to her.

183 DISCORD
I may have let it slip that you'd be unveiling your big plan for Starlight tonight. Silly me. But we're all very excited to hear what you've cooked up.

Twilight's eyes go wide, looking at everypony looking at her.

184 DISCORD (CONT'D)
You weren't coming up with a plan just now, were you? Slapdash and half-baked? Oh dear. This could be pretty embarrassing for you.

She narrows her eyes at him.

185 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Gee, thanks Discord.

186 DISCORD
Anytime. I really do love being helpful.

Twilight casts a nervous glance at Celestia, who nods supportively at her. Twilight clears her throat and magics a spoon to a glass to clink it.

187 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
If I could have everypony's attention.

188 DISCORD
(whispers) Pssst. You already had it.

189 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Yes, thank you again, Discord.

Discord poofs out. Twilight searches out Starlight and smiles when her eyes land on her.

190 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
As you all know, Starlight Glimmer has been my pupil for a while now, and I hoped she'd be my pupil for a long time yet to come, but it turns out that's just not meant to be.

Some ponies <GASP>. Starlight looks a bit worried.

191 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
Starlight, you have proved yourself to be a kind, loyal, strong, honest and truly magical friend. I just have to look around this room at all the new friendships you've made to know that there is nothing more I need to teach you. So we have a second reason to celebrate today. Three cheers for Starlight Glimmer on her "graduation" day!

The room erupts into cheers for Starlight.

192 PINKIE PIE
EEE WHAT A GREAT SURPRISE!!!

193 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
(To Starlight) Your future is in your own hooves now.

194 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Really? Wow. I was not expecting this.

Thorax and Trixie all hug their friend. Discord pops up next to Twilight.

195 DISCORD
Darn it. I was hoping you would send her to my realm. We could have been roomies! Who knows what kind of magical shenanigans we'd get into? Way to not pick up what I was putting down.

Twilight rolls her eyes and Discord goes to join Starlight, Trixie and Thorax.

196 TRIXIE
How do you wanna celebrate? Girls trip to Las Pegasus?

197 THORAX
We can throw you a changeling Gorbfest! It's more fun than it sounds.

198 DISCORD
Or we could go cause a little mischief. I know a trick that'll turn Celestia's castle into cheese. Do you think it's a gouda idea? Ha! That's just the first of many cheese jokes if we go down this path.

199 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
(laughing) That all sounds wonderful but um... (looks at Twilight) Give me a minute, would ya?

Starlight excuses herself and heads over to Twilight, who puts on a brave face.

200 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Congratulations!

201 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Thanks!

202 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
So, how do you feel?

203 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Happy, surprised, overwhelmed... I mean, not that I'm not grateful but are you sure?

204 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Believe me, I've thought long and hard
about this.

205 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
(laughs) Of course you did.

206 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
You can do this.

207 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Right.

But Starlight looks doubtful.

208 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Starlight, trust me. You're ready.

209 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Yeah. (then) No, I'm not.

210 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
What are you talking about?

211 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
(blurts) I'm not ready to leave!

Starlight braces herself for Twilight's reaction, but instead, Twilight's smile nearly splits her face in half.

212 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Oh good! Cuz I'm not ready for that
either! Here. I got you this present.

She magics over the present.

213 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
It was going to be a 'congrats on
getting a medal of honor present', but
then I was afraid it would have to be
a 'going away' present but now it's a
'I couldn't be happier you're staying'
present! It fits perfectly over your
dresser. I know. I measured!

Starlight unwraps the present, REVEALING the mirror framed with pictures of Starlight and her friends. Starlight tears up.

214 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Thank you.

215 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Starlight, I may not know what comes
next for you, but whatever it is, I
promise I'll always be there for you.

Starlight hugs Twilight. Over Starlight's shoulder, Twilight catches a glimpse of Celestia and smiles. Off the completed circle of mentor/student love we FADE OUT.

FADE BACK IN:

SC. 34 INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - DINING HALL - LATER

It's empty but a huge mess. We hear Pinkie Pie <EFFORT SOUNDS>. She is lugging in a shop vac. She presses a button. It sucks up all the remnants from the party. Pinkie wipes her brow like it took a lot of work, then winks at camera. END SHOW!