

Deadline: 18th October 2022

Nightmare Moon	Chippa	Done
Princess Cadence	MuseScript	Done
Celestia	Cerridwen	Done
Raven Inkwell	Cerridwen	Done
King Sombra	Neighrator Pony	Done
Double Diamond	RagingKirinVA	Done
Pokey Pierce	NyxMoon	Done
Amethyst Maresbury	Inku Chan	Done
Princess Citrine	Starryflame	Done
Shining Armour	SonicFan39Returns	Done
Crystal Ponies	All understudies and VAs not appearing in episode	Done

EPISODE 07 – The Crystal Heart

Scene 01

(We open in a strange shadowy void that peels back periodically to reveal stylised images of what is being narrated: of Sombra's first arrival in The Crystal Empire over a thousand years ago and the crystal princess he deposed to claim her throne. Princess Citrine is a tall willowy alicorn of shimmering pale orange, her mane done up in an array of braids pinned back with heart-shaped gems. Her cutie mark is the same as the symbol on the cover of the book. When she opens her eyes, her irises are aquamarine and her upper and lower lids have been painted burgundy with make-up. Her wings dither to darker orange and burgundy at their tips. Her royal regalia is golden with blue heart-shaped gemstone accents the same colour as the Crystal Heart.)

PRINCESS CITRINE

Once upon a time, there was a princess who lived in a sparkling castle in the most powerful nation in the land. She was beloved by her subjects young and old, strong and weak, for her kindness and capacity for love. She was known for her generosity, her strength of spirit, her gentleness and her friendliness to those both within and beyond her nation. She welcomed visitors from far off lands and sought to make alliances with other nations to keep her ponies protected.

(We see Citrine meeting with Celestia and Luna in their ordinary-haired forms, indicating this was a thousand years ago, before they reached their full power.)

PRINCESS CITRINE

However, her enclave of peace and prosperity was the envy of many and soon war arrived on her doorstep. Other nations who did not want friendliness or gentleness brought pain and fire and blood to her little ponies. They wanted their resources. They wanted their deaths.

(Griffins, bipedal cat people and Diomedes horses attack and kill Crystal Ponies in their armoured forms. Griffins strafe them with magical bombs from the air, destroying the Crystal Ponies' fledgling airships. Cat people sneak up on them from dark corners and snap their necks from behind, or jab them with poisoned daggers that cause them to spew green-tinged blood, keel over and go into seizures and then death throes within seconds. Diomedes horses overwhelm the Crystal Ponies through sheer force of numbers and rip them to pieces, peeling them out of their armour and eating them while they are still alive and screaming.)

PRINCESS CITRINE

Only then did she realise her strengths in times of peace were weaknesses in times of war. She could not protect her ponies and she despaired at what their fate would be because of her failure. Even the light from the heart of her nation was not enough to drive back those who sought to take its light for themselves. Her ponies continued to die. She mourned them and tried to find a solution outside of her usual methods to save them.

(Image of Sombra, as an ordinary unicorn with a grey horn and normal green eyes, wearing a cape and carrying a saddlebag, arrives in the Crystal Empire.)

PRINCESS CITRINE

There arrived on the wind a travelling mage who promised he could help her to protect her nation, her sparkling castle and her ponies. He knew strange arts, magics alien to the princess, and promised her that he could use them to save them all, if only she would give him that chance to prove himself. Though she was counselled against it, she believed him and allowed him entry into both her castle and her confidence. He asked for a position in her government, contingent on him being able to take care of the threat bearing down upon her ponies.

(We see Citrine ushering Sombra along the corridors of the Crystal Castle, other ponies watching him suspiciously from doorways. Sombra's smile is sharp and shows the hint of fangs but his eyes are ordinary red and do not glow with any magic.)

PRINCESS CITRINE

The mage did indeed know powerful magics. What the princess did not know, however, was that they came from dark arts taught to him by the blackest-hearted teachers imaginable. Or perhaps she did know and simply was too desperate, too despairing, too foolish to care where his power came from as long as it saved those she cared for.

(We see Sombra with Grogar's shadow behind him, indicating this was his teacher in dark magic.)

SOMBRA
(evil chuckle)

PRINCESS CITRINE

He used his dark magic to win the unwinnable war and save the princess's ponies from utter destruction.

(We see Sombra casting spells that incinerate the griffins in the air so that they fall to earth like burning meteors. He casts spells at the cat people that bends their limbs into impossible shapes, snapping their spines. And finally, he casts magic on the Diomedes horses that melts the flesh right off their bones. They die screaming, unable to move as their skin and the muscle beneath sloughs off like they have been doused with acid.)

PRINCESS CITRINE

Though she did not like his methods, she could not argue with their effectiveness. She got what she wanted. Her land was saved thanks to him. He had proved himself trustworthy, she thought. So, she held up her side of their bargain. She praised his name, elevating him to the highest position in the land below herself. Yet his appetite proved unsated by her generosity: he did not want a role adjacent to the throne; he wanted her crown for himself. This she learned when his overtures of friendship proved false and he took what was not his to take after being brought into the very deepest bastion of her trust.

(Citrine shows Sombra the Crystal Heart. He slavers over it, then shoots a bolt of dark magic directly through her heart. She falls to the ground, bleeding out. Crystal Guards jump forward but Sombra cuts them down without effort and dips his hoof in the spreading pool of her blood.)

SOMBRA

You stupid, simple mare. Did you not think to question my motives? Did you seriously think I did all this out of the goodness of my heart? *(laughs)* Foolishness such as yours does not deserve to bear a crown. Your weakness damned you and your ponies from the day you first tried to make peace with your enemies instead of crushing them underhoof.

PAST CITRINE

(coughing on her own blood) S-Sombra ... my f-friend ... p-please ... d-don't do th-this ...

SOMBRA

It is already done. The age of Princess Citrine is over.

(He touches his bloodied hoof to the Crystal Heart. It darkens to a deep red. Shadows spiral outward from it, consuming the Crystal Empire and changing it from bright to dark crystals. Power washes out of it and over him, transforming him into the King Sombra we know from canon. He laughs as he feels himself taking control of its power.)

SOMBRA

The age of King Sombra has begun. *(laughs)*

PRINCESS CITRINE

The princess was betrayed, broken, left to die in her own blood and filth. Yet as she expired, she used her last breath to make a vow that she would save her ponies somehow. Her strength of spirit endured, even as her body breathed its last. Instead of rising to the Elysian Fields, her soul remained on the mortal plain. Incorporeal, she remained to watch over her ponies, though it brought her much sorrow as she witnessed the false king she had once called friend shackle them and force them underground to mine more crystals to power his dark desires.

(Sombra on his balcony addressing the chained Crystal Ponies)

SOMBRA

Your hooves will work to make my Crystal Empire stronger than your paltry princess ever could. She was weak! You are all weak! But I will make you strong! Across the world, every creature will finally fear and respect the name of Sombra!

PRINCESS CITRINE

He chained them. Beat them. Meddled with their minds to remove their ability to defy him. He made them his puppets and the princess's spirit could only watch with despair. In desperation, she tried to do as an ally ruler once told her and walk his dreams, perchance to influence his actions and make him relent. Alas, he sensed her presence and drove her out. When next she tried, he was ready and used his dark magic to ensnare her spirit in the pages of an enchanted book.

(Sombra traps Citrine's spirit in the book from the hidden room, then tosses it onto the fire in his bed chamber.)

SOMBRA

Burn and begone, you insolent wraith! Your time here is done!

PRINCESS CITRINE

But it is not so easy to destroy the spirit of an alicorn, even for him. Instead, he resorted to sealing her away where she could not interfere with his plans.

(Sombra hides the book in the secret room and shuts the bookshelf door on it, then uses his magic to wipe the mind of the librarian.)

SOMBRA

You will remember nothing of this.

AMYTHYST

(in a daze) I will remember nothing of this.

PRINCESS CITRINE

But his actions attracted unwanted attention. Just as he thought himself secure in his stolen power, the princess's allies came to investigate what had become of her.

(Sombra faces down Celestia and Luna.)

CELESTIA

What have you done with Princess Citrine?

SOMBRA

She is gone!

LUNA

Heathen wretch! Have you murdered her?

SOMBRA

Leave my Empire, now, you meddling nags, before I drive you out myself!

LUNA

This is not *your* Empire!

CELESTIA

We will not allow a pony of Equestria to enslave the Crystal Ponies!

LUNA

You remain a citizen of ours and thus we shall punish you for your crimes!

SOMBRA

Punish *me*? You think too highly of yourselves, you old nags!

CELESTIA

Enough!

(We see Sombra fighting Celestia and Luna, magic against magic.)

PRINCESS CITRINE

A great battle followed. The false king fought with every dark and awful trick he knew – but finally he was struck down by the avatars of the sun and moon. Yet with all his stolen power, he refused to be defeated and wrought upon the nation a terrible curse.

(Sombra becomes smoke that billows up into the sky and the Crystal Empire disappears, leaving only a blank space in the landscape where it used to be. Celestia and Luna stare, aghast.)

PRINCESS CITRINE

And so, the lost princess waited for one who might finally save her beloved ponies. She hoped and prayed and dreamed that someday, when her nation returned from the void to which it had been sent, there would be those who could free it from her usurper's power and finally give her ponies back the lives her foolish trust in him had robbed from them. Then, and only then, would her soul at last be able to rest.

(An image of the Crystal Heart pulses in the centre of the screen. Princess Citrine's ghostly form hovers behind it, wings outstretched, as if the Crystal Heart is her own heart beating above her chest. Her image ripples and becomes that of Cadence in the same pose. Behind her, the crystal throne room shimmers into view. Cadence opens her eyes, which glow with Sombra's dark magic, and a bolt of it emits from her horn to reflect off the throne and open the secret doorway in the floor that leads to a spiral staircase. We zoom down the shaft to see a door at the bottom, which opens to reveal pure white light. We zoom through it.)

PRINCESS CITRINE

Please help them. Help my ponies. Save them from my mistakes. Help me ...

(Everything fades to white again.)

End of Scene 01

Scene 02

(The Crystal Library. Cadence wakes up on the floor with Raven, Double Diamond and Pokey Pierce around her. Both Raven and Pokey's horns are glowing and their faces are beaded with sweat. Cadence's magic is not activated, though she does not realise this yet.)

CADENCE

Mrrf ... what happened?

DOUBLE DIAMOND

You passed out, ma'am. Something came out of that book and then you hit the floor.

CADENCE

The book?

(Cadence looks at the book on the lectern, now sitting open with the crystal lock shattered on the floor. On its pages are the images she just witnessed.)

CADENCE
It was all real ...

RAVEN
What was all real, your highness?

CADENCE
The princess Sombra killed. Her ... soul, I think, is trapped in that book. He couldn't destroy the book so he sealed it away in here to make sure she couldn't help anyone defeat him. She showed me where the Crystal Heart is! *(she realises her horn is not glowing)* Hang on ... oh no, my shield!

POKEY PIERCE
We've – hnng – been keeping it up while you were unconscious, Princess. It's ... it's been interesting.

RAVEN INKWELL
Even with two unicorns casting the spell, we cannot equal the power of an alicorn.

(Cadence ignites her horn and they gratefully release their magic.)

RAVEN INKWELL
(panting) Thank you, Princess.

(Cadence gets to her feet. She is wobbly but determined.)

CADENCE
Come on. I know what to do now. Bring that book.

(Raven telekinetically snaps the chain holding the book to the lectern. Double Diamond grabs the book and carries it tucked under his foreleg. Cadence gallops out of the library and they all follow.)

End of Scene 02

Scene 03

(Interior, the Crystal Throne Room. Cadence, Raven, Pokey and Double Diamond, who is still carrying the book, burst through the doors after Cadence kicks them open. Cadence runs up to the throne but the other three pause, watching her. Without hesitation, Cadence closes her eyes and concentrates. Dark magic bubbles into her aura and purple trails briefly stream from her eyes, before she pushes it all forward out of her horn to hit the top of the throne. Dark shadows extend down over the throne and reveal the secret doorway in the floor. Cadence stops casting the dark magic and her knees buckle a little from the effort of doing that on top of holding up the shield. The other three ponies peer down into the hole.)

RAVEN
(wonderingly) How did you know to do that?

CADENCE
I saw it in a dream.

RAVEN
Princess Luna-?

CADENCE
(cutting her off brusquely) No, not her. Princess Citrine.

POKEY PIERCE
Who?

CADENCE
The Crystal Princess whose soul Sombra trapped in that book.

DOUBLE DIAMOND

The alicorn you told us about on the way over? The one Sombra killed?

POKEY PIERCE

The mare who ruled the Empire before he stuck his horrible hooves into it?

CADENCE

Yes, her. She wants him gone and the Crystal Ponies freed, too. She can't physically interact with the real world on her own but she showed me what to do since I can.

(Cadence starts walking down the steps. The others follow her. She leaps over the side of the open staircase, opens her wings and glides down the centre of the shaft to the bottom. Once there, she looks up to see them all the way back up at the top, picking their way carefully down the shiny, slippery stairs.)

CADENCE

(to herself) Oh. Yeah. No wings.

(She looks around and spots the door her dream already told her would be there.)

CADENCE

Just where Princess Citrine said it would be.

(She looks back up at her three companions, considers waiting for them, bites her lip and then turns back to the door instead. She touches the doorhandle with her hoof but the door shifts away from her on the wall.)

CADENCE

What?

(She tries again but the same happens.)

CADENCE

Ugh! We don't have time for this!

(Even though it is taxing and she is already straining under the weight of the shield spell, she grabs the door in her magic and holds it steady.)

CADENCE

Hold still, you – *(gasp)*

(Without her touching it, the door flings itself open. Inside is bright white light, just like in her dream.)

SHINING ARMOUR

Cadence?

CADENCE

(shellshocked) Wh-what?

SHINING ARMOUR

Cadence, is that you?

CADENCE

Shining ... Armour?

SHINING ARMOUR

Cadence, where are you? I can't see you! Are you okay?

CADENCE

(with tears in her eyes) I'm here! Shining, I'm here!

(She runs heedlessly into the light, skidding to a stop on the other side of the door. She has emerged on top of the tower where she left Shining Armour the night of the Diomedes attack. He is standing in front of her with his forehooves on the balcony, casting his shield to keep out the Diomedes horses far below. He looks around at her, surprised.)

SHINING ARMOUR

What are you doing back here so soon? Did you get all the castle staff out safely?

(Cadence is flabbergasted. She looks down at herself. She is wearing her royal regalia and her mane is down in the style she always used to keep it in.)

CADENCE

I ... I ...

SHINING ARMOUR

(concerned) Cadence, honey, are you okay? Are you hurt?

(He gets down from the balcony and trots over to cup her cheek. She raises her forehooves to hold onto his foreleg, amazed.)

CADENCE

I can feel you. I can feel your touch. You're really real.

SHINING ARMOUR

Cadence, you're starting to scare me. What's going on? Did everypony get to the escape dirigible already?

CADENCE

Shiny, I ...

(Suddenly a bright flash erupts in the sky behind them. They both look up to see Nightmare Moon hovering there, her head thrown back in a malicious laugh that shows all her sharp teeth. Her horn glows and she rakes it over the courtyard, incinerating the Diomedes horses in a single sweep. Cadence leaps in front of Shining Armour.)

CADENCE

No! you can't have him!

SHINING ARMOUR

Cadence, no –

NIGHTMARE MOON

Foolish little princess! You think *you* can deny me *anything* I desire?

CADENCE

I'll stop you!

NIGHTMARE MOON

Nothing can stop me!

(She blasts the tower beneath the balcony. It starts to crumble, the floor splitting in two beneath Cadence and Shining Armour. She slides one way, he the other. Each of them reaches out for the other with a desperate hoof.)

SHINING ARMOUR

Cadence!

CADENCE

Shiny! No!

(Cadence tries to fly to him but even as she closes the distance, Nightmare Moon blasts hot magic from her horn down at them.)

SHINING ARMOUR

(screams)

(Shining Armour is incinerated. We get a glimpse of his skeleton within the blast before he is gone. His scream echoes even after his voice has been abruptly silenced. Cadence is still reaching for him even though he is not there anymore. Fresh tears stream from her eyes.)

CADENCE
Not again! Not *again!*

NIGHTMARE MOON
(laughs malevolently)

(Cadence closes her eyes, her expression becoming one of tearful rage. When she opens her eyes again, they are opaque white. She flies at Nightmare Moon, hurling magic at her. Nightmare Moon deflects her easily, sending her spiralling to the ground far below. Cadence hits with immense force and is struggling to pick herself up again when Nightmare Moon lands beside her and pushes her face back down against the ground with a hoof upon her back.)

NIGHTMARE MOON
You are nothing. You began life as a nobody and you will die as a nobody – alone, friendless, no family of your own. Even your own parents did not want you. How could anyone love somepony like you?

CADENCE
(struggling to breathe) N-no...

NIGHTMARE MOON
Your beloved Shining Armour could not even tell the difference between you and a changeling impersonator. You're such a nothing that a literal bug took your place and nopony even noticed. You are worthless. You are insignificant. And when you die, no-one will mourn you.

RAVEN
(distantly calling) Princess Cadence!

CADENCE
Th-that's ... not ... true ...

NIGHTMARE MOON
(laughs) Of course it is. What, you think anyone will care when they find your body? Don't be stupid. Everypony has always thought you're useless. Otherwise Celestia would have given you more to do instead of sticking you with the oh-so-regal task of *babysitting* her *actual* favourite student. All you're good for is looking pretty and tending the needs of the *real* heroes and ponies who matter.

RAVEN
(distantly calling) Princess Cadence! Wake up!

DOUBLE DIAMOND
(distantly calling) Your highness! Wake up!

POKEY PIERCE
(distantly calling) Princess Cadence! You have to wake up!

CADENCE
(confused) Wh-what?

RAVEN
(distantly calling) Princes Cadence! Please! Please, wake up!

CADENCE
R ... Raven?

NIGHTMARE MOON
Now die!

(Nightmare Moon arches her neck, horn glowing for the killing blow.)

PRINCESS CITRINE

No!

(We see a close-up of an orange horn meeting Nightmare Moon's with a hollow clack, preventing her attack. Suddenly, out of nowhere, Princess Citrine is there, horn locked with the dark alicorn's. She glares at Nightmare Moon.)

PRINCESS CITRINE

You have no power over her. Begone, foul phantom.

NIGHTMARE MOON

No! Nooooo!

(The whole scene becomes smoke and blows away, leaving Cadence and Citrine standing in a white void of nothingness. Citrine turns and holds out a hoof to help Cadence to her feet.)

CADENCE

You ... you're ...

PRINCESS CITRINE

I am Citrine. Once I was ruler of the Crystal Empire. Now I am naught but a wraith bound to watch over it until my mistakes are remedied and my ponies' freedom is restored.

(Cadence accepts the hoof and gets up.)

CADENCE

I can touch your hoof. You don't *feel* like a ghost.

PRINCESS CITRINE

That is because we are not in the real world. This is a mind prison that reflects a pony's worst fears, constructed by Sombra to entrap any who would seek to find the Crystal Heart and depose him. You can feel my hoof because your mind tells you that is what you should feel when you touch it.

CADENCE

(concerned) A mind prison?

PRINCESS CITRINE

Yes. But it relies upon the ignorance of its victims to function. You have broken through the illusion. All you must do to break free of the spell entirely is walk through that door.

(She gestures behind Cadence to a door that was not there a moment ago. It looks exactly like the moving door she came through to get here.)

CADENCE

But wait – how do I get the Crystal Heart to save your ponies if Sombra has boobytrapped everything with spells like this?

PRINCESS CITRINE

Trust in your abilities. And in your heart. You have it within you to save the Crystal Empire and my ponies.

CADENCE

How do you know that? You don't even know me!

PRINCESS CITRINE

I was once the Crystal Princess, guardian of love and light. My abilities afforded me insight into the hearts of ponies around me. It was this that I forewent when I trusted Sombra. I failed to look at the evil in his heart because I was so desperate for someone, anyone, to stop the war. But you ...

(Citrine places her hoof against Cadence's chest.)

PRINCESS CITRINE

I can sense that your heart is in pain, so much pain, but beneath it is pure. You are the Equestrian Princess of Love, yes?

CADENCE

I ... I was –

PRINCESS CITRINE

No. You *are*. And the light of love is the antithesis of Sombra's dark magic. Even your pain is filled with love, Cadence. Your heart hurts because you loved those you have lost so very much. Use the light of that love. It is a force far more powerful than Sombra's darkness.

(Cadence's chest begins to glow beneath Citrine's hoof. Cadence looks up at her, alarmed, but Citrine only smiles beatifically.)

PRINCESS CITRINE

Go now, Mi Amore Cadenza. You have the heart of a true princess. Use it. It will show you the way. And remember: you are worthy. You are precious. Let nopony ever convince you differently.

CADENCE

But –

(Citrine pushes her and Cadence stumbles backwards. The door opens without her having to open it and she falls backwards through it. She startles awake back in the bottom of the stairwell, surrounded by Raven, Pokey and Double Diamond. Cadence is breathing hard, her horn no longer aglow.)

CADENCE

(startled noise followed by scared panting)

RAVEN INKWELL

Princess!

DOUBLE DIAMOND

(as if punching the air) All right! We thought you were never going to snap out of it.

CADENCE

Snap out of it?

(Cadence rubs her head as if she has a headache.)

POKEY PIERCE

When we got down here, you were staring at that fake doorway. Your eyes were all green and you were crying.

RAVEN INKWELL

We were incredibly worried, Princess!

DOUBLE DIAMOND

Nothing we said was getting through to you. What the heck *is* that thing?

(Double Diamond starts to turn to look at the door but Cadence slams it shut with her magic.)

CADENCE

No don't! It's a spell that shows you your worst fears and traps you in them.

DOUBLE DIAMOND

Oh wow. Yeah, I don't want to see that.

RAVEN INKWELL

But then why did we come down here if that is all there is?

CADENCE

It's not.

(She gets to her feet, wobbles a bit but remains standing. She takes a deep breath and holds her hoof to her chest where Citrine put hers.)

CADENCE

Use the light of my love to show me the way. *(whispering to herself)* Please ... help me, Shining.

(Her chest glows. The glow travels up to her horn and she sends it out at the door. The door lights up and then opens, revealing a crystal platform beyond. Cadence smiles.)

CADENCE

It worked!

RAVEN INKWELL

Well done, your highness!

DOUBLE DIAMOND

All right! Awesome work, ma'am!

(They trot through the doorway and look up at the enormous spiral staircase now towering above them.)

DOUBLE DIAMOND

(groans) More stairs?

RAVEN INKWELL

No time for complaining. Come along, time is of the essence.

(As if on cue, a huge roar rocks them nearly off their feet.)

SOMBRA

Graaaaaah! Where are my crystal slaves?

(Cadence freezes and looks up at her own forehead, then at the other three ponies, who all wear expressions of panic.)

RAVEN INKWELL

Oh no ... we were so worried when we found you trapped in that spell, we didn't realise you'd stopped casting the shield spell.

DOUBLE DIAMOND

Looks like King Sombra made it into the Crystal Empire.

CADENCE

Then it's up to us to stop him! Come on, hurry!

(Cadence grabs them all in her magic and levitates them with her as she avoids the stairs entirely and flies to the top of the tower, where the Crystal Heart is suspended above a star within a circle formed out of crystals on the floor.)

RAVEN INKWELL

Look! The Crystal Heart!

(Cadence lands and releases them. Double Diamond runs to the edge to see that the blizzard from outside is now buffeting the Empire again. Sombra's shadow form rolls over the houses and streets below, laughing all the while. As their snow-covered houses are touched by his shadows, the Crystal Ponies flee them, screaming.)

SOMBRA

(laughing malevolently) Come to me, my crystal slaves. Did you forget your place in my absence? You are mine. You will always be mine.

AMYTHYST

It's King Sombra! Run away!

CRYSTAL PONIES
(adlib screaming and exclamations of fear about Sombra)

SOMBRA
There is nowhere you can run! Nowhere you can hide! You will forever remain my slaves, as it should be!

(At the top of the tower, the Crystal Heart glitters invitingly. Pokey Pierce runs towards it.)

POKEY PIERCE
Come on, we have to –

CADENCE
Stop!

(He skids to a halt.)

CADENCE
Do you really think a pony who sets up a boobytrap on just the doorway that leads to his hiding place would just leave the Crystal Heart out in the open like this?

(Pokey backs away from the circle.)

POKEY PIERCE
I guess not.

CADENCE
We have to figure out if it's boobytrapped before we touch it.

DOUBLE DIAMOND
Whatever we do, we'd better do it fast. He's getting closer to us.

(Sombra's shadows continue rolling towards the castle, rolling right over Crystal Ponies in places and leaving them facedown with dark crystals sticking out of their backs.)

(Cadence holds her hoof to her chest again.)

CADENCE
Use the light of my love to show me the way.

(Her chest glows. This time, however, instead of going immediately up to her horn, the Crystal Heart starts to glow with the same light as her chest. It swivels to face Cadence, beginning to pulse with light like a heartbeat. Down below, the sudden light draws Sombra's attention. He is angry at what he sees.)

SOMBRA
No! The Crystal Heart is mine! You cannot have it!

(He swooshes up toward the top of the tower. Cadence's chest increases its glow and so does the Crystal Heart. Spikes of dark crystal shoot up around the edge of the circle – they have tripped the boobytrap. Similar spikes of dark crystal begin appearing all over the floor, forcing Raven, Pokey and Double Diamond to jump backwards out of their way.)

RAVEN INKWELL
(noise of avoiding spikes trying to stab you)

POKEY PIERCE
(noise of avoiding spikes trying to stab you)

DOUBLE DIAMOND
(noise of avoiding spikes trying to stab you)

SOMBRA

Get away from it, you worthless wench!

CADENCE
No!

(Cadence opens her eyes. They overflow with the same glow as her chest and the Crystal Heart. The dark crystals shatter as the Crystal Heart flies through them towards her, summoned by the love and light from her own heart. Cadence lets it settle into her hooves and rises up, flying out of the tower and straight towards Sombra. He snarls but she passes through his shadowy body, unharmed, surrounded and protected by a corona of light. She swoops down to the terrified fleeing Crystal Ponies below.)

CADENCE
(Royal Canterlot Voice) Crystal Ponies! You have the power within you to defeat King Sombra! Use the light of the love in your hearts to show you the way. Think of those you love! Think of the ponies you care about most in this world! Think hard! Hold that love in your minds and in your hearts!

(The Crystal Ponies stare up at her, open-mouthed. Surrounded by the corona of light, Cadence's mane and tail come loose from their bindings and flare around her. She looks magnificent.)

AMYTHYST
Is that ... the Crystal Princess?

CRYSTAL PONIES
(Adlib shock and awe as some of the memories start to return at the sight of her.)

CADENCE
Use the light and love within you to help me defeat him once and for all!
(Amethyst holds a hoof to her head as she struggles to connect with one of her lost memories that has been set free by the sight of Cadence.)

AMYTHYST
I ... remember. Princess Citrine ... he killed her ... we loved her so much and he killed her ... why could I not remember until now?

(Amethyst starts to glow with the same light as the Crystal Heart.)

CADENCE
He stole your memories to prevent you from being able to fight him – but we can get them back! Try to remember, Crystal Ponies: remember your princess, remember Citrine, remember how much you loved her and how much she loved you. Use that love and the light of it to drive out Sombra's darkness!

CRYSTAL PONIES
(Adlib variations of 'I remember', 'The Crystal Princess', 'Princess Citrine', 'He killed her' and 'We loved her')

(One by one, the Crystal Ponies start to glow. They kneel and that glow seeps into the floor below them.)

SOMBRA
Noooooooooooo!

(Cadence turns just in time for Sombra to bowl into her, his face topping a writhing black shadow that curls around her like a tentacle, trying to get the Crystal Heart away from her.)

CADENCE
(through gritted teeth) You can't win, you monster!

SOMBRA
I will seal you in a hellscape of your own worst fears and darkest dreads!

Cadence
Too late. My worst fears already happened. And the love I have in my heart for those I lost is stronger than ever.

(The Crystal Heart glows and rises out of Cadence's grasp to hover above them, spinning faster and faster. Both Cadence and Sombra look up at it. The Heart detonates in blue-white light, sweeping over the Crystal Ponies and reverting them to their crystalline forms. On top of the tower, Raven, Pokey and Double Diamond are similarly affected. The dark crystal spikes vanish.)

DOUBLE DIAMOND

What the –

SOMBRA

Noooooooooooo!

(Light coalesces around Sombra, containing him within a sphere of iridescence. He screams but it is no use: the light infuses his shadowy form and dissolves it until he is no more. When the last scrap of shadow is gone, the sphere explodes outwards, spilling rainbow lights over the Empire.)

SOMBRA

(angry incoherent scream)

(The shadows and dark crystals that were invading the Empire retreat and sunlight beams down on everyone. The snow has finally stopped. The Crystal Ponies cheer.)

CRYSTAL PONIES

(adlib cheering)

(Cadence gives a visible sigh of relief. The Crystal Heart descends to float in front of her as she flaps to stay aloft. A vague orange face resolves in the Heart's shining surface.)

PRINCESS CITRINE

Thank you, Crystal Princess.

CADENCE

What? No, I'm not –

PRINCESS CITRINE

They need a ruler, Cadence. They need someone with the love and compassion to help them heal from the wounds Sombra inflicted. Maybe, in turn, they can help you to heal from the wounds inflicted on your own soul as well.

CADENCE

I ... I can't ...

PRINCESS CITRINE

There is much comfort and peace to be gained from helping others. You would be well suited to the task, Cadence. You have so much love in your heart. Let them reflect it back at you.

CADENCE

Citrine, I can't – I'm not what they need.

PRINCESS CITRINE

You are exactly what they need. And they are what you need. They will need help acclimatising to this new age. Please, at least think about it. And regardless of your answer, I ask of you one last request.

CADENCE

What?

PRINCESS CITRINE

Accept my eternal gratitude for setting my ponies and my soul free.

(The Crystal Heart glows and soars down to its rightful place beneath the Crystal Castle. Its light blossoms upwards through the castle into an aurora borealis that effervesces from the topmost spike. For a moment, the misty image of an orange alicorn is

formed by the light tendrils. The image smiles and then is gone. Up in the tower, the book in Double Diamond's grasp disintegrates. Cadence flies back up to her companions.)

RAVEN INKWELL

Well done, your highness. You saved the day!

CADENCE

We all did.

RAVEN INKWELL

No, no, Princess, I'm fairly sure it was mostly you.

(Cadence lands and sags into an exhausted sitting position.)

CADENCE

Raven?

RAVEN INKWELL

Yes, your highness?

CADENCE

Would you do me a favour?

RAVEN INKWELL

Of course. Whatever you ask.

CADENCE

(through a yawn) Could you please just call me Cadence from now on?

(Raven is startled by this and takes a moment to answer.)

RAVEN

Uh ... of course, Prin- ... Cadence.

(Cadence smiles and looks out at the celebrating Crystal Ponies. She holds a hoof to her heart and closes her eyes, whispering to herself so that nopony else can hear her.)

CADENCE

Thank you, Shiny.

End of Scene 03

END OF EPISODE 07