



[Sample version]

PROLOGUE

There is a magical land far beyond the horizon — a magnificent place protected by miles and miles of deep blue, rolling seas. A beautiful empire where the weather itself reigns supreme.

It is the final resting place of a powerful alicorn princess who traveled to the island to fulfill her dream of creating a land of everlasting joy and peace. To make that dream a reality, she sacrificed herself. Using all of her magic, and all of her might, she created Exaltia.

The act, however, proved fatal. In her final days she devoted herself to the island, drawing ponies from across the seas to her newborn kingdom. And when her time came, she made one final choice — to become a single star in the night sky, a guiding light that would draw ponies to Exaltia for generations to come.

Her new subjects honored her sacrifice with a sacred tradition: the Stargazer Ceremony. On that night, they would gaze into the heavens and see her light shining down upon them all.

Episode 1: Unabridged

Basked under the argent glow of the midnight moon Queen Downpour stood on the balcony of the rain palace staring off into the distance. Weather palaces dotted the land and touched the skies with their epic towers.

She watched as her youngest son off in the distance stepped out onto the balcony of the thunder palace and began to swirl the clouds with the magic of his grand alicorn horn.

Black clouds tucked away the moon and powerful thunder echoed through the sky. As hard rain began to pour down onto her flowing mane she faintly smiled. As she turned to re-enter the warm comfort of her bed chambers an image of what was yet-to-come flashed before her eyes.

She gazed over her shoulder at the Thunder Palace's tower with a steely resolve. Deep within her heart a familiar twinge of fear that of a mother's.

The next morning, young Prince Thunderbright was fast asleep in his bed. Crystal mobile above him faintly twinkling. The rain now a faint pattering on the glass offered to his ears a soft lullaby.

There was suddenly a knocking at the door and his sapphire eyes snapped open, soaking in the murky daylight. From his bed Thunderbright leapt his outstretched wings allowing him to glide across the room with certain grace.

A wisp of his mother's magic entered the palace through the mail slat and before him materialized a letter from Downpour.

“Dearest son,

Soon my son you'll come into your role as king of Exaltia, such a daunting task to undergo alone. So I've arranged for you to venture off to Harbourtown to help the ponies there clean up after your storm and hopefully you'll make some friends.

With much love, Queen Downpour”

The letter vanished into the air just as he scanned her last few words. Thunderbright retreated back into the safe familiarity of his bedroom. There he lay staring up at the ceiling pondering life. The thought of socializing with ponies outside the castle made him quiver.

In a nearby window Thunderbright watched as fillies and colts pranced about playing all sorts of games along the paths often accompanied by friends or family going about their day, it served as a reminder to his life of isolation and all the missed opportunities to make relationships and perhaps even the root of his newfound fear.

But, the world outside was not like the perfect world he knew inside the palace. Tea, books, and the same few familiar servants who'd practically raised him. The world outside was one of chaos and uncertain 'ick'.

Thunderbright nervously peeked out the front doors, staring onto the quad with bright shaky eyes. He had a choice, after all he was old enough to make his own decisions perhaps he didn't need to go to Harbourtown at all but that would entail a certain everlasting loneliness one he'd already begun to feel. A different harsher 'ick' that plagues the soul.

He glanced over his shoulder where on the wall his leather saddlebag hung, begging to be used and weathered at least once. He sighed and murmured to himself "Ok..." he tightened the strap so it stayed firm around his midsection and set down one of the less populated Palace side paths hoping to go unseen.

As Thunderbright trotted through Exaltia's many forests, ponies passed by, seemingly unaware of his Princely status. He took solstice in it, feeling hidden among the commonfolk.

As Thunderbright started out of the woods his ears faintly twitched at the sound of a rolling waterfall somewhere near. He started towards it looking for just a glimpse. The wood underneath his hooves gave out and for a moment just a moment he plummeted down. Instinctively he stretched out his wings and took flight.

Not far off at all a unicorn with a radiant magenta coat sat under a tree watching the leaves fall, braiding flowers into her pink curly mane. She caught sight of the young alicorn taking flight and she rose to her hooves, her green eyes wide and enchanted.

Thunderbright stood next to the crumbling bridge scanning over it, a simple wooden bridge reinforced with metal brackets and by the looks of it, it had been struck by lightning. Thunderbright knew it was his doing, his mother had mentioned his nerves were messing with his meteormancy.

“Hello?” Thunderbright hiccuped at the sound of another pony’s voice, and stiffened like a tree. “Um, hello?” she asked again. “I’m sorry did I scare you? I didn’t mean to. Here, have this for your troubles.” She reached into her bag and pulled out a cornflower bloom with her magic, she tucked it behind his ear and offered him a humble smile.

Thunderbright let himself turn and look at the unicorn as she started back to her spot under the tree. “H-hi, he squeaked faintly”

“Oh, hi... *Again* I’ve never seen you around Harbourtown before, I should probably introduce myself... I’m Dazzleblossom, I run the cafe/greenhouse with my sister.”

“I um- I see...”

“So what’s your name and where are you from?”

He took a deep breath and relaxed his shoulders a slight bit. “Thunderbright...I’m Thunderbright *Thunderbright*”

“Nice to meet you, Thunderbright, what brings you to our little town?”

He looked across the destroyed bridge and out to the quaint seaside town beyond. “I’m not really sure, my mom, the Queen sent me here and she didn’t really tell me why.”

“The Queen! The Queen sent you! SO YOU’RE A PRINCE!?” She pranced in place gently biting down on her lower lip.

“Um- you could say that.” Thunderbright murmured cringing.

“You absolutely have to see my greenhouse now! You won’t find better flowers anywhere in all of Exaltia” She put her head to his rump and started to push him along.

“WAIT WAIT!” Thunderbright shouted.

“What? What is it- Oooooohhh yeah, the bridge.”

“Maybe I got a bit ahead of myself,” Dazzleblossom said, tapping her hooves together sheepishly.

“Such a shame, It really is such a nice shop, but no-pony has come to fix it yet.
“Couldn’t you do it yourself?” Thunderbright asked.

Dazzleblossom’s ears perked up. “I most certainly could, I know somepony that can get me lumber! I’ll be right back!”

He watched as she turned and galloped down the path vanishing into the tunnel of trees. A set of voices called out to him from the other side of the bridge “Hey! You here to fix the bridge” stood on the other side two ponies, a unicorn, and a lone pegasus.

“Why don’t you just fly over here?” Thunderbright asked, raising his hoof.
“Because then I’d be stuck over here, dude!” The unicorn replied, shouting.

A low rumbling filled the forest as a deep blue stallion with an odd striped coat came down the path pulling a wagon filled with lumber scraps. At his side Dazzleblossom.

“It’s super great of you to call on my expertise but I have to warn you the last time somepony made me build a bridge it ended up becoming a beaver’s dam.” he said offering Dazzleblossom a huge smile. Dazzleblossom faintly rolled her eyes offering him a warm intentioned doubt.

“See, Thunderbright, lumber as promised. Courtesy of-” Dazzleblossom scanned his face willing him to say his name for her.

“Dazzleblossom! Oh wait, that’s your name, no my name is Scribblesmear.”

“How do you keep forgetting your name?”

“I didn’t forget it...I just misplaced it.”

“You there, pegasus, could you help them unload the lumber?” Thunderbright asked.

The pegasus on the other side cowered at the sight of Scribblesmear hiding behind the unicorn next to her.

“Wait, aren't you going to help us?” Dazzleblossom asked.

“Well- um- I?” He stuttered trying to find the right words. Regardless of his response he began to realize he had an obligation to help them, truth was he knew very little about building bridges much less rebuilding them.

“...Sure...” He said, offering her a nervous smile. He was lying through his teeth but he wouldn't dare let down any of his mother's subjects.

“ALRIGHTY PONIES! Let's give this bridge a glow-up!” Scribblesmear said, pulling the two against him with his hooves around their necks.

Thunderbright shivered at his words and so he slipped out of the Scribblesmear's aggressive enthusiasm.

“Actually I think I'll get the group on the other side started.”

“Oh okay you go do that.” Dazzleblossom said, showing him a fleeting smirk.

Thunderbright flew over the river chasm and landed with his four hooves on the wooden boards where the other two stood. The unicorn who had a glossy turquoise coat and a wavy curly mane sat near the edge filing her hooves.

The first thing he noticed about her was the peace sign pendant around her neck.

“Enjoyin' the serenity man?”

“Huh!? What?” Thunderbright started.

She chuckled to herself.

“Somethin' you wanted to ask me dude?” she turned to face him, her eyes hazed with a lazy dreamy tone.

“Um-um Oh I uh need you or I guess you two to find someone to work on this bridge.”

“Psh, no problem man. You just asked the perfect pony, cuz no pony knows wood like me. I’m one with the forest.”

“Oh?” he said, raising an eyebrow.

“Yea, I’m all things tranquil, so I can’t help but connect with nature” She said, stretching her legs.

She turned around and grimaced at the pony cowering behind her, she sighed to herself faintly as she put her hoof onto her rump and pushed the frightened pegasus forward.

“This is Soapysud, she runs the Harbourtown spa.”

Thunderbright scanned her over and the sight of her quivering was all too familiar.

“Hi- I’m Thunderbright.”

She averted her gaze from him and stared down at the ground.

On the other side of the bridge Scribblesmear stood on the edge of the broken boards where he called out to Thunderbright across the rampant river.

“Hey, Lightning? Could you get somepony over here who um- knows how to build bridges?”

“Why?” Thunderbright asked.

“Oh uh, no reason everything’s fine.” Scribblesmear chuckled, trying to hide the boards of wood glued onto his back.

Soapysud quietly gasped at the sight of the striped blue pony. “What kind of pony is that? He’s so unique, and beautiful, I ought to know his name!”

“That’s Scribblesmear, he’s- certainly something, and to answer that first question I think he might be a z-” Soapysud fluttered over to the other side before he could finish and he watched as the two became locked in conversation.

Thunderbright shrugged his shoulders before spreading his wings open wide. “I do apologize everypony, but I need to get to Harbourtown, so I ought to be going I wish you all-“

“OOF! Why, who ever put their bloody wing in my way! I can’t believe these ponies, buncha equids, that’s what the lot of them are. And oh my heavens- it’s the prince himself.” An orange pegasus with a flowing blonde mane peaked from behind his wing, he offered Thunderbright a cheeky smile. Thunderbright however couldn’t help but notice he had a nice little white streak extending from his mouth to the bridge of his muzzle. He looked awfully familiar but he just couldn’t put his hoof on it.

“Let me just get that for you, your majesty. I didn’t mean to sully your nice and I dare say beautiful platinum coat.”

“It looks fine to me, and you are?”

He stood up straight and tall and flared his wings outwards, he wore a deep blue scarf which he tossed off his shoulder with a flick of his nose. He flourished himself dramatically, not unlike a peacock.

“-I am Starblitz, film director, visionary, eight time Winny nominee. And last but certainly not least: a proud Harbourtown colt.”

“Well it’s been a pleasure but I really ought to be off to Harbourtown. Well why on Earth are you still here then, I’ll give you the tour personally.”

“Wait, you’re just gonna leave us here?” Dazzleblossom shouted from across the river.

“Well- your royal majesty says he simply must get to Harbourtown.”

“Well in case it slipped your mind man, the bridge is out.”

Starblitz pressed his hoof to his mouth. “Oh my, that is quite serious. What would they all think of me if my beloved town didn’t have something as simple as a bridge? Hmm, I’m sorry your majesty but my fair home needs me!”

Starblitz rushed over to help, meanwhile Thunderbright remained in place watching from afar. In the last thirty minutes he'd gotten to know a bit of each of the five ponies and got them to repair the bridge, and what exceptional progress they had made.

Nightlight and Starblitz were doing careful woodwork, Scribblesmear and Dazzleblossom were beautifying the bridge and Soapysud was offering warm encouragement.

It seemed there wasn't much left for Thunderbright to do. He spread his wings and took flight. None of them seemed to notice, all of them too wrapped up in work to pay attention to their prince fleeing the scene.

The golden topaz sun was beginning to set on Harbourtown by the time he finally arrived, its sparkling light reflected on the endless blue sea in the horizon. He looked around for anypony who needed his help cleaning up the aftermath of last night's storm, but as he looked around he found no such mess, no such problem anywhere in sight.

Many of the storefronts were closed and all the young foals were returning home with their parents, Thunderbright was suddenly reminded of the meeting he was supposed to be attending with his mother.

His heart sank a bit, he felt like a failure, the whole day he had spent trying to fix a single bridge on the outskirts of town, and it wasn't until the end of the day that he actually made it to the town only to find he was no longer needed.

As Thunderbright arrived at his mother's palace he hung his head down low. His sorrow reflected back at him in the deep blue royal sapphire of the palace's crystal walls and he sighed to himself.

The guards carefully walked over him, so he offered them a fake smile before trotting toward the dining hall. When he held open the heavy door with his hoof something caught his attention that left him in utter shock.

His mother stood by the door, her mane flowing and rolling like tranquil rain clouds. "Come in my dear son, introduce me to these lovely Harbourtown ponies you inspired today." She offered him a warm smile trying to soothe his nerves.

"Wait what is all this?" Thunderbright asked, confused.

"Whether you actually made it to Harbourtown or not was actually irrelevant but I couldn't tell you that. What was really important today was that you'd meet these five special ponies and you did just that today."

Thunderbright looked around the room, the five from earlier smiling and waving at him. "They each took a particular interest in you, and I think it might be the key to a lifelong friendship you'll someday cherish."

Thunderbright sat at the end of the table soaking in the moment trying to make sense of it all.

"You took an interest in me," said Dazzleblossom.

"You believed in me," said Scribblesmear.

"You listened to me, man," said Nightlight.

"Y-you spoke to me," said Soapysud.

"And you positively inspired me," said Starblitz.

"Today you united them, and so they came here to celebrate that. So my son, how do you feel?" Downpour asked, taking her seat at the end of the table.

Thunderbright sat fidgeting with his hooves. Deep inside he felt a ticklish feeling, a twinge of pride urging him to smile, and it was bubbling up to the surface.

“I think I have... A really good feeling about this...”

Episode 2: Falling Star pt.1

As the sun began to rise on Exaltia all the ponies in Harbourtown woke up early to go outside with friends and family. Everypony was setting out blankets and telescopes.

Tonight was a very special occasion; it was the 200th annual Stargazer ceremony! A rare and exciting opportunity for ponies of all ages to come out and pay tribute to the founder.

Out on the bridge by the Harbourtown mill the five new friends gathered in the place where their friendship had been born. Dazzle Blossom and Nightlight used their magic to position their telescope.

“Ah, everything feels so perfect. The spring flowers are in bloom, all my new friends are here and we get a front row seat to the greatest event of the season.”

“Lookin’ at the stars man, it’s a full unforgettable spiritual experience.”

“I know, nothing beats it. Ooh that reminds me, my mom used to draw star charts by hoof with me every year, so she sent all of us the materials to do it ourselves.” Scribblesmear said, reaching into his saddlebag. He laid out all the materials on the wood of the bridge.

There was a shared expression of excitement and timid interest. Everypony took their share of colored pencils and paper and set out the things they’d need once the stars showed.

“I have the most excellent idea. Why don’t we play some silly party games to pass the time?”

“I um love it, Starblitz, but something’s missing.”

“Typical, let me guess, Nightlight picked the wrong flowers.”

“No- no, the flowers she picked are ...Perfect! It’s something else, something much more important.”

“W-what would that thing be?” Soapysud murmured.

“Mm, Actually it’s somepony,” said Nightlight.

Everypony sat up and turned to face the Crystal Palace where Thunderbright most likely lay. He’d brought the friends together for the first time just mere days ago but they’d barely seen him since...

“Um, somepony should go check on him.” Soapysud murmured.

Dazzleblossom raised her hoof showing no sign of haste.

“I’ll do it, he’s probably just nervous or shy. You guys watch our spot...”

In front of the Crystal Palace Dazzleblossom stopped to smell and enjoy Crystal Palace garden’s decadent arrangement of hydrangeas and hyacinths. For a moment she was lost in some mystical floral paradise of her own making but the sound of twinkling crystal windchimes snapped her out of the euphoria.

“Such marvelous taste in flowers.” She murmured to herself as she pushed past the front door.

The crystalline atrium echoed with the sound of her hooves faintly clapping on the amethyst floor. So much to look at so much to see, the palace was lazy with such talented appreciative art but what caught her eye was the papers and books strewn about.

“I never knew you were such a bookworm, Thunderbright, you really should join me at bookclub. I think we might have something...”

She searched the rooms finding them neat but astonishingly empty and devoid of life. It seemed as if he was not around at all and you’d assume he wasn’t if you just looked with your eyes, but in her heart and in horn she felt him near, but where?

A tall towering bookshelf built into the wall, lined with simple and boring books on mundane and average subjects, something was certainly amiss about it for when she'd press her hoof to it she'd feel a faint warmth amongst the cool cold palace walls.

A suspicious title scrawled down the spine caught Dazzleblossom's eye, a certain '*The Way to Keep a Secret*' stood. Compared to the others on the shelf it was not nearly as dusty nor as boring so she used her unicorn magic to try and lift it up.

A mechanism clicked as she lifted the book, her hunch had turned out to be true, the shelf was just a secret door. When she peered in she found Thunderbright, nose buried in a book oblivious to the outside world.

Sensing a mischievous opportunity she pranced over quietly and tapped him on the head ever so gently and muttered a simple word. "Boo!"

She watched as Thunderbright took flight, leaping straight up toward the ceiling before landing flat on his stomach. Dazzleblossom giggled playfully "You okay? That looked like it hurt."

Thunderbright struggled only for a moment before lifting himself up to his knees. The moment he made eye contact with Dazzleblossom he began to tremble all over, shyly he pawed at the ground.

"Psh, it was nothin' barely hurt a bit" He lifted one of his hooves to make a gesture but as he flexed it in dismissal he winced in pain.

With faint tears in his eyes he muttered "Never better!"

Dazzleblossom giggled. "You really have no idea how funny you are..."

"I'm funny?..." He felt a twinge of concern at her comment and he trotted over and stared into the mirror hung on the adjacent wall.

"What were you reading?" She asked looking over her shoulder.

“Um- nothing much just a journal my mom wrote in, she had a couple entries on the Stargazer Ceremony I wanted to see again.”

Her green eyes widened and she tilted her head “Why? Is there something you’re looking for?” “Um-” he faintly perspired at her question. He flipped through the pages in Downpour’s journal to a certain page.

Depicted in royal purple ink sketches of traditional and fanciful celebrations during the Stargazer Ceremony held in the town's center.

“My mom or rather, Queen Downpour, has asked me to help with the Stargazer Ceremony as part of my responsibilities as future prince of Exaltia. I’m just so nervous about everything, so much could go wrong so quickly and even worse tonight’s Stargazer Ceremony is a rare event that happens once a century.”

Thunderbright hunkered down to the ground pulling a blanket strewn on the floor over his head with his two hooves. Dazzleblossom clenched the cover with her teeth and tossed it aside to reveal Thunderbright in the fetal position upon the floor.

“Well, can I help?”

Thunderbright opened his eyes and looked up as Dazzleblossom stood over him. He stood up gracefully and brushed his bangs out of his eyes and he stared onto Dazzlebossom’s sweet sympathetic face.

In the town square ponies of all ages gathered around watching as Thunderbright strung up fairylights on each and every gaslight. Behind him the five pulled decorations from the stack of boxes set out in the street.

With the last of the strands hung up and securely fastened the star shaped lights began to glimmer. The crowd oohed and awed, slowly dispersing back to their stargazing spots. “That wasn’t nearly as bad as I imagined, why, I think I might’ve actually enjoyed that.”

“We are so glad you’re back, this festival would be ever so dull without you.”

“I never imagined you were so fond of me, tis’ truly an honor. I must thank Dazzleblossom for getting me out of that rut I was in. It had never occurred to me that I was worrying about nothing.”

“Hm I uh- oh- um- just wait til’ you see our spot” Soapysud nodded her head to the beautiful new Harbourtown bridge glinting in the light of the setting sun.

“Oh my stars it’s so much more beautiful than I thought, and I can’t believe you got me a spot on the bridge!”

“I know you’re going to love it Thunderbright, I brought out my special telescope for us to use.”

“If I may ask, Dazzleblossom, what makes it so ‘special?’”

“Well, I’ve had it since I was an itty bitty filly, I used to use it so I could watch the bees buzzing around pollinating the flowers.”

“That’s far-out, girl,” Nightlight said grinning ear to ear.

“Rather ironic you were using a telescope to watch the ground” Starblitz joked.

As the group pranced along the path Thunderbright would occasionally glance up at the sky and look around. “If we hurry we might be able to catch a glimpse of The Red Comet, it only shows every one hundred years.”

“That sounds utterly marvelous, to think we could see something so rare!”

“Well, I’m here and no pony even seemed to blink at me.”

“I’m pretty sure that you have the rest of your life to be famous, Starblitz.” Dazzleblossom joked.

The group sat on top of the bridge, watching the sunset through Dazzleblossom’s telescope. Thunderbright walked around admiring their handiwork on the new Harboutown bridge.

“It’s fitting really, us here on this bridge we all built. And look, it doesn’t even squeak, watch!” Scribblesmear jumped up and down on each of the boards rather enthusiastically.

“So w-when does this ‘Red Comet’ show?” Soapysud asked, looking through the lens.

“Any minute I’m sure.” Thunderbright explained.

Dazzleblossom sheepishly rubbed her hoof against the ground before summoning the courage to ask Thunderbright something. “Thunderbright? Are we your friends? It’s been quite a while since we last came together, and I don’t know, you’ve just never called us your friends...”

The chitterchatter of the other ponies in the background stopped. The question hanging heavy on everyone’s minds.

“Well of course I like being with you guys.”

“Then how come you never say it?...”

The group stopped smiling and everyone stood staring. Thunderbright blushed nervously “I- I- Um-”

Before he could finish his sentence, a bright red light flew overhead. It caught everypony’s attention as they stood there entranced by its eerie glow. They followed its trail as it suddenly curved off course.

Thunderbright watched as it fell out of the sky and struck the Rain palace gates with incredible force.

“MOM!” he shouted, running straight towards the palace. The others followed behind him, galloping.

Thunderbright rushed into the palace where he found Queen Downpour buried under the rubble. “Mom!? Are you okay!”

She groaned and sighed. “I’ll be okay... but you need to run... it’s not safe here... s-sh-she’s back and more powerful than ever...”

“Who?...” Thunderbright asked.

A tall dark shadow rose over him and he froze in terror. A tall black wicked-looking alicorn stood at the center of the room, her mane glowing a nefarious evil crimson. Thunderbright audibly choked as she walked towards him putting her hoof on his mother’s face, who lay motionless on the floor, trapped under the crystalline rubble.

“Cower beneath me foal, for I Queen Jessica the Red! Have conquered this twisted kingdom! And soon all will bow before me as they watch me destroy it!”

Thunderbright stood there like a statue, traumatized. A small tear ran down his face reflecting her scarlet glow, the color of pain...

(To be Continued)

EPISODE 3: FALLING STAR PT.2

The sky above Exaltia began to turn an eerie crimson as black clouds filled the sky blotting out the nighttime stars. Inside the palace terror unfolded. Queen Jess casually strode around the room stepping over the wounded Queen of Exaltia who lay stretched out across the floor battered and pitiful.

Thunderbright rushed over to his mother who still lay covered in crystal rubble. As he began to try and free her Jess spun around and shot him with a blast from her horn. “Stand back foal! I won’t stand idle while you try and help your precious mommy.”

“You underestimate me!” Thunderbright shouted, voice cracking.

Jess giggled to herself mocking his misfortune. “Oh... Do I?”

“I’ve been watching you, you foal, I’ve been watching you this entire time. You’re an insult to our dying breed, to all alicorns really. I understand how pathetic you really are.” She grinned great and wide showing to the six her sharp shiny canines.

Dazzleblossom leapt in front of Thunderbright standing tall and strong. “You leave him alone, lady! You forget he has our support!”

“Yeah! I have no idea what I contribute to this group but... YEAH!” Scribblesmear said standing up on his hind legs.

“Oh step aside chum! I’ll bust this prat’ up for you!” Starblitz said putting up his hooves in a sparring position.

Jess sat herself in the Queen’s throne, and she rolled her eyes at them. “So it’s a fight you want? Then as my first order as the new Queen of Exaltia I shall give you one.” She fired a bright scarlet beam from her horn that sent the six flying out the door.

Queen Jess stood up from the throne and stared towards the ceiling, a tile mosaic of the night sky decorated the expansive domed ceiling, with a blast of her horn she shattered it and through the hole poured in the light of the sacred Founder’s Star.

“That wretched blasphemous star! Mocking me and my suffering! You shall be the undoing of this evil place!” She spread her great big wings and flew up into the sky exiting from the hole she left behind.

Thunderbright woke up laying uncomfortably in the decorative pond out front. His sopping wet mane covering his eyes. He flicked his head, willing his bangs to get out of his eyes. As he climbed out of the pond faintly limping, the others gathered around him.

“What do we do, man? She’s -like wicked strong!?” Nightlight asked.

“I’d suggest we gather the Royal Family, if all of the weather alicorns were together maybe they might outmatch that red-haired bloke!” Starblitz said, fixing his scarf.

“Thunderbright, you okay?” Scribblesmear asked, putting a hoof on his shoulder.

Thunderbright brushed away Scribblesmear’s outstretched foreleg and sighed. “She’s right. I’m pathetic, I couldn’t even protect my own mother, I’m- I’m a failure...”

“Now, now, she never did say quite all of that.” Starblitz said interjecting.

Thunderbright held his head down low “She didn’t need to, I know it’s true.

Dazzleblossom, who was pulling a cowardly Soapysud out of a strawberry bush by her tail, paused at his words. “-Thunderbright, you’re not pathetic, just because you couldn’t defeat her alone. You’re still amazing just because you care. And you have so many amazing ponies to help you. I think Starblitz’s idea is pretty good. We’ll get your family together and take down Jess!”

Thunderbright’s expression remained unchanged, slowly he turned around and started to walk away sulking silently. “You can go do that... I- I- need to be alone for a while.”

The five watched as Thunderbright grew further and further away from them.

“Uck!?! The nerve of that pony! Why, we don’t even need him, we can do this ourselves.”

“Starblitz, is right. Even without Thunderbright we can still pull this off, no matter how much it might hurt. Soapysud? Do you know if there’s any other royalty near us we can count on?”

“C-c-crystal l-lake, he has a sister in Crystal Lake.” Soapysud stuttered.

“That’s like a whole fifteen minutes away on hoof, man!” Nightlight exclaimed.

“Then we have no-time to lose, everypony!” Dazzleblossom shouted, galloping down the dirt path.

Meteors and shooting stars filled the blood red sky as the night continued. The six galloped into the glittery snow covered town of Crystal Lake. Log cabins and cozy storefronts huddled around the warm fire hearth at the base of the Aurora night tower.

Groups of ponies stood outside the tower watching the ominous sky through their telescopes. The tallest among them an alicorn with a coat of pale emerald and a mane with all the colors of the northern lights.

Dazzleblossom stopped right at the aurora tower and kneeled before Princess Aurora's hooves. "Princess Aurora! It's urgent! The Queen needs your help!"

"W-who are all of you?..." Princess Aurora said, asking.

"We're I guess you could say friends of Thunderbright, your brother!"

"Okay I guess, what seems to be the problem?"

"Hey lady, have you not noticed the red sky!?" Nightlight shouted, waving her front legs in the air.

Dazzleblossom gave Nightlight a look, raising one eyebrow before turning back to the Princess. "Jess the Red has returned and she's stronger than ever. The Queen is badly hurt and Thunderbright is-"

"...MIA" Scribblesmear said interjecting.

"So please, we all beg of you! Contact the whole royal family!" Sarblitz whimpered.

Screaming and shouting broke out as meteorites began to strike the ground everywhere and every which way. The Crystal Lake ponies began running about frantically, hiding or running toward the snowy mountain caves.

Soapysud stood out in the open staring up at the stars, shivering, shaking, petrified. "I-i-is it m-mm-moving?"

"More like falling!" Scribblesmear shouted.

"Theres no time to call the alicorns, brave ponies, we need to get to Harbourtown!" The Princess shouted, commanding them all.

At the still tranquil beach Thunderbright sat staring at his reflection in the gentle waves. His tears did so little in adding to the salinity of the ocean water, a bleak reminder of how small and insignificant he felt.

He noticed the bright and glowing light he saw behind him in his reflection and he looked up at the sky, he saw the Founder's star rapidly plummeting down toward the island.

Thunderbright reached deep inside himself summoning the courage to face Jess alone, and his soft interior hardened into an iron resolve. Jess hovered above the palace roof channeling her arcane power to move the Founder's star. She stopped only for a moment when she heard the sound of a stallion's angry yell.

Thunderbright flew into her hooves, first forelegs outstretched slamming her into the Earth. "Okay foal, now I admit I underestimated you. But you're still not strong enough to best me!" She fired a beam of powerful magic toward him, and he fired a bolt of lightning in return. The two beams met in the middle and began fighting for dominance. Sparks flew everywhere and thunderclouds began to brew behind Thunderbright.

Through labored breaths Thunderbright began to try and hold his magic steady but his nerves got the better of him as his doubts began to bubble up inside. Sweat ran down his face and his muscles began to ache. He groaned softly, willing to hold his lightning steady.

Jess's magic beam started to gnaw away at his lightning cutting it into threads of light. Thunderbright groaned in agony as slowly his strength began to disappear. He squinted his eyes shut and tears began to roll from his eyes.

"Thunderbright!"

His eyes flew open as a familiar voice called out to him. "Thunderbright" there it was again but from the voice of another. Thunderbright! Thunderbright they called out. He looked off into the distance down the dirt road and the five came charging toward the palace where he stood on the roof.

Jess's beam was growing uncomfortably close to his horn, but as the five approached something gave him the strength he needed to push back.

Dazzleblossom stood in front of the palace watching eyes wide with worry while the others stood behind her mouths agape in awe. "You can do it Thunderbright! I believe in you! Because you're my best friend!"

For a moment time seemed to stand still, her words alone made him significantly stronger in the battle against Jess's evil. At first he didn't understand why but then he remembered, he remembered the words he should have said, the words Dazzleblossom had wanted him to say.

"Friends..." he murmured to himself.

"Yes, friends... YES! FRIENDS! YOU'RE ALL MY VERY BEST FRIENDS! And I should've said so! I should've told you how I really felt all along. But I was too scared to say it, but now I know how important it is to say, how important it is to you all. I can say it loud with PRIDE!"

Thunderbright's lighting began to push back against Jess's spell, hard. He watched as she began to groan, her hooves digging into the dirt in which she stood. Her face started to turn as red as her mane and suddenly a strange somber look appeared on her face, she lowered her head and suddenly her magic shattered and she was engulfed in an explosion of thunder and lightning that left everypony blinded.

The Founder's star remained in the sky albeit brighter than it was before. And slowly the sky turned from a mahogany to a simple gray.

Thunderbright fluttered down from the roof. He looked around at his five friends who stood surrounding him with a gentle smile on his face. Queen Downpour walked up and stood next to him, her posture solid but protective. "Dazzleblossom, I- earlier today when you asked me why I never called any of you my friends and I-

"Shh- I get it, I heard everything." Dazzleblossom said, pressing her hoof to his lips.

A dark silhouette began to rise from the smoke and ashes and Starblitz screamed like a little girl as he pointed at Jess rising from the rubble.

Through the ash her red eyes pierced her iron resolve still not dented. But with a strong shake of her head she flung her crown off her own head. It bounced clinking against the stone path before rolling toward their hooves. It spun for a moment before landing on its side.

A deep vanta black crown with wicked points and dark red rubies, as it lay there everypony could feel a foul diabolical essence pouring out of it.

“D-dd-don’t t-touch it...” Jess murmured weakly, only it wasn’t Jess. The Alicorn that stood before them had a soft blue coat and a snowy white mane, her eyes soft and golden with a heavenly glow. “S-ss-sorry.” she grunted before finally collapsing at their feet.

“It cannot be...” Downpour murmured. Downpour turned to face the six “Come! Help me bring her inside, she needs medical attention!”

The six stood looking confused, Scribblesmear’s head cocked like a curious dog.

“Mom, I need an explanation, you never really told me who Jess was, and now- I? I don’t even know where to start! Who is this pony!?” Thunderbright asked.

They laid her down on Downpour’s bed and covered her up. She softly groaned trying to open her eyes. “Shh, shh rest now, fair Bluesky. Your suffering will soon be over.”

Thunderbright trotted up to his mother’s side. “So?... Who is she?”

“There’s no easy way to say this but she’s your great-great-great-great grandmother... Princess Bluesky sister to the Founder herself. We all assumed her to be dead, but I did not expect her to be corrupted by an artifact of pure malignance.”

“Hey! You know what that means, Lightning? COOKIES!” Scribblesmear said, smiling stupidly wide.

“I don’t think she’s that kind of grandmother, Scribblesmear.” Dazzleblossom said, smiling shyly.

“I’m sorry my son, that you had to deal with this all on your own. The Stargazer Ceremony is supposed to be a time for us to relax and unwind.”

“It’s okay, I had some friends to help me.” Thunderbright said, smiling at his five dearest friends who all stood behind him.

Downpour smiled to herself, a beam of motherly pride radiating in her chest.

“I see, you finally found your royal guard. Then I suppose you’re finally ready for this.” With her hooves she took off her crown and set on Thunderbright’s head.

Everypony gasped in awe, eyes wide, hearts glowing. Thunderbright himself stood there his jaw agape which his mother closed for him with her hoof. “It’s not official yet, that will take some time but I see your beginning to understand your place. So I hereby relinquish the royal crown and pass it on to you.”

Thunderbright sniffled as tears of joy ran down his face. “T-thank you! I don’t know what to say or do or- even how to do it. Oh my Founder I don’t know how to do anything!!”

“Well then, it’s a good thing you got the five of us to help,” Dazzle Blossom said, hugging his neck.

EPISODE 4: ALWAYS GREENER

All throughout Harbourtown Dazzle Blossom trotted, pulling behind her a cart full of flowers. She carefully delivered decadent arrangements to everypony’s home.

“Oh bless you, Dazzle Blossom!” Silkweed said working on a new dress.

“Thank you so much!” Melody said writing sheet music.

“Happy fishing, Dazzle!” Mayor Failboat said, raising his sails.

“You get me so well, Dazzle Blossom!” Pearl said, putting her beach blooms in a seaglass vase.

It seemed like everypony in town had thanked her, and to top things off her new friendship with the soon-to-be king had made her business skyrocket.

With her morning deliveries done she thought of treating herself to one of her sister's signature lattes at the family cafe next door to her greenhouse. As she started home she spotted a rather gray looking side of the harbor, a house without any flowers, with more motor oil than grass. "Ah, a future investment" she murmured to herself prancing over to the unfamiliar residence.

She knocked on the door, a rhythmic three knocks. In her head she went over her sales pitch and prepared a neighborly smile. The pony inside cracked open the door as far as the chain latch would allow.

"Hi! I was wondering if I could interest you in a bit of color to liven' up your- the door slammed in her face and she instinctively closed her eyes.

When she opened them again she reinforced her resolve and knocked again this time just a tad faster and less musically.

"I couldn't help but notice how messy and bleak things are around here. Mind if I beautify your side of the harbour once for no charge?" The mare behind the door unhooked the latch and opened the door all the way, she had a reddish orange coat, and she hid her mane with a red paisley bandana.

"Why are you still here!? Can't you take a hint 'pretty-pony'? This is our dock and we like it the way that it is. So beat it!" "Well, wouldn't you like it if it looked a lot nicer?" "-No..." "Really are you sure?...Because- "Yes I'm sure! Now beat it, Care-Mare!" She slammed the door on Dazzleblossom *again* and she stepped down off the porch and slipped into the wagon harness once more.

"Mark my words, no acre of Exaltia will go un-beautified..." Her friends chose to meet at the cafe that night. She strode in illuminated by the lamplight, her sister, Coffeeblossom behind the counter scrubbing vigorously. "Hey everypony. How's everypony doin'?"

"Chill as always, man" Nightlight chimed, leaning her chair back.

"Yes, mm-um, did you know Scribblesmear has been living in a treehouse since he moved into town!? I was positively awestruck when I found out." Starblitz announced cappuccino in hoof.

"Hey, don't knock it til' you've tried it. No rent, free apples, sometimes honey if you're willing

to fight the bees for it.” Scribblesmear chuckled to himself right as he licked honey from his hoof.

Everypony stared for a moment before the astoundment truly faded.

“Did you know there's an entire section of the harbour that's- how do I put it? Disgusting?”

“Mm! That's where Axle and her lil' brother Wingnut live. Between the two of them she's the real heavy nut.” Scribblesmear said, resting his hoof on the table.

“Well I've got to find a way to convince her to let me clean up their place!” Dazzleblossom murmured. Thunderbright lowered his book and turned to face her.

“You need to understand that if she doesn't want your help then she's allowed to say no, you can't just force things onto anypony.”

“Mm, Wingnut is pretty friendly though I used to go with him to welding class.”

Scribblesmear said, kindly tilting his head.

“Since when do you weld!?” Starblitz blurted.

“Psh, can't somepony have a really weird obscure secret hobby?”

Dazzleblossom sat there formulating a mischievous idea key to the success of her vision.

“Excuse me everypony, but it's getting late. I think I'll turn in early.” Dazzleblossom retreated, heading home to her room in the Harbourtown cafe.

Coffeeblossom trotted over with a tray of drinks, she sat each one down before approaching Thunderbright. “Keep an eye on my lil' sis.” she whispered in his ear.

“Oh trust me, I will...”

The next day Dazzleblossom stood outside the Harbourtown schoolhouse, pretending to be busy with the garden out front. When the schoolbell rang she perked up, she had no real idea of what Wingnut looked like but she was going to convince him to help her, ...whatever it takes...

Colts and fillies dispersed out through the front door, many of them headed to the park eager to play with their friends. A young colt with a light blue coat and a backwards baseball cap

came outside, he fiddled with the lock on his motorized scooter that's when Dazzleblossom came over.

"Hiya, are you Axel's brother?"

"Oh oh, hi" he replied, startling.

"Listen, I could use your help in a little beautification project around town. Does that sound like something that might interest you?"

"I um- uh-"

"I'll pay you!"

"You k-know my sister?"

"Sort of, you could say that."

"I really want to clean up and beautify the spots around your lovely home near the docks."

"Oh, yeah. It's really really messy. She's had it like that since I was little."

"So what do you say?"

"I um- can I ride in your nice wagon!?"

Dazzleblossom turned and looked at the old family wagon "Really this old thing?"

"Yeah! I'd love a wagon ride!"

Dazzleblossom shrugged.

"Alright, but make sure your parents know where you are."

"Will do!"

Dazzleblossom pulled the wagon up to Axelgrease's home. Wingnut hopped out of the wagon and stepped up onto the front porch. "Okey dokey Ms. Blossom, where should we start?"

"Flowers, the first step should always be flowers!"

"You'll wanna clean up the muck in the flowerbeds then, Axel lets motor oil and antifreeze drip down in there. I'll go get the hose so we can wash it out!"

Wingnut galloped into an old garage next to the house. Dazzleblossom followed him inside and looked around.

Everywhere she looked, lots of old half-finished motorboats.

"Why is everything here so- unfinished?"

“Oh, Axel likes to keep everything the way Pa left it.”

“That makes sense, I wouldn’t want anyone messing with my garden while I was gone.”

“-Well, it’s not exactly the same...”

“Oh?”

“See Pa ain’t comin back anytime soon, he passed away when I was a foal.”

In an instant it suddenly all clicked for Dazzleblossom. Why Axelgrease lived the way she did, not only was Thunderbright right but she should have never have prodded the mess.

“I’m sorry, Wingnut, I have to go! I’ve made a terrible mistake!” Dazzleblossom shouted, galloping off the property.

Dazzleblossom, now at home, leapt into her bed burying her head under the covers. “I should’ve just left it alone!” She groaned.

Suddenly there was a knock at the door. “Go away!” She grumbled.

The door clicked as it swung open. Forsythia stepped in, she looked around gently tossing her bangs over her shoulder, her mane the same color as her namesake shined faintly in the light.

“Dazzle, are you alright? Coffeeblossom told me you were upset...”

“Go away mom!”

“Oh come now, I’m just here to make you feel better.”

Forsythia sat on the edge of her bed, gently tapping her hoof on the floor.

“Would you care to tell me about it?”

Dazzleblossom sat up and she peeked out from under the covers.

“I tried changing somepony because I didn’t like the way they did things, but then I learned why they were like that and I realized I shouldn’t’ve. And I realized you can’t force things onto somepony because they are different, you have to learn to respect them no matter the reason.”

Forsythia smiled, “Attagirl.”

“You’re n-not upset?”

“I am a little, but it sounds like you still learned your lesson.”

“I should apologize to her.”

Forsythia watched as Dazzleblossom trotted across the room and went out the door. For a moment she stopped and looked over her shoulders. “Thanks, mom.”

Dazzleblossom galloped up to Axelgrease’s home. Where she found Axelgrease standing in the driveway scowling at her.

“I know what you did! And I’ll have you know that was really slimy of you.” Axelgrease said.

Dazzleblossom strode up to her, her green eyes sincere and apologetic.

“I know- I know. What I did was really really selfish. I shouldn’t’ve tried to force you, especially now I know about your father. I just want you to hear from me that I’m sorry, and I really mean it.”

“You do?” Axelgrease asked, raising an eyebrow.

“Yeah, I’ll scrape barnacles for the next three months to make up for it.

“You don’t have to do that. You’re the first ever pretty pony to learn a lesson from messing with the grease family. That must’ve taken guts.”

Dazzleblossom smiled at Axelgrease’s words, and so she strode off home.

EPISODE 5: SUDS & TROUBLES

Cozy in her bed, Nightlight nestled, her turquoise coat and violet mane glowing under the early sun. Cuddled up with silky soft tie-dye covers. Suddenly a loud scraping echoed through the hallway startling her awake.

Out into the hallway she peered, her baby sister Aloevera was attempting to drag a vase of essential oils down the stairs. “Aloe? Whatcha doin’ sister? It’s four in the morning!”

“We ran out of oils at the spa...Since nopony restocked I’m taking charge.” she grunted, the rim of the vase still clutched in mouth.

“Let me help you with that!” Nightlight used her horn to levitate the vase down the stairs.

Aloe looked up at her and growled in frustration. “That’s no fair Nightlight! Your magic is stronger than mine!”

“That’s no reason to be so upset lil’ dude, I’m just helpin’ you out.”

“No you’re not! You never let me do things my way!”

Aloe growled to herself and darted down the stairs.

Nightlight came down the stairs an hour later, she found Pearl sweeping the floors in the spa’s tubroom

“Heya spa-sister, you seen Aloe around?”

“Hmm, oh yeah. She was in the front room cleaning. I think she’s reorganizing the register.”

“Thanks, Pearl!”

Nightlight cantered into the waiting room and behind the front desk Aloe was rearranging the register drawer.

Nightlight gasped “Aloe!? What are you doing!?”

She bolted over, shoving Aloe aside.

“Hey!!”

“Ugh! Aloe, girl! Why’d you go and do this!? The Rhombi need to be arranged by value not color!”

Aloe stamped angrily, “Nightlight, why can’t you just let me do things my way!?”

“Because sis, you’re still just a lil filly, and it’s my job to look after you!”

“Well it’s my job to look after the Spa! And your job is to be the Prince’s Royal Guard!”

“-look Aloe, I appreciate you taking care of the spa when I’m off on business. But you’re still my baby sister and I gotta keep you safe.”

“Ugh! Well you obviously think about the baby part, but you never follow through with the sister part. If you need me I’ll be in my room where hopefully you won’t be babying me!”

Aloe stormed out angrily. Catching the attention of Pearl and Waterlily.

“Hey um, Ms. Nightlight? What ever was that about?” Waterlily asked, cup of tea in hoof.

“Beats me Spa-sister? She’s been the opposite of chill all morning.

Aloe laid stretched out on her bed, reading through sports magazines begrudgingly.

(Knock-knock-knock)

Aloe looked up at the sound of a hoof wrapping on her bedroom window. She leapt from her bed and sauntered to her bedroom window. A filly with a gold coat and a caramel colored mane, her best friend Butterblitz, was on the roof outside her window.

Nightlight grunted as she forced open the window with her magic. “Hey, Butterblitz, what is it?”
“I heard you were in the dumps, so I came to cheer you up with some famous Blitz family kettlecorn!”
“Careful my sister might stop me from enjoying it because she thinks I might choke or something.”
“I know it sucks...”

“Okay but seriously, how did you hear about all this? I’ve been home all day, and Starshot is on vacation. Wait! Have you been spying on me?”

“Well- okay, yea, but only because your life is like the best movie I’ve seen in a while.”

Aloe turned and sighed, “You know I just wish my big sis could see how grown-up I am, she always treats me like a newborn foal and I’m sick of it.”

“Sounds like you need some way to prove yourself...” Butterblitz said, tapping her wings together.

“I got it! Early this morning I had to go restock the essential oils but we were still short of a few vases.”

“So?” Butterblitz asked.

“We’ll go to the Abelholm location and bring back a few.”

“Aloevera! You’re a genius!”

“I know I am, now how do we sneak out without my sister noticing?”

Butterblitz stood up proud and straight with her wings open wide.

“I might have a solution.”

Butterblitz hoisted Aloe up in the air as they flew out through her bedroom window. “Butterblitz, I’m slipping!”

“Nonsense I got y-”

(Crash)

Aloe slipped out of Butterblitz’s hooves landing in a nearby bush. “Nonsense?” Aloe asked, popping her head out of the bush.

Butterblitz chuckled nervously.

“Might’ve still had some movie butter on my hooves.”

Aloe crossed her hooves and raised her eyebrow.

The two of them followed along the stone path to Abelholm through the taiga forest. Nightlight pulled behind her white Harbourtown Spa wagon along with Butterblitz.

“What do we do if your mom sees us there?” Butterblitz asked.

“Relax, my mom is one of the most relaxed unicorns there is, we have no reason to be scared.”

“But won’t she be expecting Nightlight?”

“Maybe, but I’d like to think she’d be pleased to see me too.”

Butterblitz paused for a second and stared up at the now pink sky and setting sun. “Hey, Aloe? we should head home, It’s getting late.”

“What!? We just got started.”

“Yeah but- I’ve seen a lot of horror movies in my time, and nothing good happens in the woods at night.”

“Butterblitz!”

“Sorry- it’s just I’m worried about-”

Butterblitz lowered her voice to a whisper “Wendigos”

“Pssh! Those are just tales meant to scare little foals back home, surely you don’t believe everything Starblitz says?”

“Well, he’s very knowledgeable.”

Aloe raised her eyebrow.

“Sorry.”

In the distance a twig snapped and Butterblitz dove behind Aloe. “Put your harness back on! Butterblitz we have work to do.”

Aloe looked up at the setting sun and groaned. “At this rate we’ll be there by night and the Abelholm spa will be closed. We’ll take a shortcut! Shave off thirty minutes and be back to Harbourtown before night!”

Aloe steered the wagon off the path.

“Aloe! Wait! You can’t go off into the woods alone!”

“Why!? Because I’m just a baby!? C’mon, I need to be brave If I’m ever going to prove myself.”

Back at the Harbourtown spa Pearl was going through the register while Nightlight was mopping the floor.

“Hey, boss? Who had the idea for the new organization system?”

Nightlight cantered over, and took a peek from behind the counter.

“Oh yea, that was my sister.”

“Well I like it, it makes it easy to find the different kinds.”

“Huh, maybe my lil’ sis did a pretty good job- Hmm I never even considered what she was suggesting. Guess I underestimated her a bit.”

Meanwhile, Aloe had led the wagon far off the path deep into the taiga, she sauntered through a creek running down an unexplored ravine. Behind her Butterblitz followed. Their little hoofsteps splashing in the lukewarm water.

“Aloe? We really need to turn back, this place looks bad!”

Aloe turned around to face Butterblitz

“D’oh shut up will ya! I need to do this!” She nipped angrily.

Butterblitz’s eyes widened in terror and she trembled in place.

“Oh come on now, I didn’t scare you that bad.

A moist breath fell on the back of her neck as she stood looking at Butterblitz, slowly she looked up and above her stood a pale, emaciated and bipedal figure draped in dark loose hair. Eyes sunken and features withered. Aloe became speechless.

“W-ww-wendigo!” Butterblitz muttered.

The hungry creature snarled and swiped at the two fillies with its long claw-like fingers. The two narrowly escaping, took off into the woods galloping and screaming.

“Look lil’ sis, I’m sorry for how I treated you. Your idea was actually kind of far-out and I-“ she realized the room was empty, and the window was open. Nightlight stuck her head out into the night and she looked around her ears swiveled as she heard the sound of screaming way off in the woods.

“Aloe!” She shouted.

Nightlight came charging out the front door, galloping for the woods.

Butterblitz and Aloe hid inside a hollow tree trunk, but the wendigo proved relentless in its hunger, scratching at the thick worn bark. The two closed their eyes and hugged each other.

Suddenly a bright blast of violet light lit up the dark forest and the creature stumbled and then again it collapsed onto the ground.

It turned and hissed at its attacker before galloping away on all fours. Aloe looked outside with teary eyes and she saw her sister standing outside, a small bit of steam trailing from her horn. Her expression was guilty with a faint hint of sisterly pride.

“Nightlight, you saved us?”

“Of course lil’ sis, it’s my job...”

Aloe grimaced at those words.

“Listen, I shouldn’t have thought so little of you. I guess you’re not such a little filly anymore and I just hadn’t realized it. You had a lot of great ideas. I just didn’t realize it.”

“Well some good they did me...I got attacked by a wendigo,” Aloe said, brushing her foreleg.

“Yea, that one was kinda dumb. And I regret that I made you feel like you need to do this.”

“Maybe I owe you an apology too...”

“No, Aloe. You really don’t.”

“But I really do. After what just happened I’ve realized that I’m lucky to have someone like you, looking out for me all the time. -I’m a big risk taker and my decisions and ideas don’t always pan out. And I think you kinda know that.”

Without any prompting Nightlight leaned over and gave her sister a hug.

“Thanks for rescuing me... I couldn’t take on a beast like that.”

“Well as a Royal Guard it’s kind of in my job description.”

The two of them shared a smile and chuckled warmly.

Butterblitz brushed up against Nightlight, shivering like it was an earthquake.

“Ms. Light? Can I stay over? I don’t think I can sleep in my own bed after all that.”

The two chuckled lovingly and Butterblitz joined them reluctantly before following them both home.

Episode 6: Vision vs. Direction

As the afternoon sun shone across all of Harbourtown Starblitz trotted through the city park. The Parents of fillies and colts were heading home for the day, and the town's worker ponies were coming out for a relaxing evening away from work.

He stopped along the path when he came up to an old oak tree along the path and looked up at the treehouse nestled securely in its branches. "Oh dearest, Scribblesmear? I have a proposition for you."

His speech muffled could be heard from inside the small treehouse. "Hold on!- I just got to- Objects could be heard clattering around and then Scribblesmear came and opened the hatch revealing his humble face.

"I imagine it cannot be easy living in such a small space, so I have an offer for you, of course if you're willing."

"Oh it's not that small, there's a second room with a door!" He offered Starblitz a cheeky smile but Starblitz's expression was blatantly unimpressed.

"It's a foal's playhouse Scribblesmear, I doubt even with the extra room a grown stallion like you has much room."

Scribblesmear looked around the interior of his treehouse, the room with the hatch could probably accommodate two or three pre-adolescent colts whereas the second room was significantly smaller. "Yeah, you're probably right." he said, ears drooping ashamedly.

"No need to fret. You could always move into my spare bedroom. I'd be happy to for a friend anyways." Scribblesmear seemed sad and concerned but at the same time his head was hunkered down because of the five hoof ceiling. Which made his decision much much easier.

“Alrighty, I think I’ll take up your offer.”

“That sounds delightful, Scribblesmear! I will- uh-oh

“CATCH ME!!” Scribblesmear cried out jumping down through the hatch opening.

“OOF!”

“Bloody bridles... you could’ve at least given me a warning...” Starblitz groaned.

Starblitz helped Scribblesmear unpack only to discover it would be alarmingly easy. As the only two things Scribblesmear had to his name was a sleeping bag and a lantern. The rest was either at the Harbourtown art studio or in a storage container.

“Dreadful! Simply Dreadful! Your room looks so barren and bland!”

“That’s how I like it, simple and serious.”

“I know you fairly well, Scribblesmear, you’re neither of those things.”

“Can I paint the walls?”

“By all means please, please do. Just don’t make a mess.”

“Alrighty”

“And for Founder’s sake use the bed! After the agony this sleeping bag has seen it out to be retired *or burned* which ever comes first- anyways, It’s getting late and you know how badly I need my beauty sleep. Goodnight!”

Only an hour later Starblitz was awoken by the sound of loud music. “What in the name of the Founder!?”

Starblitz threw open Scribblesmear’s door only to find him prancing around to the sound of another pony playing the electric keytar. “WHAT ARE YOU DOING!!?”

Scribblesmear gestured to the stallion with his instrument and he stopped playing.

“I’m painting like you asked. At first I couldn’t get myself in the zone so I invited Soundwave to practice.” He said, smiling goofily.

Starblitz looked at Soundwave who looked at him and made a face, somehow he could tell it was supposed to be a smile but something about it was very wrong.

“Yeah um- he doesn’t get out and socialize much, so try to ignore him.”

“I’m fine with you painting! It’s his noisy drivel that’s driving me positively mad!”

“Oh... We had no idea. You see he’s mostly deaf and I’m desensitized to loud noises.”

“Excuses!”

Soundwave walked over and whispered into Scribblesmear’s ear.

“I’m so sorry... He can’t hear you, can you speak up?”

Starblitz growled and slammed the door before returning back to his dark bedroom and his four poster bed.

“Gee, what do you think his problem is?”

Soundwave looked at him and shrugged.

Scribblesmear lifted an eyebrow “You don’t really talk much, I like you!”

Behind his thick visor shades Soundwave blushed and offered him a crooked smile.

The next day Scribblesmear returned home joyfully prancing with a beautifully painted canvas. He marched up the stairs and froze in terror. His bedroom full of filmlover ponies, his things pushed into the corner.

He looked in through the doorway and stepped back out stamping irritably. The ponies inside were watching a feature presentation of Silverflick’s unabridged masterpiece: Castle of Dominoes.

Starblitz stepped out of the room, tossing his shortcut mane over his shoulder braggingly.

“-Oh Scribblesmear, so sorry I didn’t tell you! I need this space for the filmlover society’s twentieth annual film festival. Sorry...” Starblitz offered him a smug smile before returning inside and locking the door.

Scribblesmear set his painting aside. “Oh it’s so on!”

The next morning when Starblitz came down for morning coffee he stepped into the living room and choked mid sip. The blanket on the couch had been replaced by a hoof weaved quilt made out of his vinyl film collection, in the corner of the room the reel spools stood neatly stacked.

“I SHALL DESTROY HIM!”

That same night Scribblesmear came home to find his entire Transbot collection had been removed from their boxes. He stood there speechless and leaned up in the doorway Starblitz stood.

“Whatever the matter is, oh Scribblesmear! Toys are no fun if they stay in their boxes.”

“They aren’t toys...they are COLLECTORS ITEMS”

“Oh pish posh, it’s an eye for an eye. Now we’re even.”

“Even!? No! You still haven’t seen the end of this.” Scribblesmear stormed out of the room.

“What could he possibly do, All my most prized possessions are secure *they are now anyways*”

The next time when Starblitz came downstairs into the kitchen he found several things missing.

“Where the dickens is the coffee pot!? And the plate for the microwave- and- did somepony take all of my spoons? Honestly, the ones that are not so severe I scarcely use spoons. I just think it’s so strange.”

“-I don’t think it’s strange! I think it’s just what happens when you annoy your roommate!”

“You! I should’ve known it was you!”

“Oh yeah, well-? I’m the only other person who lives here! Who else would’ve!?” Scribblesmear growled.

Starblitz stormed outside, throwing on his blue scarf with a flick of his head. Down at the Harbourn town cafe Thunderbright sat alone at a table by himself. In the background Coffeeblossom delivered to other tables. Without so much as an invitation Starblitz sat down with him, he looked to his side and snorted annoyedly.

“Can I uh, help you Starblitz?” Thunderbright asked.

“Uck! It’s just the worst! My new roommate, Scribblesmear, he’s being the absolute worst!”

“But you two are best friends, what happened?”

“Ever since he ruined my beauty sleep it’s been tit for tat!”

“Sounds like you owe him an apology.” Thunderbright said sipping his tea.

“What!? No he’s the bloody bloke who started this! It’s me who deserves an apology!”

Thunderbright set down his tea with a gentle clink. “Starblitz sometimes when you’re fighting with a good friend the only way to fix the problem is to be the bigger stallion and apologize for the things you did and maybe in time he’ll apologize but it’s never promised. I just know you’re both my best friends and I want you two to get along.”

Starblitz crossed his hooves and chortled to himself.

“So?... Are you going to apologize?”

“Not now, Scribblesmear hid my coffee pot so I still need my morning coffee.”

Thunderbright raised his eyebrow.

“What!?”

sigh “I’ll go immediately.”

Starblitz spread his wings and took off headed back home. He found Scribblesmear behind the house throwing out the Transbot boxes.

“Scribblesmear?”

Scribblesmear’s gaze snapped to him with a predatory glance.

“I’m sorry for the way I acted. I should’ve never treated you like that. We’re supposed to be friends and I’ve been lousy to you. So I’ll do whatever it takes to earn back your trust.”

Scribblesmear raised his eyebrows “Would you even buy me a new TBA Shockblast?”

“Don’t you already have that one?”

“Ahem.” Scribblesmear cleared his throat.

“Right, after the way I treated you I owe you that much.”

Scribblesmear’s eyes softened, “I feel the same way, I didn’t want to hurt you but you were being a big jerk. So if it’s the same to you I might need some help getting your stuff out of the maple tree.”

“Doh what? How did you even?”

“Your mind goes to a very dark place when you’re on revenge prank row.” Scribblesmear quietly nodded.

The two exchanged a glance and laughed warmly.

Want more?

Unfortunately that's all for now, episodes 8-22 are still under development. If you'd like updates on the matter go to 513-916-7358 or follow Jc Kyle on Facebook. We are also open and encouraging you to submit your questions, comments, and concerns. Thank you for reading :D

JACY KYLE