

## Make Some Friends

"I know I've heard of the Elements of Harmony," Twilight Sparkle muttered to herself as she ran towards the castle library in Canterlot. Her expression single-minded and focused, she ignored the other unicorns waving at her as she passed, and paid no mind to the splendor and beauty that was all around her. This was where she lived, a place she'd seen a thousand times, the beautiful glow of the sunshine was literally the every day.

Princess Celestia's prized pupil climbed the steps to her loft, and swung open the door with a crash, "Spike, Spike," she called her assistant, looking around for the young dragon. "Spike," she called again, finally spotting him dazed and dizzy on the floor, "There you are. Quick, find me that old copy of Predictions and Prophecies. What's that for?" She asked, spotting the crushed package held on Spike's tail.

"Well," the distraught dragon began, "It was a gift for Moon Dancer but," he paused as a torn teddy bear, damaged when the swinging door had hit him, fell out.

"Oh Spike," Twilight retorted as she began sifting through the stacks, as she had done more times than Spike could count, "You know we don't have time for that sort of thing."

"Really," Spike countered, "You were just reading at the park. Why can't you just read at the party too?"

Twilight looked up, "That's a good idea, Spike. Grab your parchment, ink, and quill, then."

Spike sighed under his breath while he climbed the ladder to retrieve Twilight's book.

"No, no, no, no, no..." Twilight muttered, levitating several books around her, hoping one of them was the book she needed, "Spike!" she called again, dropping all the books with a thud.

"It's over here," Spike called back, waving Predictions and Prophecies in his claw. Immediately, the book become surrounded in a lavender glow, tearing Spike from the ladder as Twilight levitated it towards her. Hastily, the dragon let go, and fell to the floor. Twilight placed her book from the park in a pile on the floor, and put Predictions and Prophecies in her saddlebag.

"You ready to go, Spike?"

Spike gathered up his paper, his quill, his ink, and what remained of his gift for Moon Dancer, "I am now."

"Right," Twilight acknowledged, "Let's go."

In the West Castle Courtyard, a light yellow unicorn mare with glasses nervously prepared a small banquet table.

“Hi Moon Dancer,” a blue coated mare called out. The new unicorn walked up to the table with three others: one light green, one beige, and one yellow.

“Hi girls,” Moon Dancer replied, “Thanks for coming.” The bespeckled mare then looked around for a fifth guest, “Um,” she began weakly, “Where’s Twilight?” The four mares looked at each other awkwardly. Moondancer, getting the message, sighed.

“We’re here!” called out a purple and green dragon, running ahead of a lavender unicorn.

“Oh, Spike,” Moon Dancer perked up, “So glad you could make it.”

“I wouldn’t miss it,” Spike replied, “In fact, I brought something for you. It may have gotten banged up a bit,” Spike continued as he dug through his knapsack. From it he pulled a crushed red present. In a silver glow, Moon Dancer levitated it towards her, and removed the wrapping to reveal a framed photo. In it was depicted six unicorn mares, including herself, all at a table together, the same ones at the party now.

“Aww,” Moon Dancer smiled, “Thank you, Spike.” she said as she wrapped her forehoof around the young dragon for a hug.

Moon Dancer then looked to the banquet table, where the lavender mare was unpacking a book, “Hi Twilight,” Moon Dancer began. Her smile evaporated though, as Twilight began hastily turning through the pages of her book.

“I told you, didn’t I?” the beige mare whispered to the yellow unicorn beside her, “She’s more interested in books than friends.”

“Oh, give her some credit Twinkleshine,” the yellow mare hissed back, “At least she’s here.”

Moon Dancer cautiously approached as Twilight searched her book, “Elements, Elements, E, E, E,” Twilight muttered to herself, “Aha,” she exclaimed, “Elements of Harmony, see Mare in the Moon?”

“Mare in the Moon?” Moon Dancer spoke up, drawing Twilight’s attention, “Isn’t that just an old pony-tale?”

“Well, Moon Dancer,” Twilight replied, “It never hurts to check.” Moon Dancer moved closer to look over Twilight's shoulder as she checked the new passage.

“Mare, mare... aha! ‘The Mare in the Moon, myth from olden pony times. A powerful pony who wanted to rule Equestria, defeated by the Elements of Harmony and imprisoned in the moon. Legend has it that on the longest day of the thousandth year, the stars will aid in her escape, and she will bring about nighttime eternal!’ Moon Dancer, do you know what this means?”

Moon Dancer gasped as she put the pieces together.

“Spike!” Twilight called for her assistant. The dragon turned away from the blue mare he was speaking with, “Take a note please, to the Princess.” Spike rolled his eyes as he dug out his parchment and quill.

“My dearest teacher,” Twilight began her dictation, “My continuing studies of pony magic have led me to discover that we are on the precipice of disaster!”

“Hold on,” beckoned Spike, looking confused, “Preci, Preci...”

“P-R-E-C-I-P-I-C-E.” aided Moon Dancer.

Twilight continued, “For you see, the mythical Mare in the Moon is in fact Nightmare Moon, and she’s about to return to Equestria, and bring with her eternal night! Something must be done to make sure this terrible prophecy does not come true. I await your quick response. Your faithful student, Twilight Sparkle.”

“Twilight Sparkle,” Spike repeated, “Got it.”

“Great,” Twilight replied, “Send it.”

“Now?” Spike asked.

“Of course,” Twilight asserted.

“Really, Twilight?” the yellow mare spoke up, “Princess Celestia’s probably very busy getting ready for the Summer Sun Celebration.”

“That’s just it Lemon Hearts,” Moon Dancer chimed in, “This is the one thousandth Summer Sun Celebration. If there’s any truth to this prophecy, then it’s imperative the Princess be informed immediately.”

Spike took up his quill once more, again looking very confused, “Impera, impera...”

“Important!” Twilight and Moon Dancer shouted together.

The blue mare giggled as Spike obediently enveloped the parchment in green flame, whisking it away to the castle where Princess Celestia resided.

The green unicorn spoke up, "I wouldn't hold your breath, girls."

"Oh, I'm not worried Lyra," Twilight responded, "The Princess trusts me completely. In all the years she's been my mentor she's never once doubted me." Just then, Spike appeared like he was going to be sick and, with a belch, a green flame appeared once more, this time bearing a scroll. "See," Twilight boasted, "I knew she'd want to take immediate action."

She read the response aloud, "My dearest, most faithful student Twilight. You know that I value your diligence and that I trust you completely, but you simply must stop reading those dusty old books!" Twilight's voice cracked as she read the rebuke. "Gee, now where have I heard that before?" Twinkleshine snarked. With a heavy sigh, Twilight continued, "My dear Twilight, there is more to a young pony's life than studying. I assure you that any interference with this year's Summer Sun Celebration will be dealt with. The most important thing you can do right now is to make some friends."

"Well that settles it then," the blue unicorn declared. Twilight scoffed, "Oh come on, Minuette. Of what use is friend-making to a national crisis?" "Now, now," Minuette teased, "Princess' orders." Twilight's ears fell back, as she let out a groan audible to everypony in attendance.

"Fine," she capitulated, "But tomorrow we hit the books to learn more about the Elements of Harmony, just in case."

"You can hit the books, Twilight," Lyra retorted, "The rest of us will be partying it up on the shortest night of the year!"

"I'll help you, Twilight," Moon Dancer offered meekly.

"Thank you, Moon Dancer," Twilight replied.

"Well," Minuette began, "Now that's settled, let's party!"