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MY LITTLE PONY
Season 7

A Royal Problem
Ep 710

LOCKED SCRIPT

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Friendship Lesson: Celestia and Luna learn to appreciate each other after spending the day in each others' hooves.

TEASER

SC. 1 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - MAP ROOM - CONTINUOUS

OPEN ON: TWILIGHT's shocked face. SPIKE uses a finger to close Twilight's open mouth. In front of her STARLIGHT GLIMMER stands next to the map, cutie mark ablaze.

1 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
I know. I can't believe it either. The map has never called *me* before.

2 SPIKE
(trying to cover for Twilight) I'm sure that's not why she looks... like that.

REVEAL Twilight's mouth is open again. She shakes out of it.

3 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Actually it is. (then, realizing what she's saying) Well, it's that and the fact that you're being called to the royal palace! I mean, what in Equestria could be going on there???

Sure enough, Starlight's cutie mark is glowing over Princess Celestia's castle. Starlight looks a little worried.

4 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
I don't know.

5 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Do you want me to come with you?
(then) No. I shouldn't. The map just called you for a reason, right? Though maybe it's a mistake. (quickly) Not because of you!! But it's never called just one of us before.

6 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
I also wasn't nervous before, but now...

7 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Don't worry. For all we know it's something small! Like maybe the cooks are fighting over who has the best butternut squash soup. Or the royal hairdressers are fighting over a comb!

8 SPIKE
Or ya know, maybe the royal sisters
aren't seeing eye to eye on something.

Starlight's eyes go wide, Twilight looks at Spike like "Not helping!"

9 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
No! That's just crazy. Luna and
Celestia would never fight...again.

Off everypony's collective breath holding...CUT TO:

SC. 2 - INT. CELESTIA'S CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - LATER

Starlight stands in front of CELESTIA and LUNA. The royal sisters barely look at each other.

10 CELESTIA
So, the map sent you to solve a
friendship problem?

Starlight offers a slight bow.

11 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Yes, Princess.

Celestia looks pointedly at Luna.

12 CELESTIA
Well, there's nothing wrong here.
Right, sister?

13 LUNA
(coldly) No, everything's perfect as
usual, sister.

Starlight's gaze bounces between the royal sisters. Clearly everything is not perfect!

Off Starlight's panicked look, we:

END TEASER

MAIN TITLES

ACT ONE

SC. 3 - INT. CELESTIA'S CASTLE - GUEST ROOM - LATER

Starlight's shown in by a ROYAL GUARD.

14 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Thank you.

The guard nods and closes the door behind him. Once he does, she sighs as she flops on the bed. Suddenly, a tiny BALLERINA PONY starts spinning on top of a music box on the night stand. <CLASSICAL MUSIC> plays. As the tiny ballerina spins toward her she hears a <PSSST!>. Looking closer, she realizes it's TWILIGHT.

15 STARLIGHT GLIMMER (CONT'D)
Twilight?! Is that you? How are you here??

Talking fast as she slowly spins:

16 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
(rambling) I'm not, I'm still home. It's an easy spell. I'll show you later. Anyway, enough about me! I had to check on you. Not in a meddling kind of way, in a friendly how's-it-going kind of way. Sooo, how's it going?

17 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Not great.

18 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Why?

19 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
I think the problem might be between Celestia and Luna!

As Twilight turns around her face is aghast.

20 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Oh no! That's terrible! I mean...
(trying to be casual) Wha...What makes you say that?

21 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
You know how someponies say nothing's wrong but you can tell something's definitely wrong?

22 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
(high-pitched) Noooo. Whaaaat?

23 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Exactly - that's basically what the princesses did when I said there was a friendship problem. Only they did it more regally.

24 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
(genuine) I wish I could help you, but I can't. Both for map reasons and because I have no idea. This is big. Like really big. (then) But I'm here for you if you ever need to talk. Or listen to music!

With that, <MUSIC> starts to play.

25 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
(not convincing) Comforting, right?

Starlight <SIGHS>.

SC. 4 - INT. CELESTIA'S CASTLE - DINING ROOM - THE NEXT MORNING

Starlight is having breakfast with Celestia.

26 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Thank you so much for breakfast, Princess! I can't believe you cook it yourself!

REVEAL: Starlight is eating "Happy Pancakes". Pancakes with whip cream hair, blueberry eyes and a strawberry smile. Celestia smiles.

27 CELESTIA
Of course, Starlight. I really enjoy doing it. It's a small way to say "I care."

Just then, Princess Luna shuffles in, exhausted.

28 CELESTIA (CONT'D)
Good morning, sister. Join us.

She gestures to a plate of "happy pancakes" she made for Luna. Not even noticing Celestia's gesture, a zombie-esque Luna grabs an apple from the centerpiece then grunts:

29 LUNA
I can't. Too tired. Please excuse me...

She shuffles back out of the room.

30 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Wow. Last night must have been really hard on her.

Celestia's face steels.

31 CELESTIA
Perhaps, but she is like this every morning.

Celestia stalks out of the room. Off of Starlight's concerned look we CUT TO:

SC. 5 - INT. CELESTIA'S CASTLE - STARLIGHT'S GUEST ROOM - LATER

Starlight is talking to music box Twilight.

32 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
So I think Luna may be hurting her sister's feelings without even realizing it.

33 TWILIGHT
Poor Celestia. That's so sweet that she makes her sister pancakes every morning.

34 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
She's your mentor. I think you might be biased.

35 TWILIGHT
Fair enough. So what are you going to do?

36 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Nothing. Yet. I have to get all the facts. I asked Luna if I could spend some time with her this evening.

Just then, there's a knock at the door. The Guard from earlier enters. Starlight is way too close to the tiny music box figurine. The Guard looks at her quizzically. She stands up straight.

37 GUARD
Princess Luna is waiting for you, Miss.

He casts one more glance between Starlight and the music box. Starlight smiles sheepishly. He exits.

38 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Good luck, Starlight!

Starlight nods and scrambles out after the guard.

SC. 6 - INT. CELESTIA'S CASTLE - HALLWAY - THAT NIGHT

Starlight is with Luna, who is magic-ing fresh lavender into the bouquet sconces on the wall.

39 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Wow, Princess Luna. You do this every night?

40 LUNA
Yes, lavender's calming scent is known to aid dreamers in achieving a restorative sleep.

41 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
That is really thoughtful of you!

42 LUNA
Thank you, Starlight. I try my best to make sure the ponies in this castle sleep peacefully.

Just then, Celestia walks out of the throne room with several DIGNITARY PONIES. One of them is finishing a story:

43 DIGNITARY PONY
---So then I said, "touring? More like boring!" <STUFFY LAUGH>.

44 CELESTIA
<POLITE CHUCKLE> You really are a card!

They all walk right by Luna and Starlight.

45 LUNA
But as always, my sister's too busy having fun with dignitary ponies to acknowledge anything I do.

Luna walks off in a huff.

SC. 7 - INT. CELESTIA'S CASTLE - STARLIGHT'S GUEST ROOM - LATER

Again, Starlight is talking to the small ballerina figurine Twilight.

46 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
--so both princesses are hurting each other without realizing it, and instead of talking about it, they're just getting colder and more distant.

47 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Wow. That's tough. And they're Celestia and Luna, so it's not like you can just confront them--

48 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Actually, that's exactly what I was going to do.

Twilight figurine sputters to a stop.

49 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
What?! Are you crazy? (she puts a hoof over her mouth) I mean, you do whatever you think is best. This is your mission.

50 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
(sarcastic) Thanks for believing in me, Twilight.

51 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I do! But... the last time the princesses fought, Luna turned into Nightmare Moon and Princess Celestia had to banish her to the moon for a thousand years! That can't happen again.

52 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Well I can't do nothing! The princesses aren't the best at communicating with each other.

53 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
<GASP>! Sorry. It's just - you said "princesses" and "aren't the best" in the same sentence and it's making me nervous.

54 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
How do you think I feel??

55 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I'm not much help, am I?

56 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Not really...

SC. 8 - INT. CELESTIA'S CASTLE - DINING ROOM - THE NEXT MORNING

Starlight again eats breakfast with Celestia. This time Celestia has prepared a happy face with mangos and pineapple chunks.

57 STARLIGHT
Wow, I almost feel bad eating this.
It's adorable!

58 CELESTIA
Like I said, I enjoy this part.

Just then, Luna enters, sleepy as before. She <GRUNTS> in their general direction before grabbing a piece of fruit off the table and heading back toward the door. But before she can go, Starlight stops her.

59 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Princess Luna! Wait.

Luna turns around, surprised to be addressed. Starlight gets a bit uncomfortable under Luna's gaze. She steels herself and takes a deep breath.

60 STARLIGHT GLIMMER (CONT'D)
As you both know, the map sent me here for a reason and I think I've found out what it is.

61 CELESTIA
Really? That is wonderful, Starlight.
What is it?

62 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
You two.

Both Princesses are taken aback.

62a CELESTIA **62B** LUNA
Excuse me? I Beg your pardon?

63 STARLIGHT GLIMMER (CONT'D)
Hear me out. I think you're accidentally hurting each other's feelings without realizing it.

Affronted, they stand on opposite sides of the room away from Starlight and each other.

64 LUNA
That can't be.

65 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Princess Celestia, does it bother you that Luna never notices the wonderful breakfasts that you prepare for her?

66 CELESTIA
(begrudgingly) Yes. It does.

67 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Princess Luna, tell Celestia how you feel about the fact that she never acknowledges the work you put into lining the hallway with lavender every night.

68 LUNA
Well, it's not the *best* feeling.

Starlight smiles, thinking she's getting somewhere:

69 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Now maybe we can let the healing begin.

Luna looks at the table and sees the smiley face pancake. But then looks up at her sister:

70 LUNA
I am sorry I never noticed you make fruit faces on pancakes. But nights are long for me! You might be a morning pony, but I am half asleep!

71 CELESTIA
You think I don't get tired? I'm exhausted. I apologize for not noticing flowers in a wall sconce, but by the time I get to retire for the night, I can barely see straight. Even so, I still make an effort to smile.

72 LUNA
Like smiling is so hard!

Celestia looks affronted. Starlight tries to smooth things over:

73 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
I'm sure that's not what Princess Luna meant to say.

74 LUNA
It absolutely is. Tell me, dear sister, is that what "exhausts" you? Smiling and being adored by everypony?

Starlight looks panicky - this is not how she saw this going!

75 CELESTIA
And you have it so much worse, do you?
You spend your evenings flitting
around giving ponies lovely dreams!
(sarcastic) Sounds just awful.

Starlight looks back and forth between the two sisters.

76 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Okay. I feel like we should step back,
take a deep breath...

The sisters don't hear her.

77 LUNA
Don't presume you know what it's like
to govern the dream realm!

78 CELESTIA
And yet you know exactly what it's
like to be me?? Please.

Starlight just can't even right now.

79 STARLIGHT
Enough!

Starlight's horn glows and in a FLASH she switches Celestia and Luna's cutie marks! Starlight looks shocked at what she's just done. Then, feigning confidence:

80 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
There! Now you'll know exactly what
it's like to be each other!

Off the Princesses' shocked faces.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SC. 9 - INT. CELESTIA'S CASTLE - DINING ROOM - SAME

The princesses glare at Starlight.

81 CELESTIA
What have you done?

82 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
<GULP> I went with my gut?

83 LUNA
How dare you? Switch our cutie marks
back this instant.

Starlight looks sheepish.

84 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
My apologies, your majesties. But I can't, even if I wanted to. This spell lasts twenty-four hours. It may have been extreme, but... (squeaking it out) I still think it's a good idea.

85 CELESTIA
What?

86 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
You said it yourselves. Neither of you believes your sister knows how hard it is to be you. So this is your chance to prove it.

87 LUNA
True. Besides, I could use an easy day followed by a good night's sleep.

Celestia smirks.

88 CELESTIA
You can try. I haven't had an easy day in well, ever. But now, I get to sleep and tonight will be a breeze. (then) Alright, Starlight. We will do this.

89 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Good choice. Not that you had one. (off their glares) I'm gonna stop talking now.

Off of Starlight taking a huge bite of pancakes we DISSOLVE TO:

SC. 10 - INT. CELESTIA'S CASTLE - STARLIGHT'S GUEST ROOM - LATER

Starlight is laying on her bed. We hear <HYPERVENTILATING>. REVEAL Twilight is the little ballerina pony from the music box again.

90 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
You switched their cutie marks? The actual *princesses* cutie marks? You switched them?

91 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
I thought we moved past this! It was the right call... I hope.

Figurine Twilight starts <HYPERVENTILATING> again. Just then, the guard bangs on the door.

92 GUARD (O.S.)
Are you okay in there?

93 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
(calling out) I'm good! Just...
reading an exciting book... (under, to
Twilight) He's going to think I'm
nuts.

94 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
He's not the only one.

Starlight magics a blanket over the music box, silencing
Twilight.

SC. 11 - INT. THRONE ROOM - LATER THAT MORNING

Luna is in Celestia's throne. Starlight stands by her. There are
some Royal Guards and Servant Ponies gathered in front of them.

95 LUNA
As you can see, Celestia and I are
switching places today.

There are some uneasy <MURMURS> in the crowd. Starlight looks
guilty for a beat.

96 LUNA (CONT'D)
I assure you, I'm more than capable of
handling all of Celestia's "duties."
Kindly let everypony know. Dismissed!

The Guards and Servants leave the room. Luna turns to Starlight.

97 LUNA (CONT'D)
So what's first on my dear sister's
'to do' list?

98 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
It says you have a few public
appearances. Store openings, judging
the Royal Rose contest, that sort of
thing.

99 LUNA
So all I have to do is smile and wave?
I knew today would be easy but I
didn't think it would be *that* easy.

CUT TO:

SC. 12 - EXT. CANTERLOT - STREET - LATER

Luna smiles and waves to PASSERSBY as her carriage is pulled down the street.

SC. 13 - EXT. CANTERLOT - STORE - LATER

A new store is opening. Luna smiles as she magics a pair of scissors to cut the ribbon in front of the store.

SC. 14 - EXT. CANTERLOT - GARDENS - LATER

A few GARDENERS are in a line, presenting their prize roses. Luna walks down the line, smiling at each gardener. Towards the end, her smile starts to falter.

SC. 15 - EXT. CELESTIA'S SCHOOL OF MAGIC - LATER THAT DAY

Luna, looking tired, poses for a picture with some STUDENTS in front of the school. Off the FLASH of a photo being taken by a NEWSPAPER PONY we CUT TO:

SC. 16 - INT. CELESTIA'S CASTLE - DINING ROOM - THAT AFTERNOON

CLOSE UP on the Photo: Luna is scowling next to a confused student. PULL OUT to REVEAL: Luna reading the paper at the dining room table with Starlight.

100 LUNA
"Princess Luna Unhappy With Student
Fund-raiser?" (then) But I wasn't
unhappy.

101 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Um, you are scowling in the picture.

102 LUNA
I didn't mean to. I've been smiling
all day. My cheeks hurt, I stopped for
one second, and that's when he took
the picture!

103 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Guess smiling all day isn't as easy as
you thought?

Luna glares at Starlight, then continues reading:

104 LUNA
It says here that because of me, the
school didn't raise enough funds to go
on their field trip. (tearing up) I
didn't mean for this to happen!

All around them, SERVER PONIES in tuxes are bringing in lunch foods on trays and setting the dining room table.

105 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
I know. But you can't dwell on that now. According to the list, some delegates are about to arrive for a luncheon. You need to dispel rumors of Timberwolves in the White Tail Woods. The nearby towns have been in a state of panic for weeks.

Luna points to the newspaper article.

106 LUNA
But I have to fix this.

She stands up to leave just as the door opens and some IMPORTANT LOOKING DELEGATE PONIES enter.

107 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
(under to Luna) You can't. You need to put on a brave face and help *these* ponies. (then) It's what Celestia would do.

Luna takes a deep breath and nods at Starlight before plastering on a weird smile and shaking hooves with the delegate ponies.

108 LUNA
(a little too loudly) HELLO! GREAT NEWS! THERE ARE NO TIMBERWOLVES!

Off the delegate Ponies looking rather afraid and definitely not convinced, we CUT TO:

SC. 17 - INT. CELESTIA'S CASTLE - HALLWAY - LATER

The doors to the dining room burst open and the delegate ponies run out.

109 DELEGATE PONIES
There are definitely timberwolves! /
Get the torches! / Gather
reinforcements! / Move your families!

The delegate ponies rush O.S. A beat later, Starlight and Luna walk out. Luna's head is hung low. As they walk:

110 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Sooo that didn't go so well...

111 LUNA
I'm sorry, but I couldn't stop thinking about those poor students! Normally, I have all the time and solitude I need to work through my problems at my own pace.

112 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Well, your sister doesn't get that luxury.

They arrive at the door to the throne room. We hear O.S. <SHOUTING>.

113 VOICE (O.S.)
The princess will undoubtedly side with me!

114 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Ready for the town hall?

Luna shakes her head. Starlight opens the door anyway.

SC. 18 - INT. CELESTIA'S CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

There are a few MAYORS. Among them are the MAYOR OF BALTIMARE and the MAYOR OF FILLYDELPHIA, who are mid-argument.

115 MAYOR OF BALTIMARE
Please see reason, Mayor Cream Cheese! I'm telling ya, Baltimore should have the statue!

116 MAYOR OF FILLYDELPHIA
That's preposterous! If any town should have it, it's Fillydelphia!

Some of the other mayors get in on the argument until it's a jumble of <ARGUMENT WALLA>. Luna <GROANS>, flies to her throne, and turns to the crowd.

117 LUNA
Everypony, please! What seems to be the problem?

118 MAYOR OF BALTIMARE
Baltimore wants a statue of Flash Prance in our town square.

119 MAYOR OF FILLYDELPHIA
But if any town should have one, it should be Fillydelphia. The esteemed general was born and raised there.

120 MAYOR OF BALTIMARE
But Baltimore's where he staged his
final resistance against the dragon
horde!

The other mayors get in on the argument again until they're all
<YELLING>. Luna stomps her hoof down until everypony gets quiet.

121 LUNA
Order, order! Now clearly, both cities
have a claim to the statue. So I
royally decree that we cut it in half.

Luna sits back with a satisfied smile. The mayors look shocked.

122 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
(under) That might not have been the
best solution.

123 PRINCESS LUNA
What do you mean? They stopped
arguing.

124 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
But neither side will be happy with
half a statue.

Luna looks at the mayors, who are all grumbling to themselves.

125 PRINCESS LUNA
Fine. (calling out) I take back my
royal decree--

Immediately, the mayors start <ARGUING> again.

 MAYORS
It belongs in Fillydelphia!/Baltimore
is its true home!

Off of Luna's exasperated look we DISSOLVE TO:

SC. 19 - INT. CELESTIA'S CASTLE - HALLWAY - THAT NIGHT

The mayors exit the throne room.

126 MAYOR WALLA
Glad that's settled. Only took three
hours. / That got heated! We still on
for golf? / Of course!

A beat, then Luna and Starlight exit as well. Luna looks
exhausted.

127 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
You made it to the end of the day!
Yay?

128 LUNA
Hmm? Oh, yes. <YAWN> It's night, is
it?

129 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Barely...

130 LUNA
I'm just going to turn in, then.
Goodnight Starnight.

Starlight tilts her head, confused. Luna just tiredly walks into her bedroom (not noticing the wilted lavender in the wall sconces) and shuts the door behind her. A beat later, Princess Celestia emerges from her room, all smiles.

131 CELESTIA
Oh hello, Starlight! I don't know
about you, but I feel very well-
rested! Where's Luna?

132 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
<YAWNS> She already turned in for the
night.

Celestia looks deeply satisfied.

133 CELESTIA
Did she now? It seems my duties were
harder than my sister expected.

Celestia walks off. Starlight trails behind, floating the list behind her. She <YAWNS>.

SC. 20 - EXT. CELESTIA'S CASTLE - BALCONY - MOMENTS LATER

Starlight stands by as Celestia raises the moon.

134 CELESTIA
Moon raised. It's even easier than
raising the sun! What's next?

Celestia looks over at Starlight. REVEAL she's fallen asleep.

135 CELESTIA (CONT'D)
Of course. Everypony's asleep at
night. Luna works alone.

She glances sadly at Starlight, then shakes herself out of it.

136 CELESTIA (CONT'D)
But it's nothing I can't handle!

Princess Celestia motions to some nearby GUARDS, who magic the sleeping Starlight onto a pillow and float her O.S.

Princess Celestia floats the list over to herself.

137 CELESTIA (CONT'D)
All I have to do is watch over
Equestria, visit the dream realm, and
protect ponies in their nightmares.
<CHUCKLES> My list was three times as
long!

Celestia then takes her place at the balcony, watching over the twinkling lights of Equestria. A beat. Celestia <HUMS> to herself.

TWIG SNAP! Celestia looks around. Nothing.

OWL HOOT! WOLF HOWL! Celestia's eyes dart around. She looks a little scared as the creepy sounds of the night start to get to her. Then, silence.

138 CELESTIA (CONT'D)
(reassuring herself) It's nothing.
(then, realizing) Nothing at all...

Off of this we TRUCK OUT on Celestia's lone form and the crushing silence of the night. DISSOLVE TO:

SC. 21 - EXT. CELESTIA'S CASTLE - BALCONY - LATER THAT NIGHT

Celestia is in the exact same position, but now she's surrounded by a few candles. From her view of Equestria, she spots one last light turn off.

139 CELESTIA
Alright. Everypony's asleep. (then)
You're talking to yourself, Celestia.
But there's nopony else to talk to!
Yet. I can talk to ponies in their
dreams!

She sits, closes her eyes, and her horn lights up. CUT TO:

SC. 22 - INT./EXT. DREAM SPACE - CONTINUOUS

Celestia's consciousness floats in a black space surrounded by "bubbles" that represent everypony's dreams.

140 CELESTIA
Now to save some ponies from their nightmares, which aren't real so it shouldn't be too hard, right? Right. Good call, Celestia! (then) ...And I'm talking to myself...oh dear.

Just then, Celestia hears a SCREAM from one of the bubbles. Her horn glows and she transports herself to:

SC. 23 - INT. CELESTIA'S CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - NIGHT/DREAM

Celestia enters to find Starlight in the middle of a nightmare where she's running from an unseen enemy.

141 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
No! It can't be!

Celestia catches up to Starlight.

142 CELESTIA
Starlight, I'm here now. Tell me what's wrong.

143 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Going with my gut was the wrong call! I was supposed to bring you two closer together, but I've only driven you apart! If you two can't see why you need each other, then...

144 NIGHTMARE MOON (O.S.)
Then I'm back! <EVIL LAUGH>

REVEAL the unseen enemy was none other than Nightmare Moon! Princess Celestia just smiles down at Starlight.

145 PRINCESS CELESTIA
Don't worry, Starlight. I know how to handle Nightmare Moon.

146 DAYBREAKER (O.S.)
Yes, but can you handle me?

REVEAL the voice was coming from DAYBREAKER, an EVIL VERSION of PRINCESS CELESTIA! Off of Celestia's horrified face we...

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

SC. 24 - INT. CELESTIA'S CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Celestia takes in Daybreaker with absolute fear in her eyes.

147 CELESTIA
This can't be!

148 DAYBREAKER
Of course it can! If Luna can turn into Nightmare Moon, you can absolutely turn into me, Daybreaker. The better, prettier, and more powerful version of you.

149 CELESTIA
No. I'll never turn into you!

Daybreaker gets in closer to Celestia with a sinister smile.

150 DAYBREAKER
Why ever not? Deep inside you know how powerful you are. You don't need Luna.

CELESTIA
That's not true. I've always needed Luna! Even when we were apart, I knew I needed her.

DAYBREAKER
Oh please! You don't need *anypony*. You can do whatever you want, and all you have to do is get rid of *anypony* who stands in your way.

With that, Daybreaker turns to Nightmare Moon and blasts her.

151 DAYBREAKER (CONT'D)
I never should have banished you to the moon. I should have destroyed you!

152 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
No! You can't do that! Day, night, sun, moon - Equestria needs both of you. Without balance, there's no harmony!

153 DAYBREAKER
Who needs balance when you can have it all??

While Daybreaker's distracted, Nightmare Moon gets up and blasts her. Daybreaker falls, but shakes it off and glares at Nightmare Moon.

154 NIGHTMARE MOON
You can't get rid of me so easily, sister. Unless you plan on smiling me to smithereens.

Daybreaker smiles evilly and lunges at Nightmare Moon.

ON Celestia watching this, scared.

155 CELESTIA
Enough!

Celestia tries to blast the evil princesses apart, but her blast barely affects them.

156 DAYBREAKER
<LAUGHS> I told you I was more
powerful than you.

Daybreaker rounds on Nightmare Moon and slashes at her with her horn. Nightmare Moon puts a ring of black fire around herself and deflects it.

157 DAYBREAKER (CONT'D)
Ugh. So much black. We get it, you're
sad! You could really use some sun.

Daybreaker creates a blinding orb of light. Everypony shields their eyes. ANGLE ON Starlight Glimmer, watching helplessly from the side.

158 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
This is all my fault! I never should
have gone on this mission. Now
Equestria is doomed!

Celestia looks at Starlight, not knowing what to do. Her horn lights up. CUT TO:

SC. 25 - INT. DRESSING ROOM - DREAM

CLOSE ON Luna looking at herself in the mirror. She has a crazy smile on her face. PULL OUT REVEAL several smiles floating mid-air (like the Cheshire Cat). Luna grabs a different smile and puts it on.

159 DREAM PONY (O.S.)
That smile's too wide. It's obviously
not real.

Luna is suddenly surrounded by several DREAM PONIES (they are crazy eyed versions of the ponies Luna encountered earlier in the day). As she tries on different smiles:

160 DREAM PONIES
Too much teeth. / That smile's too
thin. / She's unhappy!

ANGLE ON one of the students from the School of Magic, but with big exaggerated sad eyes.

161 STUDENT
(small kid voice) Why don't you want us to go on our field trip, Princess?

Luna tries to talk through her smile, but she can't.

162 LUNA
(muffled) I don't! I mean, I do!

Suddenly Celestia appears in the dream. Luna turns to her.

163 LUNA (CONT'D)
Celestia! I'm so glad you're here!

164 CELESTIA
I don't have much time! You must come with me!

Celestia transports them to:

SC. 26 - INT. CELESTIA'S CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - DREAM

They're back in Starlight's dream. Daybreaker and Nightmare Moon are now in the air, blasting at each other but teleporting out of the way just in time.

165 LUNA
Oh my. I've seen a lot, but I haven't seen *this* before.

166 CELESTIA
It's Starlight Glimmer's. She's afraid this is what would happen if we continue to fight!

Luna spots Starlight Glimmer in the corner, in tears.

167 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
What was I thinking? I'm never going with my gut again!

168 LUNA
If you don't fix this soon, it could have a grave consequence on Starlight's psyche.

169 CELESTIA
I tried, but my magic isn't powerful enough. I thought if we work together--

Luna shakes her head and gestures to their cutie marks.

170 LUNA
I have your magic, remember? It doesn't work in the dream realm. It has to be you.

171 CELESTIA
Oh Luna, I can't do this! I was wrong - your job is so, incredibly hard. You have to battle nightmares and work in the darkness and do it all *alone*. It takes such a brave, strong pony to do what you do--

172 LUNA
--and that pony is *you*. I walked a day in your shoes. I thought all you had to do was smile and be adored all the time, but I was wrong. There's so much more to it than that.

Princess Celestia starts to perk up. Then BOOM! A magic blast narrowly misses them. They look over and see Nightmare Moon is down. Daybreaker <LAUGHS> and heads towards her, horn aglow. Starlight is nearby, watching in horror.

173 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
No! Please! Don't do this to each other!!

Luna puts her hoof on Celestia's shoulder.

174 LUNA
In the dream realm, you're as powerful as you believe yourself to be. In order to defeat Daybreaker, you need only to trust in your strength, as I do.

Princess Celestia smiles, then rounds on Daybreaker just as Nightmare Moon wakes up and fires up to blast Daybreaker. Celestia musters up all her strength sends a blast that collides with both their blasts. There's a big FLASH OF LIGHT! When it dissipates, Nightmare Moon and Daybreaker land on opposite sides of the throne room.

Princess Celestia fires up her horn once more. This time the blast that comes forth splits into two - one goes to Nightmare Moon and the other goes to Daybreaker and suspends them in magical orb.

175 DAYBREAKER
You can't destroy me! I'm everything you want to be!

176 CELESTIA
No, you're not. You are not real, and
you'll never exist again!

With that, Nightmare Moon and Daybreaker disappear inside their
orbs. Celestia powers down her horn and takes a deep breath.
Luna gives her a big hug.

177 LUNA
You did it!

178 CELESTIA
Only because you were here. I don't
know how you do this alone.

179 LUNA
(knowingly) Did you talk to yourself?

180 CELESTIA
(sheepishly) Yes. A little.

The princesses laugh. Then:

181 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Is this really happening? Or is this
still a dream?

REVEAL Starlight watching the princesses, confused. Off the
princesses smiling we DISSOLVE TO:

SC. 27 - EXT. CELESTIA'S CASTLE - BALCONY - THE NEXT MORNING

Luna raises the sun as the portal from the dream realm opens up
and Celestia flies through it. Celestia lands next to Luna.

182 LUNA
Welcome back, sister! I know you had a
long night so I made you some
breakfast...

Luna magics over a platter. Celestia smiles big as Luna uncovers
it.

183 CELESTIA
Oh! How... nice.

REVEAL a plate of smiley face pancakes. They're not nearly as
pretty as Celestia's. Celestia politely takes a bite of Luna's
pancakes, then swallows the bite with a polite smile.

184 CELESTIA (CONT'D)
Thank you. They're delicious.

185 LUNA
<CHUCKLES> They're not. I know you have to be perfect for everypony else, and you do an amazing job, but you don't have to do it with me.

186 CELESTIA
In that case, they are terrible. (the sisters laugh) But it means a lot that you tried. (then) I love you, sister.

187 LUNA
I love you too.

They hug. Then:

188 STARLIGHT GLIMMER (O.S.)
So this *was* real!

REVEAL Starlight coming out to the balcony, bleary-eyed and mane askew.

189 STARLIGHT GLIMMER (CONT'D)
<YAWNS> Or was it *not* real and this happened just now and not in my dream? I'm so confused.

190 CELESTIA
(laughing) It's all real. It was the right call, going with your gut.

191 LUNA
The map was wise to send you. No pony else would have been so bold as to do what you did.

192 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
That's a nice way of saying I came dangerously close to messing everything up.

193 CELESTIA
Not at all. It was just what we needed. The experience has made us closer than ever.

Starlight beams. Just then, Luna and Celestia's cutie marks glow and switch back to their rightful places. Then Starlight's cutie mark glows.

194 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Wait... I'm not doing this--

195 CELESTIA
I believe that one means your mission is complete.

196 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Wow. I can't wait to tell Twilight!

197 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (O.S.)
I already know!

Starlight turns to see the *actual* Twilight coming out, ushered by the guard.

198 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
I mean I don't know *everything*. I just got here to bring you your toothbrush.

Twilight floats up a toothbrush that clearly looks like Spike's.

199 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
(rambling) So this is just a friendly visit, not interfering because I was worried! I wasn't. I knew you could do it and I'm so so so proud of you! Tell me everything. Start from after I hyperventilated and don't leave out any details!!

The guard looks at them, so confused. Starlight <LAUGHS> and leads Twilight away. As they go off, the sisters turn to each other.

200 LUNA
By the way, there's a field trip you need to make happen and a timberwolf issue you need to address.

201 CELESTIA
What?

202 LUNA
<YAWN> Oh! Sun's out! Time for me to turn in!

Off of Luna slinking away and Celestia shaking her head we FADE OUT! THE END.

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