

The Sun is Tired:

Chapter 9

Note: I apologize for the lack of updates.

There had to be something. Something that could resolve the problem, some option that would be best for everypony... It was an opportunity to fix everything, free herself and her citizens from her tyranny. This could be her last chance...

She had been opposed to telling the truth in the past. After all, everypony would probably think it was a test of their loyalty, or something equally ridiculous. But now... She was just too damn tired. There was something about the state of the crowd that did it. The fear in their eyes was all-consuming - What terrible punishment would the divine ruler inflict upon them? Would their colts and fillies ever see another sunrise?

The fear consumed her. And, strangely, she suddenly knew what to do.

She opened her mouth slowly. "I'm sorry."

A murmur went through the crowd as she continued. "I'm going to be honest with you, citizens. I know what I've done. You're all scared to death of me, terrified that I'm going to kill you if you disobey. That I'll put out the sun if you rebel."

She could practically feel the wave of shock going through the crowd. "I've put you through hell. Ponies have done horrible things in my name - and I'm done even worse things to them in return. I'm sure you're all aware of what I'm talking about."

The crowd seemed to nod in unison. "Well, everypony, I'm ending this now. I wish that I could stay amongst you, be loved by you, but I've done far too much damage for that. I don't know what you're going to do, government-wise. Maybe you'll make some sort of system where everypony votes, or something. But I'm going to leave."

"Where I go, I cannot know at the moment. But... I must bid you farewell, my loyal citizens. You deserved a far better ruler than what I was. I hope that you get what you rightfully deserve after I leave."

The crowd erupted into pandemonium as she trotted back inside. The door closed behind her, shutting off the noise.

"Princess?"

Celestia looked into Twilight's eyes. They were wide in shock, and a tad afraid. Celestia spoke. "Twilight. I'm sure you've done some research on how you could help me - remove my power. I can only hope..."

Her voice trailed off as Twilight spoke. "Well, I do have an idea - but - It would -"

Twilight seemed to have trouble speaking, so Celestia filled in the words for her. "It would kill me, wouldn't it?"

Twilight nodded, holding back tears. "You're old, and if you weren't the sun... You'd disintegrate into dust."

Celestia considered this for a moment. "...I will do what I must."

The next weeks passed in a blur for both of them. There was a lot of crying - Mostly by Twilight. Celestia spent most of her time in Twilight's library, hiding from the citizens outside. Since Twilight's idea required all the elements of harmony, Rainbow Dash and Fluttershy had to heal before they could try it.

There would be a few events that would stand out in Twilight's mind. Celestia meeting with her sister was the worst. Celestia didn't cry - She seemed to be past that point. But Luna did. Luna cried a lot. Celestia had said that it would be okay for her to stay as the moon, but she refused. They had some rough patches, but Luna couldn't even think of continuing on without her sister. It would be "too lonely."

The night before they decided to try Twilight's idea, they all stayed up together. Celestia, Luna, and Twilight. They didn't talk much. They just sat there, huddled together on the library floor. Their skin felt warm against Celestia's. She treasured that warmth, put it away in some small corner of her mind. If there was anything after death, this is how she wanted to remember her life. Huddled next to the ponies that loved her, their bodies warming her body almost as much as their hearts warmed her heart.

They did the spell in the Everfree forest. Twilight and the others stood in a circle around Celestia and her sister.

Twilight was crying. "Are- Are you sure that you want this?"

Celestia thought for a moment, then nodded. "I don't see any other way."

Twilight glanced to her left. Everything seemed to be in order... Normally, the elements would disperse a normal pony's magical abilities across their entire race with the spell, since said abilities were impossible to destroy. She hoped that performing it on the princesses would put the solar cycle on autopilot, but she couldn't be sure.

Still, she had to try.

She began the spell, sobbing as she did so. *This is what Celestia wants. This is what she wants*, she thought. It was the only way that she could possibly bring herself to do what she was about to do.

The princesses were encased in a transparent, glowing purple shell. Twilight could see them slowly disintegrate as the spell went on, their bodies decaying into sparkling magical dust. For a moment, she was worried they were in pain - Until she looked at Celestia's eyes.

She seemed... Content. As if a great burden had been lifted from her. Just before her torso disappeared, Celestia spoke.

"Thank you... Thank you for not hating me - For- Lov-"

And then she was gone.

Celestia awoke. Well, that was a surprise.

She was in a meadow, of some sort. There were trees immediately ahead of her, a forest, of some sort.

There was a strange feeling in the air, some sort of buildup - Like she was about to embark on some sort of journey.

There was another feeling too... Something she couldn't explain. For the first time in a long time, she felt excited. She was anticipating something. She didn't know what, but she couldn't wait for it to happen.

The problems of her life - for, surly, she was dead - were gone now, and she felt... Free. Safe. She was no longer drowning in the sand of her power, but she was flying - Swimming free, her destiny in her own hand. She was going to redeem herself. She was sure of it.

And she felt like - No, she knew - That she was going to see Twilight and her sister again.

She didn't know how she knew all of this. She just did.

And she also knew what she had to do.

Celestia, princess of the sun, galloped into the trees, towards the future.