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MY LITTLE PONY
Season 9

The Beginning of the End, Part I
Ep 901

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TEASER**SC. 1 - EXT. CELESTIA'S CASTLE - ENTRANCE**

TWILIGHT urgently gallops to the castle with SPIKE on her back. She enters and sees...

SC. 2 - INT. CELESTIA'S CASTLE - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

RARITY, APPLEJACK, RAINBOW DASH, FLUTTERSHY, and PINKIE PIE are already there. Twilight runs towards them.

1 FLUTTERSHY
Oh good, we're all here!

2 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
So everypony got an urgent summons to
the castle with no explanation?

3 PINKIE PIE
Yup! I just love a good mysterious
summons. What's it about? Do you think
it's a surprise party-- Hey, why are
we running?

In the middle of Pinkie's line, Twilight caught up to her friends and ran right past them. They all follow after her.

4 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Because something could be terribly
wrong! Somepony turned bad, another
evil creature back for revenge...

5 APPLEJACK
Don't you think you're being a little
paranoid?

6 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Why else would the princesses send
scrolls in such a hurry?

7 RARITY
Twilight does have a point. They'd
know better than to make us all worry.

8 PINKIE PIE
Better safe than sorry. Plus, I like
it when you run so fast, the walls get
all blurry. (LOOKING AT WALLS) Weee!

9 RAINBOW DASH
Race ya!

The Mane 6 and Spike get to the entrance of the throne room.

SC. 3 - INT. CELESTIA'S CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Everypony bursts in.

10 CELESTIA
Girls, thank you so much for coming.

11 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
What's wrong? What can we do?

12 LUNA
That's just it. Nothing's wrong.
Everything is perfect!

The Mane 6 look at each other, panting and perplexed.

13 APPLEJACK
Did y'all call us down here just to
tell us that?

Celestia and Luna nod. Rarity sits down, a bit winded from running over here.

14 RARITY
With all due respect, majesties, you
might want to save your urgent summons
for matters that are a bit
more...urgent?

The princesses chuckle.

15 LUNA
There is more to it. Equestria is
currently enjoying its longest period
of harmony in recent history.

16 CELESTIA
And it's all thanks to you, Twilight.
And your friends, of course.

The ponies and Spike smile bashfully.

17 SPIKE/RARITY/RAINBOW DASH
Who, us? / Oh, pshaw! / About time you
noticed!

18 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Thank you.

19 LUNA
No, thank you. Because of your
efforts, there has been less and less
for us to do!

20 CELESTIA
So, after much consideration, my
sister and I have decided... it is
time for us to retire.

Everypony reacts, surprised. DISCORD suddenly poofs in,
dressed as an old school beat reporter.

21 DISCORD
The royal princesses retiring!? Such
breaking news! I have so many
questions. Who'll take over? Who will
run Equestria? Will it be someone
tall, dark, and handsome or will it be
the Lord of Chaos?

Discord bats his eyelashes coquettishly and poofs up a bunch
of floating claws that point to himself. Celestia and Luna
just look to Twilight. Discord follows their gaze.

22 DISCORD (CONT'D)
Ugh. Fine, go with the obvious choice.

Off Twilight's look of shock, we...

END TEASER

MAIN TITLES

ACT ONE

SC. 4 - INT. CELESTIA'S CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - RESUME

Twilight continues to stare in shock.

23 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
You're retiring--?

24 SPIKE
Princesses can retire??

25 LUNA
Of course we can! I, for one, am
looking forward to a little R&R, maybe
a trip to the Silver Shoals.

26 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
(still processing)
--And you want me to take your place?

The princesses smile and nod.

27 LUNA
With the help of your friends, of course.

28 CELESTIA
We can't think of anypony more worthy. Over the years we've watched you grow. You've faced task after task...

29 LUNA
...challenge after challenge...

30 DISCORD
...countless adversities. Yes, yes, we get it.

31 CELESTIA
...And you've always prevailed.

32 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Thank you, but that doesn't mean that I'm--that we're ready to do what you do!

33 CELESTIA
Of course you are. I realize this is a lot to take in, but...

34 RAINBOW DASH
Nope! Makes perfect sense. We're awesome. (then) Does this mean we get all your powers? I call dibs on showing up in everypony's dreams!

Twilight looks at Rainbow Dash in shock.

35 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
You can't be ready to step into their hooves just like that.

36 APPLEJACK
Well, if the Princesses think it's time to retire, we're not a bad choice. We always have Equestria's best interests at heart.

37 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
That's a fair point, which should be taken into consideration when we have a roundtable discussion--

38 RARITY
I'm in too-- Of course, we'll all need a complete wardrobe update.
(MORE)

RARITY (CONT'D)
(to Celestia) And I would love to pick
your brain about that hair when you
have a moment.

39 FLUTTERSHY
As long as we all have each other, I'm
sure we can do it.

40 PINKIE PIE
Yay!

Pinkie gets a huddle started for a 6-way high five. Spike
hops up and adds his claw.

41 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
Protectors of Equestria on three. One,
two--

They all notice Twilight hasn't joined them yet. They look at
her expectantly. She takes a <DEEP BREATH>.

42 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Okay. If you're all on board, I guess
I am too.

She joins the huddle.

43 MANE 6 / SPIKE
Protectors of Equestria!

Twilight turns to the princesses.

44 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
It'll be a bit of an adjustment, but I
imagine the transfer of power will be
a lengthy process which will give me
plenty of time to--

45 PRINCESS CELESTIA
Actually, we just need a few days to
put together a little ceremony.

46 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
A few days?!

Everypony exchanges a look, as if to say "here we go..."

47 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
But... but that's so soon! Shouldn't
there be some sort of training
program? That lasts weeks, no, months -
if not years?

48 PRINCESS CELESTIA
Everything you've gone through over
the years has been a training program.

49 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
OK, but there's got to be a guide or a
rule book?

Discord conjures up a thick tome.

50 DISCORD
Yes, I have it right here: "How To
Rule Equestria" by Nopony
McPretendsmith.

Luna's horn glows and the book vanishes. Discord frowns. Luna
conjures up the friendship journal the girls wrote.

51 PRINCESS LUNA
The Friendship Journal you wrote
yourselves is a better guide than any
we could provide.

Twilight looks like she's about to faint.

52 PRINCESS CELESTIA
Twilight, you'll be fine. We have the
utmost confidence in you.

53 PRINCESS LUNA
And we hope you have the same in
yourself.

54 DISCORD
Oh, I'm absolutely certain she does.

Off Twilight's uncomfortable look...

MATCH CUT TO:

SC. 5 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - LATER

The same uncomfortable look.

55 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I am not confident about this at all!

The Mane 6, Spike, and Discord all watch as Twilight starts
to pace.

56 DISCORD
That's what I thought. I was being
sarcastic before.

Everypony glares at Discord. He shrugs.

57 DISCORD (CONT'D)
What? This is all so predictable.
Now's the part where you all tell
little Sparkle here that everything's
going to be fine. But she won't
believe you. <SIGH> I don't need to be
here for this.

With that, Discord pops out. Twilight resumes her pacing. As Twilight paces, her friends routinely do things around her: Applejack moves a chair so that she can flop down in it when she takes a pause. Rarity floats a cup of water onto the table. Spike brings in some paper and a quill.

58 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
It's just, I know I said yes, but then
they said "in a few days" and there's
still so much to figure out. It's all
happening so fast!

She flops down in the conveniently placed chair.

59 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
I think I need some--

Rarity nudges the water over to her.

60 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
Thanks. (SIPS WATER, THEN) Okay. I'll
feel much better --

61 RARITY
Once you make a plan?

Twilight looks down and sees the paper is already in front of her. Spike puts the quill in her hoof.

62 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Oh. Wow. It's like you--

63 SPIKE
--knew you were going to react this
way? We did.

64 PINKIE PIE
Classic Twilighting.

65 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
"Twilighting?" You... you made me a
verb?

66 APPLEJACK
It's not a bad thing, we just uh...
know you have a process.

67 RAINBOW DASH
Stage one. You get big news, and
you're like "No!" But then you pace,
and you chart, you worry...

68 FLUTTERSHY
It's okay. You go ahead and "Twilight"
and we'll all be here for you.

They all smile at her patiently.

69 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
You're all acting so calm, but this is
a big deal! What will we do if
something big happens and the
princesses aren't there to help?

70 RAINBOW DASH
Um... If you think about it, they
literally almost never help.

A beat as everypony thinks.

71 APPLEJACK
Huh.

72 PINKIE PIE
And we still always win.
(rapid-fire)
Like when Sombra almost took back the
Crystal Empire, or when Chrysalis
pretended to be Cadance, or when Tirek
came back and absorbed all the magic,
or the other time Chrysalis tried to
take over, or with Cozy Glow and the
school. <DEEP BREATH> Am I missing
anything?

Everypony answers in a routine chorus:

72A RARITY
Pony of Shadows.

72B SPIKE
Starlight when she was evil.

72C FLUTTERSHY
Discord when he was evil.

72D APPLEJACK
Do Flim and Flam count?

73 RAINBOW DASH
See? We've almost always done things
without the princesses' help.
(MORE)

RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)

Which makes sense now because it was all just training for you to take over.

74 SPIKE

And it worked. I mean, if you think about it, there hasn't been a single villain that we couldn't defeat.

CUT TO:

SC. 6 - INT. TARTARUS - SAME

We PUSH IN on two "prisons" near each other. TIREK is in one of them. Then we hear...

75 COZY GLOW
Pssst! Tirek!

76 TIREK
(ANNOYED) What is it now?

REVEAL COZY GLOW in the neighboring prison with a pile of rocks that look vaguely like Tirek and Cozy Glow together.

77 COZY GLOW
I just want to make sure you can see my "best friends rock sculpture" from over there.

Tirek rolls his eyes when suddenly, they both vanish from their cells!

SC. 7 - INT. DARK FOREST - SAME

QUEEN CHRYSALIS talks to something O.S.

78 CHRYSALIS
One day, you'll see. I will defeat Twilight Sparkle and her friends, and they will pay for stealing my kingdom!

REVEAL she's talking to a log like a crazy lady. Suddenly, she vanishes.

SC. 8 - INT. CAVE - SAME

In an evil-looking cave we see dark shadowy smoke swirling in from a bunch of different directions, funneling in towards a dark crystal on the floor. The smoke coalesces around the crystal and starts to take shape, and in the center we see KING SOMBRA's glowing green eyes! CUT TO:

SC. 9 - INT. EVIL LAIR - SOON AFTER

Cozy Glow and Tirek appear in a dark, evil-looking room. They look around, confused, then see Chrysalis is there too.

79 CHRYSALIS
Lord Tirek.

80 TIREK
A changeling?

81 CHRYSALIS
Chrysalis, Queen of the Changelings.
Or at least I will be when I am
restored to my rightful place. Why did
you summon me? What do you want?

82 COZY GLOW
Oh, golly! We didn't bring you. I
thought you freed us from Tartarus.

Chrysalis shakes her head, impressed.

83 CHRYSALIS
Tartarus? Whoever pulled you from
there must have been somepony very
powerful, indeed.

Just then, they hear an <EVIL LAUGH>. King Sombra emerges from the shadows!

84 CHRYSALIS (CONT'D)
King Sombra! You have returned? Why
did you bring us here?

Before Sombra can speak, a deep, raspy, almost metallic voice (a la Megatron or Dr. Claw) reverberates throughout the room.

85 GROGAR (O.S.)
He didn't...

Suddenly, an OMINOUS FIGURE emerges from the shadows.

86 GROGAR (CONT'D)
It was I.

The figure rises from the darkness, dwarfing the other villains.

87 GROGAR (CONT'D)
You may call me... Grogar.

The villains all gasp.

88 CHRYSLIS/SOMBRA/TIREK
The Grogar? / I've heard of you. / I
thought you were a legend.

89 GROGAR
I assure you, I am very real. And you
have all been brought here as part of
my plan to rid Equestria of Twilight
Sparkle and her friends once and for
all!

Off of Grogar's ominous smile, we...

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SC. 10 - INT. EVIL LAIR - RESUME

Tirek, Sombra, Chrysalis and Cozy Glow sit around an evil
plotting table overshadowed by Grogar.

90 COZY GLOW
I am so sorry, but the name Grofar
just doesn't ring any bells.

91 GROGAR
GROGAR! I have been away too long if
my name no longer strikes fear into
the heart of one so tiny. Perhaps a
demonstration of power is in order?

Grogar waves a hoof and a wave of magic restores Tirek to a
more vital form. Tirek smiles, feeling his strength. To Cozy-

92 TIREK
Grogar is ancient and extremely
powerful. The land that would become
Equestria was a mere collection of
farms and pastures until he declared
himself Emperor of all he saw. I
remember hearing tales of his tyranny
when I was young.

93 SOMBRA
I have also heard of the first Emperor
of Equestria, the "Father of
Monsters."

Grogar smiles, pleased.

94 GROGAR

I gave life to the foulest of creatures and allowed them to run wild, taking what they wanted and destroying the rest! My reign was a glorious fear-soaked epoch of darkness in Equestria...

95 CHRYSALIS

Until Gusty the Great rose up and banished you.

Grogar snarl/roars at Chrysalis, who cowers.

96 GROGAR

That fool believed taking my bell would defeat me, but she only weakened me temporarily.

97 COZY GLOW

Um... Tirek is really old -- (quickly, to Tirek) no offense, you look great -- but if he knew about you when he was young, we have super-different ideas about what "temporarily" means.

98 GROGAR

Silence! I have spent millennia gathering power, biding my time, waiting for the perfect opportunity to seize control of Equestria! And watching all of you...

The villains just stare at him, then...

99 GROGAR (CONT'D)

I've seen each of your humiliating defeats at the hooves of six puny ponies. And do you know why they've always bested you?

Sombra broods, while the other villains all look away, not meeting each others' eye.

100 CHRYSALIS

Because they cheat.

101 TIREK

Because they are annoyingly lucky.

102 COZY GLOW

I'm just a kid, so...

103 GROGAR
ENOUGH! It is because they work together. Where one is weak another is strong and thus unified, they are a formidable force. But we shall use their own strategy to defeat them.

104 CHRYSALIS
What are you suggesting?

105 GROGAR
I suggest nothing. I am Grogar. I demand that you join me and together Equestria will be ours!

Tirek, Chrysalis and Cozy all look skeptical. Sombra steps forward.

106 SOMBRA
I don't do "ours", I only do MINE.

Tirek, Chrysalis and Cozy nod and MURMUR in agreement.

107 SOMBRA (CONT'D)
I will take back the Crystal Empire on my own and I will destroy anypony who gets in my way!

Grogar smiles an evil smile.

108 GROGAR
Such confidence. Would you be willing to wager on your chance of success?

Sombra looks to him, intrigued.

109 GROGAR (CONT'D)
Go. Try to take back your kingdom. I shall send you there myself. If you prevail, you may keep it. But when you fail, you will submit to me.

110 SOMBRA
And if I refuse this...deal?

111 GROGAR
Then I shall return you to the darkness from which you were summoned.

112 SOMBRA
Fine. But this is a waste of time, as I will crush those who defy me. I will defeat all who--

Grogar waves and Sombra vanishes, mid-vamp. Grogar turns to the others.

113 GROGAR
I have less faith in Sombra than he has in himself. I advise the rest of you to prepare to work together.

With that, Grogar stalks out. Cozy takes to the others.

114 COZY GLOW
Well, working together sounds an awful lot like making friends, so you two are in luck because I know all about that.

OFF Tirek and Chrysalis' looks of pure disgust, CUT TO:

SC. 11 - INT. SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP - TWILIGHT'S OFFICE - DAY

STARLIGHT GLIMMER tentatively opens the door to Twilight's office.

115 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Twi? You in here? With the school closed for the summer, I didn't think anypony would be here, but--

She gets hit in the face with the end of a mile-long scroll. REVEAL Twilight, way at the other end, furiously scribbling.

116 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
So much to do, not enough time. No! I already did that. Wait. Nope. I didn't. OOOH, NOT ENOUGH TIME!

Spike pops out from behind a huge color coded chart of the Canterlot Castle. Twilight has different wings of the castle dedicated to each of the MANE 6.

117 SPIKE
(WHISPER-YELLS TO STARLIGHT) HELP!
She's spiraling. We're at the "my plan needs a plan" stage of a Total Twilight Melt Down.

Starlight nods.

118 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Got it. (THEN) Twilight?

Twilight doesn't even notice that Starlight is there. She cross references another list.

119 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Did I write down "eliminate redundant lists" on my School of Friendship to-do list, or my personal to-do list?

120 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
TWILIGHT!

Twilight jumps.

121 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Starlight! Oh good, you're here. I need to talk to you.

122 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Okaayy.

123 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Hang on, I had "talk to Starlight" written down on one of these. Just let me find it so I can cross it off...

Twilight rummages through her lists, there are scrolls EVERYWHERE.

124 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Wow, you are Twilighting hard.

125 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
You say Twilighting too? Well, excuse me, but this is the first time I've ever been asked to run A WHOLE KINGDOM!

Starlight backs up a bit. Twilight's having a moment.

126 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
You're right. You're right. (CHANGING THE SUBJECT) So what did you want to talk to me about?

127 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Ah here it is. I wrote it down.
(READING) *Starlight, you have blossomed into one of the strongest, smartest, most caring ponies I know and I can't think of anypony better to leave in charge of my castle and the School of Friendship. So what do you say?*

Starlight and Spike share a look. Starlight winks. She has an idea. Then, VERY dramatically she turns to Twilight:

128 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
WHAT? You want me to take care of the
castle and RUN THE SCHOOL?

129 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Yes...

130 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
(still over the top)
I can't! I'm not ready! Remember what
happened the last time you left me in
charge? And now you want me to do it
PERMANENTLY?! What if I don't do the
right things? What if--

131 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Starlight! Get a hold of yourself.
You've risen to every challenge you've
ever faced. You can do anything you
put your mind to. You've got this.

Starlight turns on a dime and smiles at Twilight and nods.

132 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Mmmm-hmmm. And so do you. See what I
did there? You just said everything
you need to hear.

133 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
(LAUGHS) Nice try, but running a
school and running a country are two
very different things! Now if you
don't mind, I have seven thousand,
four hundred, and thirty two more
things to take care of before I become
the new Ruler of Equestria!

Twilight starts to hyperventilate and Spike immediately hands
her a paper bag to breath in. He looks to Starlight.

134 SPIKE
It was a valiant effort.

SC. 12 - EXT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE - DAY

Crystal Ponies scatter and run, mothers hide their foals,
shopkeepers close and board up their windows, it's panic in
the streets as Sombra marches in.

His eyes glow green. Dark smoke pours out of them, engulfing
nearby ponies with dark magic. An image of Sombra's eyes
superimposes over their faces and when the smoke clears, the
ponies go from panicking to a zombie-like trance of sadness.

CRYSTAL EMPIRE GUARDS rush up to defend the city, but Sombra uses his magic (his eyes superimpose over theirs) and they go dark, falling in line behind him.

Sombra's turned guards herd the remaining ponies together and Sombra blasts them all with dark magic. As Sombra saps the citizens' will, Dark Crystals spring up all over the streets, cracking windows and doors.

135 SOMBRA
Now for the pretenders that dare to
sit on MY throne!

He marches his mind-controlled army toward the castle.

SC. 13 - INT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE CASTLE - ROYAL STUDY - SAME

SHINING ARMOR opens the door to find CADANCE furiously scribbling a magical scroll to Twilight.

136 SHINING ARMOR
The guard says Sombra's breached the
castle!

137 CADANCE
(FINISHING SCROLL) Hurry, Twilight! We
need you!

POOF! The scroll disappears.

138 CADANCE (CONT'D)
Do you have Flurry Heart?

139 SHINING ARMOR
(shock) I thought you had her.

Their eyes go wide. They race out of the room and into...

SC. 14 - INT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - SAME

Cadance and Shining Armor run in to find Sombra holding baby FLURRY HEART, surrounded by crystal empire guards. Cadance and Shining Armor stop dead in their tracks.

140 SOMBRA
Kneel before Sombra.

Cadance and Shining Armor begrudgingly kneel before Sombra and the guards all follow suite. Sombra hands over Flurry Heart.

141 CADANCE
You won't get away with this.

142 SOMBRA
Oh, but I already have! Hahahaha.

Sombra encases the royal family in a dark crystal prison and sits on the throne.

143 SOMBRA (CONT'D)
Ah. Long live the KING!

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

SC. 15 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - DAY

Twilight is pacing, looking over the scroll from Cadance. The Mane 5, Starlight and Spike burst in. Twilight looks up at her friends.

144 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Thanks for coming so quickly--

Before any of them can speak, Discord poofs in wearing reading glasses and holding up his own scroll:

145 DISCORD
Sure thing, but if you're going to be the ruler of Equestria, you may want to work on your penmanship. This looks like it says, "Cadance sent an emergency message. Sombra's back and he's taking over the Crystal Empire."

146 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
That's exactly what it says!

147 RARITY
But how is that possible?

148 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I have no idea, but he's back and it's up to us to save the Empire and my family!

149 FLUTTERSHY
Shouldn't somepony tell Celestia and Luna?

150 DISCORD
Oooh. Good point. One of us should probably loop in the real rulers of Equestria.

Twilight shakes her head.

151 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
No. If we're going to run Equestria,
we'll need to handle things like this
on our own.

152 DISCORD
My word, Twilight. Could this mean you
finally have the confidence you need
to take the throne like the princesses
believe you can?

The whole room looks hopefully at Twilight.

153 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Maybe -- unless you'd consider taking
care of Sombra for us?

154 DISCORD
Oh, no no no no no. You were
absolutely right. You need to learn
how to handle things like this on your
own. Ta-tah.

With that, Discord snaps and vanishes.

155 APPLEJACK
Handling things on our own is all well
and good, but last time we defeated
Sombra with the Crystal Heart.

156 SPIKE
What if he has it already? How are we
gonna stop him?

157 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
(thinks, then...)
With the Elements of Harmony! With
those, we can defeat anypony, even
Sombra!

Discord's head pops back in.

158 DISCORD
You didn't need the "Elements" the
last time you defeated Sombra -- and
I'm not sure using them still counts
as handling things on your own.

159 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
My family is in danger. I'm not taking
any chances.

160 RAINBOW DASH
She's got a point.

161 DISCORD
Ugh. Fine.

He disappears again.

162 PINKIE PIE
He's a bit testy.

Twilight turns to Starlight.

163 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Starlight, can you--

164 STARLIGHT GLIMMER
Stay here and take care of the school?
(nods) I've got you covered.

Off Twilight's wan smile...

SC. 16 - INT. CAVE OF HARMONY - LATER

The Mane 6, Starlight, and Spike pop in. The tree is gorgeous with all its sparkle and shine.

Twilight fires up her horn and the Elements Of Harmony float from the tree to their respective ponies.

Rarity does a happy little shimmy when she gets hers, and as they each do a "look at me with my element" turn Twilight's horn lights up and the Mane 6 and Spike are transported to...

SC. 17 - EXT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE - GATES - CONTINUOUS

The ponies appear at the "gates" to the Crystal Empire. But as in 302, the gates are now dark crystals.

165 APPLEJACK
That can't be good.

166 PINKIE PIE
(HOPEFUL) Maybe it's just dirty?

Pinkie pulls a rag out of nowhere and tries to clean the gates, but just polishes the crystals to a shine.

167 RAINBOW DASH
Dark crystals. Classic Sombra.

Twilight takes off in a gallop towards the city. The rest follow.

SC. 18 - EXT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE - MOMENTS LATER

The Mane 6 and Spike peek into the city from behind a building. All around them, the crystal ponies look exactly like they did when we first met them under Sombra's control - heads hung, de-saturated, flat hair, etc.

168 APPLEJACK
Sombra's definitely been here.

169 RARITY
Mind control is already bad -- is it really necessary to give them horrible hairstyles as well??

170 SPIKE
Um, Twilight, if things are this bad already--?

171 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
--then my family is in serious trouble!

SC. 19 - INT. CRYSTAL CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - LATER

Sombra lounges on the crystal throne, casually twirling the crystal heart on his hoof (like a basketball). He's obviously made himself at home. Dark crystals jut out from the floor, and Shining Armor, Princess Cadance, and Flurry Heart are trapped in a dark crystal cage.

A feisty Flurry Heart keeps trying to fire magic blasts at Sombra, but the dark crystals make the blasts fizzle.

172 SOMBRA
It's cute that you think that will do anything.

Cadance and Shining Armor glare at Sombra.

173 CADANCE
It might not, but they will.

Cadance looks at something over Sombra's shoulder. REVEAL the Mane 6 at the doorway, poised for battle.

174 PINKIE PIE
Surprise!

With that, they all charge towards Sombra.

175 SOMBRA
<CHUCKLES> How can I be surprised when
I've waiting to show all of you your
greatest fear?

Sombra's horn glows. The Mane 6 freeze mid-gallop. ON
TWILIGHT: as in 301/302, Sombra's glowing green eyes are
superimposed over hers which go dark as his mind powers take
effect. We see flashes of her greatest fear:

- Sombra defeats the Mane 6 in a shadowy battle.
- Twilight hangs her head in defeat in front of Celestia and
Luna, who are sitting on their thrones.

176 CELESTIA
Oh Twilight. How disappointing.

As the windows in the throne room darken in shadows:

177 LUNA
Equestria was in your care -- and you
let it be destroyed.

BACK TO SCENE: Sombra chuckles. REVEAL the rest of the Mane
6, each clearly struggling against their own fears.

178 SOMBRA
You should all surrender. Nothing can
defeat your own fears.

As Twilight strains against Sombra's magic, her element
starts to glow. Then, a beam of purple magic shoots out from
her element, connecting it to Applejack's. Each element in
turn starts to glow its own color, then shoots a beam that
connects them all.

Connected, the glow from the elements grows more and more
intense until finally with a FLASH, all the girl's eyes clear
as they snap out of their tortured trances and glare at
Sombra - released from his magic.

179 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
We didn't need to defeat them. We just
needed to face them long enough to
distract you!

Sombra spins around -- REVEAL Spike has broken the dark
crystal cage and freed Twilight's family.

The rest of the M6 free themselves from the spell. Rainbow
Dash zips over to the crystal heart and tosses it towards
Cadance, who flies out the window.

Sombra rushes to the balcony to see Cadance dive beneath the castle and replace the Heart.

180 SOMBRA
NO!

Sombra is about to go after Cadance but Rainbow Dash zips in front of him. REVEAL all six ponies have him surrounded. Sombra narrows his eyes and starts to turn into a cloud of shadows.

Starting with Twilight, the Mane 6 fire up the Elements of Harmony. They float and contain Sombra's shadow cloud within their circle. Sombra tries to fire shadowy blasts at the Mane 6, but his magic fizzles out.

181 SHINING ARMOR
It's cute that you think that will do anything.

Sombra turns solid again and surveys the scene.

182 SOMBRA
<ANGRY GROWL> You may have won the battle, but I shall win the war!

The girls blast at him with their magic and, with that, Sombra turns into a shadow that dissipates into nothingness.

CUTAWAYS throughout the Crystal Kingdom: the Crystal Heart begins to spin and the dark crystals in the castle recede into the ground. The crystal ponies go back to normal. The sun shines a little brighter.

Back with the Mane 6: looking out at the Empire from a balcony as they stop glowing with the power of the elements and float back down.

183 RAINBOW DASH
We totally just wiped the castle with that guy.

Flurry Heart flies in and hugs Twilight with a tiny explosion of <GIGGLES>. Shining Armor and Cadance gather around.

184 SHINING ARMOR
Thanks, Twily.

185 PINKIE PIE
That was fun!

186 APPLEJACK
And easy.

187 RARITY
As far as magical battles go, that was
a cakewalk.

188 PINKIE PIE
Ooh, "cakewalk".

Everypony laughs.

189 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
We did handle this pretty well, on our
own.

190 SPIKE
Does this mean--?

191 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I still don't feel like I'm one
hundred percent ready, but will I
ever?

192 APPLEJACK
Knowing you? Nope.

193 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I have you guys, and we have the
Elements, and together -- we've never
failed. We'll be okay.

194 RAINBOW DASH/PINKIE
PIE/SPIKE
Yeah we will! / Woohoo! / Did we just
skip to stage seven of Twilighting?

195 SHINING ARMOR
Twilight -- Cadance, Flurry and I are
so proud of you. Equestria will be
lucky to have you at the helm.

196 CADANCE
Almost as lucky as we are to have you
as our sister and auntie!

All three of them hug Twilight and off this tender family
moment we...

DISSOLVE TO:

SC. 20 - INT. CAVE OF HARMONY - LATER

The Mane 6 return to the tree. Twilight floats the elements
back to their rightful places. The tree glows again and
Twilight smiles in satisfaction.

197 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Once again, Equestria is safe.

As the Mane 6 walk away...

198 FLUTTERSHY
What should we do to celebrate?

199 PINKIE PIE
I vote for a cakewalk!

We PAN UP to a shadowy cloud floating high on the cave's ceiling. Sombra's glowing green eyes appear! Suddenly, the ground starts shaking and six enormous dark crystals erupt from the ground all around the tree.

200 APPLEJACK
What's going on?

201 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I--I don't know.

Sombra takes his solid form right in front of the Tree, which is now surrounded by dark crystals. Before the girls can do a thing, Sombra's horn glows with a huge crackling ball of dark energy and he blasts the crystal nearest him - it fragments and all the other crystals light up and in turn blast the tree, targeting each Element of Harmony. The elements shatter! The tree is destroyed.

Off of this we...

END PART ONE