Elements of Friendship

Chapter 2

Princess Celestia stood on her balcony as she raised the moon. She stood there struggling for a number of minutes until the moon was in its rightful place. She always felt that the reason she found it so hard to raise the moon was because Luna was struggling against her. Celestia knew this wasn't true but the thought always came to her mind when she looked upon the face of her sister etched on the moon. She knelt down exhausted and took a few deep breaths.

"I met Twilight Sparkle again today," Celestia said, looking up at her sister's face, "I had my first lesson with her. She's very adept at magic, but she's not the same Twilight you knew. She likes studying for one thing." Celestia chuckled at her own joke before continuing, "She also seems to be shy. She's had a month to settle in to the school but she hasn't made a single friend yet."

Celestia looked down at her hooves for a moment before looking back up towards the moon, "Did I ever tell you about the first day I spent with Twilight?"

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Celestia trotted down the main street following Twilight, or was at least trying to follow but the crowd of ponies was so thick that she only occasionally saw her purple hide which bore the six pointed star cutie mark. Celestia was thankful when the crowd began to thin and she could she Twilight turn onto a side road. Twilight stopped walking for a moment and checked that Celestia was still following her. A terrible idea popped into Celestia's head and she trotted up to Twilight to share it.

"Hey, I uh...I probably should have asked this earlier but, what if somepony recognises me?"

"Oaim nosh wobied abou bat"

"What?"

Twilight spat out the Frisbee that was in her mouth and said, "I said, 'I'm not worried about that'. I didn't know you, remember?"

"Yeah but you're just one pony, what about everypony else?"

Twilight looked her up and down and put a hoof to her chin. After a moment of thinking she replied, “Weeeell, pink manes and white fur aren’t that rare and you don’t have any other uh...defining features, so I think you’ll be ok”

Celestia looked back at her flank and was happy, possibly for the first time, that she didn’t have her Cutie Mark yet. Twilight, seeing that Celestia’s fears were assured, used her magic to pick up the Frisbee and continued walking.

“Man, I hate carrying that thing in my mouth but I couldn’t risk bumping it into everypony if I used magic. I have no idea how Earth Ponies can deal with tasting everything they carry about.”

“Neither do I.”

“I’ll just ask Dragon or Violet next time I see them.”

Celestia stopped in her tracks and exclaimed, “You’re going to ask a Dragon?”

Twilight stopped as well and looked over her shoulder and replied, “What? No, Dragonfruit. He’s one of our friends.”

“Our friends?”

Twilight smiled and said, “Yeah, our friends. He’s my friend, you’re my friend therefore you’re friends. You know, a friend of my friend is my friend, or something like that.” Satisfied that she had explained it enough, Twilight turned back and continued trotting along, Celestia following along with a smile on her face.

As Celestia looked around she noticed that the buildings were a lot smaller then they were nearer the castle. As she thought about it, Celestia realised she didn’t know where they were going.

“Hey Twilight, where are we going?”

“Didn’t I tell you? We’re going to the clubhouse of the world famous-” Twilight took a moment to strike a pose, “Cutastically Fantastics”

“Who?”

“Oh, it’s a group me and my friends set up when we were younger and really wanted cutie marks. We’d go around trying lots of things to try and get them. Most of us have our Cutie Marks but we still call ourselves Cutastically Fantastics. It has a ring to it.”

“Wow. Where’s the clubhouse?”

“In the forest.”

Celestia stopped in her tracks and almost shouted, “The forest?” Then, dropping her voice, she continued, “Isn’t that d-dangerous?”

Twilight stopped as well and looked back with a playful smile. “Not if you have me to protect you,” then, as she saw how worried Celestia looked, she continued by saying, “The forest isn’t scary or dangerous or anything. The scariest thing you’ll find is an annoyed squirrel, maybe a grumpy badger if you’re unlucky. Though we really should hurry up; we’ll take all day just to get to the clubhouse at this rate.” At this Twilight turned again and started trotting again. Celestia quickened her pace to catch up.

As the pair neared the forest, Celestia realised that Twilight wasn’t entirely truthful when she said that the clubhouse was in the forest. It was certainly beside the forest and a good bit away from the nearest house but, as the tree the clubhouse was in was at least ten meters away from the forest proper, it wasn't in it.

“I thought you said it was in-”

“Everypony’s a critic. I show you an awesome clubhouse on the edge of an evil, dangerous and unexplored forest and what do you do? You complain it isn’t *in* the forest.”

“But you said the forest-“

“Well, ok, it isn’t that evil...or dangerous...or unexplored but it is a forest!” Twilight paused as she heard a few notes of music floating towards them then, as her eyes grew wider, she exclaimed, “Violet’s playing my favourite song! Come on Celestia, I have to introduce you to everypony.” With the sudden change of subject, Twilight escaped from Celestia’s questioning and raced towards the door of the clubhouse. Celestia galloped after her, not wanting to be left alone in an area she didn’t know very well.

Twilight burst through the door and Celestia followed closely behind. The first thing she noticed, once she was inside the clubhouse, was a violet Earth pony with an impeccably styled pink mane sitting in a chair with a violin in her hooves. Then she noticed three other ponies; a brown Earth pony, who had a long blue mane, was kneeling on the ground near the violet pony; a green Pegasus, who had a blonde mane, knelt near him with a book open at her hooves and a white Pegasus, who had a light blue mane, was hovering in the middle of the room. The next thing Celestia noticed was that they were staring at her and Twilight. Celestia made a mental note that bursting into a room at full gallop tends to get everypony’s attention and makes for an awkward situation.

The brown Earth pony was the first to speak up, “Hey Twi, is that my Frisbee?”

Twilight looked at the Frisbee she brought with her and used her magic to throw it to him. The Earth pony reared up on his hind legs, caught it, then promptly fell on his back. Twilight and the light blue Pegasus immediately burst out laughing, the violet Earth pony rolled her eyes as if this was a regular occurrence and Celestia couldn't help but giggle at the poor Earth pony's expense. The green Pegasus, on the other hand, just stared at Celestia, her mouth slightly agape.

A few minutes later, after she had finally stopped laughing, Twilight said, "Ok gang, it's introduction time, this is our newest member, Celestia. Celestia, these ponies are the other members of the Cutastically Fantastics."

The violet pony spoke up then in a slightly haughty tone, "Twilight, how many times must I tell you that we are not calling ourselves the Cutastically Fantastics anymore? That name is simply ridiculous and most of us have our Cutie Marks already." When the violet pony said it, Celestia noticed that it was true; the violet Earth pony had a violin for a Cutie Mark, the light blue Pegasus had a cloud, the green Pegasus had two open books and Twilight had a six pointed star surrounded by five other, smaller, stars. In fact, the only pony without a Cutie Mark, besides Celestia, was the brown Earth pony.

Twilight let out a snort and said to Celestia, while pointing to the violet pony, "That stuck up filly who can't appreciate a good name is Violet."

Violet inclined her head and said, "A pleasure making your acquaintance."
Twilight then pointed to the brown Earth pony, who was still on the ground with his hooves over his face, and said, "That's Dragonfruit. Say hello Dragon." Dragonfruit, instead of saying hello, whimpered softly.

"Is he ok?" Celestia asked.

The white Pegasus spoke up and said, "Don't mind him, he's just embarrassed because he fell over in front of a filly he thinks is cute."

Upon hearing this, Dragonfruit got up and shouted, "No I don't!" He looked over at Celestia before continuing in a slightly panicked voice, "Not that I don't think you're cute, but I wasn't looking at you like that, I only looked at you for a second or two, I mean now that I've had a good look at you I could say you're pretty cute but I'm not really looking at you like that so you know I guess you're..."

As Dragonfruit's voice dropped to a whisper, Celestia couldn't help but start giggling again. Twilight cocked her head and asked Dragonfruit if he was finished. When he merely whimpered as a response, Twilight pointed at the white Pegasus and said, "That delightful Pegasus is called Rainburst."

Rainburst landed on the ground stuck out a hoof and said, “Pleased to meet ya.” Celestia took it and the Pegasus began shaking it in earnest.

Twilight then walked over to the green Pegasus, who was still staring at Celestia with her mouth open, and said, “And this wide mouthed filly is Flora.”

Flora looked at Twilight and said, “Twi? Did you really just bring *Princess* Celestia to our clubhouse?”

All eyes focused on Twilight as she groaned and said, “Of course *you’d* know who she was.”

After she said this, several things happened at once; Rainburst took a step back from Celestia and looked at her curiously, Violet leapt from her chair and dropped into a bow, Flora got to her feet and bowed as well, Dragonfruit swooned and passed out and Twilight Sparkle brought her hoof to her face and groaned. Celestia could do nothing but stand there awkwardly and wish she could go back a few minutes to when she was only embarrassed for bursting into a room full of strangers

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Princess Celestia stifled a yawn as she talked about her first encounter with the Cutastically Fantastics. She tried to keep talking but had to stifle another yawn. She sighed, stared up at the moon and said, “I’m sorry sister, but I must go to bed now, perhaps I could finish this story tomorrow night?”

Not waiting for the answer she knew wouldn’t come, Celestia stood and, whilst feeling the same deep sense of guilt she felt every night, went to bed.

Written by: Cony the Pony
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