

Distribution:

Production

Devon Cody
Jim Miller
Denny Lu
Mike Myhre
Zoe Borroz
Nicole Dubuc
Josh Haber
Jada McDermott

Discovery Family

Linda Shima Tsuno
Beth Mohammed

MY LITTLE PONY
Season 8

The Parent Map
Ep 808

LOCKED SCRIPT

Hasbro Studios

Stephen Davis
Kathy Page
Meghan McCarthy
Eliza Hart
Daniel Barnes
Finn Arnesen
Nina Scales
Graham Stephen
Tyla Bucher
Loretta Masters
Narae Song
Bill Cheungcp
Molly Shaffer
Emily Thompson
Rachelle Little
Kristen Riley
Michael Kelly

Premise: Dave Rapp
Outline: Dave Rapp
Teleplay 1st Draft: Dave Rapp
Teleplay 2nd Draft: Dave Rapp
Teleplay 3rd Draft: Dave Rapp
Teleplay Final Draft: Dave Rapp
Teleplay Final Draft V2: Dave Rapp

Hasbro Brand

Jamie Cipolla
Yusun Hwang
Kevin Evans
Andrea Ehret
Samantha Lomow
Gretchen Forrest
Kristen Riley
Katherine Padilla
Brian Chapman

Premise: October 11, 2016
Outline: October 25, 2016
Teleplay 1st Draft: November 18, 2016
Teleplay 2nd Draft: December 12, 2016
Teleplay 3rd Draft: January 5, 2017
Teleplay Final Draft: January 12, 2017
Teleplay Final Draft V2: January 17, 2017
Locked Script: February 8, 2017

TEASER**SC 1 - EXT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE - DAY**

TILT DOWN from the spires of the Crystal Castle and PAN through town, past the statue of Spike, finding a MAIL PONY on his rounds. TRACK WITH HIM as he <KNOCKS> on a door and it opens, REVEALING SUNBURST, his nose in a book.

1 MAIL PONY
 (getting his attention)
Ahem... Morning Sunburst.

2 SUNBURST
 (glancing up)
What? Oh. Hi.
 (awkward laugh)
You know, no matter how many times
I read it, *Houyhnhnm's Guide to
Magical Arcana* never gets boring.

3 MAIL PONY
If you say so.
 (hoofs over mail)
I've got another letter for you
from Sires Hollow.

Sunburst frowns, then looks back down to his book.

4 SUNBURST
 (absently)
Mm-hmm. Sure thing.

Sunburst takes the letter, turns and walks back inside, shutting the door on the disgruntled Mail Pony who rolls his eyes and walks off.

SC 2 - INT. SUNBURST'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Sunburst tosses the letter onto a pile of unread mail and walks to his desk, reading the whole way. TIGHT ON his face as he pours over the book, rapt. Suddenly, his face is uplifted by a PULSING LIGHT.

5 SUNBURST
 (confused but excited)
What's this? Could I be
experiencing the Cerebration
Transmogrification Effect described
in Chapter 17?!

Sunburst looks around for the source of the glowing light and realizes it's coming from his flank.

6 SUNBURST (CONT'D)
Oh, my cutie mark is glowing.

PAN back to see his cutie mark PULSING in a steady rhythm.

7 SUNBURST (CONT'D)
 (realizing)
My cutie mark is glowing!!

Thrilled, Sunburst prances around in circles, casting glances at his flank to make sure this is really happening.

8 SUNBURST (CONT'D)
 (looks around)
I know what this means!!
 (then, manic)
Why am I yelling?!

OFF his excitement...

END TEASER

MAIN TITLES

ACT ONE

SC 3 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - HALLWAY - DAY

Sunburst walks with TWILIGHT SPARKLE and SPIKE toward the map room.

9 SUNBURST
Princess Twilight, what an honor
this is. I mean, it is, right? I'm
called for a friendship mission??

10 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
 (nods, smiling)
You sure are. And it must be a
special one. No pony outside of
Ponyville has ever been called
before.

11 SPIKE
 (cocky, to Sunburst)
If you need some pointers, let me
know. I've been on my fair share of
missions.

12 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
You've been on one, Spike.

13 SPIKE
(proud)
And that's my fair share.

Twilight rolls her eyes as she magics open the door and they step inside the...

SC 4 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - MAP ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Sunburst looks in to see STARLIGHT standing by the map over which both of the cutie marks float.

14 SUNBURST
(excited)
Starlight! You mean we've both been called? This is great!

Starlight forces a smile.

15 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Yeah... Great.

16 SUNBURST
Aren't you excited? You and me. On a mission. Together... (off her look) I'm sorry, are you not excited to go on a mission with me?

17 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
No. No. I mean, yes. Totally excited about us going together, Just not so excited about where.

Starlight points to the spot on the map under their cutie marks. Sunburst's eyes go wide.

18 SUNBURST
(disbelieving)
Sires Hollow?

19 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
(flat)
Yep. Home.

20 SUNBURST
(also flat)
Oh. (beat) Great.

Twilight and Spike note their unenthusiastic expressions.

21 SPIKE
You know, I can go if you two don't
want to. I am kind of an expert.

OFF them all rolling their eyes at Spike...

SC 5 - INT. FRIENDSHIP EXPRESS - DAY

Starlight and Sunburst sit in the train car in silence for a beat. The landscape rolls by out the window. Finally...

22 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
It's not that I don't want to go
home, it's just that whenever I do,
my dad treats me like a filly -
like nothing's changed since I was
a foal.

23 SUNBURST
Huh.

24 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
I know. I'm a horrible daughter.

25 SUNBURST
No, no. My mom actually does kind
of the same thing--

26 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Really?

27 SUNBURST
I don't even have to go home. She
sends me letters constantly asking
about my plans for the future.
(imitating) "You're a grown up
pony, Sunburst. You need a plan."
(guilty, after a beat)
I haven't been home in awhile
either.

Starlight stands, resolved.

28 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
We'll just have to explain to our
parents that we're on an important
friendship mission, so they can't
bother us.

29 SUNBURST
Do you think that will work?

Starlight slumps back down.

30 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
No.

The train slows and comes to a stop. Off the two of them looking out the window...

SC 6 - EXT. SIRES HOLLOW - TOWN SQUARE - LATER

Starlight and Sunburst leave the train depot and head toward the center of town. Sunburst takes a deep breath and smiles.

31 SUNBURST
The great thing about home is it
always stays just how you lef--
<ARGOOPH!>

Sunburst walks right into an ornate gilded, iron gate. Starlight looks over.

32 STARLIGHT
Where did that come from?

They both look up to see a fancy, gated archway across one side of the street. They share a confused look, then push the gate open and walk through as a melodic voice intones.

33 MELODIC VOICE (STELLAR FLARE)
Welcome to Sires Hollow.

Sunburst and Starlight exchange another look.

They both turn to see a SLEEK PONY standing at a kiosk. The Sleek Pony offers a tiny spray bottle.

34 SLEEK PONY
Essence?

35 SUNBURST
Essence of what?

36 SLEEK PONY
You tell me.

With that, the Sleek Pony gives Sunburst a squirt right in the face. Sunburst backs away <COUGHING>.

37 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
What is it?

38 SUNBURST
(coughing) Ah... Chocolate? Maybe?

39 SLEEK PONY
Not chocolate maybe. Chocolate
definitely. And all the benefits
with none of the drawbacks.

Sunburst wipes his face and looks up at the kiosk.

40 SUNBURST
Didn't this used to be a fruit
stand?

41 SLEEK PONY
(smug) I don't know what it used to
be. The Sires Hollow Development
Committee determined what it is.

42 SUNBURST
The Sires Hollow Development what?
Where do ponies buy fruit?

43 SLEEK PONY
(shrugs) You can get a fruit
smoothie two doors down.

Sunburst looks up to see the entire side of the street is
lined with fancy shops (think upscale shopping mall).

44 SUNBURST
All the shops are different.
Everything's changed!

Starlight looks across the street.

45 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Not everything.

Sunburst follows her gaze to the other side of town where the
buildings look older, even dilapidated - most with plaques
and stanchions in front of them. They head over.

SC 7 - EXT. BOOKSTORE - CONTINUOUS

They walk up, but before they can go in, a pair of FEMALE
PONIES (think the feminist bookstore owners on *Portlandia*)
come out and hold up their hooves to stop them.

46 BOOKSTORE PONY #1
Um... Sorry our bookstore's been
declared a "site of historical
significance" by the Sires Hollow
Preservation Society.

47 BOOKSTORE PONY #2
You'll have to experience the books
from here. That's why windows are
see-through.

48 SUNBURST
 (incredulous)
WHAT!?

49 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Preservation Society? What is
happening around here?

A resonant VOICE (Firelight) comes from behind them.

50 VOICE (O.S.)
I'll explain it to you, sugar-plum.

Starlight whirls around to see her father, FIRELIGHT, a
unicorn with a handlebar mustache. He walks up and squeezes
Starlight's checks.

51 FIRELIGHT
You are just as cutsie-wootsie as
ever!

Starlight pulls her face away.

52 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Dad! Quit it! What is going on?

53 FIRELIGHT
Just a father wanting to preserve
our town's rich history for his
little pumpkie-wumpkin...

54 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
 (gritted teeth sotto)
Dad. You promised no pumpkie-
wumpkins in public.

55 FIRELIGHT
Sorry, chipmunk cheeks.

Firelight smiles and tries for her cheeks again, but she
holds up a hoof.

56 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Don't. (then) You're preserving the
whole town? That's crazy.

Another VOICE (STELLAR FLARE) comes from behind them.

57 STELLAR FLARE (O.S.)
That's exactly what I told him. I
said, "Firelight, you're crazy."

Sunburst turns to see his mother, Stellar Flare, a pony in
the pony equivalent of a sensible pants suit.

58 SUNBURST
Mom?

59 STELLAR FLARE
Our village needs the same thing
you do, Sunburst-- a clear plan for
the future. That's why I started
the Sires Hollow Development
Committee.

Stellar pulls a LIST out of a pack and the scroll unrolls,
hitting the ground.

60 STELLAR FLARE (CONT'D)
And I've got plans for this little
town. Big plans.

Sunburst rolls his eyes. Firelight takes an indignant step
toward her.

61 FIRELIGHT
Listen here, Stellar Flare, I'm not
going to let you turn our
historical heritage into Las
Pegasus!

Stellar gets right in his face.

62 STELLAR FLARE
And I'm not going to let you turn
it into a museum!

PAN OVER to see Starlight and Sunburst staring at them.

63 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Wait. Are you two fighting over
this?

64 SUNBURST
Like, having a friendship problem?

Stellar turns her back to Firelight, nose in the air.

65 STELLAR FLARE
Oh, there's no problem.

He turns his back to her, same pose.

66 FIRELIGHT
Because there's no friendship.

With that, the two older ponies march off in opposite directions. Sunburst turns to Starlight.

67 SUNBURST
Well, the good news is we know why we're here.

Off Starlight's long-suffering look we...

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SC 8 - EXT. SIRES HOLLOW - TOWN SQUARE - RESUME

Starlight and Sunburst watch as their parents march off away from each other.

68 SUNBURST
Maybe we should have sent Spike after all.

With that, Starlight sends a blast of MAGIC at both parents, LEVITATING them back to where they started.

69 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Sunburst and I were called here to do a job and it looks like you two are it.

Stellar and Firelight share a confused look, then turn back to their kids.

70 STELLAR FLARE
You mean your success depends on us?

71 SUNBURST
Uhhh--

72 FIRELIGHT
And you have to hang out with us the whole time you're here?

73 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Umm--

The parent ponies turn to each other, considering. Then look back to their kids.

74 STELLAR FLARE
 (to Sunburst)
I'll hear what you have to say, but
every plan I've made for this town
is perfectly reasonable.

75 FIRELIGHT
 (to Starlight)
Good luck convincing me my
preservations efforts don't make
sense...

Off Sunburst and Starlight exchanging looks...

SC 9 - EXT. SIRES HOLLOW - MONTAGE

In a series of shots we watch as Starlight and Sunburst take
their parents around town:

THE FANCY GATE - Stellar stands on one side as Firelight
shuffles through. The melodic voice intones:

76 MELODIC VOICE
Welcome to Sires Hollow.

Stellar looks to Starlight and Sunburst and smiles, spreading
her hooves like, "Ta-da!" The kids exchange a dubious look.

THE BOOK STORE - The Book Store Ponies stand in front of
Starlight and Sunburst while Firelight and Stellar look on.

77 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
So we can't hold the books?

78 BOOKSTORE PONY #1
(laughs) No.

79 SUNBURST
Can you hold the books?

80 BOOKSTORE PONY #2
No.

81 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
So nopony can read the books?

82 FIRELIGHT
 (to the bookstore ponies)
Isn't she adorable?!

Starlight and Sunburst look to Firelight who smiles
awkwardly.

BACK TO THE FANCY GATE - Stellar stands on one side as now Starlight walks through. The melodic voice intones:

83 MELODIC VOICE
Welcome to Sires Hollow.

Starlight looks at her and Stellar smiles, giving a much less confident, "ta-da".

THE ESSENCE KIOSK - where Starlight and Sunburst examine the Sleek Pony's wares - dozens of little spray bottles.

84 SLEEK PONY
You can call them (disgusted)
smells, but I call them essence!

He squirts Sunburst again, who <COUGHS> again. Starlight gives him a <SNIFF>.

85 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Fruity.

86 SUNBURST
Too bad there's nowhere to get
actual fruit.

87 STELLAR FLARE (O.S.)
In the future, all ponies will
drink their fruit.

PAN OVER to reveal Stellar, who passes him a smoothie. He <SLURPS> disconsolately.

BAKERY - where an ORGANIC BAKER (a bald pony with a soul patch and an apron) drops a VERY CRUSTY LOAF OF BREAD in front of Sunburst and Starlight with a <THUD>. They look down at it, unsure.

88 ORGANIC BAKER
One hundred percent ancient pony
grains. Just like the town founders
ate.

Sunburst knocks on the bread - it sounds like a <HAMMER HITTING STONE>.

89 ORGANIC BAKER (CONT'D)
Hope you like crust!

Starlight looks to Firelight, who smiles sheepishly.

BACK TO THE FANCY GATE - Stellar stands on one side as Sunburst just stands opening and closing the gate over and over. The melodic voice intones:

90 MELODIC VOICE
*Welcome to Sires Hollow. Welcome to
Sires Hollow. Welcome to--*

Finally, Stellar reaches out and stops him.

91 STELLAR FLARE
Okay, it's annoying. I get it.

END MONTAGE

SC 10 - EXT. SIRES HOLLOW - TOWN SQUARE - DAY

Starlight and Sunburst watch as their parents talk.

92 FIRELIGHT
Maybe my preservation efforts were
a little over the top.

In the background, the Organic Baker struggles to pull a cart stacked with loaves of "bread." One falls onto his tail-trapping him like a giant weight.

93 STELLAR FLARE
And I might have been trying to
turn the town into a shopping mall.

The Book Store Ponies cross frame behind them, followed by the Sleek Pony trying to spray them.

94 FIRELIGHT
(holding out his hoof)
Well, whatever direction the town
takes, from now on how about we
work together on it?

95 STELLAR FLARE
(shakes)
Deal.

They turn to their children with a smile.

96 STELLAR FLARE (CONT'D)
Sunburst, you should move closer to
Ponyville. After this success, I'm
sure the Princess of Friendship
will want to send you on more
missions.

97 SUNBURST
That's not really how it works.

Sunburst looks at his hoof like he's wearing a watch-- he's not.

98 SUNBURST (CONT'D)
Oh, look at the time. We should get going now that we solved the friendship problem, right Starlight?

PAN OVER to Starlight who's staring at her flank.

99 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Yeah...The thing is, I don't think we did solve it.

She looks down at her cutie mark which is definitely not glowing. Sunburst's expression drops as Stellar and Firelight gather around and also look at Starlight's cutie mark.

100 STARLIGHT GLIMMER (CONT'D)
When we solve a friendship problem our cutie marks are supposed to glow.

They all stare at their marks for a beat -- still nothing. Firelight walks up and puts a hoof on Starlight's shoulder

101 FIRELIGHT
Don't be disappointed, puddin'. Your papa'll work this out for you.

102 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
My papa wasn't called by the map in Twilight's castle. I was.

Stellar takes a worried step towards Sunburst. Tiger mom:

103 STELLAR FLARE
How are you going to explain this to the princess? What's your plan if she fires you from friendship quests?

104 SUNBURST
Mom! She doesn't... It's not...

105 STELLAR FLARE
Use your words, Sunburst.

Sunburst <GRRRRS> in frustration. Starlight looks around at the town thinking.

106 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
I guess you two weren't the problem
we were sent to solve after all.

107 STELLAR FLARE
So now you don't even know why
you're here? We have to figure this
out before you run out of time!

108 SUNBURST
(deep breath, then)
Mom. There isn't a time limit.

109 FIRELIGHT
(to Starlight, thrilled)
So you're here for an extra long
visit? You can stay in your old
room, punkie-wunk. It's just like
you left it!

Starlight turns to Sunburst, reinvigorated to end this mission.

110 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
We need to find this friendship
problem now.

Firelight smiles and pats Starlight.

111 FIRELIGHT
Now, I know you have your little
job to do, but Stellar and I know
the town a lot better than you two.

112 STELLAR FLARE
(excited realization)
That's right. Neither of you have
been home in ages. You're going to
need our help to succeed.

Sunburst and Starlight share an uncertain look. Finally...

113 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
(reluctantly)
I guess that makes sense.

Stellar claps her hooves together, excited. She pulls another list out of her pack. Firelight nods approvingly.

114 STELLAR FLARE
I already have some ideas.

115 FIRELIGHT
Me too.

The two parents link hooves and prance happily across the square. Starlight and Sunburst stare after, frustrated.

116 SUNBURST
I think I liked it better when they
were fighting.

CUT TO:

SC 11 - INT. STARLIGHT'S FOALHOOD HOME - LATER

Firelight stands at a chalkboard, filling the last available space with writing.

117 FIRELIGHT
Okay. Now that I've explained how
Sires Hollow was founded we can
start to explore all the possible
friendship problems that might have
developed over time--

WHIP PAN to Starlight, sitting at a table covered in open books.

118 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
(deep breath)
I appreciate the history lesson,
dad, but I need to find the problem
now... in the present.

119 FIRELIGHT
(patronizing)
Now, hon-bun, how are you going to
do that without all the backstory?
Of course I know how hard it is for
you to sit still and focus, so...

He levitates an old, worn baby blanket over to her.

120 FIRELIGHT (CONT'D)
Would it help you pay attention to
hold on to your bwankie?

Off Starlight, SEETHING...

SC 12 - EXT. SIRES HOLLOW - TOWN SQUARE - LATER

Stellar excitedly leads Sunburst through town, talking a mile a minute.

121 STELLAR FLARE
Now you've had a little setback,
but don't worry. I know exactly
what you need to do.

122 SUNBURST
 (sarcastic)
Make a plan?

She turns to him with a big smile-- and whips out a list.

123 STELLAR FLARE
 (sing-songy)
Already got one. Step one,
interview the suspects. Step two,
use your talents to solve the
issue. Step three, get the Princess
of Friendship to send you on more
missions!

124 SUNBURST
Mom. IT DOESN'T WORK LIKE THAT.

125 STELLAR FLARE
 (chipper, not listening)
Uh-huh!

She leads them up to the Sleek Pony who's standing beside the
Bookstore Ponies. She looks to the Sleek Pony and urges him
on with a wave.

126 STELLAR FLARE (CONT'D)
<AHEM>

The Sleek Pony looks to Sunburst, talking like he's reading
from a script.

127 SLEEK PONY
Oh, thank goodness you are here.
These two ponies refuse to use my
essences.

128 BOOKSTORE PONY #1
 (quickly)
Maybe because we don't like to
cover our natural scent.

129 STELLAR FLARE
<AHEM>!

Stellar glares at her. Bookstore Pony 2 rolls her eyes. She
too talks like she's reciting lines.

130 BOOKSTORE PONY #2
And he refuses to buy our books.

All three of them turn to Sunburst in union.

131 ALL THREE
Surely this is a friendship
problem.

Sunburst turns to his mother, who smiles at him eagerly.

132 SUNBURST
It needs to be a real friendship
problem. You can't just make one
up!

With that, Sunburst turns and walks off, frustrated. Stellar
turns to the other ponies.

133 STELLAR FLARE
This is what happens when we don't
rehearse!

SC 13 - EXT. BOOKSTORE - DAY

Starlight peers around the corner of the building at
Firelight who walks down the street looking for her as he
leafs through an old book.

134 FIRELIGHT
(calling out)
Starlight? Sweetie? I found a
really old town bylaw that nopony
agrees on. (consulting the book)
Apparently we're not supposed to
prance or canter after dinner time.
Could that be the problem?
Sillyfilly?

She quickly stands straight up, pressing herself against the
side of the building, hiding as he walks by.

After he's gone she turns and we PAN OVER to reveal...

SUNBURST - also plastered against the side of the building.

135 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
What are you doing?

136 SUNBURST
Hiding from my mother. She started
making up friendship problems for
me to solve.

137 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
My dad won't even let me talk to
anypony in case they're
"strangers." I'm A GROWN MARE!

138 SUNBURST
We're never going to find the
friendship problem with them
around, let alone solve it.

PAN OVER to reveal...

THE ORGANIC BAKER - staring at them.

139 ORGANIC BAKER
Maybe you two should start looking
for it on your own?

Off Starlight and Sunburst's frustrated looks...

CUT TO BLACK:

A LIGHT BULB IS SWITCHED ON

CLOSE ON Starlight, up-lit in a dark space.

140 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
(whispering)
Okay, so we wanted to talk to all
of you, you know, in private.

CLOSE ON Sunburst, similarly lit.

141 SUNBURST
(also whispering)
Just to see if there were any
issues any of you had with any
friends.

CLOSE ON the Sleek Pony, same.

142 SLEEK PONY
(whispered)
Got it. Just one question--

PULL WIDE to reveal...

SC 14 - INT. BOOKSTORE - STACKS - DAY

Starlight and Sunburst sit in a dark corner of the bookstore at a small table with the Organic Baker, the Sleek Pony, and both Bookstore Ponies. Tall bookshelves surround them on all sides.

143 SLEEK PONY
Why are we whispering?

144 ORGANIC BAKER
They're avoiding their parents.

Sleek Pony and the two Bookstore Ponies all nod, <MURMURING> in agreement.

145 SUNBURST
No. Not avoiding. Just taking a break.

146 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Yeah. We needed to focus, but we're definitely not avoiding them.

The Bookstore Ponies share a look.

147 BOOKSTORE PONY #1
So you're whispering with all of us in the darkest corner of the shop, where nopony can possibly see because you're not avoiding them.

Starlight and Sunburst nod, brightly.

148 BOTH
Mm-hmm!

149 SUNBURST
(with sudden worry)
But they definitely can't hear us in here, right?

150 ORGANIC BAKER
No way. This is the antiquities section. Nopony ever comes back here.

WHIP PAN to reveal...

FIRELIGHT - standing in front of a nearby bookshelf.

151 FIRELIGHT
There you are! But what are you doing in here?
(MORE)

FIRELIGHT (CONT'D)
<GASP> Is the friendship problem in
my favorite section of the book
store?!

Off Starlight and Sunburst sharing an exasperated look.

SC 15 - EXT. BOOKSTORE - CONTINUOUS

Firelight exits the store rambling as he leafs through a
LARGE BOOK, while Starlight and Sunburst follow, annoyed.

152 FIRELIGHT
...and then I thought the best way
to look for a friendship problem in
the present...

153 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
(trying to interrupt)
Dad.

154 FIRELIGHT
...was to look back in our town
history even farther!

Suddenly, Stellar walks up from the other side, another list
in hoof.

155 STELLAR FLARE
Sunburst! Finally. Now, I know you
don't want me to "make up" a
problem, but what if I START one?

156 SUNBURST
(shaking his head)
That's not how...

157 STELLAR FLARE
(not listening)
I mean, no pony ever became a
success by following all the rules,
right?

Without waiting for a response, Stellar turns to Firelight.

158 STELLAR FLARE (CONT'D)
How are things on your end?

159 FIRELIGHT
Couldn't be better. (re: his book)
New leads and such!

Starlight and Sunburst share an exasperated look, then turn
to their parents, their patience at an end.

160 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Guys.

161 STELLAR FLARE
We really are providing excellent
assistance, aren't we?

162 SUNBURST
Guys!

163 FIRELIGHT
I dare say our children should be
grateful for our help.

164 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
GUYS!

The parents both turn to see their seething kids.

165 SUNBURST
We don't want your help!

Off the parents looks of shock...

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

SC 16 - EXT. BOOKSTORE - RESUME

Firelight and Stellar stand staring at their children.

166 STELLAR FLARE
I'm sorry, you don't want our help?

167 FIRELIGHT
(nervous laugh)
That's ridiculous. What reason
could you possibly have for that?

168 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
BECAUSE YOU'RE DRIVING US CRAZY!

169 STELLAR FLARE
Oh, really? (to Sunburst) And just
how am I driving you crazy?

Sunburst floats up her latest list.

170 SUNBURST
By always coming up with plans! I
don't need a plan! I mean, maybe I
do, but it'll be mine, not yours.

Stellar looks at him, welling up.

171 STELLAR FLARE
Well, I'm sorry for trying to help!

With that, she turns and runs off SOBBING. Before Sunburst can even feel bad, Starlight turns to Firelight.

172 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
And you're not any better. I'm not a filly. I'm a grown pony with a job to do and I'll do it on my own.

Firelight stiffens.

173 FIRELIGHT
Well, I'll let you get to it, then.

With that, he turns and walks off. Starlight shakes her head.

174 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Great. Now we have to smooth things over with our parents on top of finding and solving a friendship problem.

175 SUNBURST
It's almost like our relationship with our parents is the friendship problem.

Sudden realization dawns on the both of them. Starlight turns to Sunburst.

176 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
You don't think that's it, do you?

PAN OVER to reveal the Organic Baker, the Sleek Pony, and both Bookstore Ponies staring at them.

177 ORGANIC BAKER
That's what all of us think.

The townspories all nod. Sunburst and Starlight both <GROAN>.

178 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Why couldn't we have been sent to stop a war or something?

SC 17 - INT. STARLIGHT'S FOALHOOD HOME - DAY

Starlight walks in to find Firelight erasing all the writing on his blackboard.

179 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Dad?

Firelight turns stiffly.

180 FIRELIGHT
Hello, Ms. Glimmer. How is your
friendship problem search going? I
only ask as an interested observer
since I know you are an adult who's
capably of doing things without
help from anypony else.

181 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Actually, I think Sunburst and I
figured out what it is.

Firelight slumps, dejected

182 FIRELIGHT
So, Stellar and I weren't really
helpful after all.

183 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Well, we haven't actually solved
it. And I don't think we can. Not
without you.

Off Firelight brightening...

SC 18 - EXT. SIRES HOLLOW - KIOSK - DAY

Sunburst walks up to find Stellar leaning on the kiosk taking
inventory of the spray bottles. She picks one up and checks
it off of a list. She spritzes herself and <COUGHS>.

She recovers quickly and looks to Sunburst.

184 STELLAR FLARE
Oh, did you come by to be driven
crazy by more of your mother's
plans?

185 SUNBURST
No, I came to apologize.

186 STELLAR FLARE
Well, it's going to take more than
an apology to make up for telling
me you don't want my help finding
your friendship problem.

187 SUNBURST
Oh, I'm not sorry for that.
Starlight and I already figured out
what the problem is.

188 STELLAR FLARE
This is a terrible apology.

She turns back to her list.

189 SUNBURST
Well, if come with me and help fix
it, I'll give you a better one.

As Stellar turns to her son with a smile...

SC 19 - EXT. SIRES HOLLOW - TOWN SQUARE - DAY

Firelight and Stellar stand in front of their children while
the townspenies look on from their various shops.

190 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Usually, Twilight or one of our
other friends gets called to a
place with a friendship problem to
fix.

191 SUNBURST
But Starlight and I realized we
came here to fix a friendship
problem we already had.

Starlight walks up to her dad.

192 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
I'm sorry I've been avoiding coming
home, dad, but you can't keep
treating me like a foal.

193 FIRELIGHT
I'm sorry, sugarbun--
 (catching himself)
I just know how hard things were
for you when you left home. I guess
I wanted you to feel safe - like
when you were young.

194 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Dad, I know I've made some
mistakes, and I'll probably make a
bunch more, but I learn from them.
I think that's what growing up is.

Sunburst takes a step toward his mom.

195 SUNBURST
I'm sorry I never told you how much
your plans bothered me and I know
you just want me to succeed, but I
need to do that on my own.

196 STELLAR FLARE
I remember how lost you were when
you flunked out of magic school. I
thought as long as you had a plan,
you'd never feel that way again.

197 SUNBURST
(smiles)
You don't have to worry, mom. I
need to find my own way, but I
definitely don't feel lost anymore.

Both parents and children share a smile and embrace. As they do, Starlight's and Sunburst's cutie marks GLOW.

Off screen we hear <SOBBING> and PAN OVER to reveal the Baker, Bookstore, and Sleek ponies all sharing a hankie.

SC 20 - EXT. SIRES HOLLOW - TRAIN STATION - DAY

They all walk along the platform toward the waiting train. Stellar can't stop staring at Sunburst's cutie mark.

198 STELLAR FLARE
The glowing cutie mark is such a
symbol of accomplishment. I don't
suppose there's a way for you to
get it to glow all the time?

199 SUNBURST
Pretty sure it doesn't work that
way.

200 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Not unless we solved a friendship
problem every few seconds, and I
kinda hope this one will be it for
a while.

Firelight takes a hesitant step to Starlight.

201 FIRELIGHT
You know, it seems to me your map
is saying we're not just your
parents, we're your friends too.

202 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
I guess so.

203 FIRELIGHT
If I promise to treat you less like
a little filly and more like a
friend, will you visit more?

204 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Absolutely.

They embrace. Sunburst turns to Stellar.

205 SUNBURST
And if you start to drive me crazy
again, I'll tell you instead of
never coming home.

206 STELLAR FLARE
That's lovely of you to say, dear,
but you know, I can always visit
you.

Firelight lights up.

207 FIRELIGHT
Stellar, you're a genius! How do
you feel about a road trip?

Stellar pulls out a giant scroll that unravels along the
ground.

208 STELLAR FLARE
(excited)
I might have a few plans for that.

Off Sunburst and Starlight exchanging smiles we...

FADE OUT

END